Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Republic of Cuba

YANGON, 21 June — Mrs Maria Luisa Fernandez, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Union of Myanmar, presented her credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — MNA

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Senior General Than Shwe receives Syrian Ambassador Mr Fahd Salim. — MNA

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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Senior General Than Shwe receives Syrian Ambassador Mr Fahd Salim. — MNA
 Sitparagu & Kabyawidu

**Book comes out**

YANGON, 21 June —“Sitparagu & Kabyawidu” written by Thutayyi Yamanya Ko Ko Naing published by Sarpy Beikman has been distributed to members of the Sarpybeikman Book Club.

The book won a manuscript award in 2001. Those wishing to become members of the Sarpy Beikman Book Club must pay K 1500 in advance and may contact the club, No 529/531, Merchant Street, Yangon. Books published by the club will be sent to the members.

With the aim of ensuring development of Myanmar literature and increasing the number of reading public, the book club was established in 1960. Since then, the club has published many books and distributed books to the members. — MNA

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**Work in concert to be able to enhance the national economic life**

The State Peace and Development Council has been systematically implementing the border area development plan, the special regions development plan and the five rural development tasks for parallel development of the hill regions and the plains and, as a result, the entire nation is now able to enjoy the fruits of development.

In striving for the development of the nation, the government is building a network of infrastructures for economic development such as roads and bridges, airports, dams and river water pumping stations. Moreover, for economic development of the nation, the government has successfully implemented the first five-year short-term economic plan and the second five-year short-term economic plan. Now it has reached the last year of the third five-year short-term economic plan.

As the economic plans have been successfully implemented, the economic growth rate has become higher and higher year after year. In addition to economic growth of the nation, per capita income has also increased. At the time when the Tatmadaw government started taking responsibilities of the State, average per capita income was only a little more than a thousand kyats. But now, it stands at K 160,000 and the government is trying to increase the per capita income up to K 200,000 at the end of the current fiscal year.

Agriculture is the main pillar of the national economy. Therefore, it is necessary for the people in each and every region to work for the development of the agriculture, to increase the production of agricultural products and to boost their export.

To ensure self-sufficiency in rice, it is necessary to increase the yield of mixed and double cropping. Moreover, it is advisable to cultivate coffee, tea and oil palm and rubber which are in good demand in overseas market on a manageable and commercial scale.

Production of not only the agriculture sector but the other sectors need to be boosted for the economic development of the nation and for the increase of per capita income.

For this, we have to work two or three times harder than we do now. This being the case, we would like to call on the entire nation to work in concert to be able to enhance the national economic life.

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**USDA membership applications submitted, cash donated in Kachin State**

**Yangon, 21 June** — A ceremony to present USDA membership applications was held in conjunction with a cash donation for construction of a new school building at Mankhein Shwesath BEMS in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday. Present on the occasions were Member of Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Soe, USDA Secretariat member Minister for Communications, Posts and Tele- graphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, members of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Organization for Women’s Affairs.

The commander and the minister made speeches and presented cash for the construction of the school building to the headmistress. MCWA and OWA donated stationery and exercise books.

Next, the headmistress presented 300 USDA membership applications to the Myitkyina Township USDA secretary. The commander and the minister visited Wuntho Monastery and paid homage to the president Sayadaw. The commander and wife donated a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, gold and cash. The minister also donated a car for Thamidawdaya Nunnery and rice for the monastery and the nunnery.

On 18 June, the secretariat member visited Indaw, Sagaing and met USDA members at Indaw Township USDA office and donated stationery for students of the township.

Later, the minister inspected Indaw microwave station and Mawlu exchange.

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**Stake-driving ceremony held for construction Shwepyi Soe Sasana Beikman**

**Yangon, 21 June** — The site chosen for construction of Shwe Pyi Soe Sasana Beikman was blessed at a ceremony at the Shwebonth Pagoda in Ward-2, Myingyan, on 25 June.

The ceremony was graced by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint-Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddharma Jotika Bhaddanta Keikhti and members of the Sangha.

A stake-driving ceremony for the building of the Beikman was held at the site for its construction on 6 June morning.

It was attended by the chairmen and members of PDCs and USDA secretaries in Myingyan District and Township, departmental heads and officials of other social organizations. Shwepyi Soe Sasana Beikman will be constructed at a cost of K 200 million.

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**Minister insists training schools**

**Yangon, 21 June** — Member for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement Maj-Gen Sen Htaw and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint arrived at the Social Welfare Department (Head Office) in Mayangyan Township this morning.

Acting Director U Hla Myint reported on renovation of the office buildings.

The minister and party visited Kaba Aye youth training school and left instructions on education and health affairs. They also visited the young women training school. Director-General U Sit Myaing gave a supplementary report. The minister then gave necessary instructions.

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**Monosodium Glutamate (MSG)**

- **アミノ酸**: アラニン
- **栄養素**: リンゴ酸
- **成分**: L-グルタミン酸
- **作用**: 味の増強
- **利用**: 肉類、魚類の調理に
- **副作用**: 用量過大で頭痛、嘔吐が起こる
- **注意**: 子供や成人の健康に影響を与える物質

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MNA
Experts hail vision for Nepal as transit economy

KATHMANDU, 20 June— The vision for land-locked Nepal as a transit economy between China and India will serve as a milestone to generate employment and boost Nepal's economy, experts said here Sunday.

Yadab Kant Silwal, former secretary-general of the South Asia for Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), said at a interaction programme, "The vision is relevant in the present context, so everybody should extend support to reflect it in practice."

The trade volume between China and India stands about 10 billion US dollars and the two countries plan to increase it to 30 billion US dollars within 20 years, Silwal noted, adding, "This gives us a lot of prospects to make the trade go through our land."

Former Nepali ambassador to China Rajeswor Acharya described the vision as a good example of economic diplomacy. "The idea will be instrumental to galvanize Nepal's potentials such as hydropower and tourism," Acharya said.

Rup Jyoti, president of Nepal Trans-Himalayan Trade Association, a non-governmental organization, said Nepal can benefit in employment, development of road transportation, industry and commerce and tourism development sectors from its status as the transit point between India and China.

Similarly, economist Posh Raj Pandey said that the vision will help gather momentum in pushing economic diplomacy with China and India, thereby, establishing a cordial and dynamic relations among the three countries.

Nepali King Gyanendra, after his arrival in Kathmandu from Jakarta last month, said that Nepal could be the transit point between the two giants in Asia, and Nepal, from its side, will promote the matter.

The King also made this point of view in his speech on the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China in Doha last week.—MNA/Xinhua

China, Jordan vow to further advance cooperation

AMMAN, 21 June — China will further strengthen cooperation with Jordan in various fields, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Saturday.

At a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, Farouk Qasrawi, the two ministers exchanged views on current regional and international affairs.

China attaches great importance to Sino-Jordanian relations, Li said, adding that his country is willing to make concerted efforts with Jordan to maintain high-level contacts and exchanges, deepen political mutual-trust, broaden cooperation in the fields of trade, economy and education, and enhance coordination in international and regional affairs.

China, Jordan vow to further advance cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 June — Malaysia and Thailand will carry out a feasibility study soon on agricultural development in the Kolok River Basin near their borders, the Bernama news agency reported Sunday.

The governments of the two countries wanted to develop the basin as part of the overall joint border projects, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mustapa Mohamed was quoted as saying in Kota Bharu, capital of the Kelantan State.

The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) had agreed to the agricultural development, Mohamed added.

"The IMT-GT meeting today also agreed to carry out a feasibility study on building a new bridge over the Kolok River, which would be funded by Malaysia, and a bridge connecting Pengkalan Kubur and Takbai, southern Thailand, which would be funded by Thailand," Mohamed told reporters after chairing a meeting to re-evaluate programmes under the IMT-GT.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Thailand mull border agricultural development

Suspects detained in connection with hostage-taking in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 20 June— Cambodian police said on Sunday they had detained two more suspects in connection with Thursday's hostage-taking in a Siem Reap international school in which a Canadian boy was killed.

A security guard at the school was detained and the man, Cheut Nee, who sold the gun to the alleged ringleader Chea Sokhom for 150 US dollars, was arrested late Saturday, said Ou Em, head of the serious criminal division in Siem Reap Province.

Four masked bandits were arrested at the scene when the crisis ended on Thursday, and later another man was detained who was suspected as the mastermind. However, the man denied any involvement.

Cheut Nee was caught in the Cambo-dian-Thai border town of Poipet. "He is the one who sold the gun to Chea Sokhom. We are still looking for one more," Ou Em said.—MNA/Xinhua

Car bombs kill 29 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 June— At least eight car bombs exploded across Iraq on Monday killing about 30 people as insurgents defied a widespread US-Iraqi security clampdown.

Explore homes by area, price range, bedrooms and bathrooms.

In the Kurdish city of Arbil, a suicide bomber drove his car into a crowd of police recruits, killing at least 12 and wounding about 100 on a soccer field, officials said.

A second such attack in the normally more tranquil Kurdish region killed the security chief of the town of Halabja while another on an Iraqi army checkpoint in the disputed oil city of Kirkuk, just outside Kurdistan, killed four soldiers.

Five car bombs blew up in Baghdad, targeting mostly Iraqi police and soldiers. One struck the notorious airport road. The wave of violence came as two influential US senators criticized fellow Republican President Bush's handling of the two-year-old war and said Americans needed to be told that US troops faced a "long, hard slog" in Iraq. The Arbil bombing was the second time in six weeks that such a big bomb has shattered the relative peace of the north, where a regional president was sworn in last week. In early May a suicide bomber killed 46 police recruits in the city.

On Monday, a crowd of around 200 traffic police recruits had gathered for roll call in a dusty field behind the police headquarters when the suicide bomber raced his red vehicle toward them and blew up among them as they scattered.—Internet

Anti-terror exercise conducted at Singapore shopping mall

SINGAPORE, 20 June— An anti-terror exercise was conducted at White Sands Shopping Mall in eastern Singapore on Sunday, according to Channel NewsAsia report at night.

Some 1,000 people including residents, tenants and officers took part in the exercise, which aimed at showing Singaporeans what to do if a terrorist attack happens in shopping malls.

The exercise simulated a scenario in which two men entered the mall and left a bag with a bomb inside. The explosion, together with a chemical leak, caused panic and the Singapore Civil Defence officers rushed in to help the injured.

A bomb dismantling robot, sent by the Defence Minister, made its first public appearance at the spot of the largest-ever exercise of its kind in the city state.—MNA/Xinhua

Whale meat hamburger is unveiled during a sampling of the new menu at local hamburger chain Lucky Pierrot in the northern Japanese city of Hakodate, one of ex-whaling ports in Hokkaido, on Monday, 20 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Drive safely
Jamaican PM starts China visit

BEIJING, 20 June — Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson arrived here on Sunday for a six-day official visit to China as guest of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

During his three-leg tour from June 19 to 24, Patterson will visit Beijing, Shanghai and Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.

Patterson is expected to hold talks with Wen in Beijing. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s textile, garment orders recover

BEIJING, 20 June — One week since China and the European Union reached agreement on textile and garment trade, Chinese clothing firms have begun to see its rewards — both orders and prices are on the rise.

The agreement cleared up the uncertainties that both importers and exporters worried about and brought new opportunities for Chinese textile producers and traders, analysts said.

"Over the past week, our orders have recovered quickly," said Li Lingmin, vice-president of the China National Textiles Imp. & Exp. Corp., during an interview with Xinhua Saturday. "The price is also on the rise. The gloomy days are now gone."

Gloom set in when the United States and the EU announced they would impose restrictive measures on imports of some categories of China’s textile and garments earlier this year. The effects of the restrictions were quickly felt. Trade deals decreased at the China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou last spring, compared with otherwise increasing trade, except in unusual times like 2003 when SARS broke out. — MNA/Xinhua

Susilo warns against effects of more blasts

JAKARTA, 20 June — All the country’s economic, social and cultural activities would be set back for several years if terror bomb blasts recurred, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said in Denpasar, Bali, on Saturday.

"Not only tourism sector but also all activities in economy, social and cultural fields will be set back (for) several years," he was quoted by state-owned news agency Antara on Sunday as saying at the opening of the 27th Balinese Art Festival.

Bomb blasts have affected the people and caused enormous loss, he said.

Therefore, the government is committed to preventing and eradicating transnational crimes, including terrorism, to create safe and peaceful situation in the country, he added.

The art festival, Susilo said, is an effort to boost tourism and security in the country.

He also called on the people to join hands with the government to create and maintain safety and peace.

“We must do some introspection on the Bali bomb blasts in October 2002. Terrorism can occur anywhere and anytime if we are lax and not alert," the President said. The blasts killed over 200 people, mostly Australian vacationers, and injured scores of others.

Meanwhile, Susilo stated that terrorism has not any link with certain religions or teachings. "That is why I ask Balinese community to maintain harmony among different religions," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China begins trial exploitation of 1st offshore coal mine

JINAN, 20 June — Energy-thirsty China on Saturday started exploitation of its first offshore coal mine, in eastern Shandong Province.

Experts with the Shandong Longkuang Group said the underwater coal mine, located about five kilometres away from the coast of Longkou City in eastern Shandong, has a proven reserve of 1.29 billion tons of coal.

It is the first offshore coal mine in China. According to the company, the first phase of digging will be done at the field 350 metres below sea level, stretching 150 metres. The deposit there is expected to turn out 89,200 tons of coal.

Representatives from the company said they had set up a sophisticated safety surveillance system and acquired the technology to prevent sea water flooding. It is said most domestic companies fail to meet the strict safety requirement for such exploitation. Earlier discovery data released from Longkou marine research team showed the deposit is part of the coal-bearing basin formed in the Cenozoic Era with six coal layers available for mining. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reports two new human bird flu cases

HANOI, 20 June — Two people from Vietnam’s northern region have just been detected to have contracted bird flu virus strain H5N1, raising the total number of infections in the country to 64 since late 2004, according to local newspaper Saoigon Liberation Monday.

The two patients and three suspected cases were admitted to the Institute of Tropical Diseases in Hanoi capital city from 18-19June. Currently, the institute is treating 28 people with bird flu symptoms, of whom 13 have been tested positive to H5N1.

Arroyo visits Hong Kong

MANILA, 20 June — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Monday left for Hong Kong to woo more investment for the country’s economy.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who personally saw the President leave for Hong Kong, said that during the half-day visit, Arroyo would meet business leaders and officials “to show them that things are okay in the Philippines.”

The Arroyo’s administration is taking Hong Kong’s experience as its model to lick graft and corruption in three years.

Iraq oil sales concern Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, 20 June — Members of the UN Security Council on Monday expressed concern over Iraq’s handling of oil sales since the transfer of power from the US-led coalition authority, after an audit reported shoddy accounting and mismanagement.

The audit, by accounting firm KPMG, had found that Iraq’s interim government mishandled about $100 million in oil money meant for development in the six months after they took power from the US government on 28 June last year.

Members of the council got a briefing from Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, the outgoing controller and head of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, which the council set up in 2003 to ensure the transparent operation of the Development Fund for Iraq.

Marc de La Sabliere said Halbwachs detailed some shortcomings exposed by the audit, released in May, and the fact that Iraq’s monitoring of the money had not been sufficient.

“I think that all members of the council have acknowledged the efforts of the Iraqi government to improve the situation,” de La Sabliere said.

The audit had also found the now-defunct US Coalition Provisional Authority used questionable accounting practices with money from the Development Fund for Iraq.
China to expand cooperation with Israel

JERUSALEM, 21 June — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here on Sunday that China is ready to expand dialogue with Israel on a broad spectrum of bilateral and international issues and strengthen cooperation in various fields.

In a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Silvan Shalom, Li said China appreciates the efforts by the Israeli Government to develop relations with China in accordance with the fundamental interests of both sides, which is also conducive to peace and stability in the Middle East region and the world at large.

He said China is ready to expand its cooperation with Israel in trade, agriculture, culture, education, tourism and other fields.

China is making efforts to double its trade volume with Israel from 2.5 billion US dollars in 2004 to 5 billion in 2008, he added. He told Shalom that China has listed Israel as one of the tourist destination countries for Chinese citizens.

Shalom, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said China is Israel’s important cooperative partner. Israel is eager to strengthen exchanges with China in all fields and deepen understanding and cooperation with China, he said. The Foreign Minister stressed that Israel will firmly stick to its one-China policy.

The two sides have agreed to mutual exemption of visas for diplomatic and service passport holders. On the Middle East situation, the two sides agreed that all parties concerned should seize the current opportunity to expedite the Middle East peace process.

Chinese women react to the heat on the streets of Beijing, China, on Tuesday, 21 June, 2005. Temperatures in the Chinese capital is expected to hit 38-39 degrees Celsius (100-102 F) as the city experiences its longest day of the year. — INTERNET

Vietnamese PM arrives in US for historic visit

WASHINGTON, 20 June — Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, the first Vietnamese leader to visit the United States since the end of the Vietnam War, arrived in Seattle Sunday.

The visit came 30 years after the United States pulled out its troops from Vietnam and 10 years after the two countries normalized relations during President Bill Clinton’s administration.

At a news conference in a hotel in downtown Seattle, Khai said Vietnam will continue working with the United States to strengthen economic ties.

“This is the message I would like to convey to the people and the government of the United States during my visit,” Khai told reporters. “I am willing to exchange views where the two sides still have differences.”

Over 26 million Chinese suffer depression

BEIJING, 20 June — More than 26 million Chinese suffer depression, but only 10 per cent of them go to doctors, according to a medical expert in Beijing.

Some 10 to 15 per cent of those with the depression problem in the country are likely to commit suicide, but only less than 10 per cent of them are taking medications or receiving medical treatment, said Zhou Dongfeng, an expert with the Chinese Medical Association, at the Asian Neuro-science Summit held in Beijing on Saturday.

Moreover, less than 20 per cent of hospitals in the Chinese cities are capable of making correct diagnoses on depressive symptoms, he said.

“Many people regard depression as a secret problem and therefore avoid taking medicines,” said Zhou.

“But in fact, it is important for the patients to have a correct view on medical treatment to have their disease cured.”

Flood hits east China province

Fuzhou, 20 June — Flooding following continuous torrential rains over the past several days hit northern and western parts of Fujian Province, east China, causing casualties and affecting transportation in some places.

Local government sources confirmed that three people were killed in flooding in Dongfeng Town of Jian’ou City, which reported serious flooding in all local rivers. The Zixi section of east China’s major railway from Yingtan, Jiangxi Province, to Xiamen, Fujian Province, was broken down by blocks and earth coming down from a rainstorm-caused cave-in on the local road, which is 30 metres higher than the altitude of the railroad Sunday morning.

The section of the railroad reopened to traffic at 6:45 pm Sunday after eight hours’ repair efforts of the Nanchang Railroad Bureau.

Earthquake jolts east Japan

Tokyo, 20 June — An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale hit east Japan’s Kanto region early Monday morning.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the 01:15 am (1615 GMT) quake was registered with an intensity of 3 to 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in Tokyo and its neighbouring prefectures.

The earthquake was strongly felt in Tokyo and other prefectures in east Japan.

No tsunami tidal wave warning was issued for the quake, the agency said, adding that the focus of the earthquake is about 50 kilometres underground in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo.

US Republican lawmakers criticize Bush’s Iraq policy

WASHINGTON, 20 June — Two US Republican lawmakers have criticized George W Bush Administration’s Iraq policy, saying that the White House “disconnected from the reality” and should tell the Americans the reality in Iraq, local media reported on Sunday.

“Things (in Iraq) aren’t getting better; they’re getting worse,” Senator Chuck Hagel said in an interview with US News and World Report, which will be published next week.

“The White House is completely disconnected from reality,” the Nebraska Republican said. “It’s like they’re just making it up as they go along. The reality is that we’re losing in Iraq.”

Hagel’s remarks were believed to be the most blunt criticism of Bush’s Iraq policy to date from a member of the Republic.

“I got beat up pretty good by my own party and the White House that I was not a loyal Republican,” he said, but noting that things are changing today. “More and more of my colleagues up here are concerned,” according to the report.

Meanwhile, Republican Senator John McCain Sunday called on the Bush Administration to tell the Americans the reality in Iraq.

He said in an interview with the NBC’s “Meet the Press” that the US president should have been told that “we are at a turning point” in Iraq.

“While the American people should have been told and should be told it’s long; it’s hard; it’s tough,” McCain said.

“It’s going to be at least a couple more years,” he added.

Since the outbreak of Iraq war in March 2003, more than 1,700 US soldiers have been killed and nearly 13,000 wounded.

Indo-Bangladesh border fencing to be completed by 2006

SHILLONG, 20 June — More than half of the fencing work along the Indo-Bangladesh border has been completed and the remaining is expected to be over by 2006.

Of the total 3286.87-kilometre border between the two countries, 1712.22 kilometres has been fenced so far. The entire project was expected to be completed by 2006, a Federal Home Ministry report said.

A pilot project of flood lighting along 126 kilometres of the border was taken up during the current financial year.

To expedite the work, engineering projects (India) Ltd and National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd were engaged in addition to existing central and state government bodies namely CPWD, BRO, NBCC, Tripura and Assam Public Works Departments.

Less than half of the 443-kilometre long Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya has been fenced so far.

It said 198.06-kilometre border was fenced in the phase I while that for 201 kilometres sanctioned in the second phase.

Flooded communities near Bengal east coast

Flooded communities near Bengal east coast

An Iraqi investigator looks at the remnants of a suicide car bomb which was driven into a crowd of traffic police recruits in the northern Iraqi city of Arbil, on 20 June, 2005. — INTERNET
China to render strong financial support to recycling economy

BEIJING, 21 June — China will support the governmental spending and preferential policies, to ensure a sustainable development for the country, a Chinese Ministry of Finance (MF) official has said.

“China will increase spending on environmental protection, adjust tax policies, promote industrialization of waste treatment, and raise the prices of natural resources to support the recycling economy,” said Li Jinghui, deputy director of MF’s Economic Building Department, at a weekend forum in Beijing on China’s sustainable development.

He disclosed that his ministry was mulling setting up a special fund to support the research and development of renewable energies, badly needed by the country to boost its rapid economic growth.

Meanwhile, the government will gradually increase its spending on clean production, said Li, noting that the MF had established a special fund in this regard last year. Li said that China would also reform its tax system, “taking into account the environmental factors”.

For instance, tax rebates for the export of some resources-based products would be revoked while the import tariff for such products would be exempted.

China has witnessed high economic growth over the past two decades. However, such growth was accompanied by a high consumption of natural resources and serious pollution.

Li attributed the phenomena mainly to the low cost of natural resources in the country, saying that his ministry was considering to increase the prices of resources-based products to reverse the trend.

The recycling economy, which highlights “reduce, re-use and recycle”, aims at promoting a more efficient use of energy and natural resources.

The Chinese Government has put high on its agenda the development of a recycling economy, hoping to achieve a coordinated development between economy, society and the environment.

China to render strong financial support to recycling economy

E Asian, Pacific countries to maintain regional financial security

JAKARTA, 21 June— The governors of central banks from 11 East Asian and Pacific countries agreed to build a regional financial security network and strengthen coordination in a bid to decrease financial vulnerability against external pressure, the Bisnis Indonesia reported on Monday.

At the end of the 10th Meeting of East Asia Pacific Central Banks or Monetary Authorities opened in Bali on Saturday, Indonesian Central Bank Governor Burhanuddin Abdullah said “This cooperation is expected to boost economic security in the region.”

Burhanuddin said that the financial leaders of the East Asia and Pacific countries saw the necessity of a healthy and stable monetary system to uphold financial policies.

The consolidation of the regional financial system is important and the monetary policy must always be changed and adjusted according to actual conditions, Burhanuddin said. Present at the meeting were central bank governors from Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand as well as Deputy Governor of Central Bank of the Philippines.

The meeting was held amid increasing international pressure on regional currencies and the strengthening of US dollar, which also hit rupee.

ICO urged to address challenge of vast economic imbalance

PUTRAJAYA, (Malaysia), 21 June — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO) to pay more attention to the vast economic imbalance among its member countries and seize it as a potential for self-help.

The ICO, of which Malaysia is the current chairman, should focus more on economic development and integration among its member countries and help lift up the lot of its 22 members considered as least developed nations, Badawi said in his keynote address at the ICO Trade Forum and Exhibition held here.

Abdullah, who is also Minister of Finance, briefed his audience on the ICO statistics that pointed towards vast wealth possessed by few of its 57 member countries.

Ten of the 11-member Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) are ICO members, of which Saudi Arabia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait possess 700 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, Badawi said.

The economic imbalance was obvious as the gross domestic product per capita of the six rich countries exceeds 10,000 US dollars a year whereas 45 others have per capita incomes of less 1,000 dollars, Badawi said.

Given the diversity and varying levels of development, there could be no one-size-fits-all economic model to address the challenges facing the grouping, Badawi said.

He stressed that the economic development of a nation did not only depend on natural commodities but also on human capital development.

“Let us work together to move from being producers of commodities to manufacturers of higher value-added downstream products,” he said.

Japanese whalers haul in a Minke whale in the Southern Ocean. Whaling countries led by Japan were to present a proposal to the International Whaling Commission outlining a return to commercial catches, despite suffering a setback in their campaign. — INTERNET

Inaugural Asia-Middle East Dialogue to open in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 June — More than 200 representatives from about 40 countries and regions in both Asia and the Middle East are convening in Singapore on Monday for the first Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED), which will open in the evening.

Under the theme of “Common interests and common challenges”, the three-day AMED hopes to foster dialogue and mutual understanding, as well as strengthen cooperation between Asia and the Middle East in different areas.

Participants are invited to pool their viewpoints on political and security issues, economic issues as well as social, educational, scientific cultural and media issues facing the two regions.

Singapore Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Jordanian King Abdullah II Ben Al Hussein, as represented by his Finance Minister, are expected to deliver keynote speeches on Tuesday morning.

Sharmila Tagore’s husband under police custody

JAIPUR, 20 June— Former India cricket captain Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, who had been evading arrest in connection with the poaching of an endangered black buck, Saturday surrendered in a court here and was remanded to police custody for questioning.

Sixty-five year old Pataudi, also known as “Ti-ger”, surrendered in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Sudhir Jiwan, a day after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Soon after he surrendered, police whisked him away and questioned him for three hours before producing him in the afternoon before the magistrate, who remanded him to one day police custody. Among the seven accused in the case evading arrest, he was the only person to surrender.

A team of Jaipur police, including Superintendent of Police Dinesh and DSP Sumit Kumar questioned Pataudi at the Jaipur police station, police sources said. The former India cricket captain, who is also husband of India Film Censor Board chairperson Sharmila Tagore, and seven others were facing charges of hunting an endangered black buck and two rabbits in a sanctuary here in Haryana State of northern India.

While one of the accused Madan Singh was on regular bail, six others are still elusive.

Pataudi and seven others — Shashi Singh, Dayal Singh, Shaheed Ahmad, Daya Suddin, Mohammad Ayub and Sampat Singh and Balwan were booked under various sections of the Wildlife Act following the recovery of the carcasses of a black buck and two rabbits from their vehicle near a wildlife sanctuary in Jaipur in Haryana earlier this month. — MNA/PTI

ICO urged to address challenge of vast economic imbalance

The ICO urged to address challenge of vast economic imbalance

Japanese whalers haul in a Minke whale in the Southern Ocean. Whaling countries led by Japan were to present a proposal to the International Whaling Commission outlining a return to commercial catches, despite suffering a setback in their campaign. — INTERNET
Agriculture is first and foremost work for Myanmar people to improve their socio-economic life

Moyongyi Sluice gate in Waw Township opened

YANGON, 21 June—A ceremony to open Moyongyi Sluice gate built by the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near Kywetewsu Village in Waw Township, Bago Division was held at the pandal near the facility this morning with an address by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General of IR U Kyaw San Win, Chairman of Bago District PDC Lt-Col Aung Min and departmental officials, officials of ID, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Women Affairs Committee, the Material and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society, local people from Waw Township, Thatanpaya Township and Kawa Township, local people and others numbering over 3,000.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko said that with the advent of Moyongyi Sluice gate, the region will be able to enjoy the fruits of development by making full use of the facility. The irrigation facility is the 41st of its kind implemented by the government in Bago Division, and it is also the fifth of its kind to be implemented for South Paganting land reclamation project in Bago District.

The sluice gate was built with the aim of preventing flood from Moyongyi Lake in monsoon and of supplying water for summer paddy.

Farmers in Bago Division are making relentless efforts by making better use of land and marine resources in the division for development of agricultural sector.

With the emergence of the facility, fallow and virgin land and wet land in the division will be of great benefit. The commander stressed the need for local authorities and local people to safeguard dams and sluice gates that were built for regional development to ensure their durability.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo spoke. He said that Moyongyi Sluice gate was opened with the aim of extending the farming undertakings in Bago Division and the facility will be beneficial to the region and will help enhance the socio-economic life of local people.

The agricultural infrastructures have been built one after another under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe to ensure strong national economy. Of the infrastructures, Moyongyi Sluice gate is the 175th facility in the country and it will go down in the annals of Myanmar history, the minister added.

The minister said that Myanmar is an agrarian based country. The agriculture is the first and foremost work for Myanmar people to improve their socio-economic life and it is also the business on which the rural dwellers, the majority of Myanmar people, solely rely. This being the case, boosting of agricultural production has been accorded special priority.

In an effort to boost the agricultural production, acquisition of water for agricultural purpose is of prime importance. Therefore, jams and reservoirs were built and river water pumping projects are being implemented across the nation, he noted.

In addition, to make better use of fallow and virgin land, sluice gates have been constructed and measures for preventing inundation are being taken.

Altogether 41 dams and sluice gates in Bago Division are now benefiting 666,970 acres of farmland, he stressed.

Moyongyi sluice gate was built not only to benefit 40,000 acres of farmland but also to prevent floods in monsoon and store clean water in summer. It will also contribute to project for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City and conservation of wildlife and environment of Moyongyi Lake.

With the advent of the facility, the sown acreage of paddy will increase up to 80,700 from 45,000, he concluded.

Afterwards, a local people expressed thanks for the emergence of the facility.

Next, the commander unveiled the stone inscription of the sluice gate.

Later, the commander and the minister formally opened the sluice gate.

After that, they had a documentary photo taken together with local people in front of the facility and cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

After the opening ceremony, Director U Hla Myint of ID reported on construction of the sluice gate and its advantages and project for greening the environs of Yangon City.

Next, the minister and officials inspected the sluice gate and thrived monsoon paddy in its environs.

MNA
Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs…

(from page 16)

Next, President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win and wives of the members of the State Peace and Development Council planted gangaw, star flower and Padauk trees at the designated places.

Honorary Patron of MWAF Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing and Daw Mya Mya San offered alms, water, flower, light and incense sticks to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Next, Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing and party presented K100,000 donated by MWAF for Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image to Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Chair- man of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Shein Aung Bo. At 9.30 am, Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing and party went to national races village in Thakata Township near Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge where they were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khaing, officials, members of women’s affairs organizations and national races. Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing planted a Gangaw tree in front of the archway of national races village.

Next, Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, members of Panel of Patrons of MWAF, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay, wives of the ministers planted gangaw saplings at the designated places.

Daw Mya Mya San plants a Gangaw tree at the archway of National Races Village to hail Myanmar Women’s Day. — MNA
Li-Gen Ye Myint inspects dams in Mandalay Division

Yangon, 21 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials, on 19 June went to model summer paddy cultivation fields in Magyitang Village-tract in Kyaukpaduang Township on Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila Road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the thriving of 60 acres of paddy and five acres of hybrid paddy and urged officials and farmers to boost paddy cultivation. Kyatmauktaung Dam supplied irrigation water to the fields. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Kyatmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpaduang Township in Myintyan District. At the briefing hall of the dam, officials concerned reported on irrigation and cultivation of crops using irrigation water.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for extended cultivation of paddy and cotton in Mandalay and Magway divisions and high yield cultivation. He also inspected the summer paddy cultivation. Kyatmauktaung Dam supplied water to 1,007 acres of summer paddy and 5,616 acres of monsoon paddy in 2004-2005. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Taungye Dam project in Kyaukpaduang Township and inspected two diversion tunnels linking Taungye Dam and Kyatmauktaung Dam.

Next, at the briefing hall of the Taungye Dam project, officials briefed on construction of tunnel which will transport water from Taungye Dam to Kyauktaga Dam and construction work. Taungye Dam will supply water to Kyatmauktaung Dam.

An intake channel which links Taungye Dam and Kyauktaga Dam is 13.5 miles long and 11.5 miles have been completed so far. Now, over 78 per cent of the project has been completed.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the flow of water into Taungye Dam. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected construction of regulating dam which includes in intake channel construction project linking Kyauktaga Dam and Taungye Dam on Wgyei Creek.

Later, they went to Kyauktaga Dam project where officials concerned reported on construction of link channel of Kyauktaga Dam and Taungye Dam and arrangements for irrigation. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Nyaunggon Dam in Meiktila Township. At the briefing hall, officials reported on arrangements for water supply from Chaungku Dam in Pyawbwe Township and 9,000 acre ft from Lunngin and Latkokpin dams to Meiktila Lake. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Nyaunggon Dam and arrived at Meiktila in the evening.

YANGON, 21 June — A ceremony to open the Intercountry Workshop on Tobacco Control Legislation and Implementation of WHO held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanyya Pagoda Street this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were ambassadors of foreign embassies to Myanmar, directors-general of the departments, managing directors, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendent, professors, deputy directors, the chairman of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science and executives, the resident representatives of WHO and UNICEF and officials, officials of Geneva Headquarters and Directory of ASEAN, representatives of ASEAN region and guests.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. Next, acting resident representative of WHO Dr Stephan P Jost read out the message sent by the regional Director of ASEAN. Afterwards, acting resident representative of WHO Dr Stephan P Jost presented a commemorative prize for World No-Tobacco Day 2005 to Deputy Director of Department of Health Dr Nyo Nyo Kyeing.

After the workshop, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint together with the attendance posed for a documentary photo.

A total of 39 representatives of ASEAN member countries under WHO attended the workshop. Three representatives each from one member country took part in discussions.

The workshop continues up to 23 June.
Minister U Aung Thaung inspects preparations for MWVO Conference

YANGON, 21 June—Secretary of Committee for holding the conference of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and party arrived at No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Road this morning and the minister inspected hostels and venues for group discussions of MWVO conference. Commander of Defence Services Record Office, Commandant of No 1 Transit Centre Lt-Col Tin Kyaw and officials reported on preparations. The minister and party inspected Win Thuza shop in the Transit Centre which would sell 245 items of goods and entertainment hall. They went to Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindamma Road and inspected the hall where the conference was to be held. Chairman of reception, welfare, entertainment Sub-committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Ts Tin Naing Thein and members reported on preparations.—MNA

Education Minister receives Cuban Ambassador

YANGON, 21 June—Minister for Education U Than Aung received Ambassadress of the Republic of Cuba to the Union of Myanmar Mrs Maria Luisa Fernandez at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here at 11 am today.

They discussed matters on bilateral cooperation in education. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and directors general of departments under the Ministry of Education.—MNA
In Myanmar 49.7 per cent of the population are men and 50.3 per cent women. Moreover, women enjoy equal rights with their male counterparts in education and employment. Average life expectancy of men is 60.6 years and women 65.4 years.

As Myanmar has a population of over 54 million, over 27 million are women. In the countries that are claiming themselves the most developed democratic states, women got the equal voting rights with men only in the mid 20th Century. In Myanmar, women have the vested right to pursue education and get employment as well as equal payment when the rank or position is the same compared with men. Myanmar women have enjoyed the right to vote since the introduction of the voting system in the nation.

Scholars have already confirmed that according to the stone inscriptions and other evidence of Bagan era, Myanmar traditions and customs and laws provided equal rights for women. Since Bagan era, every woman has been acknowledged as the life-long companion of her husband as the one who will make donations, perform meritorious deeds and earn income for the family together with her spouse. A woman has the right to inherit all the possessions of her husband when he dies. She also has the right to play a leading role together with her husband in the family affairs. Women can make donations the same way as men do.

Women artists have been prestigious since Srekestra. A number of women artistes were included in the Pyu cultural delegation that visited China during the Pyu period. Statues, murals and stone inscriptions have proved that Myanmar women artistes did exist in the Bagan era. The number of women literati was large during Pinya, Inwa, Sagaing, Nyaungyan, Tungrung, and Konbong eras. The names of women literati such as Shin Min, Me Khwe, Nandwin Mi Nyo, Nandwin Mi Phyu, Khin Hson, Ma Mya Galay and Hlaing Htaik Khaung Tin and their works including classical songs have been recorded in Myanmar history of the cultural field. According to the fossilized remains found at Pondaung Ponnya region, evidences of Stone Age, and chronicles documenting a very long period from Tagaung to Yadanabon during which Myanmar people lived under their own monarchs, we can confirm that Myanmar people have existed and civilized since long long ago. Myanmar is rich in various natural resources including forests, oil, gold, silver and other minerals, invaluable gems, and fertile land and water resources for cultivation of crops. Since the time of their forefathers, men and women of Myanmar people have exploited and civilized since long long ago. Myanmar is rich in various natural resources including forests, oil, gold, silver and other minerals, invaluable gems, and fertile land and water resources for cultivation of crops.

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Ugandan ruling party supports lifting of presidential term limits

KAMPALA, 20 June — Uganda’s ruling party, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), has made a decision to support the lifting of presidential term limits, local media reported on Saturday.

The decision was contained in a resolution passed by delegates at the end of the one-day meeting of NRM’s National Executive Committee (NEC) at Speke Resort Munyonyo near Kampala on Friday.

The resolution said that the meeting support the removal from the Constitution of the controversial article 105 (2) that limits presidential terms to two.

The resolution on the term limits now rests with Parliament, which will commence debate on the matter on Monday.

After the meeting, NRM spokesman Oronwo Onyolo told Press that “this resolution binds all NEC members of Parliament to support the position during the amendment process of the Constitution”.

Uganda’s 1995 Constitution permits and elected president not only two five-year terms. President Yoweri Museveni’s second term ends in 2006. If the amendment is approved by Parliament, Museveni will be eligible for another term in office.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.
Chinese, European scientists find anti-SARS medicine

Hangzhou, 21 June — A medicine currently used to treat schizophrenia was found to be effective in inhibiting the coronavirus of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), announced a group of Chinese and European scientists in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on Sunday.

Cinanserin, being in therapeutic usage against the mental disease since the 1970s, was identified as a cure for the SARS epidemic and is the only ready-to-use medicine among the total 15 possible anti-SARS remedies recommended by scientists participating in the Sino-European Project on SARS Diagnostics and Antivirals (SEPSDA) after careful pathological studies.

“The finding means that cinanserin could be directly prescribed to prevent the SARS disease or treat SARS patients if the fatal epidemic mounts a comeback,” said Professor Peter Kristensen, from Denmark’s University of Aarhus, here on Sunday.

The 14 other medicinal solutions have to go through lengthy animal tests before being used to treat human patients, said Kristensen, a participant of the three-year SEPSDA programme, which was funded by the European Union and involved eight Chinese and European institutions.

The ambitious programme, launched in 2004, aims to find 50 chemical compounds to treat SARS. In the coming two years, scientists from China, Germany, Poland and Denmark will continue to search for the rest 35 compounds, according to sources with the programme.

In addition, scientists working for the programme also confirmed here on Sunday the finding of two homologous SARS coronaviruses in animals from the Netherlands and Hong Kong, China respectively.

Professor Rolf Hilgenfeld, from Germany’s University of Luebeck, said that both the newly-found viruses and the formerly-detected SARS virus were variations of an ancient virus, which had been harboured among animals for ages but remained unidentified.

The German scholar also said other latent coronaviruses could pose dangers to human beings as the SARS virus did. “People should closely monitor such viruses and their variations to effectively prevent them from endangering humans,” said Hilgenfeld.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood threatens Canada’s western city of Calgary

OTTAWA, 20 June — Canada’s western city of Calgary issued an emergency order Saturday evening as its two main rivers are running wild, media reports said.

Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier urged all residents to stay away from the Bow River, one of the two overflowing rivers in the city, as flowing higher than it ever has in recorded history.

It is now flowing at 2,000 cubic metres per second, in comparison to abnormal flow of 100 cubic metres per second.

Flooding also hit areas in the south and northwest of Calgary.

MNA/Xinhua

One of oldest glassworks found in Egypt

CAIRO, 20 June — A first-rate scientific journal said British and German archaeologists had found an ancient glassworks, believed to be one of the earliest glassmaking sites, in Egypt, the Egyptian Gazette reported Sunday.

Evidence at Qantir-Piramesses on the eastern Nile Delta indicates that glass was made there out of raw materials as early as 1250 BC, according to a study published on Friday’s issue of Science.

The reworking of already made glass into finished goods has been documented at ancient sites in the Middle East and Egypt, but the new report adds evidence for primary glass production at this location.

Thilo Rehren of University College, London, and Edgar B. Pusch of Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, Germany, report finding a large number of crucibles with remains of glass inside.

Glass was made using finely crushed quartz powder melted with other raw materials inside the ceramic crucibles, which then were broken to get the glass out, they said.

The crucforms “would then have been transported to other artistic workshops where they were re-melted and worked into objects”, Pusch and Rehren said.

MNA/Xinhua

Ruling party wins by-election in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 20 June — Voting to choose the new Member of Parliament for Mudzi East constituency in Zimbabwe ended on Sunday with a victory for the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). Joseph Musa of ZANU-PF secured a massive 15,811 votes against Bvunzayi Gozi’s 2,382 votes of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change.

There were 18,643 votes cast and 450 spoilt ballot papers. People voted in 90 polling stations with a total of 42,072 registered voters.

MNA/Xinhua
AC Milan target Parma striker Gilardino

ROME, 21 June— AC Milan have expressed their interest in Parma’s prolific striker Alberto Gilardino, according to local report on Monday. The 22-year-old Gilardino, who was the league’s second highest scorer with 23 goals, scored a goal in the Serie A relegation play-off against Bologna last week to help Parma stay up in the top flight.

AC Milan vice-president Paolo Berlusconi said that he hoped to see the striker play for AC Milan next season. “Milan need an out-and-out striker and Gilardino is the right man for that position,” he was quoted as saying by the Gazzetta dello Sport.

Gilardino had spells with Piacenza and Verona before joining Parma in 2002. He scored four goals in 24 Serie A matches in his first season, but was on scoring sheet 23 times in 34 games for the following season.

Milan finished second to Juventius in Serie A before losing the Champions League final to Liverpool in a penalty shoot-out.

Qualifying round of AFC Women’s C’ship concludes

HANOI, 21 June— Taibei, Myanmar, Thailand and hosts Vietnam have won berths to the finals round of the AFC Women’s Championship after the qualifying round ended here on Monday.

In the two quarterfinals contested on Monday, Myanmar defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 while Thailand downed India 3-2 to book the berths. On Sunday, Taibei crushed Singapore 3-0 and Vietnam eased by Hong Kong 4-1 in the other two quarterfinals.

Thanks to physical strength and numerical advantage, Myanmar netted twice in the next half after trailing Uzbekistan 0-1 at halftime.

Both teams played actively and held relatively equal ball possession in the first half, with Myanmar players performing a little better than their opponents due to good physical strength and personal skills.

However, Uzbekistan player Natalya Mihaylova scored the opening goal in the 25th minute after latching on to a short pass from right flank. Her blitz low shot to the left corner surprised Myanmar goalkeeper Khin May Min. After the goal, Myanmar deployed a pressing style, continually laying siege to Uzbekistan goalkeeper Yuliya Ahmedova.

In the 26th minute, Myanmar player Nandar Aye Hlaing made a curler from a free kick from a distance of some 20 metres, but it was caught by Natalya. On the stroke of the break, her teammate Zin Mar Wann, with a powerful shot and sudden header, also failed to dent the goalie twice.

Five minutes after the break, Hlaing, standing near the left corner, delivered a curler above Natalya, so it did not escape her hands. In the 63rd minute, Myanmar Mar Lar Win, after receiving a low pass from the right wing, equalized the score with a powerful shot from close range.

The players included Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, Brazilian midfielder Thiago Motta and Edmilson.

No more signings for Barca

MADRID, 21 June— Spanish champions Barcelona have said that they would not make any more signings this summer.

Barca President Joan Laporta was quoted as saying by the daily Sport on Monday that he had been told by the club’s technical staff “the squad is now complete for next year”.

Barca, who won the league title in May, have since signed Netherlands midfielder Mark van Bommel and Athletic Bilbao winger Santi Ezkenazi.

Though the club continued to be linked with a number of other players, Laporta said that more signings were unnecessary.

“With the arrival of Van Bommel and Ezkenazo, they feel we now have a balanced squad and we don’t need any more players,” he said.

Besides the two new signings, Barca will also welcome back four players who missed most of last season with long term injuries.

The players included Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, Spanish defender Gabbi and Brazilian midfielders Thiago Motta and Edmilson.

Ze Roberto to stay at Bayern Munich for one more season

BERLIN, 21 June— Brazil international Ze Roberto has extended his contract with ruling German champions Bayern Munich for another season, the Bundsliga club said on Monday.

The contract extension came after the 30-year-old midfielder had been reportedly linked with Italian, Spanish and even Russian clubs.

“I am very happy that negotiations were successful in allowing me to stay another year at Munich,” said Ze Roberto, who has been coming to the end of his previous contract, has failed to have a great season at Bayern.

But his good performance in their 2-1 cup final win over Schalke 04 seemed to have convinced coach Felix Magath to keep him on. — MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian striker Ronaldo walks to the team bus before departing from Hanover, Germany, June 20, 2005. Brazil lost to Mexico 1-0 Sunday and have to win their next match against Japan to advance to the semifinals of the Confederations Cup. — INTERNET

Ze Roberto sets eyes on Owen


The tabloid Sun said that Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has been interested in Owen, who moved from Liverpool to Real Madrid on a 6-million-pound contract last year.

The England striker scored 14 goals but still has to fight for the starting place in the star-studded Real.

Owen was valued at 13 million pounds by Real, but United reportedly only had 6.25 million pounds to spend before the end of their financial year on July 31.

That money has been assigned to the signings of Fulham’s Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar and South Korean midfielder Park Ji Sung from Dutch side PSV Eindhoven. United currently have four strikers, including Ruud van Nistelrooy, France international Louis Saha, Alan Smith and Wayne Rooney.

One of the strikers might have to leave Old Trafford if United wants to sign Owen.

United were also interested in midfielder Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat by midfielders Jermaine Jenas.

Ze Roberto, who had been coming to the end of his previous contract, has failed to have a great season at Bayern.

But his good performance in their 2-1 cup final win over Schalke 04 seemed to have convinced coach Felix Magath to keep him on. — MNA/Xinhua

Qualifying round of AFC Women’s C’ship concludes

HANOI, 21 June— Taibei, Myanmar, Thailand and hosts Vietnam have won berths to the finals round of the AFC Women’s Championship after the qualifying round ended here on Monday.

In the two quarterfinals contested on Monday, Myanmar defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 while Thailand downed India 3-2 to book the berths. On Sunday, Taibei crushed Singapore 3-0 and Vietnam eased by Hong Kong 4-1 in the other two quarterfinals.

Thanks to physical strength and numerical advantage, Myanmar netted twice in the next half after trailing Uzbekistan 0-1 at halftime.

Both teams played actively and held relatively equal ball possession in the first half, with Myanmar players performing a little better than their opponents due to good physical strength and personal skills.

However, Uzbekistan player Natalya Mihaylova scored the opening goal in the 25th minute after latching on to a short pass from right flank. Her blitz low shot to the left corner surprised Myanmar goalkeeper Khin May Min. After the goal, Myanmar deployed a pressing style, continually laying siege to Uzbekistan goalkeeper Yuliya Ahmedova.

In the 26th minute, Myanmar player Nandar Aye Hlaing made a curler from a free kick from a distance of some 20 metres, but it was caught by Natalya. On the stroke of the break, her teammate Zin Mar Wann, with a powerful shot and sudden header, also failed to defeat the goalie twice.

Five minutes after the break, Hlaing, standing near the left corner, delivered a curler above Natalya, so it did not escape her hands. In the 63rd minute, Myanmar Mar Lar Win, after receiving a low pass from the right wing, equalized the score with a powerful shot from close range.

The players included Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, Brazilian midfielder Thiago Motta and Edmilson.

No more signings for Barca

MADRID, 21 June— Spanish champions Barcelona have said that they would not make any more signings this summer.

Barca President Joan Laporta was quoted as saying by the daily Sport on Monday that he had been told by the club’s technical staff “the squad is now complete for next year”.

Barca, who won the league title in May, have since signed Netherlands midfielder Mark van Bommel and Athletic Bilbao winger Santi Ezkenazi.

Though the club continued to be linked with a number of other players, Laporta said that more signings were unnecessary.

“With the arrival of Van Bommel and Ezkenazo, they feel we now have a balanced squad and we don’t need any more players,” he said.

Besides the two new signings, Barca will also welcome back four players who missed most of last season with long term injuries.

The players included Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, Spanish defender Gabbi and Brazilian midfielders Thiago Motta and Edmilson.

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One of the strikers might have to leave Old Trafford if United wants to sign Owen.

United were also interested in midfielder Jermaine Jenas, whose first-team slot at Newcastle is under threat since the arrival of Scott Parker from
Thai, Japanese FTA deal likely to be concluded in July

BANGKOK, 21 June — Thai Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitkak has expressed confidence that a conclusion on the proposed Thai-Japanese Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would be reached in July.

He also stressed that the two countries would sign deals on the contentious parts of the agreement first, according to the Thai News Agency on Sunday.

After meeting Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and the Minister of Economy and Trade Shosichi Nakagawa in Tokyo on Saturday, Somkid denied that the phased discussions indicated that Thailand wanted to postpone the deal.

He said the Japanese side was becoming increasingly accommodating to Thai demands on industry, and that a conclusion had already been reached on the agricultural sector after Thailand decided to remove rice from the list for negotiation.

Sectors which remain points of contention include the steel and automobile industries.

"These negotiations represent an economic relationship between the two countries to help look after the investments of Japanese and Thai business people, and to ensure that the investment meets the needs of both parties," Somkid was quoted as saying.

He warned that the Thai private sector needs to make urgent adjustments in anticipation of the deal, saying that trade liberalization is unavoidable.

Somkid, who is paying an official visit to Japan, also revealed that an increasing number of Japanese automobile companies were shifting their production bases to Thailand, helping modernize the Thai automobile sector with research and development.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States, Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (2.71) inches, Hinthada (2.55) inches, Myaungmya (2.13) inches, Sittwe (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 21-6-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-6-2005 was 97%. Total sunshine hours on 20-6-2005 was (2.3 hours) approx. Rainfalls on 21-6-2005 were (0.75) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.47) inch in Kaba-Aye and (1.06) inches in central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (21.30) inches at Yangon Airport, (17.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (15.59) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (10:35) hours MST on 20-6-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-6-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and Mandalay Division, scattered in South and Eastern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends tree planting ceremony to hail Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 21 June — Hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended a tree planting ceremony organized by MWAF in the precincts of Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township this morning.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, accompanied by wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, members of Panel of Patrons of MWAF officials, Daw Kyaing Kyaing planted a Gangaw tree at the designated place in the precincts of Mindhamma Hill. Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers and Daw Mya Mya San also planted a Padauk tree and Daw Khin Than Nwe and Daw Khin Lay Thet star flower tree.

They were welcomed by wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann member of Panel of Patrons of MWAF, Daw Maung Aye, Honorary Patron of MWAF Daw Mya Mya San, arrived at Mindhamma Hill at 8.30 am.

(See page 8)

Daw Kyaing Kyaing plants a Gangaw tree to hail the Myanmar Women’s Day. — MNA

Daw Mya Mya San plants a Padauk tree to hail the Myanmar Women’s Day.— MNA

Daw Khin Lay Thet plants a Gangaw tree to hail the Myanmar Women’s Day.— MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe plants star flower tree. — MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe plants a commemorative sapling. — MNA

The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was established with seven objectives to enable the new generation women to inherit, preserve and promote the fine traditions. Of the seven objectives, six points concern the drive for raising the living standard of the mass of women and enabling them to enjoy human rights fully.

(INSIDE)