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

Reclaim more land, increase water supply to put one million acres of land under monsoon paddy in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 22 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence discussed with officials in Meiktila on 20 June the greening of Meiktila plain.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that officials should lay down plans and implement them for development of their respective regions. He said the Head of State in his guidance urged officials to ensure rice sufficiency in Meiktila and Pakokku districts, Mandalay Division will have to reclaim more land and ensure extra water supply to put one million acres of land under monsoon paddy as targeted. In addition to major projects, mini-reservoirs should be built region-wise for increasing paddy sown acreage. Officials are urged to take great care in implementing irrigation projects. Research centres should produce and distribute pedigree strains of cotton.

(The see page 8)

Inside

In the nation, today’s women have a strong confidence in themselves that they are capable of doing things the same way as men do. In respective jobs, women are working shoulder to shoulder with men.

Task for preventing against causing damage to natural gas pipeline across Ayeyawady River inspected

YANGON, 22 June — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Director-General of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Chit Khin and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Kwayma Jetty, Pyay District, Bago Division (West) yesterday morning.

The minister and party left there for Seikha bank by water-craft, viewing condition of natural gas pipeline across Ayeyawady river. Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials reported to the minister on waterway near the natural gas pipeline and its environs and formation of a sandbank. After hearing reports, the minister looked into condition of natural gas pipeline crossing the sandbank on Kwayma bank.

Upon the arrival on Seikha bank, Head of Division DWRIRS (See page 10)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for boosting agricultural production

In Myanmar, agriculture is the main livelihood of rural people, majority of the nation’s population, and the mainstay of the national economy. Therefore, the government has given special emphasis to boosting the production of the agricultural sector.

In this connection, it is necessary to supply sufficient water especially in the dry zone. To be able to irrigate farmland sufficiently, large, medium and small irrigation networks are built all over the nation, especially in its upper and central parts. In lower parts of the nation also, sluice gates are being built to prevent the flow of sea water into farmland and to reclaim virgin and vacant land.

The government is constantly constructing dams and sluice gates and river water pumping stations across the nation.

The Moeyungyi Sluice Gate was the fifth to be opened in Bago Division. It was opened in Waw Township on 21 June. Now there is a total of 175 irrigation facilities all over the nation, including dams and sluice gates.

As the government is constantly building irrigation facilities throughout the nation, up to 3.76 million acres of farmland, 19 per cent of the total sown acreage of 28 million, can be irrigated now. In 1986, only 1.34 million acres of farmland could be irrigated.

The Moeyungyi Lake, where the Moeyungyi Sluice Gate has been built, is contiguous to the Bagai Embankment. In the rainy season, the sluice gate will let water flow out and in the later part of the season it will store water for the cultivation of summer paddy on 40,000 acres of farmland.

Moreover, it will contribute to the greening of the area within the 30-mile radius of Yangon City and environmental conservation.

As the government has built 41 dams and sluice gates in Bago Division, the region now has greater potential for agricultural development.

Therefore, we would like to call on the local people to work for the development of the agriculture sector, higher agricultural production and improvement of their socio-economic life by making the best use of water resources from irrigation facilities.

**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

**UNDP Resident Representative calls on Home Affairs Minister**

YANGON, 22 June — UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie together with Bangkok-based UNIA Deputy Resident Project Manager Dr Daw Su Su Tha Tun called on Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo at his office at 5 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Director-General of General Administration Department, Head of Transnational Crime, Department Police Col Sit Aye and Head of Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Kyaw San.

**Minister for Information receives Thai guest**

YANGON, 22 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Vice President Mr Makin Petplai of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads and the head of office.

**National policy, State’s development lectured**

YANGON, 22 June — USDA CEC Member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave a lecture on the national policy and the State’s development to 70 trainees of the basic organizational course No 23 opened at Yankin Township USDA Office at noon today. — MNA
Monday morning. Arroyo said she is taking Hong Kong’s Independent Commission Against Corruption also met Tony Kwok, the former head of Hong Kong’s investment companies from China, Philippines and Vietnam agreed to achieve energy independence.

The relationship between China and Chile has witnessed sound development since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 35 years ago,” said Raids. Citing the frequent inter-parliamentary high-level exchanges in recent years, Raids expressed the hope that the legislative bodies of the two countries would further enhance their friendly cooperation “in various levels”. As the Chilean delegation is scheduled to visit the Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China from Tuesday, Raids, the former regional government leader, briefed the guests on the autonomous region, which will celebrate its 40th founding anniversary on 15 August.

Romero spoke highly of the friendly relationship between the two parliaments, and expressed the hope that the two countries would further exchanges and cooperation in such fields as politics, economy and culture.

Inaugural Asia-Middle East Dialogue opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 June — The first Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED) officially opened here on Tuesday with the participation of more than 200 representatives from about 40 countries and regions in both Asia and the Middle East.

Speaking at the opening session, Singapore’s Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong said that the rise of China and India will inevitably bring Asia into closer contact with the Middle East, and that the two regions will no longer interact only at the margins. He stressed the need for the two regions to strengthen links and cooperation in different areas. The destinies of our regions will become more interdependent. This is not just about oil or energy but also about trade, investment, business, security, tourism and services,” he said, adding that “globalization means that changes in our regions will impact on each other in a variety of ways across a broad range of areas”.

Goh urged the two regions to make progress steadily and rediscover each other.

“The first step must be to talk to each other freely and frankly, to share our hopes and concerns as friends,” he said.

NPC Vice-Chairman meets Chilean guests

BEIJING, 21 June— Raids, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, met here on Monday with a Chilean parliamentary delegation led by Senate President Sergio Romero.

Arroyo invites more HK investment to Philippines

HONG KONG, 21 June— Despite destabilization attempts against her government, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assured Hong Kong business leaders here Monday that her country is full of investment opportunities, and economic reforms are continuing.

“I believe the Philippines is the best investment area in Asia, if not the world. I am determined to convince international investors of this point,” Arroyo said in a media roundtable.

She said progress has been made in economic and fiscal reform. In April, the Philippines achieved its highest monthly tax collection ever and recorded the first budget surplus in four years.

She admitted that the major challenge ahead of the economic reform is how to turn the achievement of Phase I reform to the benefit of Phase II and to achieve energy independence.

International investment is important for Philippines, she said, adding that Mainland and Hong Kong investors are among the major investors in industries such as mining and infrastructure.

The South China Sea is turned from “a place of conflicting to a place of cooperation” when companies from China, Philippines and Vietnam agreed to explore for oil together in March, she said.

During her one-day trip to Hong Kong, Arroyo also met Tony Kwock, the former head of Hong Kong’s Independent Commission Against Corruption and now the President’s anti-corruption adviser Monday morning. Arroyo said she is taking Hong Kong’s experience to lick graft and corruption.

1,724 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 21 June—As of Tuesday, 21 June, 2005, at least 1,724 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,319 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Tuesday. The British military has reported 89 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 12; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,585 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,210 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 13,074 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday. —Internet

74% Nepalis to get drinking water facility

KATHMANDU, 21 June— Drinking water facility will be available to some 74 per cent of the 23 million population in Nepal by the end of the current fiscal year, an official said here Sunday.

Altogether 1,026 district-level drinking water projects are under construction in the current fiscal year, which ends on 15 July.

Out of them, 61 have been already completed benefiting an additional population of 159,000.

Meanwhile, a high-level delegation from China will visit the Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China from Tuesday, Raids, the former regional government leader, briefed the guests on the autonomous region, which will celebrate its 40th founding anniversary on 15 August.
Indian Govt approves eco agreement with Singapore

NEW DELHI, 21 June — As the first step towards enhancing its economic ties with the Far-East, the Indian Government on Monday approved the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore, the first with any country.

This is also the first time that India has entered into a Bilateral Economic Integration Agreement in Services.

The agreement is an integrated package comprising trade in goods and services, an agreement on investments, mutual recognition agreements in conformity assessment of standards in goods, mutual recognition agreement in services, cooperation agreements in Customs, science and technology, education, e-commerce, intellectual property and media.

The approval was granted during the Cabinet meeting Monday morning. The agreement would be signed during a visit by Singapore Prime Minister to India, slated for 29 June.

The agreement is expected to come into effect from 1 August this year.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath said that CECA would be a milestone in further cementing India’s traditional ties with Singapore.

The Cabinet’s approval allows three Singaporean banks to set up wholly-owned subsidiaries in India to boost investment in the country.

The three banks, DBS Holdings, Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation and United Overseas Bank, Chinese will be given national treatment at par with the Indian banks with regard to branches, place of operation and prudential requirements, said the official.

Iraq on list of world’s endangered cultural sites

NEW YORK, 21 June—The entire country of Iraq, often called the cradle of civilization, made the list of most endangered cultural sites on Tuesday, joining others from 55 countries that include a Modernist building in New York and a hut in Antarctica.

The list of 100 at-risk sites, issued by the privately financed World Monuments Fund every two years, is chosen from nominations made by a broad array of experts in archaeology and the arts.

“It’s the first time we’ve listed an entire country in danger,” Bonnie Burnham, president of the fund told reporters.

Looting and the inability to mobilize restoration efforts in the war-torn region have taken its toll on relics that date back 10,000 years and could be wiped away, fund organizers said.

Some 10,000 sites in Iraq alone have come under siege, most recently from looting after the 2003 US occupation there.

“It is not only the heritage of Iraq that is at stake,” Feisal Amin al-Istrabadi, Iraq’s deputy UN ambassador said. “World heritage is at stake.”

The Iraqi sites include the temple precinct at Babylon in the region where Babylonian King Hammurabi enacted the first-known code of law.

China, Russia, Japan to explore eastern “maritime Silk Road”

HARBIN, 21 June — China has teamed up with Russia and Japan to efficiently use a maritime shipping route, which is dubbed the “maritime Silk Road,” connecting northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province with the northern ports of Japan.

The route starts from the Songhuajiang and Heilongjiang rivers in Heilongjiang province, stretches through the Amur River and Tatar Strait in Russia and the Sea of Japan and ends at ports in northern Japan.

Luo Tao, head of the water system office for Heilongjiang, Songhuajiang and Liaohe rivers under the Chinese Ministry of Communications, said in the coming 10 years China will make a total investment of several billion yuan (240.96 million to 1.08 billion US dollars) in harnessing the rivers related to the “maritime Silk Road”, purchasing special vessels and building shipping hubs and large harbours. These efforts will enable rivers in the eastern part of Heilongjiang to accommodate 3,000-dwt ships and help the Chinese ship fleet have an annual cargo transport capacity of 1.2 million tons, up 10-fold from the current level.

Incentives will be worked out to use the 2,800-kilometre-long river-sea route in a more efficient manner, according to Luo.

Ma Jie, deputy director of the provincial shipping administration of Heilongjiang, said the route opened to traffic in 1992. In 12 years only 54,000 tons of cargo were shipped along the route as against its annual shipping capacity of 500,000 tons.

Chen Xueli, a Chinese shipping expert, attributed the low usage to the unimproved water route and high transportation costs.

After the river harnessing and related infrastructure construction projects are completed, Heilongjiang’s economy will enjoy easy, low-cost access to Japan for its exports in bulk; Japan will acquire a stable source for labour-intensive products; and Russia will earn a great deal of service charges on the "maritime Silk Road".

China, Russia, Japan to explore eastern “maritime Silk Road”

Moldovan leaders hail ties with China

CHISINAU, 21 June — Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and Prime Minister Vasilie Tarlev hailed Sino-Moldovan relations Monday and pledged to adhere to the one-China policy and strengthen overall cooperation with China.

The leaders made the remarks during their separate meetings with Liu Qi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the CPC.

The leaders of Moldova held the development of Sino-Moldovan ties in high esteem and reiterated Moldova’s adherence to the one-China policy. They also called on the two countries to further boost cooperation in various fields and support each other in important international issues.

Liu said that their two peoples always have a traditional friendship despite the distance between the two countries. China attaches great importance to its friendly ties with Moldova and is willing to deepen the two countries’ cooperation in all fields.

Liu also attended on the same day the signing ceremony of a Sino-Moldovan economic technology cooperation agreement, along with Xu Zhongkai, Chinese Ambassador to Moldova.

Earthquake jolts N-E Japan

TOKYO, 21 June — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 rocked northeast Japan’s Niigata Prefecture on Monday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The region has been rattled by numerous quakes since an magnitude 6.8 earthquake last 23 October, which claimed the lives of 40 people.

Monday’s quake is considered to be a separate event and not an aftershock, the agency said.

The Niigata prefectural government and police said they have not received any reports of injuries or damage from the 1:03 pm (0403 GMT) quake.

No tsunami warning was issued.

Earthquake in Japan

Colombo, 21 June — The Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB) said the country’s tourism has bounced back from the tsunami, The Island reported on Monday.

The tourism is powering ahead with occupancy levels in both city and regional hotels rising, SLTB chairman Udaya Nanayakkara was quoted as saying, adding optimistic reports from hotels were encouraging.

“The fact that Sri Lankan hotels are reporting increasing occupancy levels five months after December 26 tsunami is good sign for the future,” Nanayakkara said.

Sri Lanka’s tourism recovery in full swing

A man shops for cabbage in Beijing, China, on 21 June, 2005. South Korean baseball authorities have banned players from using frozen cabbage leaves under their caps to cool down in the summer heat.

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Vietnam pours more investment abroad

HANOI, 21 June — Vietnam has so far this year invested abroad 33.7 million US dollars, triple compared to that of the same period last year.

The investment were poured into 13 projects mainly in the fields of oil and gas exploration and exploitation, renewable energy and construction material production, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Monday. Most of the projects have been implemented in Russia, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia, said the ministry.

Vietnam is expected to invest abroad more than 300 million dollars this year, higher than the combined figures in the 2001-2004 period. It plans to increase its investment abroad between 2006 and 2010 exceeding 200 million dollars each year.

Vietnam granted licences to 122 overseas investment projects involving 230 million dollars in the 2001-2004 period. Now, 119 are operational with combined registered capital of 229.5 million dollars in 30 countries and regions including Iraq, Russia and Laos. — MNA/Xinhua

NPC vice-chairman calls for more China-Japan youth exchanges

BEIJING, 21 June — Wang Zhaoguo, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), said here Monday he hopes Chinese and Japanese youth organizations will carry out more friendly exchanges in the future.

He made the remarks when meeting with a delegation of the Japan Junior Chamber (JC), headed by JC President Takatake Kazuaki.

The delegation, composed of 376 Japanese entrepreneurs, is here for a visit on the 20th anniversary of the friendly exchanges between All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) and JC.

Wang said the present difficult situation of Sino-Japanese relations goes against the common interests of the two peoples. “The two countries should follow the spirit of taking history as a mirror and looking up to the future, and take concrete measures to carry out the five-point proposal made by Chinese President Hu Jintao on developing Sino-Japanese relations.”

Wang expressed his hope that ACYF and JC will enhance exchanges and cooperation in a bid to deepen mutual understanding, expand common interests and contribute to the healthy, stable development of Sino-Japanese ties.

Takatake Kazuaki said he will continue to make his own contribution to promoting Sino-Japanese youth exchanges and bilateral ties.

The JC, founded in 1951, is one of the largest non-governmental organization of the young people in Japan. Its members are mainly owners of small and medium-sized enterprises at the age of below 40. Since it established relations with ACYF in 1985, JC has sent delegations to visit China almost every year.

Takatake Kazuaki said at a Press conference Monday afternoon that the visiting delegation is the largest ever sent by JC. “The 20 years’ friendly exchanges between JC and ACYF demonstrates the sincere friendship between the two countries’ youth,” he said.

Philippines records budget deficit in May

MANILA, 21 June — The Philippine Government posted a budget deficit of 7.6 billion pesos (138.18 million US dollars) in May, the Department of Finance (DOF) said on Monday.

The DOF said that revenue for May reached 68.2 billion pesos (1.24 billion dollars), while expenditure totalled 75.8 billion pesos (1.38 billion dollars). The figure in May pushed the government’s cumulative budget deficit from January to May to reach 67.8 billion pesos (1.23 billion dollars), which is, however, still below its first quarter target ceiling of 77.8 billion pesos (1.41 billion dollars) the department said. — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.

Presidents of Indonesia, Gambia arrive in Manila on official visit

MANILA, 21 June — The presidents of Indonesia and the African state of Gambia both arrived on Monday in Manila on official visit at the invitation of their Philippine counterpart Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Philippine officials said Arroyo will discuss with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono cooperation in the fields of security, counter-terrorism and economic cooperations between the two countries and among members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

During her talks with UNDP continues to aid Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 June — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will continue its assistance to Nepal in the days ahead, a UN official said here on Monday.

The projects currently in operation in the Himalayan Kingdom will continue unless they were blocked due to conflict in the country, Ghulam Isacazi, deputy resident representative of UNDP, told reporters in his office in Kathmandu.

“We have to suspend our programmes in case of threats to our staff and damage of our assets. But so far, UN has not received any direct threats,” Isacazi said.

Asked about UN’s involvement in resolving the ongoing conflict in Nepal, Isacazi said, “We can’t engage ourselves in the process until and unless we are asked to do so. But we will remain as fulfills as possible the intensity of the problem through our development programmes.”

Vietnam’s pepper industry hit by decreasing prices

HANOI, 21 June — Vietnam’s pepper industry is being badly affected by crop losses in the country and plummeting pepper prices in the world market, according to Vietnam Pepper Association on Monday.

Pepper prices in the world market last week fell to $1.140-1.150 US dollars per ton, compared to over $1.550 US dollars per ton early this year. The falling prices, which were a result of disparities between world demand and supply, caused a decrease in the country’s pepper export revenues.

Vietnam earned 60 million US dollars from shipping abroad 44,000 tons of pepper in the first five months of this year, posting year-on-year decreases of 14.6 per cent and 16.4 per cent, respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

Syrian journalists on 20 June, 2005, make TV images of the fence built by Syrian border soldiers near Badiah on the border between Syria and Iraq to prevent militants from infiltrating from Syria into Iraq to fight the US-led coalition forces. — INTERNET

A giant panda lies beside ice blocks to cool itself down at the Hongshan Zoo in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 20 June, 2005. The highest temperature stood at 35 degrees Celsius (95 F) in Nanjing on Monday. — INTERNET

Philippines obtain an observatory through its development programmes.

— MNA/Xinhua

China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), said here Monday he hopes Chinese and Japanese youth organizations will carry out more friendly exchanges in the future.

The delegation, composed of 376 Japanese entrepreneurs, is here for a visit on the 20th anniversary of the friendly exchanges between All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) and JC.

Wang said the present difficult situation of Sino-Japanese relations goes against the common interests of the two peoples. “The two countries should follow the spirit of taking history as a mirror and looking up to the future, and take concrete measures to carry out the five-point proposal made by Chinese President Hu Jintao on developing Sino-Japanese relations.”

Wang expressed his hope that ACYF and JC will enhance exchanges and cooperation in a bid to deepen mutual understanding, expand common interests and contribute to the healthy, stable development of Sino-Japanese ties.

Takatake Kazuaki said he will continue to make his own contribution to promoting Sino-Japanese youth exchanges and bilateral ties.

The JC, founded in 1951, is one of the largest non-governmental organization of the young people in Japan. Its members are mainly owners of small and medium-sized enterprises at the age of below 40. Since it established relations with ACYF in 1985, JC has sent delegations to visit China almost every year.

Takatake Kazuaki said at a Press conference Monday afternoon that the visiting delegation is the largest ever sent by JC. “The 20 years’ friendly exchanges between JC and ACYF demonstrates the sincere friendship between the two countries’ youth,” he said.

Philippines records budget deficit in May

MANILA, 21 June — The Philippine Government posted a budget deficit of 7.6 billion pesos (138.18 million US dollars) in May, the Department of Finance (DOF) said on Monday.

The DOF said that revenue for May reached 68.2 billion pesos (1.24 billion dollars), while expenditure totalled 75.8 billion pesos (1.38 billion dollars). The figure in May pushed the government’s cumulative budget deficit from January to May to reach 67.8 billion pesos (1.23 billion dollars), which is, however, still below its first quarter target ceiling of 77.8 billion pesos (1.41 billion dollars) the department said. — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.

Kuwait pledges support to Iraq’s reconstruction

KUWAIT, 21 June — Kuwait has pledged support to Iraq’s reconstruction especially in the oil and electricity sectors, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

According to the official Kuwait News Agency, Sheikh Ahmad said after a meeting with visiting Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom that Kuwait has agreed to offer grants to Iraq to boost the country’s reconstruction and development especially in the oil, transport, electricity and health sectors.

The two sides discussed the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in helping Iraq cope with electrical shortage through the rehabilitation and construction of power stations, Sheikh Ahmad said.
China, Jamaica agree to further eco, technological coop

BEIJING, 21 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Jamaica’s Prime Minister Percival Noel James Patterson agreed here on Monday to further improve economic and technological cooperation between the two states.

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of an economic and technological cooperation agreement between the two governments after hour-long talks in Beijing.

The two sides also reached three other agreements covering cooperation on education and mining industry. China and Jamaica set up diplomatic ties in 1972. In February this year, the two states announced a “friendly partnership of common development”. Wen said the agreement of establishing such a partnership demonstrates the two countries’ strong desire to strengthen bilateral ties and also has laid down a solid political foundation for the development China-Jamaica relations.

Pakistan, US navies to conduct joint exercise in Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD, 21 June — Pakistan and US navies will conduct a 10-day joint exercise in the North Arabian Sea starting from Monday, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

A Press conference in this regard was held onboard US ship Kaufman in Karachi before the exercise, wherein Commodore Hank Miranda of US Navy and Commodore Azhar Hayat of Pakistan Navy gave details of the exercise to the reporters and responded to their queries.

The exercise, which would last for 10 days, was named as “Inspired Union-2005”. It was a combination of inspired siren and inspired response, two bilateral exercises conducted annually between US and Pakistan Navy force.

Bangladeshi women militia to be sent to Saudi Arabia

DHAKA, 21 June — The government of Bangladesh will send 170 trained female members of the Bangladesh Ansar (militia) to different institutions of Saudi Arabia in the coming months.

The Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment with the assistance of the Ministry of Home Affairs will send the women Ansars who have already completed a month-long training on domestic service including baby sitting and handling electronic equipment like washing machines, micro-ovens, vegetable cutting machines and food processors. The New Age reported on Monday.

The 170 women militia also got language training, especially on English and Arabic, so that they can communicate with their employers. State Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar was quoted as saying that the government has taken the initiative to send manpower abroad to earn foreign currency and meet the increasing demand for domestic help and hospital personnel in the Middle Eastern countries.

Among the listed 5,000 female members of the Bangladesh Ansar only 170 got the chance to take the training and to be sent to Saudi Arabia.

If the women Ansars become popular for their service, the country reportedly will send more Ansar members, both male and female, abroad in the future. The 170 women Ansars will go to Saudi Arabia for three years, according to the contract between the government. — MNA/Xinhua

SIA declines proposed merger with Qantas

SINGAPORE, 21 June — Singapore Airlines (SIA) on Monday ruled out the possibility of merging with Qantas Airways, Australian national carrier, according to Channel NewsAsia report.

Responding to comments by Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile that he would back a merger between Qantas and SIA, as carried in an Australian newspaper on Monday, SIA said that it has no such plans.

The report quoted SIA as saying that the move would not help satisfy consumers who want more competition and choices on the trans-Pacific route. An analyst suggested that some media reports have taken the minister’s answer to a hypothetical question out of context and blown it out of proportion, said the report.

Last Wednesday, an Australian Government spokesman said that it was not the right time to grant SIA access to the Sydney-Los Angeles route, but the government was reviewing the aviation industry and might introduce more competition. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, African parties vow to strengthen ties

BEIJING, 21 June — A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here Monday that China will further friendly cooperative ties with African political parties in a bid to promote state-to-state relations.

Ma Wenchu, deputy head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, told a seminar held in Beijing that the CPC will advance such relations under the principles of independency, full equality, mutual respect and non-interference in the other’s internal affairs.

About 20 representatives from the ruling parties of Cameroon, Djibouti, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles and Togo attended the seminar.

“Chinese and African parties have long-lasting friendly exchange and cooperation”, Ma said. “CPC and a number of African political parties once joined hands to fight for state independence and national liberation in the past; nowadays, we are all striving for developing national economies and seeking national revival.”

All should make efforts to further enhance understanding, consultation, cooperation, and better the exchange of experiences between Chinese and African parties, he said, adding that such endeavour is conducive to the welfare of our own development and the peoples, to the maintenance of the common interest of developing countries, and to the world peace and stability. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to hold Int’l Art Exhibition

BEIJING, 21 June — Dubbed as “the Olympics of Art”, the second International Art Biennale will be held from 20 September to 20 October, organizers announced Monday.

The 30-day event will attract more than 450 artists from both home and overseas, including such big names as John Bellany and Alan Jones, and bring more than 500 works, mainly paintings and sculptures, said Jing Shanyi, chairman of the Chinese Fine Artists Association, also chief curator of the exhibition.

Themed “Contemporary Art with Humanistic Concerns”, the art exhibition, which is scheduled to be held once every two years, has put its eyes on human social life and the public this time.

Jing said: “We will exert more efforts to make contemporary art accessible to the general public, express pursuit for world peace and promote the development of humankind as well as the harmony between the human beings and nature.”

An international jury consisting of Chinese and foreign artists will assign awards for Best Work, Excellent Work, Lifetime Honourable Mention and Excellent Chinese Young Artist’s Work before the opening of the exhibition, said Jing.

At the sponsorship of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Beijing municipal government and the Chinese Artists Association, the art exhibition aims to show the opening-up of China, which boasts a long-lived ancient civilization, Jing acknowledged. — MNA/Xinhua

Elderly Japanese women in Tokyo. Japan’s aging population and declining birthrate have been blamed for a new casualty: a university has filed for bankruptcy protection because it can no longer find enough students. — INTERNET

Two pedicab drivers pull their vehicles loaded with passengers past an under construction site of a new bridge in Samut Prakan Province, central Thailand, on 21 June, 2005. —INTERNET
Kenya to vie for permanent seat at UNSC

NAIROBI, 22 June — Kenya is lobbying to get one of two new permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council the African Union hopes to reserve for the continent as part of broader reform of the United Nations, local media reported on Monday.

According to the Daily Nation, Kenyan Foreign Minister Ali Chirau Mwakwere said the East African nation would battle it out with other regional giants for the security seats slots.

Mwakwere said Kenya’s key role in the regional peace making initiatives will give it an edge over opponents.

Mwakwere said Kenya should be a veto-wielding member of the council because of its work in sealing a deal to end Sudan’s 21-year north-south civil war. Africa’s longest running conflict, and its successful peace efforts in neighbouring lawless Somalia.

“The African Union is saying we should get one of the seats. Kenyan should be a veto-wielding member of the council because of its work in sealing a deal to end Sudan’s 21-year north-south civil war. Africa’s longest running conflict, and its successful peace efforts in neighbouring lawless Somalia.” — MNA/Xinhua

Veteran journalist Amrit Kakaria honoured

NEW YORK, 22 June — Veteran Indian-American journalist Amrit Kakaria has been honoured by the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) at its 11th convention here.

He was presented with a plaque and a citation which recalled the long career he had with the Economic Times.

Accepting the award, Kakaria suggested that SAJA, which has several awards for South Asian journalists working in the ethnic and mainstream media, institute awards for those who own the media and invest in it.

SAJA has a membership of around 700 journalists and aims at uniting South Asian journalists to ensure that their concerns are taken care of. — MNA/Xinhua

Scientists find deep-sea photosynthetic bacterium

LOS ANGELES, 22 June — A bacterium living deep within the Pacific Ocean has been identified as the first photosynthetic organism that does not live off sunlight, a team of scientists reported on Monday.

The green sulfur bacterium, living near hydrothermal vents, 2,400 metres deep in the ocean off the coast of Mexico, has significant implications for the resiliency of life on Earth and possibly on other planets, the scientists said.

The team, including researchers from Canada, Germany and the United States, published their findings in the 20 June online issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The plucky bacteria that were found in a vent field called 9 North off the coast of Mexico. The bacteria apparently live in the razor thin interface between the extremely hot water (350 degrees Celsius) coming from a flask vent and the very cold water (2 degrees Celsius) surrounding it.

The team collected water samples around the hydrothermal vents and surrounding areas.

From the samples near the vents, they cultivated a microbe that grew in response to illumination near the thermal vents. Using DNA analysis, the team classified the microbe as a member of the green sulfur bacteria family, which use light and sulfur to obtain energy.

The fact that the organism is obligate means it solely relies on photosynthesis to live.

Sunlight can penetrate 100 to 200 metres into the ocean, slowly dimming while going deeper. Because these organisms live nearly 2,400 metres below the surface, the team believed the bacteria must be getting light from the hydrothermal vent near where they were found.

“These organisms are the champions of low light photosynthesis,” said Robert Blankenship, a professor at Arizona State University.

The bacteria have an elaborate and sophisticated antenna system utilizing a chlorosome complex, which basically acts like a microscopic satellite dish, to efficiently collect any light it can and transfer it to the organism’s reaction centre.

The reaction centre is where the photosynthesis takes place, the researchers explained.

“Most popular nation, and South Africa, its richest, have both been heavily involved in peacekeeping and peacemaking across Africa while Egypt remains a key player in the Middle East.

Currently, only Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States have permanent representation on the council and the power to single-handedly halt a UN resolution.

The expansion needs the approval of two-thirds of the UN member states and a vote to change the UN Charter requires a two-thirds vote and the Security Council approval.” — MNA/Xinhua

S Africa reiterates opposition to commercial whaling

JOHANNESBURG, 22 June — South Africa said on Monday it is not considering changing its policy of opposing commercial whaling.

“I am not considering changing our position,” said J P Louw, spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs, after the country was “generally not supportive of Japan’s efforts” at the conference while referring to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting underway in South Korea.

Earlier on Monday, environmental groups monitoring proceedings at the IWC hailed the defeat, by 30 votes to 27, of a Japanese proposal to introduce secret ballot voting, which they feared would tilt the body in favour of the pro-whaling lobby.

Asked if the government was looking at changing its stance on commercial whaling, Louw said: “Not at all. Nobody in the department, as well as the minister and director-general, is looking at that.”

His comments followed media reports claiming the failure of the department’s former deputy director-general, Horst Kleinschmidt, to attend the IWC meeting would prove a setback for the anti-whaling lobby.

Kleinschmidt is IWC vice-chairman. He is currently working for the department as a consultant on fishing quotas, after resigning earlier this year.

Ivy Coast peace talks postponed

JOHANNESBURG, 22 June — Ivory Coast stalled peace talks scheduled for Pretoria this weekend were postponed because not all parties could attend, the South African Presidency announced on Monday.

“We are trying to get all parties down here,” Presidential spokesman Bheki Khumalo said, adding a future date had not yet been proposed.

Mandated by the African Union, South African President Thabo Mbeki has been trying to find a way to end the civil war in the West African country, which flared up after a failed coup in 2002, effectively dividing the country into the government held south and the rebel held north. Mbeki made an early breakthrough on 6 April when he negotiated an accord, prepar- ing the way for talks between the warring factions. — MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese farmer watches as his chicken is tested for the bird flu virus in January, 2004. China denied it encouraged farmers to use a drug meant for humans to stop the spread of bird flu in poultry which could render the medicine useless, but said it would investigate. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

African foreign ministers have started discussing ways of getting South Africa into the United Nations Security Council, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Seymour Mesfin, Ethiopia’s foreign minister, said Monday that a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Li Zhaoxing, will be held to discuss how to get the African country into the UN’s most powerful security council.

South Africa, its richest, most populous nation, and South Africa, its richest, have both been heavily involved in peacekeeping and peacemaking across Africa while Egypt remains a key player in the Middle East.

Currently, only Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States have permanent representation on the council and the power to single-handedly halt a UN resolution.

The expansion needs the approval of two-thirds of the UN member states and a vote to change the UN Charter requires a two-thirds vote and the Security Council approval.

A bilateral meeting with Britain is also scheduled. — MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 23 June, 2005

Value yourself --- make healthy choices

Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2005
Reclaim more land, increase water supply…

Local authorities of Myothitgale Affiliated BEHS, and of the Irrigation Department near Kon village, heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a new water pumping station. At the briefing hall, they viewed Paddy husk fired power supply tasks being carried out by in Nantkyin Village USDA. Afterwards, the minister inspected telephone carrier boards in Nankhwin, Nanmana and Kanyinmyaing Villages.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint has observed the thriving paddy fields and samples of rice. He urged agriculturists to reclaim more land for cultivation as the Government has been providing assistance for them. He cordially met with local farmers and made arrangements to grow more crops.

During inspection of Tuttukon diversion weir in Myiththa Township, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

In Kyaukse Township, he visited oral health ward, operation theatre, delivery room, women’s ward and medical store at Thanywa village hospital. At his meeting with Tatmadaw members and families in Meiktila, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to develop farming for their welfare. After the meeting he cordially conversed with them.

On 19 June morning, the Hopin Township USDA Organizer handed over 1,200 membership applications to the Secretariat Member.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.

At Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, he observed water supply work. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on volume of water flowing into the weir annually, water supply, and maintenance of the facility presented by officials of the Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to extend the building of tributary canals and to erect locks on Aungtha, Meli and Taungtalon creeks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State. At the briefing hall, he heard a report on conducting of soil test and building of a diversion tunnel, presented by ID officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the requirements. He also studied the place where a regulating dam will be built.
Mass campaign on DHF prevention carried out in 13 townships of Yangon Division

Mass campaign on prevention and control of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) co-organized by the Ministry of Health and Yangon City Development Committee was launched today in Thakayta Township in Yangon East District.

DHF prevention activities were also carried out today in 13 townships in Yangon Division.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected the activities.

At Thakayta Township Development Affairs Committee office, Head of the Health Department of YCDC Dr Tin Maung Win, Head of Thakayta Township Health Department Dr Khin Maung Swe and Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hai Myint reported to the commander and health minister on DHF prevention and control activities being carried out in districts and townships in Yangon Division.

Moreover, they also reported on preventive measures against DHF being carried out in 19 wards in Thakayta Township by local people joining hands with staff of the health department and social organizations.

Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein also reported on arrangements for holding of educative talks on DHF and treatments to be given in the township.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint view mass campaign on DHF prevention, encourage town dwellers in Thakayta Township. —YCDC

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint view mass campaign on DHF prevention, encourage town dwellers in Thakayta Township. —YCDC

Religious treatises donated

Yangon, 22 June—The Cetyangana Association of Shwedagon Pagoda donated religious treatises to the Ministry of Religious Affairs at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, departmental officials, officials of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, wellwishers, Chairman of the Cetyangana Association and executives, and family members of Thama Thingaik.

On behalf of the association, Chairman U Kyaw Htay and Executive U Kyaw Wai presented 6,023 copies of religious treatises and 36 cupboards; proprietor of Thama Thingaik Thida Thudhamma Manjota-dhara Thiri Thudhamma Manjotadhara U Than Naing-Thida Thudhamma Singi Daw Kyi Kyi Swe, K 600,000 to the ministry through the minister. MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung receives copies of religious treatises donated by wellwishers. —MNA

Yangon, 22 June—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint held discussions on organizational and regional development tasks with the patron of Mon State USDA the commander of South-East Command and the deputy commander at the office of the salt enterprise in Mon State on 19 June afternoon.

Next, the CEC member inspected progress of the construction of buildings at the basic education primary school (Kwawn) and basic education high school (Peinhenge) in Muon Township.

At the meeting with members of the school boards of trustees, townswomen and teachers, the commander gave instructions on ensuring enrollment of all school-age children, maintenance of the buildings, effectively nurturing the students to become outstanding ones, development of human resources, and harmonious participation in the regional development undertakings.

On 20 June morning, the commander met with the secretary, executives and members of Kyainmaraw Township USDA’s office, and instructed the officials to coordinate with local authorities in the organizational work, and to make field trips down to the grassroots level for regional development tasks.

In charge of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the industrial zone and gave instructions on manufacturing of industrial finished products, production of the items that have already had ready markets.

He met with secretaries, executives and members of township USAs in Mon State and Mawlamyine District in the afternoon and secretaries, executives and members of district and township USAs in Tharon Township in the evening. At the meetings, the CEC member dealt with speedy participation with Union Spirit in implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map and the Association’s nine future work programmes, strictly abiding by rules and regulations and working hard for becoming skilled members, active participation in rural development measures in coordination with local administrative bodies, and carrying out organizational tasks with the use of experiences and knowledge gained from the courses conducted by the central level.

Yesterday morning, the CEC member also held a meeting with the secretary of Mon State USDA, the secretary and executives of township USAs at the state USDA office.

He instructed officials concerned to play a leading role in the rural development tasks and to speed up the organizational work for greater participation of the rural folk in the implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map. MNA

Mass campaign on DHF prevention carried out in 13 townships of Yangon Division

Mass campaign on prevention and control of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) co-organized by the Ministry of Health and Yangon City Development Committee was launched today in Thakayta Township in Yangon East District.

DHF prevention activities were also carried out today in 13 townships in Yangon Division.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected the activities.

At Thakayta Township Development Affairs Committee office, Head of the Health Department of YCDC Dr Tin Maung Win, Head of Thakayta Township Health Department Dr Khin Maung Swe and Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hai Myint reported to the commander and health minister on DHF prevention and control activities being carried out in districts and townships in Yangon Division.

Moreover, they also reported on preventive measures against DHF being carried out in 19 wards in Thakayta Township by local people joining hands with staff of the health department and social organizations.

Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein also reported on arrangements for holding of educative talks on DHF and treatments to be given in the township.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint urged officials concerned to make arrangements for medical treatments and DHF prevention activities and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the Commander and the minister visited the places in the township where DHF prevention activities were being carried out by staff of the health departments, YCDC, members of social organizations and ward dwellers.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint attended the educative talks on prevention of DHF jointly organized by officials of YCDC and the Health Department. MNA
Mindat and Matupi facilitated... (from page 16)

After that, four groups were formed for construction of Mindat-Matupi Road. In the past, the road served the interest of local people with poor transport facilities. Today, Mindat-Matupi stretching 50 miles from Mindat to Shivanniva Village was successfully opened due to concerted efforts of employees of Public Works and contribution of the local people in line with the policy adopted by the Government to enable the entire national races to enjoy fruitful results of development in the country. Remaining 52 miles road section will be upgraded soon.

In the past, it took five days to travel from Mindat to Matupi but now thanks to the opening of Mindat-Matupi road, it takes only about six hours for the journey. The road will contribute much towards uplift of economic, social, health and education standards of about 90,000 local people residing in 203 villages of 95 village-tracts and eight wards of Mindat and Matupi Townships. That is why all the local people are to safeguard durability of the road.

Next, the Commander also delivered an address, saying that the Government has laid down the plan to speed up development of Chin State. In the transport sector, Kalay-Falam-Haka Road, Haka-Gangaw Road, Haka-Matupi Road and Mindat-Matupi Road are being upgraded. Furthermore, Rezwa-Shatalai-Gangaw Road is being renovated. Therefore, remarkable progress has been made in transport facilities on Haka-Kalay Road, Haka-Gangaw Road and Mindat-Matupi Road and Mindat-Kyaikhtu-Pakokka Road.

Later, he thanked engineers, officials, employees and local people for their efforts and contributions and urged the local people to safeguard long-term existence of the road.

Later, local people U Htin Lein spoke words of thanks. Next, the commander, the minister and guests took the photos at the archway-1 where the opening ceremony will be held. The commander and the minister formally commissioned the road. The commander, the minister, guests and local people posed for documentary photo and strollled along the road.

At the archway-2 near mile post 32/7, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun cut the ribbon to open along the road. At the third section of the opening ceremony for the road at mile post 50, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Saw Tun inaugurated the road.

Mindat-Matupi road is 102 miles long. In the past, the road was 12 feet wide and tarred road section was about three miles long. Due to landslides and poor transport facilities, local people faced difficulties in social, health and education sectors in the past. Present, the road was expanded to 30 feet wide one and the 50 miles long road section was tarmacked from Mindat to Shivanniva Village. And, remaining 52 miles section has been built as a gravel one for smooth transport of the region.

MNA

Measures taken for... (from page 16)

construction of basic education middle school in the village.

On 20 June, the minister attended inauguration of 20-kilowatt self-reliance hydel electric power station in Htee-sekha Village. Secretary of Kayah State USDA U Kyaw Swe and Chairman of Village Peace and Development Council U Sein Nyunt and member UNi formally opened the hydel electric power station. The minister and party inspected the power station and prospects of supplying power in its environs.

Indian Embassy provides teaching aids for YU

YANGON, 22 June — Indian Embassy donated teaching aids to Yangon University this morning.

At the donation ceremony held at the Diamond National Badminton Hall on 21-6-2005. Myanmar Badminton Federation President U Maung Maung Swe presents prize to a winner. — NLM

Hydrol Urban Institute awarded... (from page 1)

The minister explained measures undertaken for development of urban and rural areas in meeting with the villagers. He presented exercise books for village schools and clothes for the villagers to officials.

The minister attended opening of extension of basic education high school in Loilemlay Village.

Kayah State Assistant Education Officer Daw Mya Mya, Headmaster U Win Htain formally opened the building. He presented exercise books to the headmaster. He also attended opening of Loilemlay Village USDA Office, cash donation ceremony for funeral service association and tree planting in Loilehl Village and enshrinement of Komyo Shwe Zedi in Loikaw on 21 June. — MNA

Indian Embassy provides teaching aids for YU

YANGON, 22 June — Indian Embassy donated teaching aids to Yangon University this morning.

At the donation ceremony held at the Diamond National Badminton Hall in Kamayut Township, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr R K Bhatia briefed on the purpose of the donation and presented teaching aids to Minister for Education U Than Aung. Minister U Than Aung spoke words of thanks and presented a certificate of honour to the Indian Ambassador.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, rectors and professors, and officials. — MNA

Task for preventing against...

U Salaing Yaw La reported to the minister and party on substitution of sand bags under natural gas pipeline, covering of gabion and gravel beside the pipeline to prevent erosion, placing of stone sausage on the pipeline, construction of five short spurs to prevent Seiktha bank, progress in building of snag guards and monitoring of natural gas pipeline round the clock by a snag lifter and future tasks; General Manager of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U Than Htut on progress of works of river crossing natural gas pipeline and Director-General of DWRIRS U Chit Khin on prevention tasks for river crossing pipeline by the use of documentary photos.

Next, Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave supplementary reports. Regarding the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Our Women's Day

* For well-being of Our Myanmar Nation We, Myanmar Women Being awake and united

Founded

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. The Third of July is Our Myanmar Women’s Day It shall be remembered As long as the world exists.

* Just because I’m feminine

I shan’t depend on strangers. I love my kin, and don’t discard it I intend to keep my roots untainted. Though I have no grudge A woman has a hard heart Myanmar National holds my root. Safeguarding pride of Myanmar lineage We’ll be honest.

* Our cultural heritage

We shall not waver. Human trafficking, terrorism We shall put to end. We shall all strive together With guidance of MWAf. With cognizance of legal angle Must also have extensive economic views Women of young, middle and old age Must constantly congregate.

* Give due priority to education

Of young sons and daughters. Join hands and help To seek school entrance. Give generously what you can With a clear, clean heart. Elder sister regarded in mother’s stead With due goodwill And added loving-kindness Give warmth, you can afford.

* For well-being of Our Myanmar Nation We, Myanmar Women Being awake and united

Founded MWAf.

Ma Shwe Aye (Heho) (Trs)

(Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day—July 3.)

Hu to attend SCO, G-8 summits

BEIJING, 22 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao will pay a state visit to Russia and Kazakhstan, and attend the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in the Kazak capital of Astana here before attending the G-8 plus five summit in England, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday. The spokesman, Liu Jianchao, said Hu’s trip will last from June 30 to July 7. He was invited by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazak President Nursultan Nazarbayev and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. — MNA/Xinhua
The attributes of Myanmar women

Tekkatho Thin Kha

In Myanmar society, there is a saying, "A woman’s modesty cannot be bought even with gold." The proverb is a social teaching for all women young or old. For a woman, preserving and maintaining her modesty means protecting herself.

Traditionally, women have to always uphold and maintain their three attributes, namely, modesty, morals and qualification.

Myanmar society usually extends due respect and regard to women. For example, the proverbs “The eldest daughter of a family plays the mother’s role when the mother becomes old and feeble” and “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world” recognize and highlight women’s role in the nation.

Myanmar women have more rights than their counterparts of other nations around the world. A wife has the right to receive all the earnings of her husband to manage the affairs of the family.

Till now Myanmar society greatly values and strictly adheres to the system of monogamy it has practised since yore. It disapproves of and never accepts adultery and unfaithfulness.

As the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was formed to help the womenfolk, it has been protecting the rights of women according to the laws enacted by the Government. It is the Myanmar tradition that girls are looked after by their parents and that when they grow up, they are protected by their elder and younger brothers. When a woman gets married, the onus is on her husband to protect and care her. And it is one of the adorable traditions of Myanmar society.

Similarly, when they grow old they are looked after by the offspring.

As the entire womenfolk today have been cared, their rights ensured and safeguarded by MWAF, all our sisters, aunts, mothers and grandmas of the nation will surely enjoy more progress and prosperity than ever.

In the nation, today’s women have a strong confidence in themselves that they are capable of doing things the same way as men do. In respective jobs, women are working shoulder to shoulder with men.

Now, handicraft, oratory and fine arts are as important as educational qualification and degrees. Except some jobs requiring to exert manual labour, women can carry out all types of tasks. Now, a large number of female medical specialists, engineers, law officers, physicists, chemists, company proprietors and entrepreneurs are achieving success in respective fields. So, Myanmar women should try hard to be well-versed in a certain field according to their interest. Now is an opportune time for Myanmar women to effectively apply their education and knowledge and to take charge of duties in whatever role they may be under the leadership of the MWAF in the interests of the mass of women and the motherland.

Family is the primary unit of a nation. It is said that father is the head of a family, and mother the heart of a family. So, a mother plays the vital role in each family.

In honour of the Myanmar Women’s Day, which falls on 3 July, I would like to urge the entire Myanmar women to contribute by doing their bit towards the implementation of the political, economic and social objectives laid down by the State and putting into reality the State’s seven-point Road Map under the leadership of the MWAF at a time when the State has been taking all possible measures effectively for the development of Myanmar women.

In addition, the Government has been nurturing the entire mass of women to love and value their traditions and culture more. The womenfolk on their part should preserve their lineage and maintain their prestige with patriotism.

In the nation, emphasis needs to be placed constantly on measures for further development of the mass of Myanmar women keeping in mind the achievement gained in the past. In the process, Myanmar women are to exert efforts to keep their spirit always active and dynamic, while cultivating positive attitude.

In the present period, there is no discrimination between men and women in Myanmar. And both can enjoy equal rights in pursuing education in high schools, universities, colleges and institutes.

As the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was formed to help the womenfolk, it has been protecting the rights of women according to the laws enacted by the Government. It is the Myanmar tradition that girls are looked after by their parents and that when they grow up, they are protected by their elder and younger brothers. When a woman gets married, the onus is on her husband to protect and care her. And it is one of the adorable traditions of Myanmar society. Similarly, when they grow old they are looked after by the offspring.

Translation: TMT + MS
US attracts Chinese students by loosening control over student visa

BEIJING, 21 June — From Monday on, the United States began granting the annual multiple entry visa to Chinese students, a great leap compared with the previous six-month and two entries visa for Chinese students.

“This was a major readjustment the US Embassy has ever made since the 9/11 attacks,” said Bao Lei, an agent with the Golden Orient, a Beijing-based intermediate company offering services for overseas study programs.

After 2001, the United States had tightened its control over foreign students entering the country. As a result, the visa requests of some Chinese students, even applications with scholarship offers by American universities, have been denied.

“Many Chinese students prefer studying in Australia or European countries because it is easier for them to get visas there,” said Shen Juru, a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Figures provided by the US Embassy show that in the 2000-2001 academic year, about 19,000 Chinese students were approved to study in the United States, a record high. But the figure in the 2002-2003 academic year dropped to 13,000.

China and the United States reached an understanding on 14 June that qualified Chinese citizens applying for student visas (F-1/2) exchange visas (J-1/2) and vocational training visas (M1/M2) would be able to get visas for 12 months and multiple entries.

“The extension of visa reciprocity for Chinese students, following a similar expansion agreement in January 2005 on business and tourist visas, will significantly enhance mutual understanding between China and the United States,” the US Embassy said in a press release last week.

The decision has won applause from Chinese students.

DONATE BLOOD

Singh says no maximalist position on globalization

ROME, 21 June — Asking the West to show patience, India’s External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh Monday asserted that globalization, if it is to come the mantra of today’s world, and equality.

The West must show patience; the richer and the developing world, it was said, would be willing to open up faster and quicker than those who are poorer due to historical inequalities, he stressed.

Singh is cutting short his visit to Italy and reaching Brussels for the meeting on Wednesday of the foreign ministers of the G-4 countries comprising India, Brazil, Japan and Germany.

Singh said “there should be no maximalist position on globalization. The process must be allowed to develop in a pace that is convenient to absorb especially for developing countries.” Singh also spoke of the pitfalls in taking the wrong path. Globalization must not mean sweeping the diversity and differences that mark humanity and constructing an overarching formula, generalized in logic and entangled in thought and appearance.

In many parts of the developing world, it was perceived as another instrument of Western hegemony in the guise of a tempting economic prize, he said adding “this suspicion becomes fear since globalization, as it has evolved, appears to extend Western, especially American, cultural hegemony.” He asked the world to carefully look at another fundamental issue of globalization.
New computer programme to predict Alzheimer’s risk

**L A N G A L O S E , 2 1 J u n e — A n e w , b r a i n - s c a n - b a s e d c o m p u t e r p r o g r a m m e t h a t q u i c k l y a n d a c c u r a t e l y m e a s u r e s m e t a b o l i c a c t i v i t y i n a k e y r e g i o n o f b r a i n c a n b e a p p l i e d t o p r e d i c t t h e d e v e l o p m e n t o f A l z h e i m e r ’ s d i s e a s e , U S r e s e a r c h e r s r e p o r t e d o n S u n d a y.**

The computer programme, called “Hip-Mask”, is an image analy- sis technique that enables researchers to standardize and computer automate the sampling of PET (positron emission tomography) brain scans.

Scientists at the New York University, who developed this programme, hope the technique will enable doctors to measure the metabolic rate of the hippocampus and detect below-normal metabolic activity linked with Alzheimer’s. Earlier studies have demonstrated the hippocampus, a sea-horse shaped area of the brain associated with memory and learning, diminishes in size as Alzheimer’s disease progresses from mild cognitive impairment to full-blown dementia.

Yet until now there has been no reliable way to accurately and quickly measure the hippocampal area of the brain on a PET scan. The hippocampus is small and its size and shape are affected greatly in individuals with Alzheimer’s, making it difficult to sample this region.

HipMask is a sampling technique that uses MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) to anatomically probe the PET scan. MRI relies on electromagnetic energy to excite water molecules in the brain to create an anatomical map of the brain. The MRI was used in the study to determine the total volume of the hippocampus and then to define the portion that was shared by all persons regardless of their disease status. PET employs radioactive labelled glucose to show the brain at work and the HipMask was applied to these scans to derive estimates of the hippocampal glucose metabolism.

This is the first demonstration that reduced metabolic activity in the hippocampus may be used to help predict future Alzheimer’s disease,” said Lisa Mosconi, the research scientist who developed the computer programme.

Although our findings need to be replicated in other studies,” she said, “our technique offers the possibility that we will be able to screen for Alzheimer’s in individuals who aren’t cognitively impaired.”

MNA/Xinhua
Germany, Argentina play to 2-2 draw in Confederations Cup

NUREMBERG (Germany), 22 June—Hosts Germany forced title favourites Argentina to a 2-2 draw in a top-of-the-table clash at the Confederations Cup on Tuesday.

The draw made Germany the winners of Group A with a better goal difference over Argentina. Both teams qualify for the semifinals. The hosts team twice took the lead in the match, only to be leveled back by the Argentine team. Striker Kevin Kuranyi opened the scoring at the 29th minute through a close range shot, but the hosts enjoyed the lead for just three minutes before Juan Riquelme scored with a sublime free-kick.

Asamoah finished coolly after being put through by Kuranyi to put Germany back in front. He then drilled home his second goal in the match midway through the second half to wrap up a convincing win for the African champions.

Australia started the match strongly and the Tunisian team scarcely had a touch on the ball until the 11th minute. Ben Saada had a fine shot at the goal and the shot ignited the skilful Tunisian team. They began to press their opponents by dominating the ball possession with their fast-moving passing game.

After taking control of the match, it was just a matter of time for the Tunisian team to hit the target. Santos’ strikers scored the Tunisian team a deserved victory to end their Confederations Cup campaign on high notes. Santos found the net at the 26th minute with a easy tap in following a mistake by Australian goal-keeper Michael Petrko. He then drilled home his second goal in the match midway through the second half to wrap up a convincing win for the African champions.

Argentina and the Tunisian team finished third in the group. The two also discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation in sports development.

Sampdoria take Borriello on loan

ROME, 22 June—Sampdoria has taken striker Marco Borriello on a season-long loan from Italian Serie A rival AC Milan. The 23-year-old has been unable to find a place in the Milan side but the beaten Champions League finalist is reluctant to sell him.

He spent last season on loan to Reggina but scored only two goals in 30 league appearances. Sampdoria finished fifth last season and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

Zambia looking forward to greater presence in 2008 Olympics

LUSAKA, 22 June—Zambia is looking forward to send more athletes and officials to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Zambian member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Patrick Chamunga said here on Monday.

He made the remarks while meeting with Yu Zaizung, IOC member and vice-chairman of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games organizing committee.

Chamunga noted that sports development in Zambia is not in its best form currently due to economic constraints and the privatization which saw many government institutions that had been supporting sports being sold off.

At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Zambia only managed to send six athletes and two officials.

Chamunga said his country is looking forward to going to Beijing in greater number than it did in Athens.

He expressed the hope that the two countries will expand their cooperation in sports, adding that as the first step, the two sides can identify priority areas such as gymnastics to begin such cooperation.

In response, Yu said China understands and supports Zambia’s aspiration for greater presence in Beijing. He said China will provide necessary support for Zambian athletes to train in Beijing so that more of them could qualify for the Olympic Games.

The Chinese delegation arrived in Lusaka on Sunday after attending a meeting of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) in Ghanaian capital Accra.

Earlier Monday, Yu and his delegation also met with Zambian Minister of Sports, Youth and Child Development, Gladys Nyirongo.

Yu briefed Nyirongo on Beijing’s preparations for the Olympic Games, while Nyirongo briefed the delegation on Zambia’s plan to bid for the 2011 All African Games.

The two also discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation in sports development.

German midfielder Lucas Bernardi(L) vies with Argentina’s Juan Pablo Sorin during their 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup clash in Nuremberg.

The two teams tied 2-2. —INTERNET

Diego Maradona paid tribute by Argentine Senate

BUENOS AIRES, 22 June—Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona received Tuesday a diploma to the merit by the Argentine Senate in a ceremony at Congress Palace in Buenos Aires, where the former player went with his family.

Argentine Vice President and President of the Upper House of Congress Daniel Scioli highlighted the spirit of Maradona to overcome hardships and called on him to continue with his current recovery, after serious health problems caused by drug consumption.

“Diego teaches an important lesson to us: strength to be like this and keep on working, like a simple Argentine, who keeps on believing in his flag and in the Argentine.”

“Thanks to those Argentines who give me their support each time I leave home; thanks for all the love. I do not want to fail, I want to be more Argentine every day,” said the former player on the verge of crying.

South Korea’s Park Ji-sung joins Manchester United

SEOUL, 22 June—South Korean footballer Park Ji-sung has become the first South Korean player to play for the English Premier League by joining Manchester United, his agent said Wednesday.

“The Netherlands’ PSV Eindhoven and the English League club reached a deal early in the morning,” Park’s agency FS Corp said. “The transfer fee for Park was set at six million euros (7.3 million US dollars).”

Park will play for four years and earn a salary of two million pounds a year during the contract years. He will depart for London Wednesday afternoon to undergo medical tests there, his agent said.

A Milan's Marco Borriello (R) celebrates with team-mate Filippo Inzaghi after scoring against AC Cesena during the Italian Serie A match at San Siro Stadium in Milan, 05 September 2004. Milan won 1-0. (Photo by Andrea Ronchini/Reuters)
Donald Tsang appointed Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR

BEIJING, 22 June — The State Council, or the Chinese central government, held here Tuesday a special meeting to appoint Donald Tsang, 60, as new Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Premier Wen Jiabao signed the appointment decree at the plenary meeting. According to the Basic Law of Hong Kong, Tsang should assume his CE office on 21 June and his term will expire by 30 June, 2007.

Tsang resigned from the position as chief secretary of the HKSAR on 25 May to run for the CE by-election and won on 16 June supported by 714 members of the Election Committee.

Before that, the central government had approved Tung Chee-hwa’s request for resignation as the HKSAR Chief Executive for health reasons on 12 March, with Tsang then serving as acting CE in line with related regulations.

The plenum reviewed two reports, one on the final result of the CE by-election by HKSAR and the other on how the candidates were selected by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council.

“The fact that Mr Tsang was nominated and supported by 714 members of the Election Committee and then won as the electee shows that he enjoys extensive recognition and support from various walks of life in Hong Kong,” said Wen.

Wen said he believes Tsang and his government could lead the Hong Kong people to overcome all the difficulties they may come across in the future and thus reap greater achievements in promoting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong.

MNA/Xinhua

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlaik (2.52) inches, Kyauktaw (2.36) inches, Monghsat (1.65) inches and Myitkyina (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 22-6-2005 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-6-2005 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 21-6-2005 was (3.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-6-2005 were (21.30) inches at Yangon Airport and Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (21.30) inches at Yangon Airport, (17.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (15.63) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (20:05) hours MST on 21-6-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanninthei Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated 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 23-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils signboard of Rice Restaurant at Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA

YANGON, 22 June — The opening of Mindat-Matupi Road upgraded by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction was held at the people’s sports ground in Mindat on 20 June morning.

Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Sagenta Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Vice-Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Hsan Aung, officials of Public Works, officials and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said that the Head of State has given guidance to place emphasis on the transport sector that plays an important role for development of the nation so as to avoid lack of unity among the national races. It can be seen that there were 13,635 miles of roads in the entire nation in 1988 but now there are 18,640 miles of roads, up 5,005 miles.

The first phase of 50-mile tarred road links Mindat and Matupi in southern Chin State. It is the major exit of Matupi and also the gateway to Rezwa on Matupi-Haka Road.

Mindat-Matupi Road was constructed in 1955 but it became an earth one in 1973. As an earth road, local people can use it during open season only.

That is why the Head of State urged officials to upgrade the roads in Chin State. For the first phase, repaved Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaunkhu-Mindat Road was opened successfully on 27 November 2003 for enabling the local people to conveniently travel from their regions to Mindat in southern part in Chin State as well as to other states and divisions including Magway Division.

YANGON, 22 June — The opening of Mindat-Matupi Road upgraded by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction was held at the people’s sports ground in Mindat on 20 June morning.

Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Sagenta Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Vice-Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Hsan Aung, officials of Public Works, officials and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said that the Head of State has given guidance to place emphasis on the transport sector that plays an important role for development of the nation so as to avoid lack of unity among the national races. It can be seen that there were 13,635 miles of roads in the entire nation in 1988 but now there are 18,640 miles of roads, up 5,005 miles.

The first phase of 50-mile tarred road links Mindat and Matupi in southern Chin State. It is the major exit of Matupi and also the gateway to Rezwa on Matupi-Haka Road.

Mindat-Matupi Road was constructed in 1955 but it became an earth one in 1973. As an earth road, local people can use it during open season only.

That is why the Head of State urged officials to upgrade the roads in Chin State. For the first phase, repaved Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaunkhu-Mindat Road was opened successfully on 27 November 2003 for enabling the local people to conveniently travel from their regions to Mindat in southern part in Chin State as well as to other states and divisions including Magway Division.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(22-6-2005)

Mawlamyine 2.52 inches
Kyauktaw 2.36 inches
Monghsat 1.65 inches
Myitkyina 1.57 inches.