True patriotism
* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets officers, other ranks and family members in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence met with officers and other ranks of Myitkyina Station at the station hall on 31 May morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Brig-Gen Myint Hein of Mogaung Station, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Tanai Station and officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint explained harmonious participation of Tatmadaw members and local people in realizing the Seven-Step Road Map and carrying out five rural development tasks, extended undertakings in agriculture and livestock breeding and participating in community welfare services. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted those present. — MNA

Departmental personnel to harmoniously strive for development of Taninthayi Division

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of Myeik University, General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence left Yangon by air yesterday morning and arrived at Myeik at 8.45 am.

At the hall of Coastal Region Command Headquarters, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met departmental personnel.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo reported on land reclamation for extending farmland, annually extended cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy for local food sufficiency, growing of rubber, oil palm, pepper and physic nut, and production of minerals.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that departmental personnel are to harmoniously strive for development of Taninthayi Division. In the division, Dawei and Myeik were facilitated with universities, Government Technical Colleges and general hospitals for improvement of living standard of the local people. As major roads and bridges were built in the division... (See page 8)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected progress in the construction of buildings at Myeik University in Myeik. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For emergence of outstanding students

Member of the Administrative Board of the Home U Chit Myaing accepts the cash donation from the wellwishers. — MNA

Commander inspects development of education tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko met trainees who will join the University for Development of National Races at Khabaung Hall in Toungoo on 28 May morning.

The commander presented cash assistance to the trainees. On 30 May, the commander attended the ceremony to mark the 2006-07 academic year’s enrolment of school going age children at Nat Shin Naung Hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Toungoo.

Deputy Director U Tin Hlay of No 1 Basic Education Department reported on education tasks. Next, Bago Division Education Officer U Than Hlaing accepted K 22,057,193 donated by social organizations and wellwishers.

After the ceremony, the commander and wife and officials inspected enrolment activities and fulfilled the requirements. On 31 May, the commander attended the ceremony to mark the World No-Tobacco Day of Bago Division at Khabaung Hall. The commander and wife presented prizes to winners in the essay contest. After the ceremony, they viewed documentary photos, posters and prize winning essay to mark the World No-Tobacco Day at the hall. — MNA

Minister for SWRR visits Shwegondine Residential Nursery

YANGON, 3 June — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung visited Shwegondine Residential Nursery this evening.

Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khaing and Assistant Director Daw Khin May Nu reported on the nursery.

The minister inspected the functions of the nursery and classrooms. He told officials to take care of the health of the children and greeted the children with open arms.

The minister and party also visited Chanmyae-ein pre-primary school. — MNA

Waibargi Myothit enjoys sufficient clean water

YANGON, 3 June — Mingala water pipeline linking Gyo wyb pipeline was put into commission at Waibargi Myothit in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

It is supply of water for Waibargi Myothit and arranged by the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

USDA CEC Member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin unveiled the stone plaque of the facility. The mayor and officials inspected the supply of water to the houses along Bogyoke Road. The CEC member addressed the presenting of USDA membership applications and accepted 3,402 applications of local people in Waibargi Myothit.

The 23,850-foot-long water pipeline was laid at a cost of K 65 million contributed by local people and K 28.1 million by Yangon Division USDA, and now, clean water is supplied to 1,300 houses. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
**Indonesia urges US to respect other countries in fighting terrorism**

**JAKARTA, 2 June** — Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said the United States should respect other countries in their way of dealing with terrorism, not adjust them to US ways and interest.

The handling of terrorism by Indonesia and other ASEAN member countries should be left to those countries, and therefore they should not be influenced and insisted, Antara news agency on Friday quoted the minister as saying.

If the United States was too deeply involved in their intervention in these matters, it would only create a stronger antipathy of countries against the United States, he said here on Thursday. Regarding to the handling of terrorism in Indonesia, the minister said his side had established good coordination, including with the police and military.

Meanwhile, Indonesian National Defence Force Commander Air Marshal Djoko Suyanto said his side would mobilize all territorial potentials as a preliminary warning in anticipation of terrorist threats.

The empowerment of territorial commands should no longer be doubted like in the past, as now it sharpened the focus on the empowerment of the community to enable them to play a role in facing terrorism.

The talks on terrorism will be the main agenda of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Juwono on June 6, 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

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**US troops fire crowd, killed three Afghans**

**KABUL, 2 June** — US troops fired into a crowd of hundreds of stone-throwing rioters, killing at least three Afghans, as their convoy left the scene of an accident that triggered Monday’s anti-American riots, Kabul’s chief of highway police said.

General Amanullah Gozar told Reuters on Thursday he witnessed the entire incident, from the point when a US military truck ran out of control down a hill, crashing into vehicles and killing at least five people, to the clashes afterwards, when US troops opened fire.

“As a result of their firing, one young boy and two other people were killed,” Gozar said. MNA/Reuters

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**Rock fall kills two, blocks key Swiss motorway**

**GURTENNELE (Switzerland), 2 June** — Two people were killed on Wednesday when huge boulders plummeted onto a Swiss motorway blocking a main holiday route connecting northern Europe with Italy.

Police said the two victims had been driving a car with German licence plates, but they had still not been identified hours after the incident near this central Swiss town. “We know that there were two people inside and that it was a German car. The car is completely destroyed and burned out,” said Karl Egli, spokesman for the cantonal police in Uri.

Perhaps loosened by recent heavy rain, several boulders measuring some 50 cubic metres each crashed onto the A2 motorway linking the Swiss financial capital of Zurich to the Italian-speaking canton (state) of Ticino via the Gott hard tunnel, police said. Police redirected north- and south-bound traffic eastward to the San Bernardino pass and said they expected the A2 route to remain closed for possibly for several days as geologists assess the possibility of further rock falls.— MNA/Reuters

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**Explosion at British chemical plant no injuries reported**

**LONDON, 2 June** — British firefighters battled a large blaze early on Thursday after an explosion at a chemical plant in northern England.

A spokeswoman for Cleveland Fire Brigade said there were no immediate reports of injuries in the explosion at the Billingham plant of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC.

Details of damage were not immediately available, but she described it as a large fire. At least 11 fire trucks, two emergency rescue teams and an environmental unit were dispatched to the scene after the incident was reported at 0011 GMT.

“We are attending an incident at the moment,” she said. “We haven’t had any reports of injuries.” A police spokeswoman confirmed there had been “some form of big explosion” but gave no further details. MNA/Reuters

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**Four killed in US military helicopter crash**

**WASHINGTON, 2 June** — A US military helicopter crashed after clipping a TV tower support wire in the southern state of Georgia Thursday morning, killing four people on board and leaving one survivor.

The crash took place as the MH-47 Chinook helicopter was flying from the Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, to Fort Rucker, Alabama, CBS News reported.

Witnesses said they saw flames and smoke coming out of the helicopter’s engine, and noticed the only survivor walking along a fence with a cut above his eye and a few scratches on his hands.

At present, the survivor’s condition is not available.

Authorities are trying to determine whether the collision with the television tower caused the crash or the helicopter was already in trouble.

The US military has not released the names of those aboard the crashed chopper. MNA/Xinhua
Cuba, Bulgaria sign agreement on education, science, culture

HAVANA, 2 June — Cuba and Bulgaria signed an agreement on Wednesday to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture from 2006 to 2008.

The agreement was inked in Havana by Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Eumelio Caballero and his Bulgarian counterpart Gergana Granchova.

Caballero hoped Cuba and Bulgaria could soon boost their economic and trade relations as well. He also said Granchova's visit would improve the two countries' existing good cooperation in the United Nations and elsewhere.

Granchova, who is on a five-day visit that ends on Thursday, said she was pleased with the Cuba-Bulgaria talks and the deal they had struck, which would lead to closer bilateral cooperation.

During her visit, Granchova met with Cuba's interim Foreign Minister Manuel Aguilera de la Pazo to discuss health issues.

Aguilera detailed the Caribbean nation's long list of international health and public education projects.

More than 20,000 Cuban health workers are currently working in nearly 70 countries, including Pakistan, where 36 hospitals have been established with Cuban help. — MNA/Xinhua

Eight US soldiers to be charged for death of Iraqi civilian

WASHINGTON, 2 June — Seven US Marines and a Navy corpsman will be charged for the shooting death of an Iraqi civilian in April, US media reported Thursday.

According to US military law, after charges are filed, there will be a judicial hearing.

A presiding officer of the hearing will then make a recommendation to a general, who will decide whether to order a court-martial and what charges the defendants will face.

A separate Pentagon investigation is focusing on the alleged killings of 24 Iraqi civilians by US Marines in the western Iraqi town of Haditha last November.

US President George W. Bush said Wednesday that he was "troubled" by reports of alleged war atrocities of US troops in Iraq and promised that if "laws were broken, there will be punishment". — MNA/Xinhua

Research shows chocolate can generate electrical power

LONDON, 2 June — British scientists have succeeded in powering a fuel cell by feeding chocolate-factory waste to sugar-loving bacteria, according to a report in the New Scientist magazine to be published on Saturday.

Microbiologist Lynne Mackaskie and her colleagues at the University of Loughborough in England used the hydrogen produced by Escherichia coli bacteria that consumed the sugar to power a fuel cell, which generated enough electricity to drive a small fan, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

Turkey says ship, Greek tanker collide, one dead

ISTANBUL, 2 June — A Turkish-operated cargo ship sank on Thursday after colliding with a Greek tanker in the Aegean Sea and one Turkish sailor was killed, Turkish Chamber of Maritime Comerce officials said.

Five sailors were missing from the Han cargo ship, which was operated by a Turkish ship owner and had a crew of 13, one official said. The chamber said it was sailing under a Panamanian flag.

Search-and-rescue teams saved the remaining seven crew.

The collision occurred near the Greek island of Hydra. The Greek tanker, named as the Agios Artemios, suffered serious damage, the official said. — MNA/Reuters

2,473 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 1 June — As of Thursday, 1 June, 2006, at least 2,473 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,950 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated Thursday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 113 deaths; Italy, 31; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, Denmark three; El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, one death each. — Internet

US forecaster sees nine Atlantic hurricanes in 2006

MIAMI, 2 June — A noted US storm forecaster on Wednesday predicted the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season will produce nine hurricanes, the same as his previous forecast issued around two months ago.

William Gray and his Colorado State University forecasting team said the six-month season beginning on Thursday will see 17 tropical storms, the same as they predicted in April. Of those, nine will become hurricanes and five will be "major" hurricanes with sustained winds over 110 miles per hour (177 kilometres per hour), the team said in an e-mail. — MNA/Reuters

Zambia to produce bio-ethanol for first time

LUSAKA, 3 June — Zambia sugar is ready to produce 20 million litres of ethanol which could be translated into 15 per cent of the annual consumption of petrol of the country, Zambia Daily Mail reported on Friday.

Minister of Energy and Water Development Felix Mutati was quoted as saying that the production will create more jobs for the country.

He said on Thursday in sugarcane-producing Mazabuka in southern province that the move will also help reduce prices of fuel. — MNA/Xinhua

A rehearsal for the Royal Barge Procession passes the Grand Palace on the Chao Phraya River, as it practises for the celebrations on 12 June to mark the 60th anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s ascent to the throne, Bangkok, on 2 June, 2006. — Internet

Zhang Xinyang (L), an 11-year-old college student, views a math mould at the Science and Technology Museum in Tianjin, north China, June 1, 2006. Zhang Xinyang is a freshman majoring in mathematics at Tianjin Teachers’ Institute of Engineering. — Internet

Katharine Close of Spring Lake, New Jersey, poses with the championship trophy after winning the National Spelling Bee in Washington on 1 June, 2006. — Internet

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Katharine Close of Spring Lake, New Jersey, poses with the championship trophy after winning the National Spelling Bee in Washington on 1 June, 2006. — Internet
Russia, China praise US offer of talks with Iran

UNITED NATIONS, 2 June — Russia and China’s UN ambassadors on Wednesday praised a US offer of direct talks with Iran if it stopped enriching uranium, but Beijing’s envoy urged Washington not to put any conditions on its proposal.

Chinese UN Ambassador Wang Guangya also urged the Western powers drafting a package of incentives and disincentives to entice Iran into suspending its nuclear programme to include security guarantees for Teheran in the package, a “carrot” the United States opposes.

Wang said Teheran must be allowed to keep pursuing enrichment research, in hopes of eventually producing electric power. So far, the United States as well as Britain, France and Germany have flatly opposed letting Iran pursue enrichment research on its soil.

Both Wang and Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said it was too soon to speculate on how the US policy shift would affect deliberations on Iran in the UN Security Council.


Bolton also explained the US position to Security Council members in closed-door consultations.

Grenell added.

Teheran insists it is enriching uranium only to generate electricity, a right guaranteed by it the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But Western powers fear Iran seeks a civilian energy programme as a cover for making nuclear weapons.

Russia and China, while opposing nuclear arms for Iran, say they remain uncertain of Teheran’s motives.

The US offer for direct talks came on the eve of a meeting in Vienna on the Iran crisis by the six nations’ foreign ministers.

MNA/Reuters

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Killing allegations may hurt US military operations

WASHINGTON, 2 June — A senior US military official acknowledged Wednesday that the allegations of killing Iraqi civilians by US Marines may hurt military operations there.

Brigadier-General Carter Ham, deputy director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon briefing that the allegations, whether true or not, can have a negative impact on US military operations in Iraq.

Allegations such as this, regardless of how they’re borne out by the facts, can have an effect on the ability of US forces to continue to operate,” Ham said. However, he refused to directly comment on the ongoing probes into the deaths of 24 civilians in the western Iraqi town of Haditha on November 19 last year.

US Marines operating in Haditha have said the civilians were killed by a bomb and gunfire during a guerilla attack on the Marines. But local civilians have sharply disputed that account, saying the Marines massacred unarmed civilians. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb kills 3 Vietnamese children

HANOI, 2 June — A bomb left by the Vietnam War exploded in Vietnam’s central highlands Gia Lai Province Tuesday afternoon, killing three local children and injuring three others, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Thursday.

The explosion happened in Kon Chro District when a 15-year-old child found a fragmentation bomb and played with it by throwing it. Three children aged 6-11 died on the spot and three others aged 2-15 were injured.

According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund of the United States, during the 1965-1975 Vietnam War, the US Armed Forces deployed more than 10 million tons of bombs, mines, artillery shells and other ordnance in the country, in which 10 percent did not detonate as designed.

Vietnamese scrap collectors often saw unexploded ordnance (UXO) for metal and explosive, while small children play ammunitions by breaking them, resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries annually.

There are still over 300,000 tons of UXO in Vietnam, estimated local officials. — MNA/Xinhua

Eleventh US soldier convicted in Abu Ghraib scandal

WASHINGTON, 2 June — A US Army sergeant was convicted Thursday for abusing prisoners with military dogs at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, CNN reported.

A military jury at Fort Meade, Maryland, found Santos Cardona, 32, guilty of two counts of charges of abuse and dereliction of duty, making him the 11th soldier convicted in the Abu Ghraib scandal.

The Iraq war veteran now faces up to three and a half years in prison.

Cardona was accused of making his dog bite one prisoner and harass another to amuse himself and other soldiers already convicted of abuses at Abu Ghraib in late 2003 and early 2004.

Prosecutors also alleged that Cardona competed with another dog handler to frighten detainees into soiling themselves.

Before Cardona was found guilty, ten other soldiers, including fellow dog-handler Michael Smith, have been convicted in the Abu Ghraib scandal, in which detainees were abused and photographed in painful or sexually humiliating positions.

Smith was convicted in March of maltreatment, conspiracy, dereliction and an indecent act, and was sentenced to 179 days in prison. — MNA/Xinhua

Police officers check the car outside the hotel where the Asia Security Summit being held in Singapore beginning 2 June, 2006. Internet

Wanted gangster drops by prison for mass front door.

Alberico Medeiros spoke during a Pentecostal sermon in front of 480 inmates about his years as a drug trafficker, how he used drugs, carried guns and had a huge gang of cutthroats at his command. He says he has since become religious and has abandoned his criminal ways.

Medeiros, who has spent time in Rio de Janeiro’s maximum security jail, faces trial on 12 counts of trafficking and other unlawful activities.

“He may have repented his sins, but he is wanted by the police,” an investigator in Rio, the home city of Medeiros, told Reuters Wednesday.

“It’s incredible that he dares to show up in prison like that, talking about his crimes, and nobody even stops him.” — Internet

Firemen spray water over a “fire” during a drill for accidents in chemical plants in Shanghai, east China, on 1 June, 2006. Internet
**China, Russia to monitor water quality in border areas**

Beijing, 2 June — China and Russia on Wednesday signed a plan to jointly monitor water quality in rivers and a lake bordering the two countries.

According to the plan, they will record the water quality of the Argun, Heilong, Wusuli, and Suifen rivers and Xinghai Lake from 2007 to 2010. The move comes after last year’s heavy pollution of northeast China’s Songhua River that flows into the Heilong River, called the Amur River in Russia, bordering the two countries.

The pollution caused by a chemical plant explosion in the upper waters of the Songhua threatened the water supply of millions of residents along the river in China. Since then, the two countries have been in discussions on how to effectively protect water quality, with the establishment of a committee consisting of officials from China’s State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) and the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources.

The plan was signed at the end of the first meeting of the committee, which opened on Tuesday. The committee meeting is held once a year, alternating between the two countries.

**Indonesia rejects foreign loan offers for quake victims**

Jakarta, 2 June — The Indonesian Government will reject any foreign offer to provide loans for its ongoing efforts to help victims of the Yogyakarta and Central Java earthquake, a Cabinet Minister said.

“We will not accept any overseas loan although a number of foreign countries and international institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), have offered to extend soft loans, we prefer grant aid,” National Development Planning Minister Paskah Suzetta said here on Thursday.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry had reported that assistance pledges made by foreign countries and international funding organizations to help quake victims in Yogyakarta and Central Java so far totalled 47.7 million US dollars from 14 countries and 1.6 million euros from three countries.

Among the countries that had provided or promised to provide the aid were China, Cuba and Saudi Arabia, Japan, USA, Kuwait, Australia, South Korea, Canada and Britain. In addition, Malaysia, Singapore, the European Union (EU), Russia, France and Germany had pledged to give assistance, as had a number of international institutions such as the International Red Cross, the United Nations (UN) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

**Man who ‘sold’ gasoline for $10 charged**

Baltimore, 2 June — A man who police say pretended to be a station attendant and “sold” gasoline to drivers for $10 a tank was stealing the expensive commodity and pocketing the purchase money.

Joseph K Boulware, 41, of address unknown, was arrested 19 May at a gas station in West Baltimore where, police said, he dispensed 450 gallons of gas worth about $1,300. He was charged theft, assault and possession of crack cocaine. His bail status could not be determined late Tuesday.

Authorities said Boulware used a magnetic key and a code that effectively places a pump on standby mode, allowing him to dispense gasoline unnoticed.

Boulware had worked for gas testing companies, which is how police believe he obtained the key and code.

A spokeswoman for Austin, Texas-based Tankology said Boulware worked there from February to May 2004, but would not discuss his employment further. The (Baltimore) Sun reported.

“He asks you, ‘You want gas? I will fill you up for $10,’” said Mohammad Mehtabdin, manager of the Citgo station where Boulware was arrested.

“Nobody will complain about that.”

About 5:30 pm on 19 May, a $71 charge for pump No 8 showed up on the register inside the Citgo, catching sales associate Francis Okondu by surprise.

Okondu, Mehtabdin and three other employees confronted the man.

“He was working that night,” said Mehtabdin.

“Was he going pump to pump, he was selling gas to the people. So our employees noticed.

We asked him, ‘What are you doing here?’ He said, ‘Nothing, nothing.'”

**A dog radio station’s disc jockey Anupan Boonchuen performs with his dog at the studio while playing music for dogs around the world in Bangkok on 2 June, 2006. Over 100,000 listeners from United Kingdom, United States and Thailand clicked through the Internet to listen to the 24-hour radio programme which has been established for less than a month. —INTERNET**

**US leaders worried by Iraq killings**

Washington, 2 June— US leaders have admitted they are worried by mounting accusations of the US military killing civilians in Iraq, but expressed confidence that they investigated.

President George W. Bush is “troubled” by all of the allegations made against US forces, a White House spokesman said. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the Marines would “soon” release the results of an inquiry into killings in the Iraqi city of Haditha last November.

“My impression is that the Marine Corps is handling it well,” Rumsfeld said on the sidelines of an Asian security meeting in Singapore.

All of the alleged killings have taken place in the troubled regions around Baghdad that have become notorious as insurgent strongholds.

**S-W Chinese man given 10,000 yuan for quitting smoking**

Chengdu, 2 June — Luo Lin, a 23-year-old man from Zigong, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, has won 10,000 yuan (1,250 US dollars) for giving up smoking.

The reward was the highest for the Sichuan section of the Quit & Win, an international contest staged worldwide by the World Health Organization biannually. The aim is to encourage people to quit smoking and nearly 100 countries and regions have participated in the contest.

“It’s a surprise that quitting smoking can be rewarded. I must show my gratitude to my parents, who have kept encouraging me to kick the habit,” Luo said.

According to Huang Ying, head of the health education department of the Disease Prevention and Control Centre of Sichuan Province, 2,194 people were screened for the contest, with the oldest aged 91. Some of them had a smoking history of 65 years or smoked about 80 cigarettes a day.

**A resident paddles a boat on a flooded road in Minhou county, east China’s Fujian Province on 2 June, 2006. Heavy rain hit Fujian from 30 May, 2006 and has affected about 498,000 people, China Daily reported. —INTERNET**


MNA/Xinhua
Don’t be misled by false alarm

Ba Toe

Dawn arrives together with the alarm sounded from the monastery at the head of the village and the cock-a-doodle-do reaching every part of it waking up the villagers signalling the start of another day. It is a scene we can see in every typical Myanmar village, where people rise up from bed as soon as they hear the sound of alarm from the village monastery, and begin their daily life after performing early morning meritorious deeds. At six every morning, people offer ‘alms’ to the monks coming into the village in a neat single file, a tradition we cannot substitute with or for anything, however valuable it may be.

On the other hand, slanders, that are nothing but all nonsense, aired by BBC, VOA and RFA at six am everyday are spoiling the fine tradition every morning. Sometimes, I am thinking of keeping myself free from hearing those slanderous voices, that can wreck the life of a person who gets lost in them.

We Myanmars have a saying — “The sound of alarm in the valley, a tramp and a broken-down watch — referring to worthless things or persons. An alarm used in rallying people for social activities, placed and sounded in a remote place will not be effective for the morning. Sometimes, I am thinking of keeping myself free from hearing those slanderous voices, that can wreck the life of a person who gets lost in them.

We Myanmars have a saying — “The sound of alarm in the valley, a tramp and a broken-down watch — referring to worthless things or persons. An alarm used in rallying people for social activities, placed and sounded in a remote place will not be effective for the purpose, besides, a tramp and a broken-down watch are nothing but worthless.” Hence, the saying really refers to worthless things and persons”. The staff of BBC Myanmar programme were born and brought up in this nation. Those people earning their living with dollars paid to them by the aliens, are very good at slamming their mother country and spoiling her beautiful traditions, with lies and fabrications, which in reality are brazen acts of perpetration. Every time I think of the BBC, I always come to remember what the natives of Hladaw Village said — “This dog barking at us too much for just for rice congee would have killed us had it earned dollars. Staff of those foreign radio stations are like termites eating up the core part. Those people in reality are attempting to isolate Myanmar, with the pretext of saving the country.

They should wisely assess whether their daily broadcasts are right or wrong or in accord with the religious teachings. I would like to ask them “Which food is more delicious — bread and butter fed by the aliens, and Myanmar traditional food?” If they see only the meagre sum of dollars provided to them by foreign countries, they will be farther away from the truth, wasting their valuable time for nothing. But if they really love the motherland, they should think about her future in an objective way, while looking back her past.

The mother country after losing independence had to live under subjugation for over 100 years. As the saying, which goes, “Opportunists jump with joy to make gains out of a grave situation”, colonialists made perpetration to divide the nationalities to exploit the nation in every way.

It is true that without any alien instigation, over 100 nationalities of the Union will be living in unity through thick and thin. But that never happened. Instead, the nation saw early breakdown of unity because some of us fell prey to colonialist instigation. Due to the conspiracies to grab power though short cut, the nation witnessed the martyrdom of the leaders of independence struggle. There were political opportunists who ended up their lives after employing various means including religious pretext and armed struggle line to grab power they coveted much. There were also persons who met up their tragic end unknown to anyone because of their misdeeds.

It is shameful to them for those incidents. They should feel sorry for the time they have wasted. From the religious point of view, human life is just a short span of time. And as they get older and older every day, what they all need is to show repentance for what they have done. Good or bad, the result for every deed follows the doer. No one is to blame. The only thing is unity that will save us from all sorts of predators.

Let alone Rome, even a village in Myanmar cannot be built in a day. All the marvellous infrastructures in various sectors that have emerged under the Tatmadaw government within a period of 20 years or so astonish everyone falling asleep during the period.

Myanmar villages are now free from the dangers of insurgents and robbers. Everyone can live with safety. Gone were the days that people had to live in fear. They must see things with positive point of view. The act of clinging to the 1990 election results and using it as a weapon could lead to no-win situation.

Those quarters should abandon their arrogant desire to grab power if they really wish to see their descendants and the posterity to live in peace and tranquillity. But now there are a lot of power seeking politicians inside and outside the nation. Many are demanding the transfer of power. Power struggles will lead us nowhere, but to national disintegration. If they rely on alien masters things would get worse. During the independence struggle, communists went underground, saying that Myanmar was granted a sham independence. The nation had never enjoyed durable stability as there were factional splits due to ideological differences and the armed struggle line as some nationalities began to follow under colonialist instigation. As for us, every time we look at the map of Myanmar, we feel that no other country in the world is as beautiful as ours. We are rich in natural resources, and opportunities are everywhere to do business. The government has built necessary infrastructures for a better and prosperous future.

I would like to invite those elements to come back to the warm embrace of the mother country and join hands with the people for prosperity instead of hatching plots and committing perpetration to destroy peace, stability and progress of the nation.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanmar Alin: 3-6-2006
Departmental personnel to harmoniously strive ...

(from page 1)

region for better transport, local people can easily travel from one place to another at any time. It is necessary to reclaim fallow and virgin lands for growing summer and monsoon paddy, rubber, oil palm, pepper and physic nut. Concerted efforts are to be made for meeting the target production by using six methods. Furthermore, all are to participate in boosting production of livestock breeding, farms and natural resources.

At Myeik University, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected construction of the four-storey main building, the aquarium, the convocation hall and lecture halls.

He met with faculty members of the university and gave instructions on management matters.

A total of 3,382 students are learning 13 majoring courses. The construction of the main building have completed by 90.57 per cent.

On arrival at Myeik General Hospital, they inspected construction of the new hospital. Physician Dr Ohn Myint and officials conducted them round the construction site.

Annual General Meeting of MIDB held

YANGON, 3 June — The 11th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank was held at the hall of the bank this morning with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee Chairman of Board of Directors of Myanmar Industrial Bank Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin. It was also attended by Vice Chairman-1 of Board of Directors Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Than and members of Board of Directors Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Than, members of Board of Directors, heads of department, officials from Central Bank of Myanmar, members of Myanmar Banks Association, share holders and guests.

The Secretary of Board of Directors Managing Director U Thein Aung of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank submitted 2005-06 annual report of Board of Directors and sought the approval. He also read out the financial report for 2005-06 fiscal year and sought the approval of share holders.

Next, new members of Board of Directors and audit team for 2006-07 were elected. The annual general meeting came to an end with a concluding remark by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin. Dividends for 2005-06 can be drawn at Myanmar Industrial Development Bank beginning from 5 June. — MNA

Pre-Primary Teachership Course to be opened

YANGON, 2 June — The Pre-Primary School Supervisory Committee of the Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau under the Ministry of Education held a coordination meeting at its hall on Pyay Road, in Kamayut Township this morning. The department will open the Pre-Primary Teachership Course No 11 at 9 am to 4 pm daily from 3 to 28 July. Those wishing to join the course may enlist at the department beginning 12 June.

In line with the curricula schemed by Social Welfare Department, Education Planning and Training Department and Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau, the training courses will be conducted to the teachers of basic education schools and those who are interested in the pre-primary education. On completion, certificates will be presented to the trainees.

GIFTS PRESENTED: The Hninzigon Home for the Aged held the seventh ceremony to honour wellwishers on Friday. An executive of the Home presents gifts to a wellwisher. — MNA
At the 400 acres of teak plantation, 349,820 physic nut saplings have been grown. The plan is underway to extend 100 acres of physic nut plants. Therefore, a total of 500 acres of land will be put under 600,000 physic nut plants.

The plantation comprising 60,000 teak plants were grown in 1998-99.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended...

(from page 16)

Regional development in Ayeyawady Division discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council held the coordination meeting on regional development at Ayeyawady Shwewa Hall in Pathein on 29 May morning.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, general staff officers, local authorities, departmental officials and guests.

The commander gave a speech that departmental personnel are to cooperate with local people in carrying out regional development.

Officials reported on their respective sectors.

On 30 May, the meeting continued. Departmental officials reported on undertakings on regional development. The commander attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the commander inspected Pathein-Ngue Hsaung Road and roads in Ngwe Hsaung by car.

Sports Minister donates exercise books to primary schools

YANGON, 3 June — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint went to No 9 and No 1 Basic Education Primary Schools in Dagon Myothit (East) Township yesterday.

The minister met the teachers of the schools and presented exercise books to the students of respective schools.

The CEC member also went to No 7 and No 3 BEPSs in Dagon Myothit (Sekkkan) Township and donated exercise books to the students.

Minister visits Yeywa Hydel Power Project

YANGON, 3 June — Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min on 30 May visited Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented by No (2) Construction of the Hydel Power Department on the Myitnge River near Ye Yaman Village, 31 miles south-east of Mandalay in Mandalay Division.

There, the minister held a meeting with officials and experts of Colenco consulting engineering team. The officials reported on tasks. The minister attended to the needs.

The minister inspected the project site, calling for completion of the project ahead of schedule, stockpiling of materials, and maintenance of heavy machinery.

On completion, Yeywa Hydel Power Plant will be the largest of its kind in Myanmar and will be able to generate 3,550 million kilowatt hours a year. The generated power will be supplied to the entire nation linking the grid through Shwesaryan sub-power station and Kyaukse (Belin) sub-power station.

The minister also inspected the quarry, part of the project.

Basic computer course concludes in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — The conclusion of the basic computer course jointly organized by Shan State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee under the supervision of Shan State Peace and Development Council (East) was held at Government Computer College in Kengtung on 31 May.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (East) Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing urged the trainees to make their constant learning to become proficient ones.

The commander and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla gave away prizes to outstanding trainees. The principal of the college presented certificates to the trainees.

Chairperson of Shan State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Thein also presented gifts to the course instructors. The course was attended by 59 trainees.

The commander spoke at the conclusion of national culture and morals course.

Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min inspects progress of Yeywa Hydel Power Project. — NO 1 EP

Aerial view of Yeywa Hydel Power Project site. — NO 1 EP
Physic nut plants grown in Kungyangon, Kawhmu Townships

YANGON, 3 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony to grow physic nut saplings in Kungyangon and Kawhmu Townships this morning.

In Kungyangon Township, the physic nut saplings growing ceremony was held at Wagauktaw Village.

A similar ceremony took place at Kamapa Village of Kungyangon Township. The commander gave speeches at the ceremonies.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Material and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai and party attended the opening ceremony of traditional medicine course for providing health care held at the office of Kungyangon Township PDC.

Next, Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted 100 membership applications from Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Kyu.

Chairperson of Yangon South District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Yin Thein.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Dr Daw Nwemi Ohn and member Dr Daw Khin Thei Myaung presented commodities for the hygienic toilets to the township education officer and headmasters.

Next, head of Kawhmu Township Health Department Dr Sein Aye lectured on no-smoking.

The commander and party viewed Kawhmu BEHS and presented K300,000 for purchasing furniture and materials, 140 dozens exercise books to the schools.

Chairperson of Kawhmu Township MCWSC Daw Vai and party attended the opening ceremony.

The ceremony was held at Tuwlaw Village.

Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Kyu from Township MCWA and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee lectured on no-smoking.


Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Kyu from Township MCWA and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee lectured on no-smoking.

YANGON, 3 June — With the sponsorship of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the Shwethegan offering (gilding) ceremony of historic Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU, Mandalay Division will be held in the very near future.

Gold foils will also be offered to four circling pagodas of the Shwezigon Pagoda situated in the east, west, south and north of the pagoda.

Gilding one circling pagoda will cost K650,000.

Donations may be made through the secretary of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council in NyaungU (Tel:061-60261), the chairman of Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees in NyaungU (Tel:061-60825) and U Soe Win (Sinku Soe Win) of Buddha Pujianni Hismee (9900) Association Office in Insein (Tel:640487 or 640489).

In my spare time, I always help Korean monks with missionary services. (KOREAN ACTRESS GONGWEOKE)

This time, as a separate programme, I brought stationery for the school children. This is the first time I visit Myanmar from time to time to perform meritorious deeds in such a pleasant and beautiful country).

Starting from 1970, she had become a household name in the Republic of Korea for a decade for her role in a TV series “Luck will be on your side if you smile”. She also performed in the drama series that is now on screen in Korea “Desires of Queen”. She added that she would continue to do meritorious deeds in Myanmar.

Singer-cum-actor Tun Tun engulfed by his supporters for autographs said, “I am deeply pleased to exert my services of arts in this activity. In this fair, I will contribute my services to a religious activity. In this fair, I will contribute my services to a religious activity.

In my spare time, I always help Korean monks with missionary services. (KOREAN ACTRESS GONGWEOKE)

This is just contribution of my services to a religious activity. (Khart Si Thin)

I am pleased to brace such an opportunity to do meritorious deeds in this fair. (Pa Pu Win Khin)

I deeply pleased to exert my services of arts in this fair. (Tun Tun)

That will fortify the friendship between the two countries so I am now very eager to contribute my services to the fair. (Yee Wai Yan)

As an artiste, I entertain the visitors here for the fair to be more fascinating so that I gain merits. (Actress Chaw Yadana, said, “I will sing to entertain the visitors and will promote the sales. We artistes have to take turns for entertainment programmes. I am always enthusiastic to contribute towards charity campaigns. Now, I am contributing my services of arts as far as I can”.

Actor Khant Si Thwin

This is a charity fair and so I do come and I am extending a helping hand. (Wai Lu Kyaw)

Zaw said, “I will sing to entertain the visitors. And I will participate in the sales. Now, I have bought many Korea-made goods”.

Ottara Hall in the Karaweik Palace Hotel was hectic with the visitors jostling one another to get things. Buying things in the fair is “doing meritorious deeds” and so, all are urged to visit it and get Korea-made goods such as knapsack, rucksack, haversack, purses, wallets, shoes, hats and a wide range of clothes with various colours and different designs.

That will fortify the friendship between the two countries so I am now very eager to contribute my services to the fair. (Yee Wai Yan)

Thu said, “This is just contribution of my services to a religious activity. In this fair, I will entertain the visitors to help them feel cheerful. I will be ordained on 10 June. And I will make donations for building an ordination hall. These days, I have a lot of time to do meritorious deeds”.

Actress Lin Zar Ni

Myanmar-Korea Charity Fair...

(from page 16)

his autographs for the visitors said, “This is a charity fair and so I do come and I am extending a helping hand. My contribution is part of the drive for enhancing bilateral friendship and flourishing of NLD has links with...

(from page 16)

attempting to stifle the progress of the State and relying on external elements ignoring the internal strength. Moreover, NLD has links with exiled groups and terrorists. The press conference (4/2006) of the Information Committee held in Kengtung on 26 April said that the evidences the government had got were concrete enough to declare the NLD as an unlawful association.

Mohnyn NLD executive committee on 26 April 1991. Then it was reconstituted two times on 6 October 1997 and on 27 December 2002. Unity and cohesion had not been restored in the party. So, it can be deduced that NLD is found to be committing destructive acts under the pretext of serving national cause to harm the nation and undermine national solidarity. One can realize who is constructive and who is destructive — the government or the NLD — if he studies their acts. U Myint Thein added that they were fed up with the inconsiderate acts of the NLD that was focusing on seizing the power and thumbing its nose at the government’s efforts for national development and the interests of the people. So, they resigned from the party. They were pleased with their decision because they would have an opportunity to join hands with the government, the people and the Tatmadaw in the interests of the nation more than those of the party.

On behalf of the 61 members, member U Chit Myaung presented the letters of resignation to the chairman of Mohnyn Township Multi-Party Democracy General Elections Sub-Commission.

Myanmar-Korea Charity Fair...
WHO dismisses human-to-human bird flu spread in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 3 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that there is no evidence that efficient transmission of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus has emerged from a family cluster of cases in Indonesia.

Analysis now has indicated that the virus itself has not undergone the genetic mutation that might mark its development of a capability for efficient and sustained human transmission, the Antara news agency reported Friday, quoting a statement from the international body.

Seven members of the same family in a village in Karo District, North Sumatra, were exposed to the disease and six died in late April and early May.

Disease experts from WHO and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention joined Indonesian health officials in examining the cases to determine how these various people were exposed and what those findings may reveal about potential mutation of the H5N1 virus.

This influenza strain, which has caused the deaths of more than 200,000 birds, is thought to have the potential to spread to other family members, health care workers or into the general community, it has not, on present evidence, done so, according to the WHO statement.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia urges Malacca Straits users to share security cost

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 June — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak on Thursday urged all parties plying the Straits of Malacca to share the cost and burden in securing the waterway without compromising sovereignty of the littoral states.

“There’s no such thing as free lunch. We can collectively achieve the objective of making the Straits of Malacca secure,” said Najib, who is also Defence Minister.

Najib made the remarks while handing over a training ship to the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in Port Klang near here.

The training vessel named KM Marlin, donated by Japan Association of Marine Safety and The Nippon Foundation, will be used to promote navigational safety in Straits of Malacca, according to local media reports.

MNA/Xinhua

Gorillas in Uganda’s national park get babies

KAMPALA, 3 June — Gorillas in Uganda’s Bwindi Impenetrable National Park have given birth to eight babies, the New Vision daily reported on Thursday.

Lillian Nsubuga, the public relations manager at the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), was quoted as saying that “we will have a naming ceremony for the baby gorillas”. Nsubuga said the most recent birth took place on 23 May among the Habinyanja group. He said this had raised the population of the group to 22. Other gorillas were born at Nkuringo and Rushegura, which are open to tourists in Bwindi, western Uganda, where more than half of the endangered gorilla population roam.

Gorilla tourism was one of the largest contributors of revenue to the national coffers, which started in the early 1990s and now sells like hot cakes. Other mountain gorillas occur in Mgahinga gorilla national park, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The gorilla population has increased by about 10 per cent in a decade, causing conservationists to hope that the endangered species will survive. MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Nepali PM quits smoking for health

KATHMANDU, 2 June— Nepali Prime Minister Girija Rana Koirla formally declared on Thursday that he has quit smoking permanently, Nepali National News Agency reported on Thursday.

The 84-year-old Prime Minister made the announcement on the occasion of the World Anti-Smoking Day on Wednesday.

Koirala’s personal doctor Madhu Ghimire said that the Prime Minister had already quit smoking for health reasons, although he formally declared on the occasion.

The Prime Minister has a problem in the lungs and his health condition is not that good because of his age, Ghimire said. The Prime Minister has been advised to go to Bangkok for health checkup, which he is said to be planning.

Bush says Iran has choice on nuclear issue

WASHINGTON, 2 June—US President George W Bush said on Thursday that if Teheran sticks to its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment, the Iranian nuclear issue will go to the UN Security Council.

“The choice is up to the Iranians,” Bush told reporters after Teheran welcomed Washington’s offer of talks but rejected its precondition that it stop its enrichment programme.

Bush also said he spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao, whose countries wield veto power in the Security Council, but stopped short of saying they agreed to back any US push for sanctions if the offer of talks fails.

“Senior administration officials defended the Bush Administration official had said on Wednesday that the Bush Administration believes it has a consensus among key coalition partners to go to the United Nations Security Council.”

Asked whether Russia and China were on board with the US approach, Bush said only that both countries “understand our strategy” and that they agreed Iran should not obtain nuclear weapons.

He said if Iran remained “obstinate”, he would “expect Russia to participate in the UN Security Council”.

Anti-terrorism funds of New York, Washington cut

WASHINGTON, 2 June— The US Government has slashed 2006 counterterrorism funding by 40 per cent for New York City and Washington — two targets of the 11 September attacks — sparking angry reactions in both cities on Wednesday.

New York City will receive $124.45 million US dollars — the largest amount of Department of Homeland Security funding under its Urban Area Security Initiative.

But officials criticized the government for the sharp decrease in funds from 2005 when it was granted about $207.6 million US dollars.

“We’re going to have to continue to do what it takes to keep this city safe and then worry about the money but do I think they should have given us more, I don’t think there’s any question,” New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news conference.

“When you stop a terrorist, they have map of any of the other places or 45 places,” the Republican mayor added, referring to the total number of cities that share the funds.

New York Governor George Pataki, a Republican now weighing a bid for the presidency, was also critical.

Washington Mayor Anthony Williams also criticized the government for awarding the Washington area about 46.5 million US dollars, compared to 77.5 million US dollars last year.

Homeland Security officials defended the distribution of the funds.

In fiscal 2006, the department adopted a new way of allocating funding for certain programmes based on risk and effectiveness of the cities’ plans for the money.

Some of the cities that had the largest increase in funding under the Urban Areas plan included Louisville, Kentucky; Charlotte, North Carolina and Omaha, Nebraska.

Iran not to negotiate nuclear programme with Washington

CARACAS, 2 June— Iran would never negotiate its nuclear research programme with Washington, the visiting Iranian Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh late on Wednesday.

“We are never going to negotiate the cycle of nuclear fuel that we have been able to achieve with the efforts of our country’s scientists,” said the minister, who was in Venezuela for an OPEC meeting, at an interview with the local television station VTV2.

Regarding the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s latest remarks that the United States would join the European Union (EU) in the talks with Iran as soon as Iran suspended its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities, the minister said what Rice had said was just “words the American authorities always repeat.”

In a major US policy shift, Rice had said earlier on Wednesday that “to underscore our commitment to a diplomatic solution and to enhance prospects for success, as soon as Iran fully and verifiably suspends its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities, the US will come to the table”.

The Iranian minister also blames Washington for boosting oil prices, saying the recent price hike was linked to Washington’s “constant threats” against Iran.

Bush on the new Light of Myanmar Wednesday, 4 June, 2006

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P.O.Box 109,
Skin patch helps women with low testosterone

NEW YORK, 2 June — A skin patch containing testosterone can help women with low levels of this male hormone, or “androgen”, according to a report in The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Although many people think of testosterone as a hormone exclusive to men, women need it too or else abnormalities in bone structure and body composition can occur.

Testosterone replacement has been shown to improve bone thickness, muscle mass, mood, and libido in androgen-deficient men, the authors explain, but little is known about the effects of testosterone replacement in androgen-deficient women.

Dr K K Miller and colleagues, from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, investigated the effects of 12 months of testosterone replacement in 51 women of reproductive age with androgen deficiency due to disturbances in the pituitary gland, a tiny gland found in the brain. The participants were randomly assigned to receive either two testosterone patches or two fake “placebo” patches, changed twice weekly.

Testosterone levels increased into the normal range in women treated with testosterone, the authors report, whereas other hormone levels did not change.

Bone thickness at the hip and forearm increased significantly, the results indicate, although there was no change in spine bone thickness in women treated with testosterone compared with placebo.

Portugal’s national soccer players wave to supporters at the end of their practice session at the Josy Barthel stadium in Luxembourg, on 2 June, 2006. Portugal will play against Angola, Iran and Mexico in Group D during the upcoming soccer World Cup in Germany.

INTERNET

Titanic artefacts auctioned above expected prices

NEW YORK, 2 June— An unending fascination with the Titanic helped push prices above expected levels in an auction on Thursday of artefacts of the 1912 shipwreck, including four bronze plates from the liner’s lifeboats.

Christie’s auction house spokesman Rik Pike said one lot consisting of a plate reading “SS Titanic” and a White Star Line flag rendered in bronze sold for $72,000 (38,600 pounds), above the estimated range of $50,000 to $70,000 (26,800-37,500 pounds).

Another lot comprising a plate also reading “SS Titanic” and a postal clerk’s body sold for $14,400 apiece, Christie’s said.

The four brass plates, among only six known to exist, were from a New York family’s collection.

The record for Titanic memorabilia sold at auction was the $123,500 for a volume of Marconi telegrams warning of icebergs, the Christie’s spokesman said.

The Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg on her maiden voyage to New York. More than 1,520 passengers and crew died, including some leading celebrities. About 700 survivors.

“Titanic,” the 1997 movie about the disaster, was the biggest box-office film ever, earning $1.8 billion worldwide. —INTERNET

Scientists discover prehistoric cave in Israel

JERUSALEM, 2 June — Israeli scientists said on Wednesday they had discovered a prehistoric ecosystem dating back millions of years.

The discovery was made in a cave near the central Israeli city of Ramle during rock drilling at a quarry. Scientists were called in and soon found eight previously unknown species of crustaceans and invertebrates similar to scorpions.

“Until now eight species of animals were found in the cave, all of them unknown to science,” said Dr Hanan Dimantman, a biologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He said the cave’s ecosystem probably dates back around five million years when the Mediterranean Sea covered parts of Israel. The cave was completely sealed off from the world, including from water and nutrients seeping through rock crevices above.

“Every species we examined had no eyes which means they lost their sight due to evolution,” said Dimantman. Samples of the animals discovered in the cave were sent for DNA tests which found they were unique, he said.

The cave has been closed off as scientists conduct a more detailed survey.

“This is a cave of fantastic biodiversity,” Dimantman said.

MALAYSIA to select final two astronaut candidates next month

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — Malaysia will select the final two astronaut candidates next month, one of whom will be the first person going to space in the history of the country, an official said Thursday.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to announce the names of the last two candidates when opening the Malaysian Space Centre in Banting, Selangor State, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Jamahudin Jarjis.

The two final candidates will undergo an 18-month training programme in Star City, Russia, Jamahudin told reporters after a brunch to welcome the return of the four candidates who had undergone tests and training in Russia.

The four candidates are Faiz Khaleed (dentist), Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor (doctor), S Vanajah (engineer) and Mohammed Faiz Kamaludin (pilot).

Jamahudin said construction of the Malaysian Space Centre started in 2004, with a cost of 15 million ringgit (4.05 million US dollars).

Malaysia will select final two astronaut candidates next month

MNA/Anthu

MNA/Reuters

Evergreen International Aviation’s new 747 supertanker flies during their demonstration tour 2006 at San Bernardino airport on 31 May, 2006. The tour is aimed at demonstrating the capabilities of the world’s largest firefighting aircraft to firefighters at the federal, state and local levels. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Nicole Vaidissova of the Czech Republic reacts during her match against France’s Aravane Rezai in the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, on 2 June, 2006. —INTERNET
Germany beat Colombia 3-0 in final warm-up

MOENCHENGLADBACH (Germany), 3 June—Germany put the finishing touches to their World Cup preparations by beating Colombia 3-0 on Friday, one week before the hosts open the tournament against Costa Rica.

Captain Michael Ballack outjumped two Colombia defenders to head in a Bastian Schweinsteiger free kick from the left in the 21st minute before Schweinsteiger scored from long range 16 minutes later from another free kick.

Midfielder Tim Borowski came off the bench in the second half to make it 3-0 in the 69th minute with a set piece.

Russia's Maria Sharapova plays a shot to Australia's Alicia Molik in the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 2 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Tunisia, Uruguay draw 0-0

TUNIS, 3 June—World Cup finalists Tunisia drew 0-0 with Uruguay in a warm-up match on Friday.

However Uruguay won a subsequent penalty shootout 3-1 to decide a mini-tournament pitting the hosts against teams with styles similar to World Cup Group H opponents Spain, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine. Tunisia's French coach Roger Lemerre fielded a different line-up to the one that easily overcame Belarus earlier in the week.

The pace was slow with both teams having problems breaking through the other's defence, although Karim Essedihi came close just before half-time with a powerful strike that tested the reach of the Uruguay keeper. The rhythm picked up in the second half but Tunisia felt the lack of Brazilian-born leading goalscorer Franciello dos Santos, while Ziad Jaziri was brought on in the 73rd minute, replacing Issam Jomaa.

Smicer not to take part in World Cup

PRAGUE, 3 June—Czech soccer midfielder Vladimir Smicer will not participate in the forthcoming World Cup in Germany due to his injured knee, he said Thursday.

Smicer made his final decision Thursday morning after consultations with doctors and Czech coach Karel Brueckner.

"It was not easy. It was emotional, even with tears. But it wouldn't be fair if I took part in the tournament not being able to help the team," he said.

Smicer will be replaced by Libor Sionko who has been a substitute of the 23-member Czech national team, the team's spokesman Lukas Tucek said. He added that Sprata's midfielder Tomas Sivok was additionally invited to the team as the first substitute.

Smicer, 33, who plays with the team of Bordeaux, got injured during a French league match in late February. —MNA/Reuters

Italy's Alberto Gilardino (L) challenges Ukraine's Andriy Rasol (R) during their friendly pre-World Cup soccer match at the Stade Olympique de la Postaise in Lune, 2 June, 2006.—INTERNET

"I think it was a really good test for us against a technically very skilled team, but it is not now they should win the matches, it's when it comes to the World Cup," Lagerback told a news conference after the game. "The most important thing to learn from this match is that we need to play more aggressively, not to fall back too deeply."

Sweden in the second half missed the presence of Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg, substituted after the first 45 minutes as he played his first game after a foot injury.

Chile kept the Swedes under pressure in the second half and, dominated the midfield, but failed to convert several chances.

Smicer, despite the presence of Larsson and fellow European star Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Juventus, created fewer further goal scoring opportunities. — MNA/Reuters
End of hurricane season pushes gas prices down

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — With the annual hurricane season coming to an end, gasoline prices continued to slip on Thursday in California and most of the country.

The average cost of a gallon of gasoline dropped 5.7 cents to 3.266 dollars in California, which had witnessed the highest prices in the country.

Nationally, the average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline fell 2.5 cents in the week ended Monday to 2.867 dollars; the California average dropped 5.7 cents to 3.266 dollars, according to the Energy Department.

The latest US average is 77 cents higher than in the same period a year earlier and the California average is 87.5 cents higher. Prices fell everywhere but the Midwest, where the average increased 0.3 cent to 2.76 dollars a gallon, the Energy Department said.

MNA/Xinhua

Ten injured after Toronto subway breakdown

OTTAWA, 3 June — Ten people sustained minor injuries after a subway train broke down and was filled with smoke on Thursday morning in Canada’s largest city of Toronto, local media reported.

The injured complained of smoke inhalation after the breakdown at about 9:30 local time, sparked the evacuation of the Dupont Station and disrupted service on a line for about an hour.

Some passengers thought they heard popping noises that sounded like gunshots and rushed to get out of the car and the station.—MNA/Xinhua

U Maung Maung (Myingyan)

Retired Manager, Myanma Economic Bank

(Age 82)

Son of U Ahhon-Daw Yee, brother of U Kyin Sein-Daw Yin Kyi, U Hla Ngwe-Daw Khin Khin Mya), father of Mr John Hulme-Daw Khin May Kyin (Mrs May Hulme), U Ko Ko Aye-NCEA-Daw Khin Khin Mya, and Dr U Pye Nyin-Daw Khin May Swe and husband of Daw Them Nyun (Red Lecturer, TFC, Yankin) No (30), Thanlar Shing Street, Ward (19), Dagon Myothit (South) expired on 3-6-2006. Funeral at 11.00 am on 5-6-2006 at Yeww Crematorium.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends ceremony to grow physic nut saplings at teak plantation in Hlawga

YANGON, 3 June — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the physic nut growing ceremony of Yangon City Development Committee at the teak plantation on the watershed area of Hlawga in Mingaladon Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe planted a physic nut sapling at the designated place. Similarly, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials grew physic nut saplings.

Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and employees of YCDC took part in 4,000 physic nut sapling growing ceremony.

Head of People’s Park and Playground Department U Nyunt Pe reported on handover of the plantation from the Ministry of Forestry to YCDC, and growing of teak plants and physic nut saplings. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on protection against logging, extended cultivation of physic nut saplings and rubber.

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Myanmar-Korea Charity Fair for the Monastic Education School

The Myanmar-Korea Charity Fair for the monastic education school in Hlinethaya Township was launched at Ottara Hall of the Karaweik Palace Hotel in Yangon at 4 pm on 2 June.

No sooner had Venerable Mok Takhye Eun of Korea, President of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association Dr Khin Shwe and Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asaiyon U Kyi Soe formally opened the charity fair than the visitors were found jostling one another to buy Korea-made personal goods.

In an interview by the Myanma Alin, Myanmar actress Pa Pa Win Khin said, “I come here because the Myanmar Motion Picture Asaiyon invited me and I want to contribute my services to the charity fair. As a Myanmar Buddhist, I am pleased to brace such an opportunity to do meritorious deeds in this fair”.

Ottara Hall was completely filled with the visitors. Actor Yee Wai Yan wearing a sweet smile to the visitors said, “I will sing for this charity fair to be more attractive. Then, I will gain merits. That will fortify the friendship between the two countries so I am now very eager to contribute my services to the fair”.

Actor Wai Lu Kyaw who was signing;

61 resign from Mohnyin Township NLD

YANGON, 3 June — Sixty-one members of Mohnyin Township National League for Democracy in Mohnyin District, Kachin State, including executives U Phaw Jone Gaung Li and U Myint Thein resigned of their own accord from the party by sending their resignation letters to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

A ceremony to present the resignations was held at Mohnyin Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission on 10 May afternoon. The chairman of Mohnyin Township MDGES and members, local authorities. Township Executive U Phaw Jone Gaung Li presided over the ceremony and member U Kyaw Sein acted as master of ceremonies.

Mohnyin Township NLD member U Myint Thein, on behalf of the members explained why they had quit the party. He said in many townships across the country including the townships in Kachin State NLD-elected Hluttaw representatives, township executives and members are now leaving the party individually or in groups as they no longer wished to work for the party, which is sticking to the acts of serving its self-interest and grabbing power.

In 1988 the people showed their unanimous desire to transform the single party system into multiparty democracy. U Myint Thein said in order to actively participate in building a democratic State, they joined the NLD with a view to serving the interest of the State. However, NLD itself has been resorting to various ways to undermine the interests of the State and the people so as to lead the country to become a puppet of others. It is clear that NLD’s acts are deviating from its conviction. It has been sticking to the policy of defying any authority, being on a collision course with the government.

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