Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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

Preparations for organizing MWVO Conference-2005 inspected

YANGON, 23 June — Chairman of Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein went on an inspection tour of preparations for organizing MWVO Conference 2005 at Myanmar Convention Centre this evening.

When Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at Myanmar Convention Centre, they were welcomed by Vice-Chairmen of Central Organizing Committee for MWVO Vice-Admiral Lt-Gen Kyi Min (Retd) and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of an organizing committee for MWVO.

During his inspection on preparations for the conference hall and the accommodation and mess of the delegates in Myanmar Convention Centre, the officials concerned conducted the Secretary-1 round there. In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended to the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein heard reports on workdone of preparations for organizing the conference presented by Vice-Chairman of Central Organizing Committee for MWVO Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and officials.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Thein Sein instructed officials of the committee and subcommittees to coordinate to achieve success in organizing the conference.

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 24 June, 2005

**Make best use of transport facilities for regional and national development**

Transport infrastructure being an important part of national development endeavours, the State Peace and Development Council has been building a network of new roads and bridges all over the nation to ensure smooth and easy transport between each and every region. As a result, the total length of motor roads has increased by 5,005 miles and 184 bridges 180 feet and above long has been built.

To ensure frequent contacts and close friendship among the national people, the government has placed a special emphasis on the development of transport infrastructure. In 1988, there were 13,635 miles of motor roads and now there are up to 18,640 miles of motor roads.

Also in Chin State, where it was difficult to go from one place to another, new roads are being built. Chin State has four main motor roads and they are the Kalay-Falam-Haka, Haka-Gangaw, Haka-Matupi and Mindat-Matupi roads. The government is upgrading these roads in order that they can be used in all weathers. Now in the first phase of upgrading the Mindat-Matupi road, it has been tarred. It was opened on 20 June.

The 50-mile Mindat-Matupi road links Mindat and Matupi in southern Chin State. It will also be a main road for Yaywa which is situated on the Matupi-Haka road. The construction of the Mindat-Matupi road started in 1955 and it was an earth road up to 1973 and could be used only in the open season. Now it has become an all-weather road.

As the Mindat-Matupi road has been upgraded, it takes only six hours to travel from Mindat to Matupi. It took about 5 days in the past. And it takes only half a day to travel from Matupi to Pakokku.

There are 8 wards and 203 villages in Mindat and Matupi Townships. The new road will contribute a lot to education, health and social and economic affairs of 90,000 people living in the two townships.

We would like to urge all the national people to work hand in hand with the government for the good of the nation as well as for their own by making the best use of and maintaining the roads the government has built for regional and national development.

**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

**Arrival of delegates to Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005) at Yangon International Airport. — MNA**

**Archery competition to mark World Olympic Day held**

YANGON, 23 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the archery competition to mark 2005 International Olympic Day at Archery Training Grounds of Myanmar Archery Federation here this morning. After the competition, officials presented prizes to winners in the women’s and men’s compound and recurve events.

President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe awarded the winners in the men’s novice event. Also present on the occasion were member of MOC Chairman of the Working Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members of the panel of patrons, Vice-President of MAF Police Col Ohn Myint and officials.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by the officials. Likewise, the delegates from Kayah State led by Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Kayah State VOLOt-Col Tin Tun arrived at Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal where the officials welcomed them this morning. — MNA

**National Level ICT Award Contest to be held**

YANGON, 23 June — Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association will organize the National Level ICT Award Contest in order to create opportunities for utilization of ICT and teaching aid programmes.

The contest will be categorized into Basic Education Middle Level, High Level and Educational Staff Level.

The entries are to be sent to respective Basic Education Departments through the schools not later than 1 September 2005.

The participants must take part in the contest for the final stage at MICP Park. Best prizes and consolation prizes will be presented to winners at Basic Education Middle Level, High Level and Educational Staff Level. Prize winning list will be announced after the final stage.

Dial 65238 of MCEA, and 09-80-23762 of CEC member U Aung Than Nyunt for further information.

Myanmar Archery Federation President Dr Khin Shwe presents prize to a winner. — NLM

**Monosodium Glutamate (MSG)**

- **Ingredients:**
  - Glutamic acid
  - Sodium chloride
  - Water
- **Procedure:**
  - Wash the glutamic acid and sodium chloride in water.
  - Mix the glutamic acid and sodium chloride in water.

**Nutritional Value:**

- Sodium (Na)<br> - 20.00%<br> - Essential<br> - Involved in cell fluid balance<br> - Involved in nerve and muscle function
- Glutamic acid (Glu)<br> - 5.00%<br> - Essential<br> - Involved in energy production
- Water<br> - 95.00%<br> - Essential<br> - Involved in body temperature regulation
Chinese Premier calls for all-out efforts in flood control, prevention

BEIJING, 22 June— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu on Tuesday demanded the governments at all levels make all-out efforts in flood prevention and control.

In response to the floods in Xijiang River in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Minjiang, the largest river in eastern China’s Fujian Province, Wen and Hui wrote instructions requiring local governments to identify duties, improve emergency plans, enforce prediction and monitoring on floods, and earnestly carry out the mapped measures.

State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters (SFCDRH) also sent a notice calling for a closely watch on weather and flood changes and enforced flood control measures to make sure all the dams and reservoirs can safely pass flood peaks, and avoid mountain torrents disasters.

Affected by surging water in Luijiang, Guijiang and Yujiang, three main tributaries of Xijiang, water level at Wuzhou Hydrographic Station of the river reached 23.06 metres at 2 pm on Tuesday, 5.76 metres higher than the warning level, and only 2.44 metres left to the safe line designed for the key flood control city of Wuzhou.

The rate of flow there has reached 45,000 cubic metres per second and water level continues to rise. — MNA/Xinhua

Sweden, Germany give non-refundable aid to Laos

HANOI, 22 June— Sweden and Germany have just offered Laos a combined non-refundable aid of 64.5 million US dollars, mainly to help the Southeast Asian country build and upgrade roads.

Laos on Monday held two ceremonies to receive the aid of 18.5 million US dollars from the Swedish Government, and another worth 46 million US dollars from the German Government, according to Laos’ news agency KPL on Tuesday.

Sweden’s aid will be used to maintain national roads, and build and upgrade roads in rural areas in eight northern provinces. Since 1998, the Swedish Government has funded Laos’ transport projects to the tune of 47 million US dollars.

Germany’s aid will be mainly used to construct roads, upgrade vocational schools, develop human resources, and improve life of Laos’ ethnic people. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam has to import rubber to fulfill export contracts

HANOI, 22 June— Maintaining its spot as the world’s 4th biggest rubber exporter, Vietnam increasingly has to import a bigger amount of rubber to fulfill export contracts, since its rubber output is smaller this year due to a prolonged drought.

Vietnam imported 28,500 tons of rubber worth 42.9 million US dollars, mainly from Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, in the first four months of this year, posting year-on-year respective surges of 55 per cent and 90 per cent, daily newspaper Saigon Times reported on Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia extends sugar import ban

JAKARTA, 22 June — The Indonesian Government has decided to ban sugar import until next year to protect domestic production, a senior official said here on Monday.

Minister of Agriculture Anton Apriyananto said the government will not allow sugar import until the harvest season of sugarcane farmers in December. National sugar consumption is estimated at 2.3 million tons this year, he said in a hearing with the House of Representatives’ Commission 4. — MNA/Xinhua

Bronzeware unearthed in ancient royal tombs in N China

TAIYUAN, 22 June — Bronzeware from a group of 3,000-year-old tombs, which archaeologists said belonged to the royal family of Western Zhou Dynasty (1100 BC-771 BC), was unearthed in northern China’s Shanxi Province, said local government.

The tombs, which lie about 17 metres under the ground, were found at the Hengshui Village of Jiaxiang County. Archaeologists found more than 30 pieces of bronzeware, including cooking vessels, kettles and bells, the provincial Institute of Archaeology announced on Tuesday.

“The special bronze cooking vessels found in Tomb One and Two, both for couples, suggest the owners must be of noble birth and might even be the first family of a kingdom,” said Ji Kunzhang, an archaeologist from the institute.

“There is also one piece of bronzeware with a unique form that all the archaeologists involved in this excavation have never seen before,” Ji said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq car bombing targets US diplomat

BAGHDAD, 23 June— A senior US diplomat has escaped unscathed after a car bomber struck a US military convoy in Baghdad, police sources say.

A US embassy spokesman said a diplomat, whom he declined to identify, was in the area but was unaf- fected. He said Monday’s attack appeared to be unrelated to the official’s movements, but declined to give further details.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Islamic Party, a major Sunni Muslim grouping, said a senior US official had just left its compound in western Baghdad when his convoy was hit by an explosion which shattered wind- ows in the party’s headquarters.

Reuters journalists said US soldiers cordoned off the area after the blast, arriving in unusually large num- bers for what was otherwise a fairly routine incident in Baghdad.

Aljazeera reported quoting Iraqi journalist Walid Khalid that the explosion occurred in Yarmuk district in central Baghdad, which has seen similar attacks before.

A US security helicopter that was flying over the convoy when the blast struck the area, evacuated what appeared to be three seriously injured American sol- diers from the site.

Khalid told Aljazeera the bombing killed two Iraqi civilians and wounded eight others, five of them seri- ously. Earlier on Monday, two car bombers tar geted US and Iraqi security forces in separate attacks, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 20, the Interior Ministry and police said. — Internet
Singapore banks to be set up in India

NEW DELHI, 22 June — India will allow three major Singapore banks to set up wholly-owned subsidiaries in the country to boost investments as part of the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement cleared by the Cabinet on Monday.

The three banks — DBS Holdings, Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation and United Overseas Bank — will be given national treatment at par with Indian banks with regard to branches, places of operation and prudential requirements, Commerce Minister Kamal Nath told reporters.

In turn, Indian banks already operating in Singapore will qualify for national treatment there, which means they will be allowed electronic fund transfer and clearance besides use of local ATMs, he said.

Giving details of the CECA, which will be formally signed during the visit of Singapore Prime Minister on 29 June, Nath said the two countries will totally eliminate Customs duties on 506 items from August 1 this year as part of the early harvest programme.

To boost foreign investments, the CECA has woven in a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement on the lines of the one with Mauritius with additional safeguards like sharing of information to prevent its misuse.

The 739-page agreement also provides for easing of visa restrictions for Indian professionals.

There will be mutual recognition of 129 education degrees given by UGC-recognized universities for visa purposes.

Filipino freed in Iraq after nearly eight months

MANILA, 22 June—Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, held hostage in Iraq since November, was released unharmed on Wednesday after months of negotiations with his militant captors, Philippine government officials said.

“Robert Tarongoy is finally coming home,” President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said after a Catholic mass in the central city of Cebu. “Ivy Tarongoy, Robert’s wife, told me she is overjoyed and deeply grateful for this good news. Tarongoy was taken hostage on 1 November along with five co-workers when militants stormed a Baghdad villa belonging to their Saudi employer.

Four of the workers were quickly released, but the militant group is still believed to be holding American Roy Hallums.

The government, whose diplomatic team in Iraq has been talking to the captors through mediators, said in March that the abductors had indefinitely extended a deadline for Tarongoy’s execution. Media had reported that the abductors had demanded that Manila pull out the more than 6,000 Filipino workers in Iraq and stop supporting the US military presence there.

Economic partnership, mutual understanding stressed in AMED

SINGAPORE, 22 June—Asia and the Middle East need to deepen their economic engagement, shape economic partnerships, as well as build mutual understanding and trust between them, said Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, on Tuesday.

Addressing the first Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED), Lim said that Asia and the Middle East will be regions of growth in the coming years, which stand at the centre of a world trading system together.

“We are at a unique point in history. We are given the opportunity and potential to strengthen Asia-Middle East partnerships. Now is the right time to build trust in each other and engage each other, and for both our economies to grow together,” Lim stressed.

He urged the two regions to facilitate greater contact and communication, increase dialogue and interaction, and cultivate familiarity between them.

He pointed out in particular that countries in both regions face a lot of negative media reporting, which lead up to the “lack of awareness and operational knowledge” of each other.

Hong Kong Book Fair to offer new attractions

HONG KONG, 22 June — The Hong Kong Trade Development Council announced on Monday that the 16th Hong Kong Book Fair will be held on 20-25 July, offering a string of exciting new attractions.

According to the TDC, organizer of the book fair, about 400 publishers will display their books and magazines, covering subjects such as history, philosophy, technology, business, travel, religious practice, skills, children’s literature and others at the event.

Twelve countries will take part in the “International Cultural Village” pavilion, which will feature the latest titles from France, Denmark, Spain, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, China and Vietnam.

Well-known writers from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong will be speaking at a conference titled “Exploring the New Frontiers of Writing” and a series of “Renowned Author Seminars”.

The Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Wanchai District Council of Hong Kong have joined forces with the council to stage a series of special exhibitions.

Diseases kill 1,500 cattle in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 22 June — Cattle diseases that broke out in an alarming proportion in southern Bangladesh have claimed lives of over 1,500 heads of cattle and affected 7,000 others in the last two months.

The diseases broke out in Bagerhat District in southern Bangladesh, bordering the Bay of Bengal.

The situation has turned acute as the veterinary hospitals in the district cannot provide treatment to the affected heads of cattle due to scarcity of vaccines.

Bangladesh’s private news agency UNB reported on Monday that the situation has turned acute as the veterinary hospitals in the district cannot provide treatment to the affected heads of cattle due to scarcity of vaccines.

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Miners explosion wounds US soldiers in S-E Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 June — Three American soldiers have been injured as their vehicle ran over a mine in southeast Paktiya Province on Sunday, US military spokesman confirmed on Monday.

“An improvised explosive device detonated yesterday, striking an up-armoured humvee that was part of an Afghan National Army (ANA) - coalition convoy, wounding three US soldiers slightly,” James Yonts said at a press briefing.

The incident, which is the second of its kind in the region over the past two weeks, occurred in Chamkani District when the troops were on routine patrol, he added. “Two of these soldiers returned to duty and one was kept for observation,” the spokesman noted.

In the previous mine attack that took place in the neighbouring Pakika Province early this month, two US soldiers were killed and two others including their local interpreter were wounded.

Indian farmer Habibur Rahman carries jute on the banks of the Brahmaputra River before selling at the local market in Dhubri, some 290 kms southwest of Guwahati, capital of India’s northeastern state of Assam. — INTERNET

This undated file photo taken in 2004 shows employees of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Ltd. CNOOC, China’s largest offshore oil and gas producer, announced on Thursday morning, 23 June, 2005 that it has decided to bid US$67 a share for Unocal Corp., a US oil company, trumping Chevron Corp’s US$16.6 billion bid. — INTERNET
Malaysia to install early warning system to predict landslides

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 June — Malaysia will install an early warning system to predict hillslide slides under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), Works Minister Samy Vellu said on Tuesday.

The Public Works Department’s (PWD) slope engineering branch would set up the system with an allocation of 42.1 million US dollars, Vellu told reporters after opening a national seminar on early warning system for hillslopes here.

The system, which is part of the National Slope Master Plan, would alert people and the authorities before landslides occur, he said.

“We are studying technology from Japan, Brazil, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Canada to be used in the system,” Vellu said.

The National Slope Master Plan would include short, medium and long-term strategies and activities to be carried out by PWD, Vellu said, adding that the draft plan was expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The Year 2004 witnessed frequent occurrences of landslides and mudslides in this tropical country. Especially since the end of last year, the government has been urged to take effective measures to protect people’s safety and minimize the damage caused by the natural disaster.

Nearly 5,000 AIDS patients diagnosed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 22 June — The Nepali National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Centre has recorded 4,993 AIDS cases in the country by the end of May this year, latest statistics reaching here on Tuesday reveals.

Those full-blown AIDS patients include drug addicts, sex workers, housewives, persons of blood transmission groups and children born from infected mothers, the centre said in a report.

“The injecting drug users are considered the most vulnerable group, and they form the majority of the HIV cases in Nepal,” the report said.

There are 60,000 to 70,000 injecting drug users in the country, among them 68 per cent in the Kathmandu Valley.

The World Health Organization tabbed the number of Nepali people contracted with HIV at 60,000 in 2001.

Indonesian VP calls for strengthening security of Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 22 June — Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla called for continued cooperation among Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore to combat piracy in the Malacca Strait, an officer was quoted on Tuesday by the Media Indonesia as saying.

“The Vice-President supports this seminar, because the issue of piracy (in the) Malacca Strait has not been settled,” said M Kamaluddin, chairman of the Committee for the Seminar of Navigation in Malacca Strait, after meeting the Vice-President at his office on Monday.

He was referring to a seminar on the security of Malacca Strait to be held in August.

On the same occasion, Chairman of Indonesian National Shippers Association (INSA) Oentoro Surya said that the piracy in the narrow strait causes 100 million US dollars loss for the country annually.

Meanwhile, President of the US-Indonesian Society (Usindo) Alphonse F La Porta reaffirmed a common interest to maintain the security in the Strait in a bid to protect the ships from attacks of pirates.

He said that the Strait was important for the bordered countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

He also called on a number of donor countries to provide assistance to the effort of securing the Strait.

“We need more aid from donor countries to guard the waters,” he said.

However, Porta refused the US plan to deploy troops in the Strait. Some 50,000 ships, carrying one third of the world’s trade materials, pass through the 965-kilometre-long Strait each year.

Through the Strait, tankers carry oil from the Middle East to resource-poor countries in Asia, while cargo ships carry manufactured goods from Asia to Africa.

More power plants in Indonesia likely to be shut

JAKARTA, 22 June — A 750-megawatt power plant in Grati, Pasuruan, East Java Province of Indonesia, stopped operation on Monday as it ran out of fuel stock, the Antara news agency reported on Tuesday.

As a result the Java-Bali interconnection will have a deficit of 658 megawatt in power supply and the state-owned electricity company PLN will be forced to reduce power supply proportionally to various areas in Java and Bali Island, including Jakarta.

Those areas will have their turn of blackout at peak load, PLN said.

Meanwhile, another gas and steam powered power plant in Tambah Lorok in Semarang, in Central Java Province is also facing shortage of fuel supply and may have to stop operations unless the government cope with the fuel shortage.

Land ports go to private operators in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 22 June — Bangladesh has finally appointed four private operators to develop and run the country’s five land ports on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis.

“Private operators have been appointed and formal agreements will be signed shortly,” Tajul Islam, Superintendent Engineer of the Land Port Authority, was quoted by The Daily Star on Tuesday as saying.

The land ports are the northwestern Banglabandha in Panchagarh, the northwestern Hili and Biroil in Dinajpur, the northern Sonamasjid in Chapai Nawabganj and eastern Bibir Bazar in Comilla. Under the terms set by the government, the private companies will pay the government two types of royalties — fixed royalty and variable royalty, which will be determined on the basis of the volume of trade through the ports.

The private operators will have to build required infrastructure in the ports, such as office building, port yard, godown, weighing machine and tower, besides making security arrangement and installation of other equipment needed to run the ports effectively, Tajul Islam said.

China to hold joint nautical rescue exercise in July

BEIJING, 22 June — China will hold a joint nautical rescue exercise in Shanghai on 7 July, Vice Minister of Communications Xu Zuyuan announced here on Tuesday.

Nearly 1,000 people, 30 ships and five aircraft will participate in the exercise which is designed to show China’s capabilities to deal with emergency situation, search for people missing after mishap on the sea, put out a fire on ship, clear away oil leakage and conduct security guard on ships. During a Press conference, Xu said the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) will send two airplanes to attend the exercise.

The rescue institutions of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and the maritime affairs departments of Russia, the United States, and ten ASEAN member countries will send representatives to see the exercise while the Republic of Korea and Japan will send patrol craft to observe.

Xu said the scheduled exercise is an important step in carrying out the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on transport cooperation signed with the 10-member ASEAN last November.

Liu Gongchen, deputy executive director general of the Maritime Safety Administration, said this is the first time for foreigners to observe China’s rescue system.

The exercise will be jointly carried out by 24 departments including East China Sea Fleet of the Navy of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, from 10:45 am to 11:55 am on 7 July in sea waters off the Yangshan Port of Shanghai.

The ministry will also invite 50 civilians to observe the exercise.

This is the first time for the government to invite ordinary citizens to see such an exercise.
Asia, Middle East should cooperate in seeking security, stability

SINGAPORE, 22 June — Countries in Asia and the Middle East should cooperate in seeking security and stability, participants in the first Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED) agreed here on Tuesday.

“Though we may differ in terms of history, geography, culture and many other aspects, we are united in our common desire for peace, security, stability and prosperity,” said a speech of Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, which was delivered by his deputy Joseph Salang.

He urged the AMED to strengthen the normative framework governing state behavior and interstate relations because “the weakening of global norms is a main source of insecurity.”

The other two main areas of cooperation for AMED put forward by the minister included promoting inter-faith dialogue and understanding about Islam as a religion that is consistent with global norms, as well as enhancing cooperation against international terrorism to complement other regional efforts.

According to Muhammad Shaaban, Adviser to the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, peace, development, stability and security are intertwined and any separation between them would be far from reality.

“Managing political and security challenges in the Middle East requires concerted action between the countries of the region and the international community,” he said. As non-aligned countries, we, in Asia and the Middle East, have always maintained that peaceful resolution of conflicts, the supremacy of international law and the role of the United Nations are the sole guarantors of international peace and security,” said Shaaban.

Gambia to support Philippines’ bid for ICO observer status

MANILA, 22 June — The Gambian Government has assured support for the Philippines’ bid for a observer seat in the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Committee, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Monday.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said the guarantee was made by his Gambian counterpart Musa Gibril Bala-Gaye, who is here with President Yahya J.J. Jammeh for a three-day visit. The ICO is due to hold a ministerial meeting in Yemen late this month.

Gambia is a member of the ICO Committee that looks into observer status applications and ICO reforms.

Gaye also told Romulo that Gambia even called on other West African ICO members to support the Philippines’ application.

According the DFA, if admitted as observer, the Philippines will share the seat with the rebel group of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The MNLF, who has held an observer status in the ICO for three decades, is the only group recognized by the ICO as the sole legitimate representative of Muslims in Mindanao.

The Philippine Government earlier said that the Gambian President will also witness the signing of Philippines-Gambia agreements promoting cooperation in science, health and medicine.

Parliamentary links help enhance Sino-Jamaican relations

BEIJING, 22 June — The friendly exchanges and cooperation between the legislatures of China and Jamaica constitute a crucial part of bilateral relations, Chinese top legislator said here on Tuesday.

Wu Banggguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), said China’s legislature, the NPC, and the Parliament of Jamaica both play vital roles in each country’s political and social life. He said the NPC is ready to strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation with the Parliament of Jamaica so as to promote the development of Sino-Jamaican relations and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

During a meeting with visiting Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Noel James Patterson in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday afternoon, Wu said that since China and Jamaica are both developing countries, strengthening mutually beneficial links goes with the basic interests of the people of both countries.

Wu made positive comments on the growth of bilateral relations, citing frequent exchange of high-level visits, improving mutual trust, fruitful economic cooperation, growing cultural and educational exchanges and close coordination in international affairs.

He said China and Jamaica share mutual complementarity in trade and economy. Bilateral cooperation in this sphere has solid basis, good momentum and great potential. He said China is ready to join efforts with Jamaica to continuously advance the friendly cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Wu also briefed the Jamaican guests about China’s economy and development.

Philippines, Gambia to boost bilateral political, economic ties

MANILA, 22 June — The Philippines and the African state of Gambia on Tuesday signed three major agreements on developing bilateral relations in political and economic fields, said officials of the presidential palace.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the visiting Gambian President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh held talks Tuesday before the signing of three memoranda of understandings.

Arroyo also gave a warm welcome ceremony in honour of Jammeh at the Malacanang Presidential Palace with 21 canons.

Indonesia’s PT Telkom investigated after strong evidence found

JAKARTA, 22 June — Indonesian prosecutors will probe possible corruption in the country’s largest telecommunication firm PT Telkom after “strong evidence” is found out of the current investigation of the company’s cases of management irregularities, an official said here on Monday.

“The cases are so many. I also reported to the President about those cases,” said Hendaran Supandji, head of the government’s special inter-departmental anti-graft team.

Meanwhile, Supandji said that he is convinced that corruption is hidden behind the cases that are now being investigated.

The PT Telkom has been one of the latest state-owned enterprises that are being investigated by the team, since President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono took power at the end of last year with eradication of graft as the top priority of his tenure. — MNA/Xinhua

Policemen attend aerobics class as part of a slimming programme at a hospital in Bangkok on 22 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Chinese workers clear floating waste along the Pearl River in Guangzhou recently. — INTERNET

20 injured in east India’s train accident

NEW DELHI, 22 June — At least 20 people were injured when a passenger train from Delhi derailed Monday night after colliding with a stationary engine in Jharkhand in eastern India, local police said on Tuesday.

According to railway officials, the Purushottam Express collided with a train engine, which was on the same track at around 10.30 pm Monday near the Gamahria railway station of Jamshedpur, 160 kilometres from Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand State.

Four of the 20 injured, including the driver, are in serious condition. They have been admitted to the Tata hospital in Jamshedpur, according to a report by Indo-Asian News Service.

MNA/Xinhua

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Beijing beefs up tourism industry

BEIJING, 23 June — Beijing tourism authorities are gearing up to promote tourism in the city, especially as the 2008 Beijing Olympics are approaching, Wednesday’s China Daily reported.

The hosting of the Olympics will create tremendous opportunities for Beijing’s tourism industry, Yu Changjiang, director of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism, was quoted as saying at the Beijing Olympics Tourism Promotion Conference on Tuesday.

“With the Olympics approaching, our theme of Green Olympics, People’s Olympics will also mark to give the alleyways more charm, allowing visitors to appreciate New Beijing’s modern charm,” said Yu.

The hutongs, Beijing’s traditional narrow lanes with “Siheyuan,” or four-sided enclosed yards, on both sides, are undergoing large-scale renovation, which is expected to be completed by the end of August.

A total of 19.83 million yuan (2.4 million US dollars) has been earmarked to give the alleyways a facelift. Under-ground pipes and Internet access will be installed and decorative street lamps will be erected by the side of the lake.

Another key tourist project, the Hutong tour bus collaborative project has also been launched.

The city sightseeing tour bus plans to carve out two fixed sight-seeing itineraries — New Beijing and Old Beijing.

Double-decker sight-seeing buses will operate on the New Beijing route, which will include the Chang’an Avenue and the Second Ring Road in the innermost of Beijing, allowing visitors to appreciate New Beijing’s modern charm.

The Old Beijing route will use open-topped cars to pass through the city’s hutongs and parks, highlighting Beijing’s old-fashioned customs.

Japan to give up bid for world nuclear fusion reactor

TOKYO, 23 June — Japan plans to give up its bid to host the world’s first nuclear fusion reactor built in Aomori Prefecture, paving the way for the multi-billion dollar project to go to the European Union, Kyodo News reported on Wednesday.

Japan will continue negotiations until the six-party ministerial meeting next Tuesday in Moscow, which will decide the location of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, but would back down if the European Union wins the bid, bringing the project to Cadarache, southern France, Kyodo said.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiken Sugura effectively admitted that Japan has decided to give up the bid, saying, “It is not that 100 per cent of the Japanese government opposes the other party and we relinquish 100 per cent.”

The government spokesmen told a Press conference that negotiations are still ongoing in terms of sharing various aspects of the project between Japan and the European Union. Japan has been negotiating for more than three years in a bid to build ITER in Aomori Prefecture but was recently considering forgoing the proposal due to the huge financial burden of building the reactor.

The northeastern prefecture, which spent a total of about 572 million yen (5.3 million US dollars) from fiscal 1995 to 2004 for activities in connection with Japan’s bid, had estimated an economic ripple effect of some 1.200 billion yen (11.1 billion dollars) from the ITER project. The project also involves the United States, South Korea, Russia and China.

The ITER plant is an experimental facility for thermonuclear fusion, at which nuclear fusion reactions that occur on the sun are to be produced by fusing the nuclei of heavy hydrogen and tritium at temperatures of more than 100 million C. The construction of the reactor is expected to take 10 years, after which researchers will conduct experiments over a period of 20 years. The total cost of the project is estimated at 1,300 billion yen (12 billion dollars).

Indian breaches Microsoft’s “impenetrable” WGA

NEW DELHI, 23 June — Breaching the much-touted “impenetrable” Window Genuine Advantage (WGA) of Microsoft, an Indian researcher has shown the global software leader how fragile its claims were.

With a potential to hurt Microsoft’s business across the world, Debasish Mohanty has broken open WGA through an “easy-to-exploit” weakness in the software for generating illegal copies of Windows XP programme.

Microsoft confirmed the claims of the South India-based researcher Debasish Mohanty but sought to downplay it saying “it represents very little threat.”

A company spokesperson said they did expect counterfeiters to try a number of different methods to circumvent the safeguards provided by WGA.

WGA is an anti-piracy programme that keeps a tab on consumers who are running illegally licensed copies of Windows XP.

Mohanty has posted a detailed proof-of-concept programme on the high-profile security mailing list of the software giant, showing how the WGA validation check can be tricked to generate key codes for use on illegal copies of the software.

Using a secondary Microsoft validation tool called “GenuineCheck.exe”, Mohanty claims to have made it possible for people to trick the safeguard mechanism and download and run the supposedly restricted software from Microsoft’s Download Centre on a PC, he said.

“The present case is more of an individual method of piracy. The company does not see this as a threat from people who take legitimate software, burn it to a CD and distribute it to their friends,” the Microsoft official said.

The threat is mitigated because the key generated by the GenuineCheck tool expire “rapidly”. So they will be very difficult to share, the MS representative said.

“A pirate with a genuine copy of Windows XP could simply run the GenuineCheck.exe file used during the WGA validation programme to generate a key code,” Mohanty told PTI.

“This key code can be used to circumvent the WGA check on the machine running a pirated copy of Windows XP,” he said.

The “GenuineCheck.exe” tool used to bypass the check is meant to provide an alternative way for users to prove that their copy of Windows is genuine, he said.

“GenuineCheck.exe” generates a code that can subsequently be used to validate a pirated copy of Windows. However, a PC running a legitimate version of Windows is required to run the GenuineCheck tool, the researcher said.

He provided step-by-step instructions on how the system can be cheated and noted that his tests showed that the updates to the machine using the pirated copy were up and running for almost two months.

New lightning location information service launched in HK

HONG KONG, 23 June — The Hong Kong Observatory on Tuesday launched a new lightning location information service and people can make use of the information to identify areas affected by thunderstorms.

The observatory’s lightning web page will be updated every five minutes, enabling visualization of the movement of thunderstorms through animation of the lightning location maps, according to a government Press release on Tuesday.

“With the awareness of users, an alert function will be provided on the lightning web page and an alert will be displayed on the web page when the network has detected lightning in one of the regions selected by the user. In addition to the graphical display, a condensed version of the lightning location information will be available on the hourly weather bulletin for radio and television broadcast,” the observatory said.

The information will also be accessible from the Dual-a-Weather system (1878 200), which will be updated once every 15 minutes. When utilizing the lightning information, people should also make reference to the Thunderstorm Warning issued by the observatory as well as the radar images and the rainfall distribution map on the observatory’s web site, so as to gain a comprehensive appreciation of the thunderstorm situation.

In early 2005, the observatory set up a lightning location network in cooperation with the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau and Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau. The network monitors lightning activities over the Pearl River Estuary round the clock.

The new lightning information service forms a supplement to the Thunderstorm Warning, alerting people to the potential threat of severe weather conditions in various parts of the territory to enable them to take necessary precautions. It also facilitates planning for outdoor activities such as hiking, water sports and paragliding.

A Bangladeshi boy displays ‘Kadam’ flowers for sale on street in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka on 21 June, 2005. Kadam blossoms only in the monsoon season in Bangladesh. — INTERNET

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2005

Value yourself --- make healthy choices

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 24 June, 2005 7
Preparations for organizing...

(from page 1)

On arrival at No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Street, Lt-Gen Thein Sein looked into the mess for the delegates, the meeting halls for delegate groups and hostels and shops opened by the Ministry of Industry-1 and left there in the evening.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives instructions to officials for successful holding of
Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005).— MNA

Prizes of shooting event to mark IOD awarded

YANGON, 23 June — The prize-presenting ceremony of shooting event in commemoration of International Olympic Day 2005 was held at Okkalapa Shooting Range in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon, attended by the patron of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, patron of in-charge of Myanmar Shooting Sports wife of the Culture Minister Daw Khin Khin Lay and members of panel of patrons, and officials of Myanmar Shooting Federation.

First, Master of ceremonies Maj Min Thaw explained about the shooting events and the ceremony continued. Afterwards, the patron and members of MWSF, officials of MSF and guests awarded the prizes to the winners event-wise.


Min Thaw explained about the shooting events and the ceremony continued. Afterwards, the patron and members of MWSF, officials of MSF and guests awarded the prizes to the winners event-wise.

MNA

Measures for enacting law on prevention against trafficking in persons coordinated

YANGON, 23 June — The second coordination meeting on enacting the law on prevention against trafficking in persons took place at the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-Generals Dr Tun Shin and U Myint Naing, Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yee, Secretariat Member of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Htoo Yaw, senior police officers and officials from related departments.

Those present held a general round of discussions to enact a new law for prevention against human trafficking as soon as possible.

MNA

Construction of roads and bridges in Magway Division in progress

YANGON, 23 June — Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Construction, oversaw renovation and repaving tasks between Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road being carried out by Road Construction Special Group 11 on 21 June morning.

At the construction site of No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) on Ohndaw-Yagbyin-Phayathaint Road, Senior Engineer U Thila briefed the minister on progress of the project tasks.

Construction of No 1 Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) has been completed by 95 per cent.

At No 2 Pauk Bridge (Yehya), Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Soe Myint of Bridge Construction Special Group 13 reported on construction of the bridge and received the instructions from the minister. The bridge has been completed by 95 per cent.

On completion of the two bridges, local people can travel from southern part of Chin State to Seikpyu and Chaik via Pauk as well as to Pakokku all the season. In addition, the roads in the region will link with Pathein-Monywa Road. The minister inspected construction of the No 2 bridge with the use of heavy machinery.

MNA

Myanmar delegation back from Singapore

YANGON, 23 June — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint returned here from Singapore by air this morning, after attending Asian-Middle East Meeting held from 20 to 22 June.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thambynathan Jasadasen, heads of department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Myanmar delegation members together with the deputy minister on the same flight are Deputy Director-General of Political Affairs Department U Pe Than Oo, Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration U Kyaw Zaw and Pro-Rector of Yangon Institute of Computer Studies Dr Nila Thein. — MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ceremony to honour title recipient Sayadaws, nuns, lay persons of Mandalay Division

YANGON, 23 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to honour 38 religious title recipient Sayadaws, three title recipients nuns and 11 title recipient lay persons from Mandalay Division, organized by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, at Maha Atulawazyan (Atumashi) Monastery in Aungmyethazan Township on 21 June afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Zeyalikara Pariyatti Monastery Myingyan Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Jhaddanta Kitti, Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Myaung Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa, Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwekyin) Dahattaw Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Sujataara and members of the Sangha. Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife Daw Khin Kyone Win, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and wife, local authorities, social organization members and wellwishers.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw supplicated on religious affairs. Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa. The commander and wife offered donations to Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kitti. Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, the deputy commander and wife and departmental officials presented offerings to members of the Sangha. The wife of the commander presented donations to Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita title recipients Sayagy Syaw Patiahsingi of Theinigy Mandalay Nunnery of Taktok Township and Sayagy Syawati of Myawady Nunnery of Pyigyidagun Township, and Ganthavacaka Pandita title recipient nun Daw Sujinti of Yadaranon Sanyaung Nunnery of Aungmyethazan Township.

The commander gave certificates of honour to Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha title winners U Htay Aung of 80th Street of Aungmyethazan Township, U Aung Thein of Sakkyanwezin Ward of Maauaungmye Township, and U Thant Zin of Shweleyangnyun Ward of Aungmyethazan Township. The mayor also handed over certificates of honour presented by the Mandalay Division PDC Chairman to Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title recipient U Thein Maung and Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title recipient U Aung Thein; and the deputy commander, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title recipients U Aung Thein, U Kyi Lwin and U Soe Thein.

The wife of the commander gave certificates of honour presented by the Mandalay Division PDC Chairman to Thitha Thudhamma Theingi title recipients Daw Aye of Hantuang Ward of Maauaungmye Township and Daw Khin Nyo of Thayayae Ward of Kyaukpyadung Township.

The wife of the mayor presented certificates of honour given by the Mandalay Division PDC Chairman to Thitha Thudhamma Theingi title recipients Daw San Kyu and Daw Sse Thazin. Next, the Joint-Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party offered rice and alms to the Sayadaws. Today’s donations amounted to K 5,086,608. — MNA

SWRR Ministry offers soon to members of Sangha

YANGON, 23 June — Under the aegis of Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wife Daw Khin Aye, staff of the ministry this morning offered soon to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) in Mayangon Township.

First, the congregation led by the minister received the Five-Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa, Rector of the university. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented K 341,500 donated by the ministry for a day meal. Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour to the minister.

Deputy Minister of SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung and wife, directors-general of the departments under the ministry and staff of the ministry also attended the soon offering ceremony.

Talks on DHF prevention given

YANGON, 23 June — Talks on prevention and control of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) organized by Social and Cultural Working Group, Sub-working Group of Health of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took place at National Health Museum on Thirimanga Road in Aungmyethazan Township this morning, attended by leader of Social and Cultural Working Group of MWAF Daw Win Shwe, deputy leader Pro-rector of Institute of Education Prof Daw Htoo Htoo Aung, leader of Sub-working Group of Health and members, members of Organization for Yangon Division WA and others.

The health personnel gave talks on DHF and delivered educative posters, pamphlets and booklets. Next, leader of SCWG Daw Win Shwe expressed thanks and the talks concluded. — MNA

Daw Win Shwe explains the purpose of giving health education talks. — HEALTH
The ceremony to present cash and kind donated by wellwishers to Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation for the second time in commemoration of Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, took place at the federation on Thanlwin Road this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Myint, the general secretary, the joint general secretary, officials and wellwishers.

K 250,000 by wives and joint venture companies, K 2.3 million by the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs, K 6.3 million by Maj Maung Lat (Retd), Daw Nan Yin Yin (Soe San Boarding School-Pyin Oo Lwin), K 500,000 by U Kyaw Aung, Daw Yin Wan (Bunthur Co Ltd), K 300,000 each by Daw Aye Aye Nyunt (Kyat-sha-zun curried rice) and the Ministry of Home Affairs, K200,000 by the Ministry of Information, K 100,000 each by the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs.

Daw Than Than Nwe presented certificates of honour.

Afterwards, the vice-president of MWAF accepted K 100,000 each by the Ministry of progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs, MWAF financial division, other working groups, Daw Thein Hsaing (Writer Ma Myat Lay) of Myat Lay Yon family, U Thein Hla, Daw Aye Aye Kyi, and Dr Aung Kyaw Win, Dr Thei Thei Khine and family, and K 140,000 by organizers of MWAF and presented the certificates of honour.

Next, MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe gave away the certificate of honour to Deputy Director of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Saya Myint Mo Swe, composer of MWAF annual general meeting commemorative song.

Next, the MWAF president expressed thanks and the ceremony ended. — MNA

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe thanks wellwishers at second donation ceremony hailing Myanmar Women’s Day.— MNA

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts K 6.3 million donated by Major Maung Lat (Retd)-Daw Nan Yin Yin.— MNA

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint accepts donations from a wellwisher.— MNA

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts K 300,000 donated by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt.— MNA

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts K 300,000 donated by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt.— MNA

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MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts K 300,000 donated by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt.— MNA
Myanmar women have a long and significant tradition of serving the commercial interest of the nation. The late History Professor Daw Mya Sein in her article said: “There are two things that make a foreigner feel amazed when he first visits Myanmar concerning women.”

“Many foreign friends of mine tell me that they are amazed to see a Myanmar woman in her traditional hairdo selling goods at her shop and it is where men can’t beat women. If she is a wife of a peasant, a Myanmar woman will work on the farm together with her spouse. If the husband drives the bullock-cart, the wife harnesses the cattle to the bullock-cart. Myanmar women are working shoul-der to shoulder with men. Women are engaged in every business”. Daw Mya Sein wrote the book 50 years ago. It is a pride for Myanmar women.

Once, Writer Saw Mon Hnyin (Daw Yin Yin) composed a poem “The attributes of Myanmar Women” praising the attributes of women, the importance of preserving their modesty, and their strength as intellectuals and intelligentsia in serving the nation’s interest. The poem was featured in the “Myanmar Women’s Affairs” annual magazine for the year 2000.

Myanmar women who have the virtues that were featured in the poem have now become entrepreneurs from ordinary businesswomen. The meaning of the word “Entrepreneur” whose origin is French reflects the qualifications of Myanmar women.

The fine traditions of Myanmar women, foreigners had noticed during the later period of Myanmar monarchical, continued to flourish during the colonial era. In the business sector alone, the role of Myanmar women was great as they had the skills and economic outlook to lead, manage and facilitate the enterprise. They managed to make a business successful.

Writer Tekkatho Kyi Mar stated in her book, “The world of Myanmar women” that actually, trade and business field of Myanmar is a sector where women played a leading role. The book was published by Sarpyo Bookman press in 1975. The writer also said, the British colonialists marvelled at Myanmar women managing and running large shops and businesses skillfully when they annexed the country. When they compiled a book about Myanmar, they praised the business qualifications of Myanmar women.

“Leading women entrepreneurs have emerged in the successive eras of Myanmar. Later, women can even compete with men in managing and running a large company”, Tekkatho Kyi Mar wrote in her book.

Of the many great Myanmar women entrepreneurs, Daw Nyein Tin who was born in 1886, the year in which the colonialists unjustly occupied Myanmar and her younger sister Daw Ohn Tin, competed with foreign entrepreneurs in running a paper trading business. The two sisters were able to run the print import business. They ran newspaper and crepe paper distribution business that was under the domination of foreigners. The sisters were also able to discover and apply the secrets of their rivals. Even the foreign traders were astonished at the two sisters’ skills in doing business.

A Myanmar women Daw Thet May, a native of Kyaiklat, was leading a service enterprise in 1938 before the World War II. She founded the service company “Daw Thet May & Sons” that was renting tables, chairs and mattresses and other furniture for religious and social functions. Her business rival was a Jew. Although she passed away, her business still exists till today.

A company “May Thet Brothers” was making artificial flowers of various kinds for young women to wear at social or religious ceremonies. The proprietor of the company was Daw Mya Thet who was born in 1913. She was skilled in the artificial flower business since young. She jointly opened a shop on 32nd Street in Yangon, with her younger sister. As her business prospered she moved her shop to Maha Bandoola Street. May Thet Brothers company also won prizes in the floral designing competition held annually at the Jubilee Hall on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. The company also made settings for the films shot and produced by A-One company. Later it began to manufacture cosmetics including face, body and hair lotions, and various kinds of powder and competed with foreign companies in distributing the products. The cosmetics produced by the company were popular among the consumers after the WWII.

One of the Myanmar women who inherited entrepreneurial skills from female counterparts in the nation was Daw Ngwe Tin born in 1277 ME. She gained a lot of experiences and invaluable knowledge of business while working for the workshop of Daw Nyein Tin, a paper merchant. In 1946, she visited Japan to buy paper and managed running a paper and stationery enterprise. Then, she manufactured and distributed Triple Three Brand exercise books across the nation. A company run by an Indian national pirated her brand to produce similar products. So she later had to file a suit against the company in a court.

At that time, Myanmar newspaper dailies bought newsprint from her company.

In the post-independence period, many national women established brokerage houses of some domestic products such as pickled tea leaves, green tea leaves and sebesten tree leaves and exported their products. They also made a good headway in exporting beans and pulses to many foreign nations on a commercial scale by overcoming the challenges of foreign enterprises. One of them was Daw Nu Yin who founded Panglong Brokerage House, and her sister-in-law Daw Kyi Kyi expanded the business by making study tours of foreign countries and importing goods. They established a textile factory and manufactured a wide range of Shweypitan Brand towels, longyis and cloths, winning admiration of Japan industrialists whom she was dealing with. Daw Kyi Kyi attended the meeting of representatives of Isuzu Company branches in many nations. One of them was elected as executive of the Myanmar Traders’ Association and the other as president of the Exporters’ Association.

In the present period, dealing with international communities, Myanmar woman entrepreneurs have become more knowledgeable in international affairs. The women with foresight on business have been able to penetrate various fields in addition to trade. They have got involved in many fields such as production of services, management, tourism industry, agriculture, and livestock breeding.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs were established on 3 July 1996. Then, they were reconstituted into the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. The Myanmar Woman Entrepreneurs Association was formed on 12 February 1995.

Two out of the five objectives of the MWEA are: (i) to disseminate knowledge of modern business management to the mass of Myanmar woman entrepre neur and, to provide facts about markets, economic information, and technologies for women by conducting courses on business for Myanmar women (especially for those with low income including women from rural areas). The five objectives of the Myanmar Woman Entrepreneurs Association include Section (C) which says to disseminate knowledge of modern business administration to the mass of Myanmar woman entrepreneur and, Section (D) which says to raise the socio-economic life of Myanmar women and to create businesses that contribute to the environment and culture of the nation, and Section (E) which says to encourage women in dealing with local and foreign organizations and economic experts.

The patrons of MWEA who pioneered the establishment of the association and female writers also collectively are giving effective encourage-ment and organizing Myanmar women to flourish the spirit of entrepreneurship among the mass of Myanmar women. In the article “Development strength of Myanmar women” of the year 2000 special issue of Women’s Affairs Magazine, writer Professor Daw Yee Yee Myint urged the mass of Myanmar women to participate in development projects and express their potential, their regions, and their motherland on a broader scale. In addition, writer Day Kyi Kyi Hla in her article “Myanmar Women’s View on the World” in the same issue said that the contributions made by Myanmar women towards the State’s economic and administration sectors and services was magnificent. In the article “Myanmar women and the nation’s natural beauties”, writer Mann Khin Khin said that it was needed to raise women and women to be undertaken by national people.

Once, a Myanmar woman writer who created works in English expressed the spirit of Myanmar women, saying that however much Myanmar women faced adversities, they could endure their mental sufferings. She added Myanmar women never believed that they were inferior to any peoples in the world.

It is simply believed that Myanmar women will be able to maintain the already-achieved development momentum in the field of entrepreneurship in accord with the fine traditions preserved in the successive periods to hail the Myanmar Women’s Day, which falls on 3 July.

Translation: TMT + MS
China to promote relations with Chile
BEIJING, 22 June—China will with Chile to promote the continuous development of cooperative partnership, said top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo here Monday.

During a meeting with a Chilean parliamentary delegation led by Senate President Sergio Romero, Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), pointed to the sound growth of bilateral relations since the forging of diplomatic ties between the two nations 35 years ago though they are far apart geographically.

The growth of bilateral relations has entered a speeding-up period, said Wu, listing the increasing bilateral political mutual trust, rapid development of bilateral economic and trade relations and sound cooperation in international and regional organizations. Wu spoke positively of Romero's suggestion on establishing an exchange mechanism between the two parliaments and said the NPC will further enhance exchanges at various levels between the parliaments of the two countries to inject new vigor into the development of bilateral relations.

Wu Romero visite is the 35th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties and that political and economic and trade relations have continued to advance.

He said his current visit is aimed at promoting the existing friendship and strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two sides so as to contribute more to the overall development of bilateral relations.

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India conducts third test of “Akash” missile
NEW DELHI, 22 June—Close on the heels of successful tests of the surface-to-air missile Akash, India on Tuesday conducted one more test of Akash from a range in Orissa State in eastern India.

The missile is crucial to India’s air defence programme as it will be used to counter ballistic missiles and enemy aircraft.

According to defence officials, Akash was tested for the third time on Tuesday afternoon from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore, 230 kilometres from the state capital Bhubaneswar, at about 1 p.m.

The indigenous development of Akash’s upgraded version, which was tested recently from a mobile launcher, has a strike range of 25 kilometres with an effective ceiling of 18 kilometres.

Akash, or sky, has been developed as part of India’s Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) and was earlier fired from a mobile launcher on February 21, 24 and 26 this year from the same military base.

The missile was successfully tested on November 30 last year while carrying a live warhead.

Akash has a launch weight of 700 kilos and can carry a warhead of 60 kilos. It is used in conjunction with the Rajendra surface-to-air radar being developed by the Electronic Research and Development Establishment.

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SINGAPORE, 22 June—Credit cards which have been affected in the recent security breach in the United States are being replaced by Singapore banks, according to The Straits Times NewsAsia report on Tuesday.

Some 20,000 cards are considered to be at risk in Singapore after the security breach at a third party payment data processor during the past weekend.

Major banks in Singapore, including the United Overseas Bank (UOB), the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC) and the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS), have assured their credit card customers that they will not be held liable for unauthorized transactions.

UOB, Singapore’s largest credit card issuer, has replaced about 200 cards free of charge, accounting for 5 per cent of the total number of affected cards, among which losses of 15,000 Singapore dollars (about 9,000 US dollars) have been identified with these cards, the report said.

OCBC and DBS, with 1,600 cards and 107 cards compromised respectively, are also tightening security measures, such as blocking the cards of uncontactable customers, to detect unusual transactions.

Expecting the impact of the breach to be minor, Citibank said that data affected include name, account number, card verification codes and expiration dates, thus posing a low risk of identity theft to cardholders.

It is believed that some 40 million credit cards worldwide have been affected in the breach, according to the report.

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HANOI, 22 June—Lightning killed two local girls and injured two others from Vietnam’s southern Soc Trang Province, according to Vietnam News Agency on Tuesday.

The accident happened on Monday afternoon when the victims were catching fish and crabs in fields of the province’s Soc Trang Town.

Two girls aged 19 and 22 died on the spot, while two of their friends fainted. The injured girls have already recovered.

Natural disasters, mainly storms and floods, killed 232 people, left 38 missing, injured 187 others, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed over 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam last year, causing a total property loss of over some 57 million US dollars.

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Airbus clears air on India’s Boeing deal
NEW DELHI, 22 June—Airbus Industries said Tuesday that it was focusing on future aircraft requirements of India, and that its planes had emerged as the preferred choice for airlines in India.

The France-based aircraft company had earlier sought a Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) probe into Air India’s decision to buy aircraft from its competitor Boeing. CVC is India’s highest body to check corruption at public offices.

It is believed that some 40 million credit cards worldwide have been affected in the breach, according to the report.

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RISKY CREDIT CARDS REPLACED IN SINGAPORE

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INDIA conducts third test of “Akash” missile

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LIGHTNING KILLS TWO, INJURES TWO IN VIETNAM

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AIRBUS CLEAR AIR ON INDIA’S BOEING DEAL

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DONATE BLOOD

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CHINA TO PROMOTE RELATIONS WITH CHILE

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. YANGON STAR VOY: NO (381)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. YANGON STAR VOY NO (381) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to

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CREDIT CARDS REPLACED IN SINGAPORE

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NIGHTNING KILLS TWO, INJURES TWO IN VIETNAM

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AIRBUS CLEAR AIR ON INDIA’S BOEING DEAL

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DONATE BLOOD

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WHO launches project to minimize risks of radon gas

GENEVA, 22 June—In an effort to reduce the rate of lung cancer around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched on Tuesday a project to help countries reduce the health risks associated with radon gas.

The International Radon Project will identify effective strategies for reducing the health impact of radon, promote sound policy options for countries and increase public and political awareness about the consequences of exposure to radon.

“Radon poses an easily reducible health risk to populations all over the world, but has not yet to now received widespread attention,” Mike Repacholi, coordinator of WHO’s Radiation and Environmental Health Unit, told a Press conference.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that emanates from the ground into the air. Radon gas in the air is present worldwide, its concentration depending on the highly variable uranium content of the soil.

It is the second most important risk factor for lung cancer, causing between 6 and 15 per cent of all cases, according to the United Nations health agency.

“Radon is all around us. Radon in our homes is the main source of exposure to ionizing radiation, and accounts for 50 per cent of the public’s exposure to naturally-occurring sources of radiation in many countries,” said Repacholi. Although the average exposure to radon varies enormously, recent studies have shown that among smokers and non-smokers who are exposed to the same radon concentration, the risk of lung cancer is about 25 times greater for the smokers than the non-smokers.

On a global level, tens of thousands of lung cancer deaths annually can be attributed to radon, and most of the radon-induced lung cancer cases occur among smokers, according to the WHO.

The newly launched project is initially expected to run for three years (2005-2007). As a first step, the WHO International Radon Project is setting up a global network of radon scientists, regulators and policymakers to collaborate in the project. Working groups will focus on risk assessment, exposure guidelines, measurement and mitigation of radon levels, investigations of cost-effectiveness, and risk communication.

A thin ash layer could fall over the inter-Andean zones and cover the Heavy Crude Pipeline and the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System, causing maintenance problems.

“We have to take into account that the volcano is generating some ashes and if the activity increase, there could be consequences in the inter-Andean valley,” said Yepez.

Reventador, 3,485 metres above sea-level, is a symmetrical cone volcano which on 3 November, 2002 expelled thousands of tons of ash that reached Quito and covered the capital city with a thick layer of ash.

Study says antibiotics not helpful to bronchitis

WASHINGTON, 22 June—Taking antibiotics or not makes no difference for bronchitis patients to recover their health, shows a British study to be published on Wednesday in the American Medical Association’s journal The Lancet.

A professor of primary care research at the University of Southampton in England, made the report after a study over five years on 640 bronchitis patients aged 3 and above. The participants did not have conditions that could complicate their bronchitis, such as asthma or heart and lung disease.

The disease has also turned out to be the most common cause of disability and dependence, with more than 70 percent of stroke survivors remaining  vocational impaired and more than 30 percent requiring assistance with activities of daily living. A brain stroke occurs when a blood vessel carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain is blocked by a clot or bursts, causing the brain to starve. Studies show that the average person waits for 13 hours after experiencing the first symptoms of stroke before seeking medical care, and 42 percent of patients wait at least 24 hours.

Reventador Volcano in Ecuador resumes eruption

QUITO, 22 June—Reventador Volcano in Ecuador has resumed eruption, which is expected to affect two major oil pipelines, said Hugo Yepez, director of Geophysics Institute of the National Polytechnical School (ISP). The volcano is in the second phase of the eruption process which only consists of a lava flow circulating in the volcanic crater, said the expert. A thin ash layer could fall over the inter-Andean zones and cover the Heavy Crude Pipeline and the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System, causing maintenance problems.

Russia’s booster fails to deploy military satellite

MOSCOW, 22 June—Russia’s booster rocket Molniya-I failed to send a military satellite into orbit early Tuesday. The TASS news agency quoted a Russian Defence Ministry official as reporting.

“The rocket’s lift-off was normal but the third-stage engine came under abnormal conditions after six minutes of flight,” the report said. “The rocket lift-off proceeded in a standard mode. The rocket is being steadily tracked by the radars of the instrumentation and command complex,” an officer from the Russian Space Defence Forces (SDF) said.

First solar sail spacecraft launched

LOS ANGELES, 22 June—Cosmos 1, the world’s first solar sail spacecraft, was launched as scheduled at 12:46 PDT (1946 GMT) on Tuesday from the Russian nuclear submarine Borsugelok under the Barents Sea, a private organization that has funded it said.

“Cosmos 1 is scheduled to conduct a scientific experiment that will allow researchers to study the possibility of controlling the motion of objects in space,” the Space Defence Forces (SDF) said.

The rocket is expected to achieve an orbit with an altitude of 500-1,000 km and a perigee of 200-400 km.

While the experiment will not be a demonstration of solar sail technology, it is hoped that it will confirm the feasibility of using solar sails to propel spacecraft into space. The project is a joint venture between the Space Defence Forces (SDF) and the Institute of Applied Mechanics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAM).

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Maradona insists Basile should coach Boca
BUENOS AIRES, 23 June — Diego Maradona said Wednesday that the former coach of the Argentine national soccer team, Alfio Basile, should be the next coach of Boca Juniors, despite rumours that the directors of the club have chosen Julio Falcioni, who coaches Banfield.

The former soccer great last week expressed his favour for “Coco” Basile, who coached Argentina during its participation for the United States 1994 World Cup, when Maradona was named for doping.

He said he is to talk with Boca Juniors President Mauricio Macri to give his opinion on Wednesday.

“Whatever Macri and the executives decide is fine, but if Falcioni comes, then I will go back to sit among the public in the stadium,” said Maradona who conditioned his cooperation with the club as sports director or general director of the youth teams to the hiring of Basile.

Maradona made these remarks to cable-television sports channel Fox.

Finland fires soccer coach Muurinen
HELSEINKI, 23 June — Finland has fired coach Antti Muurinen after it virtually ended its hope of qualifying for the World Cup following a 4-0 home loss to the Netherlands this month.

His successor is due to be named on 21 July. Finland plays its next qualifier against Macedonia on 17 August.

“The association’s board will be scrutinizing both domestic and foreign coach candidates,” the Finnish football association said in a statement.

Finland is fourth in Group One, 13 points behind the Dutch and 12 adrift of the Czech Republic. — MNA/Xinhua

China gain first win since World Cup exit
GUANGZHOU (South China), 23 June — Midfielder Zheng Zhi scored a penalty to help China national soccer team beat Costa Rica 2-0 in a friendly here on Wednesday.

It was China’s first win after their early exit from the 2006 World Cup qualifiers and under the reign of new manager Zhu Guanghu, who filled in the vacancy left by the sacked ex-coach Arie Hann in March.

Zheng, viewed as the most promising young player in the reshuffled squad, gave China the 1-0 lead after forward Xie Hui was brought down in the box.

He started the second-leg campaign against Costa Rica back in the midfield, compared to his more striking role in Changsha where China managed a 2-2 draw. Xie wrapped up the 2-0 victory ten minutes into the second half. The 30-year-old veteran made a fine combination with Wang Liang, who substituted Jiao Zhe in the 27th minute, as he latched on to the long pass from Wang in the right flank and fired home from close range.

The Costa Rican side, refreshed from a long journey and time lag, looked a more confident side and took control of the first half.

But they failed to turn chances into goals as their young forward Bryan Ruiz wasted a couple of times including a solo-run in the 15th minute, while China goalkeeper Li Weifeng. Li, most active in the Chinese lineup, was the core of the Chinese solid defence and he made it hard for Costa Rica to organize effective attacking after 2-0 behind.

China, who collected two away losses against Spain and Ireland during their European trip in March, were making their debut at home after the World Cup exit. — MNA/Xinhua

Yanal steps down as Turkey coach
ANKARA, 23 June — Turkey coach Ernst Yanal was forced to resign on Wednesday following a run of disappointing results in World Cup qualifying, putting an end to his four-year deal with Turkey Football Federation.

“We have parted ways with (Yanal). The decision was made mutually and in a friendly manner,” said Turkey Football Federation chief Levent Bicakci in a statement.

“Decisions need to be taken as an institution, with consistency and beyond personality,” Yanal, replacing Senol Gunes, signed four-year deal in April 2004 and it was hoped he would revive Turkey’s fortunes after they failed to qualify for Euro 2004.

But the team are second in World Cup Group Two, seven points adrift of runaway leaders Ukraine.

The coach had also been criticized by the media for dropping experienced striker Hakan Sukur from his squad. — MNA/Xinhua

Greece, Mexico fight to goalless draw at Confederations Cup
FRANKFURT, 23 June — Greece and Mexico fought to a goalless draw in the final round of group competitions at the 2005 Confederations Cup here on Wednesday.

Mexico finished top of Group B and will face Argentina in the semifinals.

Greece picked up a solitary point before they head home, but could not find the net throughout the tournament. They are the only team in the tournament without a goal after the group competitions.

Angelos Charisteas and Zisis Vryzas both had very good chances in the match, but neither of them could turn them into scoring.

Mexico had one goal disallowed and they also created some good chances. But obviously they were content with the result.

Before the match, the situation of the group was quite clear with Greece already been eliminated from the tournament. But a single point would be enough for Mexico to top the standings as they had beaten Japan and Brazil in their first two matches.

Mexico had the chance to test a number of players. They rested striker Zinha and Jared Borgetti. Aaron Galindo and Salvador Carmona also sat on the bench.

The Greek team had the first scoring chance at the 7th minute when Vryzas header hit the post and bar before Mexican goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez palmed the follow-up shot off the line.

Midway in the first half, the Mexican team gradually found their rhythm though the Greek team still enjoyed a slight advantage. The Mexican team could only occasionally launch counter-attacks.

The Mexican team upped the tempo midway in the second half and they were rewarded with a golden opportunity at the 67th minute as Torrado latched onto a diagonal ball into the area. But Greek goalkeeper Nikopolidis put up a superb save to his team in the match. — MNA/

Colorado to bid for 2014 Winter Olympics
TIBEL, 23 June — Georgia will bid for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, the country’s Olympic chief said on Wednesday.

Badri Patarkatsishvili, president of the Georgian Olympic Committee (GOC), said that Georgia planned to file an official bid with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the next few days.

“I think Georgia is fully capable of staging the Winter Olympics in 2014,” said Patarkatsishvili, adding that Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili had given his approval. GOC general secretary Emzar Renzhashvili said the Georgians wanted to use the small town of Borjomi in the Caucasus mountains as the main Olympic venue. Georgia is the seventh country to express an interest in staging the 2014 Winter Games.

South Korea’s Pyeongchang, Austria’s Salzburg, Bulgaria’s capital Sofia, Sweden’s Ostersund, German city of Munich and China’s Harbin have also put forward bids ahead of the 28 July deadline. Turin hosts the Winter Olympics next year while the 2010 Games will be staged in Vancouver. — MNA/Xinhua

Switzerland’s Roger Federer returns the ball to Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic in their second round men’s singles match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, on 22 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Mexico’s Ramon Morales, left, takes on Vassilios Tsartsas during the Confederations Cup Group B soccer match between Greece and Mexico in Frankfurt, Germany, on 22 June, 2005. — INTERNET

China, who collected two away losses against Spain and Ireland during their European trip in March, were making their debut at home after the World Cup exit. — MNA/Xinhua

Sania Mirza from India hits a shot to Svetlana Kuznetsova from Russia during their second round match at the 119th Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. — INTERNET
Zimbabwe to ban urban farming

HARARE, 23 June — Zimbabwe will ban urban farming with effect from the next plowing season, police said on Wednesday morning.

The Officer Commanding Harare Province Senior Assistant Commissioner Edmore Vetere said police would not hesitate to destroy the crops if people defied the ban.

He said they would arrest violators of the ban without fear or favour.

“We would like to give a three-month sufficient notice that urban agriculture has been banned and people should stop the practice,” he said.

He said urban agriculture had disastrous effects as it loosened soils on slopes that resulted in the soil being washed away and blocking water pipes.

He urged the people to plant flowers and lawns rather than practice urban agriculture which causes degradation everywhere around the city.

Harare City Council said those who would want to plow at their houses should do so at the back of their yards and not in front.

The Council has over the years been warning people against practising urban agriculture with little success.

Some Harare residents were producing such crops as maize, groundnuts, sweet potatoes and pumpkins on open spaces in the capital.

Most families had continued to farm in the traditional open spaces, some of which were not suitable for the activity as they were situated close to sewer pipes.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 23 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Irrawaddy and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (9.01) inches, Sittway (4.84) inches, Putao (2.44) inches and Shwegyin (2.28) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 23-6-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-6-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 22-6-2005 was (1.0) hour approx. Rainfalls on 23-6-2005 were (0.24) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.24) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Total rainsfalls since 1-1-2005 were (21.54) inches at Yangon Airport, (18.19) inches at Kaba-Aye and (15.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South-west at (14:25) hours MST on 22-6-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Chin and Shan States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Irrawaddy and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Friday, 24 June

Tune in today:

8:30 am: Brief news
8:35 am: Music: Sweet love
8:40 am: Perspectives
8:45 am: Music: - I have always loved you
8:50 am: National news/Slogan
9:00 am: Music: - Doctor Jones
9:05 am: International news
9:10 am: Music: - Love is the groove
1:30 pm: Lunch time music: "Songs from - France"
1:40 pm: News/Slogan
6:05 pm: Musical programme
6:15 pm: Discovery
6:20 pm: National news/Slogan
7:00 pm: News/Slogan
7:05 pm: News/Slogan
7:10 pm: News/Slogan
7:15 pm: News/Slogan
7:20 pm: News/Slogan
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9:35 pm: News/Slogan
9:40 pm: News/Slogan
9:45 pm: News/Slogan
10:00 pm: PEL.

Friday, 24 June

View on today:

7:00 am: 1. Recitation of Parritas by Missionary Saya Daw U Outamathara
7:15 am: 2. 忍辱順従する学習の本能をあらわす(おう)学習の本能をあらわす(おう)
7:30 am: 3. To be healthy exercise
7:40 am: 4. Morning news
7:50 am: 5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am: 6. Anurag
8:00 am: 7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
8:15 am: 8. りょうりの時間
8:30 am: 9. International news
8:45 am: 10. English for Everyday Use
4:00 pm: 1. Musical programme
4:05 pm: 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm: 3. Practice in Reading
4:45 pm: 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm: 5. "きょうの歌" (きょうの歌) (Buddhist music)
5:15 pm: 6. Song of national races
5:30 pm: 7. "きょうの歌" (きょうの歌) (Buddhist music)
5:45 pm: 8. "きょうの歌" (きょうの歌) (Buddhist music)
5:55 pm: 9. "きょうの歌" (きょうの歌) (Buddhist music)
7:00 am: 6. "きょうの歌" (きょうの歌) (Buddhist music)
21. The next day’s programme
3rd Waning of Nayon 1367 ME

Friday, 24 June, 2005

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects paddy fields in Madaya Township,**
**Marle Nattaung Dam in Singu Township**

**Yangon** 23 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials, on 21 June went to model summer paddy field at mile post No 20/5 of Mandalay-Madaya-Singu Road in Madaya Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the winnowing of paddy and paddy propagation plot.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Marle Nattaung Dam project site on Marle Nattaung Creek in Singu Township and inspected the construction work. The project is being implemented by Mandalay Division Irrigation Department. Director of Mandalay Division Irrigation Department U Aye Thein reported to him on construction of the dam.

On completion, the dam will irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint went to the junction of Mandalay-Madaya and Mandalay by-pass, and inspected the paving of the by-pass.

Mandalay by-pass is a type of macadam road and it is 12,980 ft long and 24 ft wide. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected the newly built Myitnge bridge and paving of tar on the approach road linking Yangon-Mandalay high way.

**Yangon** 23 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with officials and industrialists of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone in Yangon North District this afternoon.

Chairman of the supervisory committee of the industrial zone Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Myat Min gave an account of establishment of industrial zones in the district, formation of respective management committees for four parts of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone, and measures for meeting the targets.

The commander called for greater achievements in manufacturing products, boosting production of import-substitute items and export products, and combined efforts to raise the industrial sector.

Next, the commander inspected production processes at Biscuit Factory of Super Five Manufacturing Co Ltd and Crown Foundry Plant in zone-3, Yangon Transformer and Electrical Co Ltd in zone-1, and Asia Metal Co Ltd in zone-4. He provided assistance for extended production of items. The industrial zone established on the 336-acre land in 1990 is made up of 115 factories with a total investment of K 183,180 billion.

**Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded**

(23-6-2005)

- Mogok: 9.01 inches
- Sittway: 4.84 inches
- Putao: 2.44 inches
- Shwegyin: 2.28 inches