Established 1914

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Italy

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June, 2006. — MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order

Four political objectives

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Increase production and practise economy**

Nowadays, Myanmar is experiencing a rapid industrial development as the government and the private sector are working together to transform the nation from an agricultural country into an industrialized one.

At such a time like this, every endeavour should be made for all production sectors, including the agricultural and industrial sectors, to be able to boost the production of the export items and to develop factories and workshops that produce import-substitute items.

Plants, factories and mills under the Ministry of Industry-1 produce consumer and household goods while those under the Ministry of Industry-2 manufacture machines, vehicles, engines and other accessories.

All those responsible of these industries are required to make their level best not only to meet but also to exceed the production target for each fiscal year and to complete new projects on schedule. Moreover, it is necessary for all production industries to double their income, to practise economy in the projects that call for capital expenditure.

It should also be borne in mind that enhancement of quality is the sine qua non of our drive for increased production. Moreover, we should produce marketable items more and more. For this, we must constantly innovate.

We believe that our economic goals will be realized with the increased production and sales of quality goods, practice of economy and doubling of income.

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**MMCWA educates parents on development of children**

**Yangon, 1 June** — Early Childhood Development Centre of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association held educative talks on development of children today at the multi-purpose building of MMCWA in South Okkalapa Township.

The talks aimed at educating parents on health and development of children.

Pediatrician Dr Daw Khin Thet Myaing and Dr Than Oo of MMCWA gave talks.

CEC members of MMCWA, teachers of Early Childhood Development Centre and parents were present at the educative talks. — MNA

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**Refresher course for judges opens**

**Yangon, 1 June** — Supreme Court conducted the refresher course No 4 for deputy judges and the course was opened today at the Supreme Court here with an address by Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe.

A total of 60 trainees are attending the 8-week course.

Also present at the opening ceremony were judges and directors of the Supreme Court, course instructors, advisors and officials. — MNA

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**FAO Experts discuss AI investigation activities**

**Yangon, 1 June** — Organized by FAO Myanmar in collaboration with Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and WHO, the workshop on debriefing of FAO Avian Influenza follow up mission was held at Summit Park View Hotel here yesterday.

At the workshop, Dr Than Hla of National Stock Breeding and Veterinary Department and WHO, the workshop two international consultants presented the papers on Avian Influenza control activities based on their perspectives, findings and comments.

Also present on the occasion were FAO representatives in Myanmar Mr. Tang Shining, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of LBVD, officials from the health department, representatives from WHO, JICA, AusAID, UNICEF, USAID and Dr Anthony William, epidemiologist, and Dr Harvey Westbury, Laboratory Diagnostician from FAO headquarters. The interested persons actively participated in the workshop. — MNA
China says ties with Russia at “unprecedented” high

Beijing, 31 May — Relations between giant neighbours China and Russia have reached an unprecedented high, China’s President said in comments published on Wednesday ahead of a regional security forum summit.

President Hu Jintao also called Russia China’s most important strategic cooperation partner in an interview with journalists from member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which groups the two with the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

“Relations between the two countries have reached unprecedented levels,” Hu said, in comments that were carried on the Foreign Ministry’s website.

“The volume of bilateral trade has had seven years of extremely high growth and cooperation in the fields of energy and investment has made great progress,” he said.

Trade between China and Russia, who share a 4,300-kilometre (2,700-mile) border, reached nearly 30 billion US dollars last year, and the two signed a series of energy agreements during a visit by President Vladimir Putin in March.

Beijing and Moscow also see common ground in trying to ensure stability in Central Asia and in checking US presence there. Hu said fighting the threats of terrorism, separatism and extremism were the main goals of the SCO, whose annual summit will be held on 15 June in Shanghai.

Its members have signed an anti-drug trafficking agreement and are considering extending the accord to include Afghanistan, whose President Hamid Karzai has been invited to attend the forum as its guest.

China is also offering SCO member states 900 million US dollars worth of loans in the form of preferential buyers credits for members who buy Chinese exports, Hu said.

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Earthquake victims rest at the hospital of Bantul in central Java, Indonesia, on 31 May, 2006. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Wednesday met here with representatives of the China International Search and Rescue Team, which is offering humanitarian aid in Indonesia’s quake-hit Yogyakarta. Susilo thanked the Chinese government for the all-round aid it has offered after the quake. —INTERNET

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Fire destroys part of historic Finnish cathedral

HELSINKI, 31 May — Fire burnt the roof of a historic Finnish church on Monday, destroying part of one of the Nordic nation’s most cherished landmarks.

The fire began at about 2 am on Monday outside the Cathedral in Porvoo, 50 kilometres east of Helsinki, and arson was not ruled out, police said.

The blaze destroyed the wooden shingle and tile roof of the cathedral, which played an important role in Finnish history and is a tourist attraction for day-trippers from the capital. No one was hurt and officials said most of the interior of the church, parts of which date back to the 13th and 14th centuries, had not been burned.

“It looks like ruins from outside,” Bishop Erik Bikstrom told Finnish news agency STT, adding that the fire was a local and national catastrophe. “It’s one of our most important churches.”

The cathedral was where Tsar Alexander I opened the Diet of Porvoo in 1809, which sealed Finland’s transfer to Russian rule after 700 years under the Swedish crown. —MNA/Reuters

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Bridge collapse kills four, injures five in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 31 May — Four construction workers were killed and five others critically injured as an under-construction bridge in western Meherpur District of Bangladesh, 190 kilometres of Dhaka, collapsed Tuesday, UNB news agency reported.

The bridge over the Kolia River broke down with a huge bang, killing the four working on the bridge. The injured people were admitted to a local hospital and their conditions were stated to be critical. Police, Rapid Action Battalion and firefighters rushed to the spot and conducted the rescue operation.

An investigation into the reason for the collapse is underway. —MNA/Xinhua

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‘Lost’ actress Rodriguez released early

LOS ANGELES, 31 May — Actress Michelle Rodriguez was released from jail early, after serving less than a day of a 60-day jail sentence, authorities said Tuesday.

Rodriguez was sentenced for violating probation terms after she was arrested for driving a fast car near the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles County jail.

She was released Thursday from a Los Angeles County jail due to overcrowding, authorities said.

The former star of ABC’s “Lost” still must serve 30 days of community service and remain on probation until June 2009, a spokeswoman for the city attorney’s office said.

“Our prosecutors are not happy about it, but that is the sad reality of our overcrowded jail,” said spokeswoman Contessa Mankiewicz.

Calls to Rodriguez’s attorney and publicist were not immediately returned Tuesday.

“Michelle’s happy with the way things turned out,” Rodriguez’s friend, designer Anand John, told People magazine in a story posted Tuesday on its Web site. —INTERNET

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Actress Michelle Rodriguez appears onstage during MTV’s ‘Total Request Live’ at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

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Children drew pictures on eggs in a contest at Shiqiao Primary School in Wendling, a city in east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 30 May, 2006. —INTERNET
Bolivian President thanks Chirac for support

LIMA, 31 May — Bolivian President Evo Morales thanked his French counterpart Jacques Chirac on Monday for his support for Bolivia’s nationalization of fossil fuel resources, and invited him to visit the opening of the Constituent Assembly, reports reaching here said.

During a visit to Chile on Friday, Chirac expressed his support for the nationalization, saying he had a lot of respect for Morales, who “had restored honour to a people which had been deprived of it for centuries”. The French President added that he was invited, he would attend the opening of the Assembly on August 6 in Sucre, Bolivia’s constitutional capital.

Morales said this is the reason why he made a public invitation to Chirac.

He said he had also invited leaders from Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa, because “we are betting on a deep change in the democracy, that is to say a change for the peaceful path”. The Constituent Assembly is one of Morales’ key election promises. Bolivians will choose the members of the Assembly on 2 July.

Earthquake jolts Indonesia’s Papua Province

JAKARTA, 31 May — A tectonic earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter Scale rocked Wamena, Jayawijaya District, Indonesia’s Papua Province on Tuesday, but there are no reports of damages or casualties.

The quake took place at around 12:28 pm local time, and its epicentre was traced at 3.85 degrees southern Latitude and 139.76 degrees eastern Longitude, around 115 kilometres northeast of Wamena at a depth of 33 kilometres below the sea level, Antara news agency quoted head of the Jayapura Meteorological and Geophysics Office Fadli Yusuf as saying here on Tuesday.

The tremor was felt at between third and fourth level Modified Marcelli Intensity (MMI) in Wamena, second and third MMI in Tanah Merah as well as Jayapura.

“The local residents panicked when the quake occurred,” Kayadu said. Some parts of Papua Island have been jolted by a series of tremors lately, including the magnitude 4.6 quake hitting Jayapura and Sarmi District last Wednesday (24 May), and magnitude 4.8 tremor hitting Paniai District last Friday (26 May).

Indonesia is in a zone known as the Pacific “ring of fire”, which is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Large number of weapons missing in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 31 May— Costa Rican Public Security Minister Fernando Berrocal announced on Monday that the country has lost a large number of weapons during a stocktaking of weapons in the country on Friday.

Berrocal told reporters that there were a great deal of weapons missing, but he did not specify what kind, saying it was a state secret.

He described the situation as “pretty delicate and pretty serious. It’s an important chunk of arms, some of which are of big calibre and some have a high price in international arms markets”. Berrocal said that “a foreign hand” might be involved in the loss of arms, “because in Costa Rica there is no market for this”.

“Such things could not have happened unless there had been help from inside the security forces,” he added. The last stocktaking of weapons was carried out in Costa Rica in 1998 when Jose Maria Figueroes Olsen handed over power to the newly-elected President, Miguel Angel Rodriguez.

Organic farms see growth on more demand

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, 30 May— California — Earthbound Farm’s fields of organic baby spinach and romaine lettuce are a living example of the organic food movement’s explosive growth in recent years.

What started two decades ago as a three-acre roadside farm in this valley 90 miles south of San Francisco has grown into the country’s largest grower of organic produce, with more than 100 types of fruits and vegetables on 26,000 acres in the US and abroad.

Earthbound’s extraordinary growth is only the most visible example of how organic farming is changing. Small family farms created as an alternative to conventional agriculture are increasingly giving way to large-scale operations that harvest thousands of acres and market their produce nationwide.

And with Wal-Mart, Safeway, Albertson’s and other big supermarket chains expanding their organic offerings, the transformation may only be in its early stages.

“I don’t think (consumers) have any idea just how industrialized it’s becoming,” said Michael Pollan, a journalism professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of “The Omnivore’s Dilemma.” “There are some real downsides to organic farming scaling up to this extent.”

Pollan and others worry that the expansion of “Big Organic” will lower food quality, weaken standards and hurt small family farms. As organic goes mainstream, critics say, the movement loses touch with its roots as an eco-friendly system that offers a direct connection between consumers and the land where their food is grown.

Byron Albano, who handles marketing for Coyama Orchards, his parents’ 210-acre organic apple orchard in Santa Barbara County, worries that as the entry of Wal-Mart and other supermarket chains will “lead to organic produce becoming a commodity with prices being dictated by those buyers.”

Other experts say the trend simply gives more consumers access to high-quality food and keeps prices down. “It’s also good for the environment because fewer pesticides and fertilizers will pollute the air and water.”

Despite its size, Earthbound Farm follows the same practices as smaller organic farms. It rotates crops to enrich the soil and avoid disease, doesn’t use chemical fertilizers or herbicides, and brings in syrphid flies and other beneficial insects to control pests.

Earthbound Farm cofounders Drew Goodman and wife Myra hold some of their salad at their headquarters in Carmel Valley, California in this recent photo. —INTERNET

Comoros volcano bubbles, residents wait in fear

MORONI, 31 May — Lava bubbled from a volcano in the Comoros on Monday, frightening thousands on the Indian Ocean archipelago’s largest island who feared a full-blown eruption as they waited to see where the molten rock might flow.

An early morning reconnaissance flight over the crater of 2,361-metre (7,750-feet) Mount Karthala — one of the world’s largest active volcanoes which dominates the island of Grande Comore — gave no new clues.

“The information we have is that the lava is flowing. The crater is full of lava. We don’t know which direction it will flow,” Colonel Ismael Daho, head of the emergency management team for the Comoros archipelago, told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters
**Mystery disease afflicts cows in Cambodia’s Kandal Province**

PHNOM PENH, 31 May — An unknown disease has killed seven cows and sickened others in Baek Chan commune’s Trapeang Proy Village in Chan commune’s Trapeang Proy Commune, Kandal Province since 24 May and much of the butchered meat has been put on sale in Phnom Penh, local media reported on Tuesday.

The cows, which were from one to three years old and belonged to different villagers, stopped grazing and their legs became stiff before they died, according to their owners. The Cambodian Press Review reported.

The cows showed signs of illness for only a short time before they died.

Cow owners said they ate the meat of the first cow that died and buried its organs.

The other six cows that died the next day were sold to a slaughterhouse in Phnom Penh. The butchered meat was sold to local markets, local Khmer newspaper Raya Angkor reported.

A veterinarian in the village said that the cows may have died of a kind of furuncle disease.

Many cows have been falling sick, villagers said. Trapeang Proy’s village chief has informed authorities about the phenomenon in hope that relevant experts will be assigned to inspect and take measures to cure the sick cows.

**Iraq PM orders state of emergency in Basra**

BASRA, 31 May — Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki declared a month-long state of emergency in the southern city of Basra, the scene of inter-Shiite clashes, as the rest of Iraq stayed in the grip of a surge in violence.

“We are announcing this broad security mobilization for the next month and we hope through negotiations we will gain control of this crisis,” Maliki told reporters during a visit to the port city. He pledged to deal with the Basra crisis, with an “iron fist,” as he announced the state of emergency.

Maliki and Sunni Vice-President Tareq al-Hashemi led a delegation of politicians to Basra to meet with local civilian and security leaders in the city plagued by unrest for the past few weeks that has claimed the lives of hundreds of people.

“A security committee will be formed to defuse the crisis, starting with the disarming of society here in Basra, including the militias and tribes,” said Hashemi.

He said checkpoints would be set up to search cars for illegal weapons, adding that many of the tribes had heavy weapons such as mortars.

“This is one of the major reasons for the chaos,” he said.

**Malaysia to send 76-member medical team to Indonesia**

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 May — Malaysia will send a medical team of 76 Armed Forces personnel to help earth quake victims in Indonesia, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said Tuesday.

The team, comprising eight officers and 68 other personnel, will leave with medical supplies in four Royal Malaysian Air Force aircraft on Tuesday afternoon, said Najib.

“We realize that the number of victims is huge and there is a great need for medicines as the local hospitals there are unable to cope with the large number of quake victims,” Najib told reporters here.

The Malaysian team will establish a field hospital and a mobile hospital in Yogyakarta, one of the worst hit areas in Indonesia, said Najib.

**Australian mountaineer falls to her death in Nepal**

KATHMANDU, 31 May — An Australian woman died while descending from the world’s eighth highest mountain, Mount Manaslu, in Himalayan Nepal, the Tourism Ministry said on Monday.

Sue Fear, a 43-year-old trekking guide from Sydney, had reached the 8,163-metre (26,780 feet) summit of Manaslu, and was making her way down on Sunday when she fell to her death in a crevasse, the ministry said. Fear was a highly experienced mountaineer and had climbed Mount Everest three years ago. She was the first Australian woman to scale Manaslu.

**Flash floods strike Bangladeshi islands**

DIARA, 31 May — Flash floods triggered by early monsoon rains have washed away more than 400 houses in two Bangladeshi islands in the Bay of Bengal, officials said on Monday.

Hundreds of people have been affected by the flooding in Kutubdia Island, 45 kilometres (30 miles) from the town of Cox’s Bazar, but there has been no report of any casualties, a local official said.

The other affected island was Maheshkhali, 15 kilometres (10 miles) off Cox’s Bazar, where some 70 houses were damaged by surging waters and landslides triggered by the rains.

**UAE says kidnapped diplomat in Iraq freed**

ABU DHABI, 31 May — The United Arab Emirates said that its kidnapped diplomat in Iraq, Naji al-Noaimi, was freed on Tuesday, the official WAM news agency reported.

“UAE diplomat Naji al-Noaimi was freed this evening,” WAM quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

Earlier this month, a group calling itself Islam’s Banner said they had kidnapped Noaimi and demanded that the UAE withdraw its charge of an “invasion”.
A giant 2006 FIFA World Cup globe is pictured next to the Berlin’s landmark Brandenburg Gate, on 31 May, 2006. The 15-metre high soccer globe was created by Vienna-based cross-disciplinary artist Andre Heller.

INTERNET

**Chinese scientists find 15 world endangered gibbons**

**KUNMING, 31 May** — Chinese scientists on Tuesday revealed that 15 black-crested gibbons, an endangered species, have been spotted in Nanhua County of the Chuxiong autonomous prefecture of the ethnic Yi group, in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

It is the furthest north the black gibbon has ever been discovered in the world, according to Dr Jiang Xuelong, a gibbon expert with the Kunming Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The black-crested gibbon is among the most endangered 15 wildlife under the first-class protection in China.

Before the latest findings, black gibbons were only found to inhabit less than 1,000 square kilometres of the world, while the species totalled approximately 1,000 individuals.

There are 39 groups with about 200 black gibbons living in central Yunnan’s Chuxiong. — MNA/Xinhua

**Caracas (Venezuela), 31 May— Russia will help Venezuela make rifles**

**Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez said on Tuesday** that his country would acquire a new batch of Kalashnikov rifles and a munitions factory to make Kalashnikov rifles and ammunition after the United States restricted arms sales to the South American nation.

“With a dozen countries in Latin America we need to restart our productive process,” Chavez said, adding that the sanctions were aimed at reducing the capability of his government in the region.

To date, Chavez has agreed to purchase a million Russian-made arms and ammunition. Chavez also said he would press President Barack Obama to lift the sanctions and called his nation’s reaction against guerrillas in neighbouring Colombia.

The sanctions led to a diplomatic freeze with Venezuela, a major US energy supplier and the world’s No 5 oil exporter.

Chavez rattled the White House earlier with a deal to buy 100,000 Russian automatic weapons. MNA/Reuters

**No danger found after San Francisco City Hall scare**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 31 May** — San Francisco City Hall briefly closed on Tuesday morning after officials found three suspicious bags, but the devices were later found to be harmless, a police spokeswoman said.

A bomb squad, police officers and fire officials went to the scene and several neighbouring streets were closed off on a warm sunny morning.

“This happens about six or seven times a year where there is a scare,” Peter Ragone, spokesman for Mayor Gavin Newsom told Reuters. “They generally respond with the utmost caution.”

Several buildings or stores in San Francisco have been evacuated over the past year because of bomb scares, but all turned out to be false alarms.

Ragone said the mayor was not present during the brief scare. With a soaring dome based on St. Peter’s at the Vatican, San Francisco’s early 20th century City Hall is one of the city’s best-known buildings.

According to the Internet

**Kampala, 31 May** — The Ugandan police have resumed arresting motorists who drive under the influence of alcohol in a bid to reduce road accidents in the capital city, state-owned New Vision daily reported on Tuesday.

Over the weekend, 40 motorists were arrested around Kampala in an operation mounted by traffic police. The suspects, who were found exceeding the legal limit of alcohol in their blood, spent the weekend in police cells and were due to appear in court soon.

Grace Turyagumwawere, the Regional Police Commander Kampala Extra, said police had acquired a new batch of breath analyzers to test motorists for blood alcohol levels.

She said the operation that was carried out in the city centre and its suburbs was aimed at reducing the number of accidents in the city.

According to the police, drink-driving and reckless driving were the major causes of accidents as 171 accidents were registered last week, with 61 of them classified as serious.

Uganda is among the top most African countries with the highest number of road accidents and rising alcohol consumption. — MNA/Xinhua

**INTERNET**

**A giant 2006 FIFA World Cup globe is pictured next to the Berlin’s landmark Brandenburg Gate, on 31 May, 2006. The 15-metre high soccer globe was created by Vienna-based cross-disciplinary artist Andre Heller.**

**INTERNET**

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**INTERNET**
Dating back to the nation’s history, the regaining of independence was closely followed by multi-coloured insurgency at the instigation of the divide-and-rule policy and the wedge driven by the colonialists alongside deep attachment to respective political parties and ideologies.

At that time, armed insurgency was rampant in the border areas and some interior regions, strongly affecting the stability and peace of the nation. In consequence, previous successive governments found it quite difficult to implement national development tasks. To make matters worse, insurgents destroyed many of the buildings the government had built and resorted to various ways to hinder national progress. So, the nation lagged behind in development in various sectors.

If those with positive attitude are making constructive efforts whereas those with negative attitude are committing destructive acts, that will cause disruptions to the development momentum of the nation to a certain degree.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government that has to take up the responsibilities of the State owing to the historic requirements, 17 national race armed parties in collusion with expatriates and remnant colonialists alongside deep attachment to respective political parties and ideologies.

In other words, almost all the infrastructures required for national development have emerged in spite of countless destructive acts certain political parties in collusion with expatriates and remnant insurgents have been committing through all possible wicked ways and means designed to make the State get into crises and the people lead a life of stresses and strains under the instructions of their alien masters of neo-colonialists.

Vividly, NLD is found to be placing too much reliance on external elements and committing traitorous acts. For 18 years, it has been perpetrating a wide range of destructive acts including campaigns and protests to create unrest in the nation to come to power and demanding international community for imposing sanctions and pressure on Myanmar at the expense of the interests of the nation and the people. It is so disheartening that it has never participated in the national development tasks but it has been resorting to all sorts of evil means, to hamper the efforts the government has been exerting to ensure national development. Besides, it keeps on hindering national progress variably.

The government, the people and the Tatmadaw have been making cohesive endeavours for national development whereas internal and external destructive elements inclusive of NLD have been constantly committing traitorous acts and disrupting national progress. Such undesirable acts are, in fact, barriers to national development.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe
Myint Swe inspects …
(from page 1)
report. Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs.
Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the construction site of the bridge, and urged officials to carry out construction tasks meeting stringent set standards, take safety measures and accelerate their efforts for completion of the tasks in time.
They also inspected progress of Kamakyi Football Ground and Park being built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on Kamakyi Road.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on proper drainage around the housing estate near the football ground.
Reinforced concrete Kamakyi Bridge will have 970 feet long and 60 feet wide. The 48-foot motorway will be flanked by 12 feet wide pedestrian way. The clearance will be 65 feet wide and 11 feet high. It can withstand 60-ton loads. The earth work has been completed on the 500-foot approach on Thuwunna bank, and the same length of earth work on Thakayta side is under construction.
The construction of the bridge started on 14 May 2004. (MNA)

Duties assigned to realize plans
NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council assigned duties to accomplish the aims set for 2006-2007 fiscal years to officials at a ceremony held in Pathein on 29 May.
Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered a speech, calling for collaborative efforts for accomplishment of the aims, and presented documents on duties to the officials.
Director U Win Maung of the Planning Department reported on achievement in implementing the previous fiscal year’s plans and targets set for 2006-2007 fiscal year. Those in charge from respective departments reported on future plans to meet the targets.
The commander assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Minister receives Malaysian guests
NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met Chairman of Lumber Mart International Co of Malaysia Dato Mukhriz Mahathir and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.
Also present at the call were Director-General of the Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing, Managing Director of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun and deputy directors-general, and officials from the Myanmar Investment Commission.
The Malaysian entrepreneurs said they wanted to establish an industrial zone consisting of about 100 wood-based factories in Myanmar. The minister and officials dealt with investment opportunities and procedures. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint meets officials of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board.
YANGON, 1 June — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint held a meeting with responsible personnel of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board at its meeting hall yesterday and gave necessary instructions to them.
First, Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board briefed on formation of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board and its set up and departmental functions. Responsible personnel replied to the questions raised by the minister regarding the tasks of the Board.
Next, the minister made a speech on the occasion, saying that Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board launched its initial tasks on 1 April and it was set up with Yangon Division Electrical Engineering Office under it. Responsible personnel were to strive for supplying more electric power to Yangon City round the clock and speedy installation of electric meters.
The minister continued to say that they were to take action against those who were using electric power illegally.
He also said that the staff were to cooperate with other related departments for achieving success in their work and need to go on field trips.
After the meeting, the minister cordially met with service personnel.
— MNA

MWJA holds CEC meeting
YANGON, 30 May—The Central Executive Committee’s meeting No (5/2006) of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at Sarpay Beikman building this afternoon.
Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivered an opening speech and Joint Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) reported on minutes of the previous meeting.
Later, the leaders of the respective groups reported on measures being taken. The CEC members discussed matters on preparation for the 4th MWJA Conference to be held in June and others. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman.
— MNA

Minister inspects livestock breeding farms
YANGON, 1 June—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and officials met with responsible personnel of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation (Mandalay Division) at Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay on 29 May.
In meeting with them, the minister stressed the need for prevention against bird flu. Necessary assistance would be rendered to the livestock breeders to restore their farming, he added.
On arrival at fish farming in Kume in the evening, the minister inspected raising of Tilapia fish with cage breeding system and work being done.
— MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
**Cash assistance provided for staff’s children**

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 June—The Ministry of Transport rendered cash assistance for 2006 academic year for the schoolchildren of its staff at its office in Nav Pyi Taw on 30 May.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivered an address in relation to the cash assistance, and presented the cash to the staff’s children of basic education through respective directors-general and managing directors.

Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung also attended the ceremony.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presents financial assistance to a staff. — MNA

**Mayor looks over growing of physic nut plants**

Yangon, 1 June — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with responsible personnel inspected physic nut plants grown by Parks and Playgrounds Department under YCDC this morning.

Upon arrival at People’s Square and People’s Park, the mayor looked into physic nut plants grown by Parks and Playgrounds Department. Head of Department of Parks and Playgrounds U Nyunt Pe and Assistant U Win Myint and service personnel conducted the mayor around physic nut plants.

Similarly, the mayor and responsible personnel oversaw physic nut plants grown in the compound of Mindhamaxa ground and gave instructions on extended growing of physic nut plants on vacant lands and attended to the needs.—MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects growth of physic nut plants.—MNA

**Train launched on Yangon Central Railway Station-Yangon East University run**

Yangon, 1 June — For ensuring better transport of people and students, an RBE train of Myanmar Railways was launched from Yangon Central Railway Station to Yangon East University in Thanlyin at 6.15 am today.

The new railroad section, extended from Okposu Station in Thanlyin, is 3.33 miles long. The rail track is 3.9 miles long. Along the railroad section, 10 small bridges were built. The construction of the railroad section was started on 27 March 2006 and it was completed on 20 May 2006.

The train will run with five coaches. Every coach can carry 160 passengers.

The train will run six up-and-down plies daily. The earliest train will leave Yangon at 6.15 am and the latest train will depart from the university at 7.30 pm. The running duration from Yangon Central Railway Station to Yangon East University is 1 hour and 55 minutes. The train will stop at Yangon, Pazundaung, Mahlawagon, Hninzigon, Thingangyung, Nyamoe-yik, Toegyaunggale, Industrial Zone-1, Kwayma, Aungthukha, Okposu and Yangon East University stations.

A ticket from Yangon East University to Hninzigon Station is K 10, and the ticket from the university to Yangon Railway Station, K 20. Students are to pay K 230 for monthly season ticket from the university to Hninzigon Station and K 460 from the Yangon East University to Yangon Railway Station. Staff of Myanmar Railways sell monthly season tickets to students at the university.

Yangon East University Railway Station.—MR

**Ophthalmologists perform free treatments in Shewbo District**

SAGAING, 20 May — Under the arrangements of the Health Department of the Ministry of Health, a 10-member team led by ophthalmologist Associate Professor Dr U Tin Win of Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital and Shewbo District trachoma and blindness control team performed free major and minor ophthalmic surgeries to needy eye patients at Shewbo Hospital Station in Shewbo District from 16 to 18 May.

On 25 and 26 April, a six-member team led by ophthalmologist Dr U Aye Ko of Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital also provided free ophthalmology treatment to 1,700 outpatients.

Shewbo Station USDA, MCWA, health staff and local people participated in health care services of the ophthalmologists team. Wellwishers and NGOs also contributed to the surgeries and health care services.—Kyemon

**Computer graphics, painting, cartoon and poster contests held in Pathein**

Pathein, 22 May — Computer graphics, painting, cartoon and poster contests to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2006 were held at Ayeyawady Division USDA in Pathein from 19 to 21 May. Chairman of the Organizing Committee Ayeyawady Division Police Force Commander Police Col Thura Tin Hla and members supervised competitions and encouraged the contestants.

Altogether 150 contestants took part in the contests.—Kyemon

**Police Col Thura Tin Hla and party visit computer graphics contest to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2006.**

**Women’s Vocational Training Courses open in Haka**

Haka, 23 May — The opening ceremony of Basic and advanced tailoring, knitting, painting and weaving courses conducted by Education and Training Department of Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the hall of Women’s Vocational Training School in Haka on 15 May, with an address by Secretary of Chin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo.

Also present were members of Chin State PDC, officials, instructors and trainees. A total of 40 trainees are attending the 12-week courses. — Kyemon
WHO issues plan to limit bird flu outbreak in humans

Geneva, 1 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a step-by-step plan on Tuesday, including the rapid mass use of the antiviral Tamiflu, for containing a bird flu outbreak if the virus starts to spread rapidly among humans.

The “rapid response and containment strategy” has a chance of quashing the deadly H5N1 virus only if people in the zone at risk receive massive doses of the drug within three weeks of a confirmed outbreak, it said.

“The success of a strategy for containing an emerging pandemic virus is strictly time dependent,” the WHO said in its latest containment report, based on recommendations by 70 international experts who held closed-door talks in March.

“Mathematical models have indicated that a containment strategy, based on the mass administration of antiviral drugs, has a chance of success only when drugs are administered within 21 days following the timely detection of the first case representing human-to-human transmission of the virus.”

Under the detailed timeline laid down, a country should notify WHO of a cluster of suspicious cases suggesting sustained human-to-human spread of the virus within 24 hours of detection.

A WHO-approved laboratory has another 24 hours to confirm that the H5N1 bird flu virus has changed, either through mutation or through reassortment with human influenza.

The strategy relies on WHO’s global stockpile for rapid containment — three million treatment courses of Tamiflu donated by Swiss drugmaker Roche.

Quarantine, infection control measures and contact tracing must also be carried out.

Once the WHO officially asks Roche for Tamiflu doses to be sent, they should arrive at the international airport within 24 hours, the Geneva-based agency said.

The WHO said on Saturday that it had for the first time asked Roche to be prepared to ship Tamiflu to Sumatra, Indonesia, where a family of seven was infected, with possibly some limited human-to-human transmission.

In the end, the WHO did not ask for the drugs to be sent.

“If we needed to mount a containment effort, we needed to be sure that Roche would be ready,” WHO spokeswoman Maria Cheng told a briefing on Tuesday.

“Even without cooperation we are still at risk, maybe we will even more at risk if we are associated with the troopers,” said a spokesperson for Novib.

“Everyone should concentrate on their own task.” Willem van de Put, director of HealthNet, which is running malaria programmes in Uruzgan Province, goes even further. “The Dutch military presence makes it more difficult for us to do our job. Every foreign soldier provokes more opposition,” he said.

We have agreed with local organizations that they are not going to be doing the dirty work for the Dutch troops,” said a spokesperson for Novib.

“There will be contact, but everyone should concentrate on their own task.” Willem van de Put, director of HealthNet, which is running malaria programmes in Uruzgan Province, goes even further. “The Dutch military presence makes it more difficult for us to do our job. Every foreign soldier provokes more opposition,” he said.

Dutch aid organizations in Afghanistan reluctant to work with troops

BRUSSELS, 1 June — Dutch aid organizations do not want to openly cooperate with the Dutch mission in southern Afghanistan for fears of security risks, De Volkskrant newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The security situation in southern Afghanistan is so bad that it is not a good idea for an aid organization to be associated with Dutch soldiers, Cordaid chief Rene Grotenhuis was quoted as saying. “Even without cooperation we are still at risk, maybe we will even more at risk if we are associated with the soldiers. We are willing to share information however.”

The Dutch aid organizations Novib, Cordaid, ICCO and HealthNet say that they hear from their local partners that the situation is far too unfavourable. The association with troops will put the aid organizations in even more danger.

“We have agreed with local organizations that they are not going to be doing the dirty work for the Dutch troops,” said a spokesperson for Novib. “There will be contact, but everyone should concentrate on their own task.” Willem van de Put, director of HealthNet, which is running malaria programmes in Uruzgan Province, goes even further. “The Dutch military presence makes it more difficult for us to do our job. Every foreign soldier provokes more opposition,” he said.

School enrolment ceremony held, stationery, school uniforms provided

YANGON, 1 June — Organized by Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Command, a school enrolment ceremony was held in conjunction with presentation of stationery and school uniforms at No 12 BEPS in Komminththa, Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division M CWASC Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech on the occasion. Next, the chairperson presented books and stationery to students of families of Yangon Command and viewed conducting of school enrolment at the school.

Afterwards, the chairperson formally opened the library of Yangon Command’s MCWA and accepted books donated by wellwishers and viewed round the library. The chairperson and party later observed spraying of mosquito repellent in the compound of the school for preventive measures against dengue fever.

Daw Mar Mar Wai presents exercise books and school uniforms to a child. — MNA

Huge waves crash on a seaside promenade during heavy rain in India’s financial capital Mumbai on 1 June, 2006. India’s commercial capital of Mumbai was on alert for very heavy rains on Thursday, almost a year after a sharp cloudburst crippled the metropolis for days and killed hundreds of people in the region. — INTERNET
Indonesian boy tests positive locally for bird flu

JAKARTA, 1 June — A 15-year-old Indonesian boy has tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu, a senior Health Ministry official said on Wednesday, citing results of a local laboratory.

"Usually, if local tests are positive it’s also positive in Hong Kong," said Hariadi Wirisno, director of animal-borne disease control at the Health Ministry. The boy, from Tasikmalaya Town in West Java, was admitted to hospital on 29 May and died a day later.

Government officials who visited the boy’s village found that he had contact with infected poultry near his home and his own chickens died two weeks ago.

The boy’s grandfather was a chicken farmer and 40 of his chickens died recently. — MNA/Reuters

Report says over 32,000 committed suicide in Japan in 2005

TOKYO, 1 June — More than 32,000 in Japan committed suicide in 2005, the National Police Agency said in a report on Thursday. It is the eighth straight year that suicides in Japan have exceeded 30,000.

Suicide cases increased in the 40s or younger age groups, the report said, though those in their 50s or older still took up more than half of the total 32,552 people who killed themselves last year.

Men, at 23,540, accounted for more than 70 per cent of suicides, while women accounted for 9,012.

By age, people of 60 or older accounted for the largest number of suicides, at 10,894, down 0.9 per cent, followed by those in their 50s, at 7,586, down 2.4 per cent.

The younger age brackets saw an increase, with the 40s, 30s and 20s up 2.1 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively.

Health problems are cited as the most common reason behind suicides, followed by economic and livelihood difficulties, and family troubles. — MNA/Xinhua

Six countries to simulate Asian naval security drill

TOKYO / BEIJING, 1 June — Coast Guards from the United States, Japan, China, South Korea, Canada and Russia will hold a joint maritime exercise for six days from Saturday, chasing a ship suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction.

Officials said this week it would be the first time China had taken part in such a joint exercise at sea.

The Japanese Coast Guard plans to start chasing the suspect ship on Monday and inspect it in Japanese waters on Tuesday.

Japanese Coast Guard officials stressed that the joint exercises were different from the US-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) because no military forces were involved.

“The exercises are aimed at ensuring maritime security and preventing terrorism," said a Japanese Coast Guard official. — MNA/Reuters
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— MNA/Reuters

Greece, Turk ships avoid row over territorial waters

ATHENS, 31 May — Greece and Turkey avoided on Tuesday a repeat of a 1996 standoff that led them to the brink of war, when a Turkish Navy ship left a disputed area in the Aegean Sea following the arrival of the Greek Coast Guard.

The Greek vessel had rushed to help a Greek fishing boat that had been ordered by the Turkish ship to leave the area near an inhabited island in the eastern Aegean.

It was over that same island, known as Imia in Greece and Kardak in Turkey, that the two NATO allies almost clashed 10 years ago. War was averted after US intervention.

“The Turkish ship has now left the area after the Greek Coast Guard was called in to assist the fisherman,” a Defence Ministry official told Reuters. “The fisherman was within Greek territorial waters.”

The incident off the small, rocky island near the Greek island of Kalymnos comes days after fighter jets from the two nations collided over the Aegean Sea. “This is not an unusual event but given that it only comes days after the plane crash, it is at least suspect,” the official said.

Greek Government spokesman Theodore Roussopoulos refused to answer any questions regarding the incident saying it was a matter for the Coast Guard.

NATO members Greece and Turkey regularly squabble over territorial waters in the Aegean and fishermen often end up in the middle of the rows.

The two neighbours have still to resolve several territorial disputes in the Aegean and the divided island of Cyprus, despite a thawing of relations in the past six years.

Ankara last week of violating its flight information region without submitting flight plans and causing the collision that killed the Greek pilot. It said it had scrambled its fighter jets to identify the Turkish planes.

Ankara said it was not obliged to inform Athens of its flights in the Aegean, saying it was international airspace and not Greek-controlled. It blamed Greece for the crash.

MNA/Reuters

IAEA chief says Iran not an immediate nuclear threat

MONTREY (California), 31 May — Iran does not pose an immediate nuclear threat and the world must act cautiously to avoid repeating mistakes made with Iraq and North Korea, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog agency said on Tuesday.

Mohamed El Baradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the world should not “jump the gun” with erroneous information as he said the US-led coalition did in Iraq in 2003, nor should it push the country into retaliation as international sanctions did in North Korea.

“Our assessment is that there is no immediate threat,” he told a forum organized by the Monterey Institute of International Studies south of San Francisco.

“We still have lots of time to investigate.”

“You look around in the Middle East right now and it’s a total mess,” he said. “You cannot add oil to that fire.”

The recent violent history in Iraq bears an important lesson for diplomacy with neighbour-ing Iran, the diplomat said. “We should not jump the gun. We should be very careful about assessing the information available to us,” he said.

The Bush Administration led a coalition into Iraq in 2003 saying President Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons were found.

“I ask myself every day if that’s the way we want to go in getting rid of every single dictator,” ElBaradei said.

While it was unclear whether Iran ultimately intended to redirect its development of nuclear power into a weapons system, it was clear there was no danger of that right now, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore sends more earthquake relief supplies to Indonesia

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Singapore sent an additional seven tons of humanitarian aid to Indonesia on Monday, according to a statement by Singapore’s Ministry of Defence (MINDEF).

The aid, including tents, sleeping bags, blankets and medical supplies, was transported to Indonesia’s Ailsuopsis Airbase by a C-130 aircraft dispatched by the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

A 35-member SAF medical team has been deployed in Bantul, the worst-hit area by the earthquake, on the advice of the Indonesian authorities, the statement said. — MNA/Reuters


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— Tin Ohnmar Tun B(A) (LAW) L.L.B. (L.M)  P.O.Box 109 Ph: 248108/723043 (For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 2 June 2006


Greek, Turk ships avoid row over territorial waters

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MNA/Reuters
WHO urges govt to broaden tobacco control efforts

GENEVA, 31 May — The World Health Organization (WHO) urged governments on Tuesday to broaden tobacco control efforts in view of the rapid spread and growing variety of tobacco products that severely harm people’s health.

The variety of tobacco products manufactured and marketed worldwide continues to expand, and some new types of products might mislead consumers into believing that they are not very dangerous, the UN organization warned ahead of the World No Tobacco Day.

The theme of this year’s World No Tobacco Day, which falls on Wednesday, is “Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise”, focusing on the fact that all tobacco products are addictive, harmful and can cause death, regardless of the form, packaging, or name under which they are presented to the public.

According to the WHO, many new types of flavoured, “natural” or “organic” and roll-your-own cigarettes are being advertised and marketed. Smokeless tobacco products, such as “snus” and “snuff”, are previously popular in a limited number of countries, are being marketed heavily elsewhere to specific target groups. At the same time, forms of non-cigarette smoking, such as waterpipes, also known as “shishas”, “narghiles” or “hubble-bubbles”, are gaining wider acceptance around the world, especially among young people in cafes and on college campuses.

“According to the city’s environment department research, Beijing’s vehicles spew out 3,600 tons of pollutants each day,” Du said.

Despite having already had 22 clear days per month from June to December to achieve its aim.

“It is indeed very tough (to have over 22 ‘blue sky’ days a month),” said Du Shaozhong, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau for Environmental Protection.

Beijing saw only 11 “blue sky” days, or days with fairly good air quality, April, the least in five years, leading cause of Beijing’s air pollution, according to the city’s environment department research, Beijing’s vehicles spew out 3,600 tons of pollutants each day.

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“We are faced with a unique public health challenge, as many tobacco products remain unregulated,” said Dr Yanmiko Mochizuki-Kobayashi, director of the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative, at a Press conference.

“Tobacco can kill in any guise, regardless of whether you smoke it, chew it or inhale it through a waterpipe, and that is why all products containing tobacco need to be regulated immediately, in all forms, worldwide,” she said.

Results from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, a joint WHO and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative, show that in many countries the prevalence of use of tobacco products other than cigarettes (11.2 per cent) among adolescents is higher than that of cigarette use (8.9 per cent).

In addition, in many countries adolescent girls are reporting similar rates of tobacco use to adolescent boys. This is different from adult data, which generally shows higher rates for males than females.

Spanish students to cash in from govt’s language offer

MADRID, 31 May — The Spanish Government, fed up with the national reputation for not speaking foreign languages, will give young people up to 1,000 euros (1,300 US dollars) each to study English.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero homed in on his country’s linguistic failings in his annual State of the Nation address to Parliament on Tuesday, in which he announced the subsidy for people aged from 18-30.

“I have set myself the task of overcoming our traditional short-comings with regard to languages,” said Zapatero, who cannot speak English but once tried his uncertain French in an address to France’s National Assembly.

English is compulsory in Spanish schools but, according to the European Commission, fewer than 20 per cent of Spaniards can speak the language despite the needs generated by a massive tourism industry and a fast-growing economy.

That puts Spain near the back of the European Union class for foreign languages beaten in the duce stakess by English-speaking Britain and Ireland.

Iran to build 2 more nuclear plants, seeks bids

TEHERAN, 1 June — Iran plans to build two 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactors and will solicit bids within the next two months, a senior official told Reuters on Wednesday.

The tender will be open to domestic and international firms.

The decision to build two more nuclear plants comes amid Western pressure on the Islamic state to suspend its uranium enrichment work.

“We want to build two nuclear power plants through an international tender,” said Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization.

“Iranian and international companies can participate in the tender, which will be within the next two months,” he added.

He did not say where the reactors would be located.—MNA/Reuters

The tiger mother feeds its two-month-old quadruplet liger cubs at Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park in China’s southernmost island province of Hainan on 30 May, 2006. A couple, the four-year-old male lion and six-year-old tigress, gave birth naturally to quadruplet ligers, two males and two females on March 23, 2006, and now they have a total of six children survived, a twins and quadruplets since they lived together in captivity in 2004. Liger is a rare lion-tiger hybrid which normally has a short life expectancy. —INTERNET

An archaeologist takes photo for unearthed cultural relics in an ancient tomb at Chenpo Village of Xiangfan, a city in central China’s Hubei Province. Archaeologists have almost completed the excavation of a small ancient tomb dating back to the Period of Warring States (475-221 BC) at Chenpo Village. More than a hundred valuable cultural relics like copper swords and jade articles were unearthed, from which the archaeologists judged that the tomb owner should be a high-ranking noble of the Chu state. —INTERNET

An archaeological team is working on the ancient tomb at Chenpo Village of Xiangfan, a city in central China’s Hubei Province. Archaeologists are almost finished the excavation of the tomb, which dates back to the Period of Warring States (475-221 BC) at Chenpo Village. More than a hundred cultural relics such as copper swords and jade articles were unearthed, from which the archaeologists judged that the tomb owner should be a high-ranking noble of the Chu state. —INTERNET

Britain’s eagles get year-round protection

LONDON, 31 May — Britain’s biggest and rarest eagles will get year-round protection under new laws that come into effect in England and Wales on Wednesday.

The nests of Golden Eagles, White-tailed Eagles and Ospreys are currently only protected during the breeding season.

But under the new laws they may not be touched, damaged or destroyed at any time of the year.

“These birds nest in the same trees year on year and the nesting tree and sit itself will have protection rather than just the eggs, chicks and nest,” said a spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Currently in Britain there are 16 breeding pairs of White-tailed Eagles, 422 pairs of Golden Eagles and 127 pairs of Osprey, the British Trust for Ornithology said on its Web site.

Most of these breed in Scotland where the nest sites are already protected.

“Whilst the Golden Eagle and Osprey are rare residents of England and Wales, it is increasingly likely that more breeding pairs will become resident,” said Biodiversity Minister Barry Gardiner.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
**Sports**

**Tunisia defeat Belarus 3-0 in World Cup warm-up**

TUNIS, 31 May — Tunisia boosted their confidence ahead of next month's World Cup by coasting past Belarus 3-0 in a warm-up match on Tuesday. The Carthage Eagles harried the visiting defence from the start, coming close to scoring four times before a foul on striker Ziad Jaziri by the Belarus goalkeeper in the 35th minute earned a penalty converted by Hamed Namouchi.

The 20,000-strong crowd only had to wait three minutes into the second half before striker Silva Dos Santos scored a second thanks to a precise pass from Riadh Bouazzizi.

French coach Roger Lemerre brought off Jaziri and Dos Santos before Tunisia completed victory when Issam Jemaa took advantage of a defensive error in the Dos Santos before Tunisia completed victory when Issam Jemaa took advantage of a defensive error in the 35th minute earned a penalty converted by Hamed Namouchi.

French coach Roger Lemerre took Tunisia to the African Nations Cup for the first time in their history in 2004 and has said his second bookable offence, a last minute red card given to defender Karim Haggui for a foul on striker Ziad Jaziri by the Belarus goalkeeper in the 35th minute earned a penalty converted by Hamed Namouchi.

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**France warm up with 2-0 win over Denmark**

LENS (France), 1 June — French coach Roger Lemerre was delighted with the performance of his players, who took a 2-0 win over Denmark in a World Cup warm-up match on Wednesday.

France offered a more convincing show than in a laboured 1-0 victory over Mexico on Saturday but looked nervous at times against opponents who failed to qualify for the 9 June - 9 July finals in Germany.

"Victories now don't really count but it's always nice to win," Raymond Domenech said.

"I don't really have any concerns. I know how good the players in this group are. There's still some fine-tuning to do before it gets real," Henry, rested against Mexico, raced into the box to collect a headed pass from fellow striker Louis Saha and beat Denmark goalkeeper Jeppe Christiansen from close range on 12 minutes.

It was Henry's 32nd international goal in his 77th appearance, which makes the Arsenal forward the most prolific scorer in France's current squad ahead of David Trezeguet, who has scored 31.

Wiltord doubled the advantage on 76 minutes after fellow substitute Franck Ribery, who thrilled the Lens crowd on his second appearance for France, was brought down in the box.

The last time France had played Denmark, they lost 2-0 to make a shock group-stage exit from the 2002 World Cup. The 1998 world champions play a final friendly against China on 7 June in St Etienne before facing Switzerland in their opening World Cup match on 13 June in Stuttgart.

**Soccer thugs jailed in Cyprus**

NICOSIA, 31 May — A football hooligan has been jailed for four months for his part in a brutal assault on a rival fan, which shocked the nation when TV pictures were released by police in a bid to identify the culprits, local Press reported Tuesday.

The footage showed soccer thugs beating the man unconscious while his screaming eight-year-old son looked on.

A local District Court on Monday delivered the sentence against 27-year-old Yiannis Pipis, a civil servant from Nicosia, who was convicted of attacking and causing grievous bodily harm to a 56-year-old football fan and illegally assembling outside a sports grounds back in April.

**Federer, Mauresmo reach 3rd round of French Open**

PARIS, 1 June — Top-seeds Roger Federer and Amelie Mauresmo Wednesday continued their quest for the French Open crown after winning their second round matches in a day that rain interrupted play.

Federer, who is trying to win the only Grand Slam tennis title to elude him, blasted lucky loser Alejandro Falla 6-1, 6-4, 6-3, in one-hour, 28 minutes. Federer's biggest nuisance on this day was the rain that interrupted play twice.

"It's not easy, you know, to come on and off. Conditions are really slow and wet and everything," Federer said. "I was really well in the first set. After that it was on and off. That was a tough day, I think normal with the rain.

"Now that I won my second round, I'm in the rhythm again," added the Swiss, who enjoyed a two day rest.

"It was nice to get the first match out of the way. I had one day extra. I just got to be able to switch now again to one day in between." On Friday, the Swiss star takes on Chilean Nicolas Massu, who overcame Belarus giant Max Mirnyi 6-4, 7-5, 6-4. While Federer cruised, third-seeded David Nalbandian battled for his life against Frenchman Richard Gasquet.

The 19-year-old Gasquet held more than his own, dazzling the Parisian crowd with masterful court stewardship.

After splitting the first two sets, Nalbandian fell 4-3 and 0-40 on his serve but he quickly regained control of the match as the Frenchman disintegrated, falling 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.

France's Amelie Mauresmo advances into the 3rd round after defeating Russian Vera Dushevint 6-1, 7-6, 4-6.

**Chelsea sign Shevchenko for club record fee**

LONDON, 1 June — Chelsea have signed Ukraine's World Cup striker Andriy Shevchenko from AC Milan for a club record fee, the English champions said on Wednesday.

"I am here for the challenge and the excitement of playing in the Premier League," the 29-year-old told Chelsea's official website after agreeing on a four-year contract.

"I am going from one big club to another and joining a team of champions." Chelsea did not disclose the exact fee but said it broke the previous club record of 25.98 million pounds (48.81 million US dollars) paid to French club Olympique Lyon for Ghana midfielder Michael Essien last August. Former European Footballer of the Year Shevchenko said it was the ideal moment to be joining the Londoners.

"I think I have arrived here at the perfect time," he said. "The Champions League has to be a realistic target for next season but it is not just about the Champions League. Chelsea are going for their third Premiership as well and I like the club's mentality of wanting to win every game they play."

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said the signing of Shevchenko was the fulfilment of a dream.
Australian man in court after baby put in dryer

SYDNEY, 1 June — A 13-month-old baby girl who had spilled a drink on herself suffered serious burns and bruising after the man caring for her put her inside a clothes dryer and turned it on. Australian police said on Tuesday.

A woman in Perth, the capital of Western Australia, had left her child in her boyfriend’s care last Thursday while she went to the gym. She returned to find the baby with burns and took her to hospital. Doctors then notified police because of the suspicious and unusual nature of the child’s injuries. Police said the child suffered serious burns to both feet and her left hand as well as bruising to her face and back. She was being treated in a Perth Hospital and was expected to make a full recovery, they said.

“The injuries are horrific and in my years of being a police officer I have not seen or heard of this type of injury before,” police detective Deb Newman told reporters.

A police spokesman said 21-year-old Samuel Marc Barnes-Siddall appeared in court on Tuesday on charges of causing bodily harm.

Counter terrorism drill staged at Bangkok’s new airport

BANGKOK, 1 June — Thailand conducted a counter terrorism drill at its new international airport in Bangkok, the Suvarnabhumi Airport, on Tuesday evening, as the commandos successfully rescued the hostages in an assumptive hijacked plane.

Thailand’s caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra led members of the government policy and command committee on tackling transnational terrorism, as well as members of the Thai Cabinet and foreign envoys to observe the drill, operated by Thailand’s counter transnational terrorism centre.

The drill, including a special mission to rescue hostages on board a hijacked plane or a passenger terminal, was part of the Thai kingdom’s tightened security preparations for world royalties and distinguished guests during royal and state ceremonies marking the auspicious occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s accession to the throne in June.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Thursday, 1 June, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and fairly widespread in upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (3.66) inches, Thayawady (2.68) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.52) inches, Mawlamyine (2.44) inches, Pinlaung (2.36) inches and Minbu (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 31-5-2006 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 1-6-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-6-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 31-5-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 1-6-2006 were (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, (0.19) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.47) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (15.32) inches at Mingaladon, (19.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (21.38) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 31-5-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea, Southeast Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

 Forecast valid until evening of 2-6-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Cash assistance provided to needy students in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee donated cash assistance to needy students for 2006-07 academic year at the City Hall of Mandalay City Development Committee on 29 May afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairperson of the Mandalay Division MCWSC Daw Khin Pyone Win, Chairman of MCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Secretary of Mandalay Division PDC Lt-Col Kyi Thein and members, departmental officials, members of the social organizations, township education officers, school heads and wellwishers.

First, the commander explained enhancement of education sector, enrolment of school going age children and assistance to be provided to needy students. Chairperson Daw Khin Pyone Win and members presented cash assistance to needy students in Mandalay Division through chairpersons of Township MCWA.

Division Education Officer U Saw Tun spoke words of thanks.

Wellwishers had so far given over K 30.7 million to 28,803 needy students in Mandalay Division. At today’s ceremony, Mandalay Division MCWSC provided over K 31 million to the students.

Chairperson Daw Khin Pyone Win and members presented cash assistance to needy students in Mandalay Division through chairpersons of Township MCWA.

Commander meets students bound for UDNR

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint held a meeting with the students to the 41st BEd four-year course of the University for Development of National Races at City Hall in Myitkyina on 28 May.

The students introduced themselves individually to the commander. The commander elaborated on efforts the students have to make to achieve greater success. Officials from Kachin State PDC, Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Women’s Affairs Organization and Education Department presented cash assistance to the students.

On behalf of the students, a student expressed gratitude. Secretary of Kachin State PDC Lt-Col Maung Myo reported on plans for providing cash assistance for the students bound for the university.

Weather Forecast for (2-6-2006)

Nay Pi Taw & neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Some rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).