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

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

**Four social objectives**
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
COMMITTED TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The first-day session of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference 2005 was opened at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division, on 27 June. It was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that Myanmar War Veterans Organization, as a social organization or as a reserve force of the Tatmadaw, is required to take an active part in carrying out such duties as national development and national defence in cooperation with other congenial social organizations.

Now is the time when the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are working hard in concert for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. The strength of people means the united strength of social organizations and, MWVO, together with the people and other congenial organizations, is carrying out national development endeavours.

The Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization is enthusiastically executing the five main tasks — national politics, national defence and security, economy, social welfare and public services.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization, with state, division, district and township war veterans supervisory committees, has a membership of 136,156.

It is necessary for MWVO to try to be an organization the people can trust and rely on and serve as a bridge between the people and the Tatmadaw through organizational means.

We believe that Myanmar War Veterans Organization will try its best to be able to stand as a highly proficient national force and continue working for national development and defence and security in cooperation with the people and other social organizations.

DHF CONTROL MEASURES TAKEN IN YANGON

YANGON, 28 June — In cooperation with the Yangon City Development Committee, the Health Department of the Ministry of Health took preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever on a collective basis in 14 townships of Yangon Division this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and YCDC Chairman Major Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited the sites. Head of the Health Division of the YCDC Dr Tin Maung Win, Head of the Township Health Development Department Dr Phyu Phyu Soe, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, Township USDA Secretary Daw Le Le Win Swe reported to the minister and the mayor on their arrival at Tamway Township Development Affairs Office on the number of households and population of Pathienyunt Model Ward in Tamway Township, outbreaks of dengue hemorrhagic fever, preventive measures being taken against the disease and measures being taken against the disease and treatment being given in 43 townships of the division.

Next, the minister and the mayor encouraged health staff, YCDC personnel and members of social organizations who were taking preventive measures against the disease and giving educative talks on the disease to the public in Pathienyunt Model Ward. Similar measures were also taken in Bahan, Dawbon, Pazundaung, Kamayut, Sanyyoung, Dagon, Latha, Lanmadaw, Ahlon, Pabedan, Kyauktada and Botahtaung townships.

TALKS ON MYANMAR WOMEN’S DAY HELD

YANGON, 28 June — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women’s Day, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized talks on Myanmar Women’s Day this morning at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township.

First, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min extended greetings. Afterwards, Writer Ma Sandar gave talks on Myanmar women.

Also present on the occasion were Head of the information department of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, Deputy Head of the information department Daw Mya Mya, members of MWAF, teachers and students. Daw Mya Mya spoke words of thanks and the talks concluded.
Chinese top legislator emphasizes Sino-Japanese relations

BEIJING, 27 June— Friendship between China and Japan is in the common interests of both sides and conducive to peace and development of Asia and the world, Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said here on Sunday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, said the practice of developing Sino-Japanese relations proved that it took tremendous hard work to achieve the current friendly state of bilateral relations, which should be very much cherished by both countries.

Wu made the remarks during a meeting with Masahiko Komura, president of the Association of Dietmen for Japan-China Friendship from Japan.

Wu said abiding by the three political documents including the China-Japan Joint Statement constitute the political basis for development of Sino-Japanese relations.

He said bilateral relations are faced with certain difficulties at present, which the Chinese side does not want to see. However, he pointed out that the fundamental cause of this difficult situation of bilateral relations lies in the Japanese side, who repeatedly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people on such issues as history and Taiwan.

India says AWACS project very much active

NEW DELHI, 27 June— India's indigenous developed new Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) project is very active, and will be ready to mount on an acquired jet airliner within next three years.

"The country is well poised to develop a new AWACS much ahead in comparison with the first initiative. However, no decision has been taken on an acquired jet airliner, on which the new AWACS is to be mounted," the Press Trust of India quoted K. Tamilmani, Director of the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), as saying Saturday in Bangalore.

The first initiative received a blow in 1999, when Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) HS-748 technology demonstrator aircraft crashed killing seven scientists.

However, the Cabinet Committee on Security, Indian Government's apex body on security issues, gave its plan to the project last September, thus giving a fresh lease of life to this one of the most ambitious defence missions, at a cost of 18 billion rupees (418 million US dollars).

Indian Air Force and the DRDO are also assisting the development of the system. Upon completion, the system will serve as an eye in the sky to provide advanced warning about hostile activity across the border. Tamilmani said that, with some countries willing to help, the project would see faster development.

H5N2-type bird flu virus detected in chickens in Japan

TOKYO, 27 June— The H5N2-type avian influenza virus has been detected in chickens at a poultry farm in Mitsukaido, east Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry announced on Sunday.

The ministry confirmed the infection of chickens with the virus at the farm after about 430 of its 25,000 chickens died between March and May.

Poultry farms in the area have been barred from moving their chickens and eggs beyond a radius of five kilometres from the bird-flu infected farm, according to Kyodo News.

The local government will begin disinfecting or disposing of the chickens and eggs at the farm on Monday, Kyodo said.

India’s foreign exchange reserves up

NEW DELHI, 27 June— On account of increased overseas funds flows, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at 139.57 billion US dollars in the week ending on 17 June, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Press statement said on Saturday.

The past two consecutive weeks saw a decline in the country's foreign exchange reserves.

This represents an increase of 1.04 billion US dollars in the country's foreign exchange stocks from the previous week, according to the weekly figures issued by the RBI.

During the week ending on 17 June, the country's foreign currency assets registered an increase of 1.04 billion US dollars from the previous week to touch 133.61 billion dollars, said the RBI statement.

Indo-Japan friendly state of bilateral relations

MNA/Xinhua

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Thai public sectors urged to spend budget to boost economy

BANGKOK, 27 June— Thai Government has urged all public sectors to speed budget spending so as to boost economic growth and efficiency at the same time.

"The government wants to speed up investments worth about 300 billion baht (about 7.5 billion US dollars)," Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitk said quoted by newspaper Nation as saying on Monday.

"Ministers and senior officials have been asked to report on the implementation of their plans to the Cabinet on 5 July," he said the minister.

Concerns over the budget spending was raised at a special Cabinet meeting called on by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sunday.

The meeting reviewed progress of major investment projects for this year and found out the government was not spending fast enough.

It had spent only 141 billion baht (3.53 billion dollars), or 54.8 per cent of its planned capital expenditure for the current fiscal year.

The rest 116 billion baht (2.9 billion dollars) has been laid idle, while it's only three months away from the end of this fiscal year. State enterprises are also asked to spend some 240 billion baht (six billion dollars) still undisbursed before the deadline of year end, otherwise they have to return the budget.

The meeting, also asking state enterprises to postpone imports, is deemed as the government's efforts to reduce current account deficit and reach this year's growth target.
Commemorative book released to mark Nepal-China ties

KATHMANDU, 27 June — A commemorative book was released here Saturday to mark the golden jubilee of establishment of Nepal-China diplomatic relations and 30th anniversary of Nepal Service of China Radio International (CRI).

The commemorative book, titled The Journey of Three Decades, published by National Council of CRI Listeners’ Clubs Nepal, a non-governmental Nepal-China friendship organization, was released by Tanka Dhakal, Minister for Communication and Information and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister Dhakal said that the relations developed between Nepal and China in the last 50 years, after the diplomatic relation established between the two countries, is the worthy model of state-to-state good-neighbourly friendship and cooperation.

Ambassador Sun said that the Chinese Government has set a policy to further consolidate and strengthen the good-neighbourly partnership between Nepal and China.

CRI Nepali Service attaches great importance to building a friendly bridge between the two peoples, Sun said, adding that “It has been bringing more friends to the force working for China-Nepal friendship.” — MNA/Xinhua

China-Italy relations experiencing “powerful acceleration”

ROME, 27 June — Relations between China and Italy in 2005—the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries—are experiencing a “powerful acceleration” which will move into top gear next year, Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini has said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Fini said that cooperation between China and Italy is growing significantly and will be further strengthened in 2006, officially “The Year of Italy in China”.

“I believe that it is possible to say, without exaggeration, that today Italy is one of the principle and most important partners of China in Europe, and in the West,” he said.

“And for Italy, China is increasingly becoming one of our principal partners and allies,” Fini added.

Fini said relations between China and Italy have registered, in recent times, “extremely important developments and a powerful acceleration” due to numerous events—in particular, the May 2004 visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in Italy and his meeting with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The meeting between the two prime ministers resulted in the birth of a strategic partnership between Italy and China and in the formation of the Italy-China Government Committee, which aims to facilitate regular meetings between the two countries at various levels and to periodically monitor bilateral progress accomplished in all sectors.

Another important development in China-Italy relations was the official visit in China by Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, accompanied by a number of other Italian officials including Fini.

MNA/Xinhua

Fatal helicopter crashes in Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 27 June—A list of fatal helicopter crashes in the Iraq war has been released.

- 21 April, 2005: A Russian-made Mi-8 helicopter is shot down by missile fire near Baghdad, killing 11 people, including six American contractors, US and Bulgarian officials say.
- 26 Jan., 2005: A CH-53 Sea Stallion transport helicopter crashed in bad weather in western Iraq, killing at least 31 Marines aboard.
- 10 Dec., 2004: An Apache collided with a US-60 Black Hawk that was on the ground at an air base in Mosul, killing two US soldiers and injuring four.
- 16 Oct., 2004: Two Kiowa helicopters crashed in southwest Baghdad, killing two and wounding two. It was unclear whether hostile fire brought the aircraft down.
- 11 April, 2004: Gunmen shot down an Apache attack helicopter in western Baghdad, killing its two crew members.
- 25 Feb., 2004: A Kiowa crashed in a river west of Baghdad, killing the two crewmembers on board. A witness saw a missile hit one of two helicopters in the area.
- 23 Jan., 2004: A Kiowa crashed near the northern town of Qayyarah, killing the two pilots.
- 8 Jan., 2004: A Black Hawk medevac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers on board. A witness said a rocket hit the tail.
- 2 Jan., 2004: A Kiowa was shot down near Fallujah, killing its pilot and wounding another soldier.
- 15 Nov., 2003: Two Black Hawks crashed in Mosul, killing 17 soldiers and injuring five. The military said the helicopters collided during a likely rocket-propelled grenade attack.
- 7 Nov., 2003: A Black Hawk was downed near Tikrit, apparently by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all six on board.
- 2 Nov., 2003: A Chinook transport helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, killing 16 and injuring 26. The military believed a 54-7 shoulder-fired missile struck an engine.
- 19 May, 2003: A CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff in the Shat al-Hillah Canal in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing four Marines. Another Marine drowned trying to rescue them.
- 20 March, 2003: A Sea Knight crashed in Kuwait, about nine miles from the Iraqi border, killing eight British troops and four US Marines. — Internet

India urges effective regulation of flow of funds to NGOs

NEW DELHI, 27 June — Finance Minister P Chidambaram Saturday pitched for effective regulation of funds from abroad to NGOs in India to track unreported flow of funds that is fraught with serious security and economic risks.

There are 30,000 organizations registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), but only 16,000 reported the flow of foreign funds which amounted to $50 billion rupees annually, Chidambaram said in his valedictory address to a two-day seminar on FCRA.

An equal amount of funds inflow must be going unreported, he said, adding this had serious security and economic implications.

The seminar came day after the government decided to set constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) to overhaul FCRA as it had failed to check the overseas funding of anti-national organizations. “Accounting of such flow of funds should not be construed as intrusive or invasive,” he said, adding this has become necessary as 50 per cent of NGOs do not report the money received by them.

Admitting that some of NGOs are doing yeoman service to the country, Chidambaram said accounting and reporting of the money received was very important, particularly in the era of globalization.

Two decades ago, the flow of funds were usually in public accounts as they were from government to government. Now things have changed as majority of funds were private capital flows. — MNA/PTI

Vietnam holds first trade fair in Thailand

BANGKOK, 27 June — An exhibition fair of products from Thailand, Laos and Vietnam is being held in Thailand’s central province of Nakhon Pathom.

The trade fair, sponsored by Vietnam’s Da Nang Advertising and Trade Fair Company (VINASAD-Danang) in association with the Trade Service of Nakhon Phanom Province, was the first one held by Vietnam in the Thai kingdom, the Thai News Agency reported on Sunday.

The fair, drawing more than 100 business firms, aims to boost the East-West economic corridor project and economic cooperation among the six nations of the Greater Mekong Sub-region—China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

VINASAD Director Duong Dang Cao expected that the fair, which was opened on Saturday, would also help create conditions for Viet Nam-made products to reach 20,000 overseas Vietnamese living in Thailand’s Northeast, the agency said. — MNA/Xinhua
ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda predicted that the growth in the major industrial countries is likely to slow down in varying degrees this year and the global demand for information technology products is likely to soften. "As a result of the above factors, East Asia is prone to a moderate economic slowdown in 2005," Kuroda said at the Sixth Asia-Europe Finance Ministers Meeting (ASEM-FMM) being held in the northern China city of Tianjin Municipality. While referring skyrocketing oil prices and a “possible disorderly adjustment of the global payments imbalance” as potential dangers posed to the economic prospects in East Asia, Kuroda places particular emphasis on the second factor. According to him, the world economy is sustaining a major payments imbalance that should be largely attributable to the huge current account deficit of the United States. During the first three months this year, the US current account deficit reached a record 6.4 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and has so far shown no signs of receding.

The situation is further exacerbated by imbalanced growth between the US and most major industrial countries,” said Kuroda, stressing that if left unattended, the unwinding of global payments imbalance would have serious consequences for the global economy and the outcome could be detrimental to East Asia’s economic prospects.

The current global payments imbalance reflects a “worsening fiscal balance and a fall in personal saving” in the US, along with a weak global demand for US goods and services, he said. MNA/Xinhua

India’s FM unveils bust of Tagore in Hungary

LONDON, 27 June — India’s External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh on Saturday unveiled the bust of Rabindranath Tagore in the Hungarian city of Balaton Fured, where the Nobel laureate had gone for cardiac treatment in 1926.

“Balaton Fured has a special place in Indo-Hungarian relations and it gives me great pleasure to be here today and present a bust of our Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore to the people of this very picturesque city,” the minister said after unveiling the statue. Singh was received by Istvan Boka, Mayor of the city of Balaton Fured.

Iran has no intention to improve ties with US

TEHRAN, 27 June — Iran’s president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said here Sunday that he has no intention to improve Tehran’s relations with the United States as long as Washington adopts a hostile attitude towards the Islamic Republic.

“Tehran will develop ties with almost all countries in the world except for the United States, for we cannot develop relations with a country which always keeps a hostile attitude toward us,” Ahmadinejad told a Press conference, which was his first public show as president-elect. Ahmadinejad said Iran can and will develop relations just with amicable countries. "As long as Washington keeps behaving like that, there is no need for Iran to develop ties with it. "The Americans must totally change its mind about Iran, for example, giving up policies like economic sanctions, sabotages against the Islamic Republic and so on, then we can take into account the development of relations with them," Ahmadinejad elaborated.

Iran "does not really need" to restore relations with Washington after cutting off a quarter of a century ago, he said, adding that "Iran is on a path of progress and elevation, and does not really need the United States on this path." MNA/Xinhua

HK Customs seize 1.2 million sticks of dutiable cigarettes

HONG KONG, 27 June — Hong Kong Customs officers of Lok Ma Chau Control Point have seized around 1.2 million sticks of dutiable cigarettes with an estimated value of 1.91 million HK dollars (245,038 US dollars) and duty potential of 960,000 HK dollars (123,663 US dollars) in an anti-smuggling operation, a government Press release said on Saturday.

According to the Press release, around 11.20 p.m. on Friday, Customs officers intercepted and searched a suspicious vehicle which was their first public show as president-elect. Ahmadinejad said Iran can and will develop relations just with amicable countries. "As long as Washington keeps behaving like that, there is no need for Iran to develop ties with it. "The Americans must totally change its mind about Iran, for example, giving up policies like economic sanctions, sabotages against the Islamic Republic and so on, then we can take into account the development of relations with them," Ahmadinejad elaborated.

Iran "does not really need" to restore relations with Washington after cutting off a quarter of a century ago, he said, adding that "Iran is on a path of progress and elevation, and does not really need the United States on this path." MNA/Xinhua

Residents of a home in Baghdad, Iraq, stand in the rubble under a mortar shell hole in the roof of the car parking area on 25 June, 2005. —INTERNET

Beijing’s Zhong Kun Group invests in Xinjiang region

BEIJING, 27 June — One of Beijing’s fastest-growing non-governmental enterprise Zhong Kun Group announced here on Saturday it will promote a brand new “south Xinjiang international tourism festival.”

The festival will last for several months until winter time. Nearly 20 activities will be held during the period, such as hot balloon competition, mountain climbing and jade cultural conference, to display the unique tourism resource in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

As China’s biggest region, Xinjiang has special geographic, historical, ethical and cultural traditions. However, it lacks sufficient capital. In recent years, Xinjiang opened its door to non-governmental capital in order to attract more investment to tourism-oriented fields.

Zhong Kun declared its plan to invest 1.3 billion yuan (0.16 US dollars) in the next three to five years in southern part of Xinjiang and create jobs opportunities for 10,000 people. Zhong Kun has already invested in Beijing, Anhui, Inner Mongolia, north America and middle Asia. —MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb blast kills US soldier in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 June — Guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb in central Baghdad on Sunday, killing a US soldier and wounding two others, a US military spokesman said. The blast struck a US military convoy at 10:40 am (0340 GMT), the spokesman said.

Of the wounded, one sustained slight injury in the attack, the spokesman said, without elaborating. The name of the victim was being withheld pending next-of-kin notification, he added.

Over 1,730 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally. —MNA/Xinhua

Japanese children overturn a rubber dinghy as they play in a pool at Tokyo’s Toshimaen amusement park on 25 June, 2005. —INTERNET

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Myanmar War
Veterans Organization Conference…
(from page 16)

Vice-Chairman of Kayin State WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Aung Maw Maw, Secretary of Falam District WVO Supervisory Committee Maj Thet Naing, Chairman of Shwebo District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Than Tun, Chairman of Dawei District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo, Chairman of Pyay District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Min Han (Retd), Chairman of Lashio District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Than Tun, Chairman of Pathein Township Organizing Committee Capt Sai Tun, Chairman of Mohnyin District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Aung Din, Chairman of Loikaw Township Organizing Committee Maj Tin Win (Retd), Chairman of Hpa-an District WVO Supervisory Committee Li-Col Ko Ko Gyi, Chairman of Thantalan Township Organizing Committee Sergeant Clerk Hla Tha Mann (Retd), Chairman of Sagaing District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Soe Naing, and Chairman of Kawthaung District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Tin Soe discussed the national defence and security sector.

Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivered the concluding address.

A meeting on national defence and security sector followed.

(See page 7)
Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference
(from page 6)
Chairman of Thawaywady District War Veterans Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Khin Win, Chairman of Kawa Township WVO Organizing Committee Captain Ye Myint (Retd) and Chairman of Pakokku District Lt-Col Htay Oo dealt with the matter.

Next, Chairman of Chanayethazan Township WVO Organizing Committee Maj Hla Nyint Swe (Retd), Chairman of Mawlamyine WVO Organizing Committee Captain Khin Maung Myint (Retd), Chairman of Sittwe District WVO Organizing Committee Lt-Col San Htay, Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) WVO Organizing Committee Lt-Col San Aung (Retd) took part in it.

After that, Chairman of Mongpang Township (Southern Shan State) WVO Organizing Committee Captain Maung Than (Retd), Chairman of Kyaukme Township (Northern Shan State) WV Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Soe Win, Chairman of Tachilek Township WVO Organizing Committee Captain Than Aye (Retd) discussed the national defence and security matter.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by member of MWVO Central Organizing Committee Col Tin Yi (Retd).

Likewise, a meeting on economic sector took place at the Mess-8 at 8 am today.

Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with members of the COC U Aung Thaung, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Thura U Thaung Lwin, Vice-Chairman of MWVO Vice-Admiral (See page 9)

Capt Khin Maung Myint (Retd) of Mon State.— MNA
Lt-Col San Htay of Rakhine State.— MNA
Capt Maung Than (Retd) of Shan State (North).— MNA
Li-Col Soe Win of Shan State (South).— MNA
Maj Min Zaw (Retd) of Shan State (East).— MNA
Lt-Col Soe Naing of Sagaing Division.— MNA
Capt Than Aye (Retd) of Ayeyawady Division.— MNA
Lt-Col Myint Soe of Kachin State.— MNA
Lt-Col Myint Soe of Kayah State.— MNA
Maj Min Han (Retd) of Yangon Division.— MNA
Sgt Clerk Htein Lin (Retd) of Kayah State.— MNA
Capt Ye Myint (Retd) of Bago Division (East).— MNA
Lt-Col Khin Win of Bago Division (West).— MNA
Li-Col Hla Swe of Magway Division.— MNA
Maj Hla Myint Swe (Retd) of Mandalay Division.— MNA
Lt-Col Soe Win of Shan State (North).— MNA
Maj Min Han (Retd) of Kachin State.— MNA
Sgt Htein Lin (Retd) of Kayah State.— MNA
Capt Maung Aye (Retd) of Mandalay Division.— MNA
Lt-Col Min Han (Retd) of Yangon Division.— MNA
Lt-Col Tun Aye of Bago Division (West).— MNA
Lt-Col Kyi Tan of Magway Division.— MNA
Capt Maung Aye (Retd) of Mandalay Division.— MNA
Li-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into performance of regional development, livestock breeding in Bago Div

YANGON, 28 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Meninchaung, Thayawady Township, Bago Division on 27 June.

The inspection party was welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) PDC Brig-Gen Hla Min, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of local Station and senior military officers, heads of departments at division, district and township levels.

When Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at Thitawoyoe village, he met with local peasants.

Division Manager U Hsan Maung reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on fertilizers to be used to cultivate paddy.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than observed ploughing of paddy.

It was learnt that 450,000 acres was put under monsoon paddy in Bago Division for 2005-2006.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officials at division, district and township levels, members of social organizations and town elders in Monyo Township, Thayawady District.

Chairman of Monyo Township PDC U Tun Kyi reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2005-2006 and other crops for regional development. Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Brig-Gen Hla Min gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said that the State has been launching tasks for 24 development zones and five rural development projects with a view to bringing about equitable development across the nation. Agriculture and livestock breeding sectors play a leading role. The State is building a host of dams for irrigation water to cultivate paddy in Bago Division. The State is carrying out 10 main crops not only for local but also for earning foreign currency.

Arangements have been made for cultivation of 1.2 million acres of monsoon paddy in Bago Division (West) for 2005-2006. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials to try to narrow the economic development gap between rural and urban areas.

After that, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on maintenance of 54-mile and 1 furlong long village-to-village road section and measures for strengthening of the dam.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on prevention against floods, tasks to be carried out for strengthening the dam.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected women’s wards, delivery room, surgical room and men’s wards at Monyo People’s Hospital. Township health officer Dr Sein Win Oo accepted cash donation of K 1 million presented by Managing Director U Khin Myint of Ko Thein Shwe Export Enterprise.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected projects of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of Ko Thein Shwe Export Enterprise and attended to the needs.

After that, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected beans and pulses.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with Tatmadawmen and their families in Minhla Township and gave instructions to those present to cooperate with the local people in building the nation and education, health and welfare of the service personnel’s children. He cordially met with those present.

Energy Minister inspects No 1 refinery in Thanlyin

YANGON, 28 June — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi yesterday afternoon inspected No 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) of the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise in Thanlyin Township.

At the refinery, the minister met with staff of the refinery and urged them to stay away from corruption and to run the refinery with full capacity. Next, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister inspected the storage and distribution of tar at the refinery.

Workshop on Disaster Management held

YANGON, 28 June — ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement co-sponsored the ASEAN Committee on Management (ACDM) Regional Workshop on Bilateral and Multilateral Arrangements for Disaster Management and Emergency Response here today.

Forty-two representatives of ten ASEAN nations, the ASEAN Secretariat, the UN and other organizations took part in the discussions. The workshop continues tomorrow.
USDA Basic Journalism Course No 1 opens

YANGON, 28 June—The opening of Basic Journalism Course No 1 organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Headquarters) took place at the association office on Tekkatho Yeiktha Lanhit Street in Bahan Township here this morning.

It was attended by USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, secretariat members and CEC members, course instructors, officials, regional coordinators, trainees and guests.

The Secretary-General gave a speech, saying that placing Our Three Main National Causes in the forefront, all the members are to see to effective implementation of the lofty objectives of the Association in the interests of the Association, the State and the people.

He cited the speech delivered by USDA Patron Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the conclusion ceremony of Advanced Management Course No 6 for USDA Executives, that measures were to be taken for the development of two fundamental factors in nurturing nationalism, and abiding by laws, rules and regulations.

The second factor was concerned with duty-conscientiousness, and in that regard, efforts were to be exerted for flourishing the spirit of cherishing the motherland, national character, sense of national duty, patriotism, Union Spirit, desire to protect the motherland and ensure development of the nation among the members.

He said internal and external destructive elements and media are spreading rumours and making false accusations with intent to tarnish the image of the State and the USDA. Such acts might have negative impact to an extent on some members of the public who would more or less entertain doubts. Under the circumstances, it would be necessary for the association to establish news and information services to be able to launch counter-offensive in all aspects against the media offensive. He added that the move should be carried out most extensively among the association members as well as the public.

In conclusion, the secretary general urged the trainees to enhance their qualifications, to study hard and abide by rules and regulations to become brilliant ones, and to train constantly for applying the experiences and knowledge gained from the course, and to see to the duties by doing their bit.

A total of 52 trainees from State/Division USADAs are attending the nine-week course. —MNA

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference...

(From page 7)

Kyi Min (Retd) also present at the meeting as observer.

Chairman of Myinttu Township WVO Organizing Committee Captain Kyaw Bala (Retd) acted as master of ceremonies and Kya-in-Seikkyi Township WVO Organizing Committee Captain Than Tun Aung (Retd) acted as co-master of ceremonies.

Member of the Central Organizing Committee U Aung Thaung made an opening speech.

Afterwards, Gangaw Township WV Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Hla Swe, Muse District WV Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Myint Soe dealt with the matter.

Committee Lt-Col Soe Win and Putao District WV Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Myint Soe dealt with the matter.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by member of the Central Organizing Committee by U Aung Thaung.

The sector-wise discussions group-4 on Counter-media offensive to be launched extensively in all aspects.

USDA Secretary-General Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses the opening ceremony. — MNA
Myanmar War Veterans Organization …

(From page 9)

social and welfare sector of MWVO Conference 2005 were held at the respective venues this morning.

The meeting was presided over by member of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivered an opening address.

Next, Chairman of Phakant Township WVO Major Min Han (Retd), Chairman of Bawlekh Township WVO Sgd Hlaing Lin (Retd), Chairman of Hpa-an Township WVO Captain Thet Oo Shein (Retd), Chairman of Tiddim Township WVO Sgd clerk Mango Khok (Retd), Chairman of Kalay Division WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Aung Moe Myint, Dawei Township WVO Captain Ngwe Thein (Retd), Chairman of Pway Township WVO Captain Kyaw Win (Retd), Chairman of Toungoo Township WVO Major Ko Ko Naing (Retd) and Chairman of Taundwingyi Township WVO Major Nyio Win (Retd) took part in discussions.

Representatives from Chammyathazi, Mudon, Taungup, Hlegu, Lang kho, kunlon, Kentung and Pyap Patch Township WVOs participated in discussions.

The discussions ended at 11.10 am with the concluding remarks by Maj-Gen Thein Swe.

The sector-wise discussions of group-5 on community welfare sector of MWVO Conference 2005 were held at the respective venue this morning.

The meeting was presided over by member of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Col Thein Nyunt spoke on the occasion.

Representatives from Mogaung, Hphasung, Myawady, Mindat, Shoeb, Muye, Shodaung, Yedashe, Chauk, Maha Aungmye, Thanbyuzayat, Sittway, Lanmadaw, Taunggyi, Laukkai, Monphyat and Bogale Township WVOs participated in the discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Chairman. The conference continues tomorrow.
There are specific causes of war between one nation and another in the world including economic cause and political cause. In fact, due to these factors that can lead to wars, many world people are in dire poverty and straits and are meeting their tragic ends. Therefore, armed forces are to be formed for each and every nation to prevent any alien invasions or to repulse internal and external attacks.

The Union of Myanmar has formed a strong and modern Tatmadaw capable of crushing all internal and foreign military insults to the nation. Similarly, global nations are strengthening their armed forces, and trading arms and ammunition in line with global changes. Now, the world is under serious threat of some nations possessing a wide range of weapons of mass destruction. Armed forces are necessary for a nation, but establishment of strong armed forces to insult or bully other nations is improper intention. The long history has shown that the Myanmar’s Tatmadaw is just a patriotic force of the Tatmadaw, national defense force, which came into being according to the historic necessities of the motherland and the people.

Looking back on the nation’s history, Myanmar has stood as a sovereign nation with its own monarchs since thousands of years. After waging three aggres- sive wars on Myanmar, British colonialists annexed the nation blessed with geographic features and rich in natural re-
sources. With the help of lackeys and followers, the colonialists reduced the strength of the BIA reached about 30,000 from 3,000 and relegated to 200 offic-
sers and 5,200 other ranks under the Kandy Treaty. It was no accident that Myanmar regained the independence on 4 January 1948 and it had to exert harmonious com-
bination of the Tatmadaw and the people and absolute unity of the entire nation. The Tatmadaw and the entire people were one when the nation launched the Fascist Re-
sistance on 27 March 1945, reflecting the mili-
tary capability and dyna-
imism of patriotic fervour of Myanmar members and consolidation of the entire national people. The Tatmadaw, that helped the nation regain independence in harness with the people, has been standing firmly by the people and crushing all types of dangers to the nation whenever mother-
land faces any kind of crisis.

It is the historic duty of the Tatmadaw to take over the State duties in 1988 due to unavoidable circumstances. Since then, it has been serving the interest of the nation and the people with might and main, while placing in the forefront Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sover-
egnty. Throughout his-
tory, wars workers who retired from the Tatmadaw due to old age or wounds suffered in the battles or on health grounds have been firmly standing as an auxiliary force of the Tatmadaw.

During the anti-fasc-
ists struggle, the strength of the Tatmadaw surged thanks to enthusiastic people joining it. After the struggle, the British colonialists reduced the strength of the Myanmar Tatmadaw to 200 offic-
ers and 5,200 other ranks under the Kandy Treaty. The Tatmadaw and the entire people were one when the nation launched the Fascist Resis-
tance on 27 March 1945, reflecting the mili-
tary capability and dyna-
imism of patriotic fervour of Myanmar members and consolidation of the entire national people. The Tatmadaw, that helped the nation regain independence in harness with the people, has been standing firmly by the people and crushing all types of dangers to the nation whenever mother-
land faces any kind of crisis. It is the historic duty of the Tatmadaw to take over the State duties in 1988 due to unavoidable circumstances. Since then, it has been serving the interest of the nation and the people with might and main, while placing in the forefront Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty. Throughout history, wars workers who retired from the Tatmadaw due to old age or wounds suffered in the battles or on health grounds have been firmly standing as an auxiliary force of the Tatmadaw. The Myanmar War Vet-
erans Organization was re-formed on 22 October 1998 according to the guidance of Senior Gen-
eral Than Shwe, Chair-
man of the State Peace and Development Coun-
cil and Commander-in-
Chief of Defence Serv-
ices.

The MVWO has been implementing its five major tasks cover-
ing the national political sector, the national de-
fence and security sector, the economic sector, the public welfare sector, and the community wel-
fare services sector, in line with the nation’s policy. The Organization has been working hand in hand and in unity with the Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigades and with non-governmental social organizations including the Union Solidarity and Develop-
 ment Organization, the Myanmar Red Cross So-
ciety, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Fed-
eration, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association as a distinguished force discharging duties above and beyond the call of duty. The MVWO has clearly witnessed the instability that occurred in many parts of the world, regional wars, envi-
ronmental degradation, the strong desire of cer-
tain big nations to domi-
nate the political, eco-
nomic and cultural sec-
tors of the world, their efforts to build up their military power, their de-
sire to defeat others and their various strategies to realize their goals. In this regard, the veterans shall beware of the per-
petration of the neo-
colonialists to put the nation under subjugation again and should also safeguard the nation.

Hailing the MVWO Conference 2005, I would like to say that the veterans will implement the five major tasks in the interest of the nation and the people, while standing firmly as an auxiliary force of the Tatmadaw’s reserve force; and that they while preserving and maintaining their dignity will up-
hold the Four Oaths as they have done as sol-
diers.

* May War Veterans All Be joyously united
* With thoughts of the nation’s wellbeing
* Be united together

Our Three Main National Causes We hold in high esteem
* Patriots, brothers together
* We shall strive on.

May War Veterans All Be joyously united
* Together with National Brethren

The organization that was founded We, the citizens of the Union in defence of our land “We are the duty of our kin.

* To get progress already being made
* Be strengthened much further
* We are working together

The Five-stage Road Map

Be put to the fore as noble act
We’ll work toward its realization.

* May War Veterans All Be joyously united
* Because it’s the Tatmadaw’s auxiliary force
* We are all included

“Pyi Khine Phyo”, Auxiliary Fire Brigade
Likewise the Red Cross, MWAFF Working for national wellbeing

Let this Foreword bear witness
With all of us, brothers and sisters
Our Union and us must be successful

This is our determination.

Representatives to MVWO Conference entertained

YANGON, 28 June — Under the arrangement of Reception, Welfare, Entertainment and Study Visit Subcommittee for organizing Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005), representatives from states and divisions were entertained this evening with a film entitled "Hnalohla Lumiaik" starring Nay Aung, Min Maw Gun, May Thinza Oo and Khine Thin Kyi. The movie was directed by Maung Tin Oo.

Milk powder donated to Obstetric, Gynecological and Paediatric Hospital

YANGON, 28 June — Dr Beauty Kyi and staff of Mo Asia Co Ltd of Pyay Road donated fortified milk powder worth K 320,000 to Defence Services Obstetric, Gynecological and Paediatric Hospital (300-bed) on 11 May.

Professor Lt-Gen Kyaw Nyunt accepted the donations and presented a certificate of honour to the wellwishers. Also present on the occasion were specialists and heads of departments, officials and nurses.

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever deserted
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
Afghanistan is determined to act on its promises and continue the war against illicit drug till is complete eradication. Minister for Counter-narcotics said Sunday. "We have more than 30 tons of narcotics over the past several months and took into custody some 100 smugglers and these all reflect our firm resolve to eliminate the menace from our society," Habibullah Qadiri told reporters at a Press conference.

Earlier in the morning, the Afghan Government as a sign of its commitment to fight illicit drug and mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse, set ablaze 30 tons of contraband including two kilos of heroin at a ceremony attended by officials and journalists. "Confiscating narcotics, destroying it and efforts to provide alternative livelihood to the farmers all speak of our relentless war against the menace," emphasized the minister.

However, the Minister failed to present a clear picture of poppy cultivation and its harvest in the current year or how much fund has been allocated to fight it. Afghanistan with an output of 3.600 tons of opium in 2003 became the single largest supplier of raw material used in manufacturing heroin in the world and the country with 4,200 tons of opium in 2004 hit an all time record. President Hamid Karzai, whose administration is under world pressure on increasing poppy product, last year announced Jihad or holy war against poppy cultivation in an attempt to check the menace. According to survey conducted jointly by UN Office on Drug and Crime and Afghan Counter-narcotics, the country's poppy plantation in the next three years, The Financial Express reported Sunday.

Bangladesh is currently earning a total of more than 5.0 billion US dollars from the US market alone within the next three years, The Financial Express reported Monday. The proposed trade bill is passed, Bangladesh might fetch an extra 5.0 billion US dollars from the US market alone within the next three years, The Financial Express reported Monday.

SAARC agrees on collective response to large disasters

KATHMANDU, 27 June—A special session of SAARC environmental ministers adopted a declaration on a collective response to large scale disasters, the SAARC Secretariat said in a Press statement here Sunday.

The one-day meeting named South Asian Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Environmental Ministers in the Afternoon of the Indian Ocean Tsunami was held in Male, the capital of the Maldives, on Friday.

"The one-day meeting held today in the capital of the Maldives, called on the member states to identify national focal points who would meet at the proposed expert group meeting in Male later in the year to formulate a comprehensive framework on early warning, disaster management and disaster prevention," a Press statement issued by the secretariat said.

The six-point declaration outlines a strategy of information about existing early warning capabilities in the member states and development of a strategy to integrate disaster recovery and reconstruction activities into national sustainable development strategies.
**US scientists sequence genome of beneficial bacterium**

**Los Angeles, 27 June** — US scientists reported on Sunday they have decoded the genome of a bacterium that protects major cotton diseases. This study, published in the journal Nature Biotechnology, provides clues to better explain how the helpful bacterium, Pseudomonas fluorescens ( Pf), naturally safeguards roots and seeds from infection by harmful microbes that cause plant diseases. It is expected to greatly benefit crop plants, said scientists at The Institute for Genomic Research. Two decades ago, scientists found the Pf-5's capability to suppress two chemical pathways that the microbe apparently uses to create what are known as "secondary metabolites," possibly including new, nonantibiotic compounds, according to Joyce Loper, a plant pathologist at US Agricultural Research Service (ARS) who led the sequencing. The use of naturally-occurring, beneficial microbes such as Pf fluorescens to control plant pathogens is called "biological control." That method is gaining momentum as a way to grow healthy plants without using synthetic fungicides. In all, about three dozen beneficial microbes are currently used as an environmentally-friendly way to fight plant diseases. Loper predicted that the new genomic data will help scientists more quickly develop new ways to boost the effectiveness of beneficial microbes in fighting plant diseases.

**Drug users in Cyprus grew sharply in 2004**

**Nicosia, 27 June** — Drug users in Cyprus grew by 170 per cent in 2004 compared to the previous year while drugs led to 13 deaths in 2004 and six deaths in the first four months of 2005, local Press reported Sunday. The island's Centre for Education, About Drugs and Treatment Of Drug Addicted Persons (KENTHEA) revealed in its latest study that 87 per cent of the drug users are aged between 20-39. Health Minister Andreas Gavriilides said Cyprus has approximately 1,400 problem drug users and the government is running two therapeutic programmes — a detoxification centre and a centre for psychological aspect of kicking addiction. Cyprus Police Chief Tassos Panayiotou revealed that a total of 515 drug-related cases were reported to the police in 2004 with 639 people involved, among whom 435 were Cypriots and 204 were foreigners. The total drugs seized in 2004 include kilos of cannabis, hashish, cocaine, ephedrine and heroin, said the police chief. Cyprus has three main entry points for drugs, which are international airports of Larnaca and Paphos, Limassol Port and the Turkish controlled north of the island.

**60th anniversary of UN celebrated in San Francisco**

**San Francisco, 27 June** — Celebrations on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations kicked off Saturday here as participants called for active US involvement in UN activities. The two-day event in this US city, where the UN Charter was signed 60 years ago, was organized by the local branch of the United Nations Association, a non-governmental organization dedicated to enhancing US participation in the world body. UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Shashi Tharoor, who acted as representative of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to attend the weekend celebrations, briefed some of the delegates over the UN reform proposals that will be considered by the UN General Assembly this September. Hailing that the United Nations' existence created the framework within which human progress was possible during the Cold War and beyond, Tharoor said that future UN reforms would be aimed at creating mechanisms to address global issues more actively and bringing the Security Council and the General Assembly into the 21st Century. Other speakers at the conference, including former US ambassador to the United Nations Richard Sklar, said that active US participation in UN activities would only do good for world peace and stability.

**Hail to boost effectiveness of beneficial microbes in fighting plant diseases**

**San Francisco, 27 June** — US scientist Joyce Loper, a plant pathologist at US Agricultural Research Service (ARS) who led the sequencing, said the new genomic data will help scientists more quickly develop new ways to boost the effectiveness of beneficial microbes in fighting plant diseases.

**Heavy rains ruin Nigeria's cocoa quality**

**Ile-Ife (Nigeria), 27 June** — Cocoa beans for sale in southwestern Nigeria are of poor quality, with moisture levels of 15-18 per cent, as rains prevented farmers from properly drying their beans, farmers and traders said at the weekend. In addition, percentage of moldy and slaty beans in some bags was also high. International standards require a moisture level of 7.5 per cent or less. A field survey in the southwest cocoa belt showed there has been heavy and continuous rainfall in the five cocoa-producing states in the belt in the past fortnight, making it difficult for farmers to dry beans. "We have been having continuous rains in Osun State for several days now without sunshine; this has raised the moisture content in cocoa," said Wale Awoosoji, a farmer in Ile-Ife, the state capital, told Xinhua. Awoosoji said it had rained daily for the past two to three weeks and farmers were apprehensive as moisture content may be higher than the standard required.
Queen heads Spanish delegation to Singapore

MADRID, 28 June— Spain wants the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to give Madrid the right to host the 2012 Olympic Games, the local Press said Monday.

Spain seeks to raise the image of Madrid through the games, said the Foreign Ministry.

Spain will send a top-level delegation to the July 6 ceremony at Singapore, where IOC will announce which city is to be the Olympic venue in 2012. Madrid is vying against London, Paris, New York and Moscow. The previous occasion when Spain organized the Olympic Games was in Barcelona in 1992.

The delegation for the ceremony at Singapore will be headed by Queen Sofia and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, said the Foreign Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Real Madrid gives Santos “ultimatum” on Robinho

BRASILIA, 28 June— Real Madrid is not going to pay over 25 million dollars for Brazilian Robinho and expects to conclude negotiations with Santos 1985. Teixeira.

Sprints at the US championships since week to Santos President Marcelo day, became the first person to win both August’s world championships in Helsinki and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, said the Foreign Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Lheb to join Arsenal

LONDON, 28 June— Belarus international midfielder Alexander Hleb agreed on Monday to join Arsenal from Bundesliga side VfB Stuttgart on a long term contract.

The Premier League club said the deal, which is subject to a medical and the player obtaining a work permit, could cost them about 15 million euros (18.25 million US dollars).

Hleb, 24, has made 137 appearances in his five years with Stuttgart and has played 18 times for Belarus. — MNA/Xinhua

South Korean soccer star Park Ji-sung, left, hands his highschool uniform to Park Jong-hee, Suwon World Cup Stadium manager, during an opening ceremony highschool uniform to Park Jong-hee, Suwon World Cup Stadium manager, during an opening ceremony.

These conditions are contained in the new offer to the Santos executives sent by Real Madrid through Ribeiro, appointed as representative of the Spanish club in the negotiation.

If Santos does not accept the proposal by July 8, Real will make an official note saying the club is no longer interested on the player,” said Ribeiro to pele.net. — MNA/Xinhua

The 25-million-dollar offer is 10 millions higher than the offer presented last week to Santos President Marcelo Teixeira.

Gatlin wins 200m to grab sprint double

WASHINGTON, 27 June— Olympic 100 metres titlist Justin Gatlin won the 200 metres in 20.06 seconds at the US championships in Carson, California, on Sunday.

Tyson Gay finished second in 20.06 seconds with Olympic champion Shawn Crawford third in 20.12 seconds. Three will be the members of the US team for August’s world championships in Helsinki.

Gatlin, who won the 100m on Saturday, became the first person to win both sprints at the US championships since 1985.

South Korea’s Kim wins US Open

WASHINGTON, 27 June— Birdie Kim clinched a dramatic two-shot victory and became the second South Korea golfer to win the US Women’s Open in the 60th competition when she holed a bunker shot for birdie at the last in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, on Sunday.

The 23-year-old closed with a 72 for a three-over total of 287 that earned her $60,000 US dollars, finishing ahead of second-placed American amateuors Brittany Lang and Morgan Pressel.

Lang closed with a 71 early on while Pressel, joint third round leader, needed a birdie at the last to tie with Kim but dropped a shot for a 75.

Once of six Kims on the LPGA Tour, the triumphant South Korean played as Ju-Yun in her rookie year in 2004 before changing her name at the start of this season.

She told reporters: “This week was great fun, very exciting. I hit the ball pretty great today.”

Kim, a 19-time winner on the Korean circuit, has a best finish of joint seventh on the LPGA Tour in a tournament in Atlanta in May and has missed seven cuts from 14 starts.

This week, she made her debut in the US Open and her third major appearance. She missed the cut at last year’s LPGA Championship and was 41st in this year’s version two weeks ago. — MNA/Xinhua

Birdie Kim of South Korea celebrates after sinking a birdie shot out of the eighteenth hole bunker to win the 60th US Women’s Open Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club. — INTERNET

Clement runs best world 400-m hurdles in 2005

WASHINGTON, 27 June— Kerron Clement ran a 47.24 seconds on Sunday in the 400-metre hurdles on the final day of the US athletics championships held in Carson, California.

The 19-year-old not only shaved 32-hundredths of a second off his own previous world leading time of 47.56 set at the US collegiate championships in Sacramento on June 11, he posted the fastest time in the world since Bryan Bronson on June 21, 1998, and the 11th-fastest in history.

The University of Florida student, who captured athletics world’s attention earlier this year when he broke Michael Johnson’s 10-year-old indoor 400m world record with a time of 44.57 seconds, said he was not surprised by his hurdles time Sunday because it was the first time this year he put together a flawless race.

The final day of action produced two other world-leading times as Michelle Perry clocked 12.43 seconds on the semifinals of the 100m hurdles, which she went on to win in 12.66 ahead of 2004 Olympic gold medallist Joanna Hayes, who was second in 12.77 ahead of Virginia Powell in 12.87.

Tyson Gay also won the right to take part in the Helsinki competition by finishing second in the 200m in 20.06. Olympic gold medallist Shawn Crawford, who was runner-up to Gatlin in the 100m, finished third in 20.12. — MNA/Xinhua

Dane Krolldrup moves to Everton

LONDON, 28 June— Danish international defender Per Krolldrup has completed a 5.0-million-pound (9.16-million US-dollar) transfer from Udinese to Everton, the English Premier League club said on Monday.

The 23-year-old, who has made 13 appearances for Denmark, will help strengthen Everton in their first season in the Champions League after spending four years in Italy at Udinese. — MNA/Xinhua

Birdie Kim of South Korea celebrates after sinking a birdie shot out of the eighteenth hole bunker to win the 60th US Women’s Open Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club. — INTERNET

Clement runs best world 400-m hurdles in 2005

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Heavy rain lashes Seoul, vicinity areas

SEOUL, 28 June — Heavy rain lashed Seoul and its vicinity areas from last Sunday until Monday, causing blackouts in some regions and flight suspension, said (South) Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) on Monday.

Yangdong-ri, a town in Yangpyeong County of Gyeonggi Province, received the highest amount of rainfall with 387 millimetres as of 10 am (0100 GMT). Seoul had 132 millimetres, and many towns in Gangwon and Gyeonggi provinces recorded over 200 millimetres of rain, South Korean Yonhap news agency quoted information released by the KMA as reporting.

The KMA also forecast these regions will receive 5 to 60 millimetres more of rain until the evening when the monsoon will start to mainly affect southern provinces. Heavy storm warnings were issued for western and southern coastal cities and the city of Jeju on Jeju Island, the southernmost island of South Korea.

The torrential rain caused blackouts in some areas in Seoul and Gangwon Province. About 7,200 households in northern Seoul lost power for an hour Sunday night.

Low-lying roads and households were submerged in some areas in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi Province, snarling traffic during the Monday morning rush hour.

At an apartment building in Goyang, north of Seoul, about 80 residents were forced to evacuate early in the morning for the heavy rain caused a 30-centimetre crevice in one of the supporting pillars. A total of 64 domestic flights linking Seoul and rain-hit cities were suspended, according to the KMA.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 28 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy fall in Rakhine State and isolated heavy fall in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (5.31) inches, Maungtaw (5.12) inches, Kyauktaw (4.65) inches, Ann (2.28) inches, and Sittway (2.13) inches.

Maximum temperature on 27-6-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 28-6-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-6-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 27-6-2005 was (1.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 28-6-2005 were (0.34) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.55) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.78) inches at central Yangon.

Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (25.66) inches at Yangon Airport, (22.84) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.01) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (06:50) hours MST on 28-6-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (11:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the Northwest Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-6-2005: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Overview for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-6-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 29 June, 2005
YANGON, 28 June — The Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference continued at the respective venues of No 1 Transit Centre here today. Representatives of states and divisions presented sector-wise discussions on the national political sector, the national defence and security sector, the economic sector, social affairs and welfare sector and community welfare services sector.

The Central Committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium launched the Jade and Gems Special Sales (2005) at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here today.

The special sales drew the attention of 658 gem merchants — 162 merchants from 43 companies of six foreign countries and 496 merchants from 211 local companies. Secretary of the Central Committee Managing Director of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and secretaries of respective subcommittees conducted the merchants round the museum and provided assistance for them.

More than 600 merchants from companies of foreign countries are expected to visit the exhibition, in which 221 gems lots, 1,003 different kinds of jewellery, 2,408 jade lots are put on sale.

The number and the quality of gems and jade lots of this time are more and better than that of previous sales. More local and foreign gems merchants will arrive here till 30 June.

The nation’s gems and jade emporium and special sales and Myanmar’s precious stones industry are making cumulative progress year by year due to the mining of gems and jade by the State and private companies through joint-venture system, assistance rendered by respective regional authorities, and peace and stability in the region.

Members of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and U Chit Naing presided over the meeting. Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivered an address.

Chairman of Bhamo District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Hla Thaung, Chairman of Bawlake District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Kan Tun, (See page 6)

YANGON, 28 June — The Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference continues at the respective venues of No 1 Transit Centre here today. Representatives of states and divisions presented sector-wise discussions on the national political sector, the national defence and security sector, the economic sector, social affairs and welfare sector and community welfare services sector.

The Central Committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium launched the Jade and Gems Special Sales (2005) at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here today.

The special sales drew the attention of 658 gem merchants — 162 merchants from 43 companies of six foreign countries and 496 merchants from 211 local companies. Secretary of the Central Committee Managing Director of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and secretaries of respective subcommittees conducted the merchants round the museum and provided assistance for them.

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