Those who really want democracy have duty to work together to ensure peace and stability and progress of State

Democracy has rights as well as responsibilities

Each and every person who favours democracy is to respect the laws and rules and regulations

Special Refresher Course No 6 for university teachers opens

Nay Pyi Taw — Special Refresher Course No 6 for university teachers opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor of Mandalay, deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, the deputy chief justice, the deputy attorney-general, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, the rector and the pro-rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar) and the faculty.

The Secretary-1 said that the present era has seen the State Peace and Development Council striving for the Union of Myanmar to stand tall as an independent and sovereign nation and emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state.

The government’s goal and objectives are for the nation to keep abreast of other nations in political, economic, social, security and defence sectors. National strength, intellectual power and efficiency are required for ensuring long-term prosperity and progress in building the nation on self-reliant efforts in addition to strong patriotism, Union Spirit and unity.

Not with normal efforts but with national objectives covering education promotion and human efficiency development is the government striving for education development. It has been implementing the 30-year plan divided into five-year projects. The third five-year project successfully concluded after exceeding the targets. It is now in the fourth five-year project that will ensure human resources development with the drive to extend health and education.

The implementation of the national education project covers development and dissemination of science and technology, production of academics, technicians, engineers and medical experts for human resources development, development of international level ICT infrastructures and emergence of a constant learning society in Myanmar.

(See page 8)

Peace and tranquillity, development and building a discipline-flourishing democratic State are inseparable and they are intertwined.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Extend fish and prawn farming to earn more foreign exchange

Food, shelter and clothing are the three main requirements for living. To stay healthy and live long, it is necessary for us to have nutritious food such as meat and fish rich in protein. Therefore, in the meat and fish sector, fish and prawn farming should be systematically carried out to meet domestic consumption and earn more foreign exchange.

In Taninthayi Division, Rakhine State, Mon State, Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division, freshwater and sea fish and prawn are being bred on a larger scale. The ASEAN nations are taking measures in order that their livestock breeding sectors can meet the international standard. It is important to export quality products to the international fish and prawn market.

There are more than 400,000 acres of fish and prawn farms all over Myanmar and fish and prawn farmers are required to adopt good aquaculture practice, GAP for short. In the 2005-2006 fiscal year, fish and prawn production earned over 400 billion kyats and meat production more than 600 billion kyats totalling K 1,460 billion. The livestock breeding and fishery sector was the third largest of all production sectors in the fiscal 2004-2005 and the second largest after the agriculture sector in the fiscal 2005-2006.

We would like to call on all those concerned to extend the farming of fish and prawn in order to meet the domestic consumption and earn more foreign exchange.

Mountaineering associations’ get-together on 25 June

YANGON, 4 June — Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association and Yangon University Hiking and Mountaineering Association will organize the get-together on 25 June and will honour the climbers who participated in hiking trips in Shan State and Chin State in 2005-2006 academic year at the ceremony.

The two mountaineering associations invited alumni of universities and those who participated in hiking trips in Chin State, Shan State and to Mt Popa in 1986 and to Mt Victoria in 1996.

The ceremony will be held at Royal Rose Garden on Shwegondine Road here at 1 pm.
China-Pakistan cooperation contributes to world peace, development

BEIJING, 4 June — The friendly cooperation between China and Pakistan has brought tangible benefits to the two peoples and contributed to international peace and development, said top Chinese political adviser Jia Qinglin here on Friday.

"Since both countries established diplomatic relations 55 years ago, China and Pakistan have carried out all-round cooperation and maintained close coordination in international and regional affairs," said Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Jia made the remarks at a reception marking the 55th anniversary of China-Pakistan relations.

The chief reason for the long-term good relations between the two countries lies in the fact that both sides conduct cooperation on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence, said Jia, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

"The China-Pakistan relations have set a good example of friendly coexistence for developing countries with different cultural backgrounds," Jia said. The signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourly Relations mapped out a blueprint for future development of bilateral relations," Jia added. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao signed the treaty with his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz during his visit to Pakistan in April, 2005.

China and Pakistan have maintained close coordination in international and regional affairs, said Jia, in International and Regional Affairs," said Jia, in international and regional affairs. Established between May 1950 and April 1959, the China-Pakistan cooperation fits into the principles of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and has contributed to the common development and progress of the two countries.

The two countries have formed a long-term good relations, with their cooperation in many fields such as the economic, cultural, educational, and military aspects, the China-Pakistan cooperation brings tangible benefits to the two peoples and contributed to international peace and development.

At least 43 killed as Iraq fails to finalize key ministers

BAGHDAD, 5 May—At least 43 people were killed across Iraq as Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki failed to gain acceptance for his candidates to head key security ministries.

In the day’s deadliest single attack, gunmen near the village of Ayn Layla, northeast of Baghdad stopped vehicles along the road and shot their occupants, killing 20 people including seven students, police said.

As violence continued unabated, the country’s parliament postponed its session for at least 48 hours due to disagreement over the prime minister’s candidates for security ministries, the deputy parliament speaker said.

The postponement was to give the prime minister “more opportunity to choose the best and most acceptable candidates for defence and interior,” Khaled al-Attiya told reporters. The postponement came after the different Shiite parties in the dominant United Iraqi Alliance could not agree on the Shiite interior minister. Maliki had originally chosen an independent military figure, but according to Shiite politicians, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), one of the most powerful Shiite parties, wanted one of its own in the post.

Support for Iraq war continues to drop in US

WASHINGTO, 4 June—Support for the war in Iraq war has continued to fall in the United States, with the latest poll finding that 56 percent of the respondents thought that going to war with Iraq was the wrong thing to do, US media reported on Friday.

The May 23-30 poll, conducted by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute among 1,543 registered voters nationwide, also found the number of Americans satisfied with the war had fallen to 39 percent, down 2 points since December.

The growing number of US war casualties has reduced domestic support for the military operation in Iraq, pollsters said. Since the beginning of the war in March 2003, at least 2,471 US soldiers have died and more than 18,100 have been wounded.— MNA/Xinhua

Artists from the China Art Troupe of the Disabled Persons perform an improved version of The Thousand-Hand Bodhisattva in Beijing on 3 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Argentina’s soccer legend Diego Maradona Screams in pain after being fouled during his Indoor World Cup soccer match against Brazil in Jerez, southern Spain, on 3 June, 2006.—INTERNET

A baby crawls towards a football through a plastic hoop during Super Football Baby contest to celebrate the upcoming World Cup, in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province on 4 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Actress Anna Faris arrives for the taping of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, on 3 June, 2006. The show will be telecast on 8 June, 2006.—INTERNET
ASEAN-Pakistan dialogue to be held

ISLAMABAD, 4 June — The third meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Cooperation Committee (APJSCC) will be held in Islamabad on 5-6 June, officials said on Saturday.

ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong will lead the ASEAN delegation which will include members from 10 ASEAN countries, a Pakistani foreign office statement said.

Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan will lead the delegation of Pakistan.

Pakistan was accorded status of a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in July 1997. Cooperation between ASEAN and Pakistan extends to eight areas of trade, industry, investment, environment science and technology, tourism, drugs and narcotics control, and human resource development.

The first meeting of the Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee was held in Bali, Indonesia in February 1999 while the second was held in Islamabad in February 2001. In the forthcoming meeting, Pakistan and the ASEAN will review progress in the eight areas of sectoral cooperation.

The ASEAN, which has a combined population of 600 million with per capita GDP of 4,998 US dollars, is an effective forum of regional cooperation. It closely interacts with major economies of the world including the United States, Japan, China and the European Union.

Pakistan places great emphasis on its relations with the ASEAN and its member countries and has been endeavouring to enhance mutually beneficial collaboration with the dynamic economies of Southeast Asia.

The third APJSCC meeting will provide Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its relations with the ASEAN, said officials.

Japanese researchers say sea squirt could prevent Alzheimer’s

TOKYO, 4 June — A group of Japanese researchers have discovered that Alzheimer’s disease could be prevented by obtaining plasmalogen, which is contained in seafood such as sea squirt, a local newspaper said Saturday.

The researchers from Tohoku University have proved in animal experiments that plasmalogen, which is rich in sea squirt, could prevent the death of nerve cells, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper said.

Alzheimer’s disease causes severe memory loss and is thought to be caused by the death of nerve cells in the brain. It is also known that the plasmalogen in brains of Alzheimer’s patients decreases by near 30 per cent, though the exact function of the bio-

chemical is yet to be clarified.

The scientists fed plasmalogen to rats with the Alzheimer’s and had them search food in a maze. Results showed that the decline of the rats memory and learning could be prevented, the report said.

The team, led by Professor Teruo Miyazawa who specializes in food chemistry, discovered that the internal organs of sea squirt contains as much as 0.1 per cent of plasmalogen.

German DM “horrified” at US massacre allegation in Iraq

BERLIN, 4 June—Germany’s Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung said on Friday that he was horrified at an allegation that US soldiers had massacred civilians in Iraq.

“Naturally I am horrified with this report. The same holds for the American Government,” Jung said in an interview with Leipziger Volkszeitung newspaper.

“This whole thing must be completely cleared up,” he added. Reports said that US Marines had carried out a massacre of civilians in the western Iraqi town of Haditha on 19 November, and covered up the fact. Women and children were among the 24 victims of the alleged killing, according to the reports. — MNA/Xinhua

Seoul to launch “Cool Biz” campaign to save energy

SEOUL, 4 June—South Korean officials will be asked to leave ties and jackets at home from next Monday as a campaign to save energy in summer, the South Korean Environment Ministry said on Friday.

The so-called “Cool Biz” casual attire campaign, which lasts for three months, is part of Seoul’s efforts to save the huge amounts of power consumed by air conditioning units during the summer.

In a bid to promote the campaign, the Environment Ministry will hold a fashion show on Monday. Environment Minister Lee Chi-beom, Culture Minister Kim Myong-gon and other officials will act as models during the fashion show. The Environment Ministry said it hopes the campaign will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and combat global warming by trimming the use of air-con units. — MNA/Xinhua
Germany, Turkey urge Iran to weigh up nuclear offer

ANKARA, 4 June— The foreign ministers of Germany and Turkey urged Iran on Friday to study carefully a proposal aimed at halting work that could produce nuclear weapons, saying it was in Teheran’s own interests to avoid confrontation.

Germany is one of six major powers that met in Vienna on Thursday to hammer out the proposal, which also includes a threat of UN Security Council sanctions if Iran refuses to cooperate. Turk is the only NATO member state bordering Iran.

“A new opportunity is before us. We hope it will be assessed calmly. We urged the Iranian side to do so in our talks with them,” Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told a joint news conference with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Gul said he had urged Teheran to cooperate with the world powers’ proposal during a telephone conversation on Thursday with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki.

Diplomats say Gul also discussed the Iran issue with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice by telephone on Thursday.

“We hope Iran is aware that not escalating the problem is in its own interests,” said Steinmeier, who flew to Ankara for a one-day visit after the Vienna talks.

Steinmeier said he believed Turkey and other countries in the region would continue to back the big powers in their drive to persuade Iran to cooperate over its nuclear programme.

He declined to give details about the proposal agreed. Apart from Steinmeier, the foreign ministers of the five permanent UN Security Council members — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — attended the Vienna meeting.

Eight oil workers kidnapped from rig in Nigeria

LAGOS, 4 June — Gunmen kidnapped eight foreign workers on an oil rig off the coast of Nigeria on Thursday night, posing a new threat to the oil output of the West African country, the biggest oil exporter in the continent.

The workers, six British, one American and one Canadian, were aboard the drilling rig Basilford Dolphin, which operated for the Nigerian oil company Peak Petroleum, when the raid occurred.

“The drilling operation has been temporarily terminated. The incident has not caused any pollution nor damage on the rig,” said a news release of Norwegian company Fred. Olsen Energy ASA, which owns the rig.

“Contact is established with the abducted personnel. The group holding them is seeking negotiations with local representatives of Peak Petroleum. Relatives of the abducted personnel have been contacted and informed of the situation. The remaining crew is safe onboard the rig and is making contact with their relatives directly from the rig,” said the release.

HK Ocean Park becomes world’s top 10

HONG KONG, 4 June — Hong Kong Ocean Park has been named one of the “10 Most Popular Amusement Parks in the World” by Forbes.com.

“We are honoured to be among the world’s best theme parks, and we see this recognition as a source of pride for our staff and the people of Hong Kong,” said Ocean Park Chief Executive Tom Mehrmann in response to the credit.

“We want to extend our gratitude to all those who have supported us, including the local residents and the 75 million guests who have visited the park over the past 29 years,” he said. He said that the park will continue to offer new and exciting attractions as well as events and programmes to bring people closer to nature.

The park surpassed the previous year’s full-year attendance record of 4.03 million of guests in just 10 months and 28 days of this fiscal year.

Opened in January, 1977, Ocean Park is Hong Kong’s unique local park with a heritage of delivering family fun and fond memories. It was chosen by Hong Kong citizens as the most favourite scenic spot in Hong Kong last year.

Library fire destroys rare documents in Albania

TIRANA, 4 June — Thousands of ancient documents and rare books, some of which are of two centuries old, were destroyed in a blaze that ripped through a library in the southern Albanian town of Berat on Friday, local media reported on Saturday.

Initial investigation suggested that the fire was caused by an electricity short circuit.

The fire was put out after 90 minutes of struggle. Berat, known as “the city of thousand windows”, is one of the oldest cities in Albania with a history of 2,400 years.

At least six killed as Russian train hits bus

MOSCOW, 4 June — At least six people were killed and several injured when a Russian passenger train hit a bus in southern Russia on Saturday, Russian news agencies reported, citing the Emergency Ministry.

The train hit the bus in the Voronezh region, about 700 kilometres south of Moscow, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

About 50 people were travelling on the bus, RIA news agency reported.

The news agencies did not report the cause of the crash.

Bomb blast hits Turkish Mediterranean city, 13 injured

ANKARA, 4 June — A bomb went off in a commercial district of Turkey’s southern Mediterranean port city of Mersin on Saturday, injuring 13 people, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The explosion occurred in front of a buffet at Enteller Street in Mersin, about 450 kilometres south of Ankara.

Security officials said that the blast was caused by a remote-controlled bomb in which an explosive device was connected to a mobile telephone, said the report.

Three killed, seven injured as Russian helicopter crashes in Siberia

MOSCOW, 4 June — A Russian police helicopter crashed in the Siberian region on Friday, with three people killed and seven others injured, an emergency official said.

The Mi-8 helicopter of the Interior Ministry crashed at 9:45 am (0545 GMT) when it tried to land at Kemerovo Airport, Viktor Beltsov, spokesman of Ministry of Emergency Situations, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

An unidentified costumed dancer from Bangladesh smiles during the Carnival of Cultures in Berlin, on 4 June, 2006. — Internet

Villagers sit near a Javanese traditional rooftop named Joglo, which collapsed during an earthquake, at the ancient district of Kotagede in the earthquake-hit Indonesian city of Yogyakarta, on 3 June, 2006. — Internet

A screen grab from the news agency MNA/Xinhua shows a handout picture of the news agency Xinhua as it reported that at least two people died and 12 others were injured when a Russian police helicopter crashed in Siberia on Friday. — Internet
Chinese Red Cross extends $50,000 aid for quake victims in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 June — Following a two-million-US-dollar cash assistance provided by the Chinese Government to the Indonesian Government, Chinese Red Cross (CRC) on Friday extended 50,000 US dollars in relief aid to its Indonesian counterpart to help alleviate the misery of victims of May 27's devastating earthquake that rattled Yogyakarta and Central Java Province.

“This aid is a manifestation of our sympathy to Indonesia over the earthquake that affected the Indonesian people in Yogyakarta and Central Java,” Chinese Ambassa-
dor to Indonesia Lan Lijun said when presenting the aid to Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) chief Mar’ie Muhammad at the latter’s office here.

Mar’ie expressed gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for the aid.

The Chinese Govern-
ment had also decided to provide medical supply and other material worth 10 million Renminbi yuan to help the quake victims in Yogyakarta and Central Java.

“We will use the aid to help 40,000 to 50,000 quake victims in Yogyakarta and Central Java,” he said.

Zanzibar calls off free health care services

DAR ES SALAAM, 4 June — Zanzibar has put an end to free public health care services that have operate for more than four decades in hope of improving the services with financial contributions from the public.

Yet children under five, pregnant women, the disabled and HIV/AIDS patients have been exempted from paying for their visits to health centres and clinics, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

The local authorities will also heed the World Health Organization advice that diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy and other communicable diseases be treated free of charge.

Residents on the Indian Ocean archipelago started waiting in long queues to be attended to free of charge.

Four Chinese-Malaysians killed in N China traffic accident

TAIYUAN, 4 June — At least four Chinese with Malaysian nationalities were killed and 14 others injured in a traffic accident Friday evening in north China’s Shanxi Province, local government sources said Saturday.

Four of the passengers were killed on the spot, three seriously injured, including the tour guide, and 11 others got slight wounds, according to the latest information of the Shanxi provincial government.

The accident took place at about 7:30 pm on Friday when a passenger bus carrying 17 Chinese-Malaysian tourists fell into a ravine at a section of the No 320 provincial trunk road in Wenshui County, about 80 kilometres southwest to the provincial capital of Taiyuan.

All the injured have been hospitalized.

The 17 were having a photographic tour in Shansi and the neigh-
bouring Shaanxi Province while seeking family roots.

The bus, owned by the Taiyuan-registered Kanghua Travel Agency, was on a return trip to Taiyuan after it failed to reach the original destination of a renowned mountainous resort because of heavy rain and traffic jam.

Initial investigation blamed the accident on speeding and the mal-operation of the bus driver, who has suspectedly run away. Senior local officials have rushed to the site of the accident. Investigation and search-ing for the missing driver is underway.

An environmental activist gestures in the central Indian city of Bhopal on 4 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Four energy firms awarded blocks in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 June — Four foreign energy companies got rights to explore oil and gas blocks in Indonesia, with the contract value reaching 203 million US dollars, local media reported on Saturday.

US giant Exxon Mobil won the rights to explore the Surumana block in Makassar Strait and Marathon Petroleum Indonesia got the rights to explore Pasang Kayu, also in that area, Novian Thaib, an Energy Ministry official was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

Meanwhile, Malaysia’s Petronas got exploration rights for the offshore Lampung II block in the southern part of Sumatra and Husky Energy got offshore East Bawean II block in East Java Province, he added.

The official said that the blocks had potential for hydrocarbon findings.

Five civilians wounded in bomb blast in Dujail

TIKRIT (Iraq), 14 June — Five people were wounded in a bomb explosion in the northern Iraqi town of Dujail on Saturday, a local police source said.

A bomb planted in a parking minibus near the main market of Dujail went off at about 11:30 am (0730 GMT), wounding five civilians, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The wounded were taken to hospital, the source added.

Dujail, some 60 kilometres north of Baghdad, was the scene of a failed assassination attempt against former president Saddam Hussein in 1982.

Meanwhile, seven policemen were killed and ten others wounded when gun-men opened fire at a checkpoint near the entrance of Baquba, some 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, the police said.
Recently we made a pilgrimage to Rakhine State where there are many ancient pagodas. We went there on board MV Hakha of the Myanmar Five Star Line. Along the coast, I was captivated by the natural beauties in Myanmar’s territorial waters. It was encouraging to see hundreds of trawlers fishing off the coast near the row of L Argutar rock that goes around Cape of Negarai of the Bay of Bengal. By the time we arrived at Mawtinsun, we noticed the Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches, Myanmar’s famous beach resorts which draw the attention of hundreds of foreign tourists yearly.

On arrival at Sittway, we were transferred to Malikha Vessel of the Malikha Transportation Ltd bound for MraukU. The town is situated in a strategic place near Kissapanadi Plain and Insananadi (Laymyo) Plain surrounded by mountain ranges and creeks and streams. The city walls and moats were built with locally-produced sand and gravel. Being formed systematically, MraukU is safe, and its harbour towns — Aungdat and Paungdok are commercially successful thanks to the Kissapanadi and Laymyo rivers.

On the mountain ranges and in the large plains around MraukU, there are a large number of ancient pagodas, temples and monasteries. In some places in the region, there are many clusters of pagodas. However, with the passage of time, many historic pagodas and temples deteriorated. The pagodas and temples still in good condition reflect the national prestige and integrity and cultural heritage.

Rakhine State is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources. It is making good economic progress in the tourism industry through fine beaches, offshore and coastal fishing, breeding of fish and prawn, beach resorts and many archaeological monuments. In addition, it has bright prospects for good business in agriculture and others. Now, it is pursuing its targets of putting 100,000 acres under rubber and 500,000 acres under physic nut alongside pepper and other suitable crops in three years. A huge gas deposit has been discovered off the Rakhine coast, and that enhances the prospects of economic development of Rakhine State.

At the meeting held at Maha Bandoola Hall in Sittway Station on 12 April 2006, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “The purpose of our tour is to assess the conditions of Rakhine State and to take necessary measures for greater development of the region. The government has exerted great efforts to complete the Yangon-An-Sittway Highway for progress and better transport of the region, and now local people have easy access to other states and divisions through the facility. Moreover, Kyaukpyu-Yangon Highway is under construction through mangrove forests and Byu forests. So, like Yangon-Sittway Union Highway, there will emerge Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Union Highway soon. The government is investing heavily in the highway projects including river and creek-crossing bridges for Rakhine State”.

The total length of the roads in Rakhine State has now increased to more than 970 miles from 448 miles in 1988. The transport facility launched first in Rakhine State is passing 530-mile Sittway-An-Yangon Highway passing many rivers, creeks and mountain ranges.

In the past, Rakhine State had to rely on waterways and airways to communicate with other states and divisions. Now, there have emerged three gateways to Rakhine State — 535-mile Yangon-An-Sittway Road, 407-mile Yangon-Taungup-Kyaunkpyu Road and 233-mile Yangon-Ngathaingchaung-Gwa-Thanwde Road.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, over 400-mile Kyaukpyu-Taungup-Yangon Road Project was launched in 2001. In order to complete the project, a 20-mile section on swamp portion between Kyaunkpyu and Ma-ei had to be built with great efforts along with ten over-180-foot bridges.

Furthermore, 413-mile Sittway-An-Ma-ei-Taungup-Thanwde-Kyeintali-Gwa Road has emerged along the coast in the region. In the past, the distance between Sittway and Gwa was not feasible at all by car. Yanbye region has a brighter future for further progress with Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road, Kyaunkpyu Offshore Port that will emerge soon, and gas exploration fields.

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(from page 1)

He said what is important is high morale. He also spoke at length on efforts to promote the education of students and related fields.

He said it is a tradition that Myanmar peoples have established nation of development with high cultural standard throughout successive historical periods. They also had ability to build united city states hand in hand with all national races. Making use of historical traditions, good qualities and morale, the faculty members can build a modern developed nation on its own strength in combination modern technology and application of arts and science.

Nowadays, the government is making efforts for all-round development in every sector and implement the various projects for equal development of all parts of the Union. The government is also building infrastructures such as factories and workshops, irrigation networks, modern airfields, Union Highways, bridges, hospitals and universities and colleges of international standard.

The universities and colleges produce highly qualified human resources that can bring about regional development with the application of the related fields so that a modern developed nation will surely emerge.

He urged the faculty members to do research on natural resources, unexplored resources in the interest of regions and to exchange experiences on related fields with higher institutions in foreign countries and to apply the results in practical fields.

Water-supply pipe laid in Dawbon

YANGON, 5 June—An eight-inch pipe was laid in Dawbon, Yagon Division, to supply water from Ngamoeyeik and Gyoobyu reservoirs to four wards in the town.

Central Executive Committee members of Union Solidarity and Development Association Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa laid the pipe to launch the project that will supply water to No 1, No 2, Zeyathiri and Thinhawkyin wards.

The project is being implemented by Dawbon Township USDA. At the dhammayon in the town, the mayor accepted 504 membership applications of USDA of the four wards. He also delivered an address at the ceremony. MNA

Changes under way according to education vision to serve people and nation

He spoke of the need for them to improve the various fields.

It is incumbent upon all the citizens including faculty members to strive for the development of the State in order to catch up with the changing world. In particular, teachers and academics from the education field are urged to work hard for the country as education overweighs all other sectors.

The Secretary-1 said the government is trying to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the wishes of the people by implementing profound step-by-step programmes. Peace and tranquility, development and building a discipline-flourishing democratic State are inseparable and they are intertwined. So, those who really want democracy have the duty to work together to ensure peace and stability and progress of the State. Every country has accepted a phenomenon that democracy has rights as well as responsibilities. Therefore, each and every person who favours democracy is to respect the laws and rules and regulations of the State and community’s code of ethics. All the citizens are to strive to ensure peace and stability of the State, rule of law and national development while enjoying social rights entrusted by the State within the framework of law.

He went on to say that in shaping a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation, the people need to make cooperation in relation to wisdom and education. Only when the people have good knowledge and experiences, will they be able to overcome all the obstacles and achieve the national goal.

He said it is a tradition that Myanmar peoples have established nation of development with high cultural standard throughout successive historical periods. They also had ability to build united city states hand in hand with all national races. Making use of historical traditions, good qualities and morale, the faculty members can build a modern developed nation on its own strength in combination modern technology and application of arts and science.

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He urged the faculty members to do research on natural resources, unexplored resources in the interest of regions and to exchange experiences on related fields with higher institutions in foreign countries and to apply the results in practical fields.

Only when the people have good knowledge and experiences, will they be able to overcome all the obstacles and achieve the national goal. So, to enable the country to achieve its national goal, all faculty members are to work for the promotion of national education and development of human resources with nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit.

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Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets trainees of the special refresher course No 6 for university teachers at CICS (Upper Myanmar).—MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice Mayor Col Maung Pa lay a pipe to supply water to Dawbon Township from Gyoobyu reservoir.—VCDC

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets trainees of the special refresher course No 6 for university teachers at CICS (Upper Myanmar).—MNA

MNA
Yangon Division Peace and Development Council meets

YANGON, 5 June—
Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held its working coordination meeting in conjunction with a ceremony to assign duties for 2006-2007 plan at the meeting hall of YDPDC on Bank Street in Kyauktada Township at 2 pm today with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

In his address, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win explained matters on progress of plans laid down by the government in 2005-2006 and plans to be implemented in 2006-2007.

Next, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi reported on guidance of the Head of State. Afterwards, Director of Yangon Division Planning Department Daw Khin Win Kyi reported on GDP of Yangon Division, Deputy Manager of Yangon Division Myanma Agriculture Service U Win Myint on progress in implementation of agricultural tasks and Head of Yangon Division MPF Police Col Hla Min on matters related to crime reduction.

Next, the Commander assigned duties for 2006-2007 plan to the chairman of the District Peace and Development Councils individually. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Management course opens

YANGON, 5 June—Management Department of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization opened a management course at Thanyin Township PDC office in Yangon South District this morning.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Wai made an opening speech on the occasion. A total of 52 trainees of the townships in Yangon South District are attending a one-week course.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents orders of assigning duties for 2006-2007 to an officer. — MNA

World Environment Day observed in Mandalay

YANGON, 5 June—
The World Environment Day organized by National Commission for Environmental Affairs was observed at Sedona Hotel Mandalay City this morning.

Present were Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, Chairman of NCEA Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of departments, rectors, professors and officials of social organizations.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung said the slogan for 2006 the World Environment Day was “Don’t Desert Drylands!” Mandalay is in the dry zone where Dry Zone Greening Department is situated. That was why Mandalay was chosen for observance of the World Environment Day. He said the slogan for this year pointed out the conservation of drylands, 40 per cent of the surface of the world. The major cause of desertification was deforestation. Over cultivation, over-use of pasture land, mismanagement on land use, drought and loss of soil due to erosion, he said.

He said hot and dry region of central part of Myanmar is about ten per cent of the area of the country. Realizing the importance of conservation of soil, the Ministry of Forestry launched three-year nine district greening project in 1994. Later, Dry Zone Greening Department was constituted and the department upgraded its tasks.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung said Myanmar has drafted the national tasks to combat desertification. All the nations have to handle the issue of conservation of environment, the major challenge to all. Economic development and quality of life will not exist forever without the conservation of environment.

Five nuns of Sanana hero honoured

YANGON, 5 June—Five nuns namely Ma Nila Thein, Ma Thunanda, Ma Nyana Thein, Ma Marla Htiiyi and Ma Yuzana Thein, who were honoured at Thikhitayama, were presented consolation prizes by the Commander, the acting Coordinator of UNDP, and the Coordinator of UNDP Myanmar.

First, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Maha Aungmyayzonzan. The committee presented consolation prizes to the monks of Sangha.

Next, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khan Than Nwe and wife of the minister of the Ministry of Energy, Daw Khin Mar Aye and service personnel offered provisions to members of Sangha.

After the ceremony, wellwishers offered provisions to five outstanding nuns. — MNA

All the nations have to handle the issue of conservation of environment, the major challenge to all. Economic development and quality of life will not exist forever without the conservation of environment.

It was followed by entertainment programmes to mark the Day. — MNA

The New Light of Myanmar Tuesday, 6 June, 2006 9
**Minister meets management committee members from ten industrial zones**

**YANGON, 5 June** — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board and responsible personnel arrived at Management Committee Office of East Dagon yesterday and they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and responsible personnel.

First, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein reported to the minister on generation and distribution of power in 10 industrial zones in Yangon East District, cooperative measures with industrialists for realization of objectives laid down by the Government, electrical requirements necessary for the industrial zones. Next, management committee members also reported to the minister on roles of industrial zone-wise and prompt permission of transformers necessary for the industrial zones and power meters.

Regarding the reports, the minister gave instructions on implementation of project tasks for power supply and measures to be taken for generation and distribution of power harmoniously and duty assignments given to Yangon City Electric Power Board for supply of electricity in Yangon round the clock.

Afterwards, Chief Engineer of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Tin Aung reported on construction of sub-power stations while Deputy Chief Engineer U Tin Aye reported on measures to be taken for distribution of power supply for security of industrial zones.

Deputy Director-General of Electric Power Department U Saw Win later reported on arrangements to be made for supply of more electricity and the minister met with committee members from 10 industrial zones in Yangon East District. — MNA

**Heroin seized at Yangon International Airport**

**YANGON, 5 June** — The government is making all-out efforts for eradication of narcotic drugs as drug menace poses a grave danger to the entire mankind. Myanmar is co-operating with international community and countries in the region in the fight against drugs. And remarkable progress has been made in this regard. Myanmar has been able to bust even a big drug gang that is interrelated with international drug rings. Myanmar with or without foreign assistance will continue making strenuous efforts in the fight against drugs based on its own resources.

Heroin was seized from a passenger who was bound for Bangkok at Yangon International Airport at 8.25 am on 22 May.

Kuo Mei Ling, 26, of China (Taipei) who was about to board TG-304 Flight of Thai Airways was seized near the departure gate. Heroin was seized from her body. Heroin was of 0.85 kilo in weight.

**Iran warns oil flow to be affected if US makes wrong step**

**TEHERAN, 5 June** — Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that if the United States makes a “wrong step” over Iran, oil flow in the region would be affected.

“You (Washington) make a wrong step over Iran, energy flow in the region will certainly be endangered,” Khamenei said in a speech broadcast on state television.

Khamenei also declared that Iran would not give up its right to peaceful nuclear energy.

Iran is close to the Hormuz Strait, which is a strategic waterway that controls oceangoing traffic to and from the oil-rich Gulf states.

Iran, a member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), is the world’s fourth largest oil producing country.

Khamenei made the threat one day after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Teheran was ready to hold “fair and unconditional” talks with the West over Iran’s nuclear issue.

Ahmadinejad also said that Iran would decide, on the basis of Iran’s national interests, on a new European proposal aimed to solve the standoff over the nuclear issue.

Foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the US, France, Britain, Russia and China — plus Germany agreed Thursday upon the European offer of incentives if Iran halts uranium enrichment and punishments if Teheran does not comply. — MNA/Xinhua

**Children provided stipend, outstanding police members awarded**

**YANGON, 5 June** — The offsprings of police members and staff of the office of Police Commander of Yangon Division were provided stipend and the outstanding police members were presented prizes at the office of Police Commander of Yangon Division this morning.

Police Commander of the division Police Col Hla Min explained the purpose of providing cash assistance and matters on prevention against crimes.

Police Col Hla Min presented K 2.83 million to the children of police members and staff and K 200,000 to the outstanding police members. — MNA

**Attorney-General’s Office offers ‘soon’ to a member of the Sangha.**

**YANGON, 5 June** — The Attorney-General’s Office offered K 50,000 to members of Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) this morning.

Present on the occasion were Pro-rector Sayadaw of SPSU Agga Maha Gathavacaka Pandita Bhadhantha Ullama, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, wife of Vice-Attorney- General U Myint Naing, Deputy Director-General U Tin Myint and wife, directors and service personnel of Attorney-General’s Office.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Pro-rector Sayadaw and wellwishers offered provisions to members of Sangha.

Next, Deputy Director-General U Tin Myint presented cash donation K 50,000 for a day’s soon. Afterwards, the congregation shared merits gained. — MNA

**Annan decrees killing, abductions of Russian diplomats in Iraq**

**UNITED NATIONS, 5 June** — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced on Saturday the slaying of a Russian diplomat and the kidnapping of four other Russian diplomats,” UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

“He offers his condolences to the outstanding police officer. — YANGON DIVISION MPF
China, Kazakhstan begin building border trade zone

Urumqi, 5 June — Construction began on Saturday on the Chinese side of a cross-border trade zone between China and Kazakhstan at Korgas in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China.

The China-Kazakhstan Korgas International Border Cooperation Centre was the next strategic cooperation project after the cross-border oil pipelines between the two countries, according to Kazak Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Shkolnik.

The centre would help promote economic and trade ties between the two countries, he said during a trip to Xinjiang in April.

The centre involves a total investment of eight to 10 billion yuan (1 billion to 1.25 billion US dollars) and is expected to open in five to seven years, said Liang Xinyuan, director of the centre’s administration.

The central area of the zone covers 1.2 square kilometres in Kazakhstan and 3.43 square kilometres in China, and an auxiliary area will cover another 9.73 square kilometres in China.

Kazakhstan started the construction on its side in March.

Liang said the centre would showcase and sell products from the two countries, and promote tourism and cultural exchanges.

Kidnapped foreign oil workers in Nigeria released

Abuja, 5 June — The eight foreign oil workers held hostage on Friday were released in the early hours of Sunday, Nigerian Police spokesman Haz Iwendi said here on Sunday.

The hostages were released to Bayelsa State Governor Goodluck Jonathan in the state capital Yenagoa, he said, adding that they were “in good health and on their way to Abuja (Nigerian capital) where they are expected to meet with President Olusegun Obasanjo”.

Iwendi said credit for the release must go to the Nigerian federal government, the Bayelsa state government and country’s security forces which brokered the peace that led to the hostages becoming free men.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (675)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (675) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 5.6.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the Claims Day.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES (PTE) LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (80706)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (80706) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 5.6.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the Claims Day.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Brazilian President announces $900m refinery investment
SAO PAULO, 4 June—Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced on Friday a 900-million-US-dollar investment to enlarge and modernize a refinery owned by the energy company Petrobras in Sao Paulo State.

The investment will improve the Henrique Lave refinery, Petrobras’ fourth largest, based in Sao Jose dos Campos. Speaking at a ceremony at the refinery, Lula said he was proud that Brazil had achieved oil production self-sufficiency this year, adding that the country would become a world energy power and a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

“Whether they wish it or not, we will be the world’s greatest energy power, independent of who is in charge,” he said. “I am proud to be Brazil’s President and to see a company like Petrobras become self-sufficient. Soon we will join OPEC in exporting the product,” he said.

The new developments would make Brazil more independent, and as a result his country would not need to battle Bolivia, the United States and Iran, the President said.

The company, which had a lot of assets in Bolivia, is currently in conflict with Bolivia after President Evo Morales nationalized the country’s gas and petroleum reserves on 1 May.

Refinery work would begin in the second quarter of 2006, and the new facilities would begin operations in 2009, the company said. The refinery would generate 10,000 direct and indirect jobs, and also boost the capacity, efficiency, quality and security of Brazilian gasoline supplies.

Petrobras also said that 77 per cent of the money would be used to buy equipment and ensure that the processes used at the plant protected the environment.

As well as extracting greater volumes of gasoline from Brazil’s extra heavy crude, the refinery will also produce useful byproducts including gas, diesel and naptha.

Petrobras was highly qualified to compete with any other company thanks to its high technology and the professionalism of its staff, Lula added.

Venezuela accuses Peru of hiring impostor in anti-Chavez campaign
CARACAS, 4 June—Venezuela’s Foreign Ministry said on Friday that Peruvian president and one of the country’s presidential candidates had hired a fake military officer in a campaign to discredit Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez.

The Ministry said in a statement that Peru’s outgoing President Alejandro Toledo and the presidential candidate Alan Garcia had hired Moises Boyer, who said on Wednesday in Lima that he had come to Peru from Venezuela with 19 other Venezuelan soldiers to disrupt Sunday’s presidential run-off, on orders from Chavez.

Boyer also alleged that Chavez had given 600,000 dollars to back the campaign of Ollanta Humala, who leads the Peru Nationalist Union Party and is facing Alan Garcia from the Peru Aprista Party in the upcoming poll.

Both accusations were categorically rejected by Venezuela, which called Boyer a “mercenary” who had travelled to Colombia with false military documents in 2003, and had sought political asylum there.

According to the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, Boyer was the pilot of the Venezuelan president’s plane at that time.

A Colombian magazine editor, who had published the story, had apologized after finding out that Boyer’s statements were untrue, said the Ministry.

The Peru-Venezuela diplomatic row flared up in March, when Chavez spoke out in favour of Ollanta Humala.

The two presidents’ relationship was at a low ebb when Chavez announced he was resigning from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), because of free trade deals signed by Peru and Colombia with the United States.

Later, amid an escalating war of words, Venezuela withdrew its ambassador from Lima in response to Peru’s recall of its ambassador from Caracas.

MNA/Xinhua
Physician shortage grips US

LOS ANGELES, 5 June — The United States is facing a severe shortage of doctors, putting greater pressure on the country’s healthcare system, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday. Their cloudy eyes alone, on immigration of foreign physicians, who already constitute 25 per cent of the white-coated workforce. But it may be too late to head off havoc for at least the next decade, experts say, given the long lead time to train surgeons and other specialists.

Twelve states, including California, have reported physician shortages and across the country patients are experiencing or soon will face shortages in at least a dozen physician specialties, including cardiology and radiology and several pediatric and surgical subspecialties, according to the paper.

This threatens to “create a national healthcare crisis by further limiting access to physicians, jeopardizing quality and accelerating cost increases,” warned the paper.

Demand for care would explode as an aging America needs more doctors, but supply is not keeping up, said the paper. “Experts fear worsening quality and dangerously long waits for appointments.”

To meet the growing demand, medical schools have come under pressure to boost enrollment, and lawmakers have felt the urgent need to lift a cap on funding for physician training and to ease limits on immigration of foreign physicians.

One study found, could boost the demand for cataract surgery by 47 per cent.

Yet, a third of the nation’s 750,000 active and post-residency physicians are older than 55 and likely to retire just as the boomer generation moves into its time of greatest medical need, according to the paper. — MNA/Xinhua

UN says world’s key deserts in danger from climate change

LONDON, 5 June — Far from being barren wastelands, the deserts that occupy one quarter of the earth’s land surface could be key sources of food and power, the United Nations said on Monday.

But these vast open spaces, home to rare and useful plants and animals, are at risk from climate change and human exploitation, the UN’s Environment Programme said in a report published on World Environment Day.

Deserts are prime potential locations for solar power generators that do not pollute the atmosphere with greenhouse gases, and plants that can thrive in desert conditions could provide food when water runs short. One such, a plant called Nipa found in the Sonoran Desert of western Mexico, produces a grain the size of wheat but is drought resistant and even thrives on seawater.

“It is a strong candidate for a major global foodcrop and could become this desert’s greatest gift to the world,” the report said.

Rainfall patterns are changing, glaciers that feed important rivers are melting as the planet warms and interchangeable water from deep desert aquifers is being squandered.

Rainfall in Iran’s Dashti Kibri Desert dropped by 16 per cent a decade between 1976 and 2000. In South Africa’s Kalahari and Chile’s Atacama deserts it fell by 12 and 8 per cent respectively, the report said.

The Rio Grande River in the United States has dwindled to a saline trickle from a freshwater torrent, and South Africa’s Orange River is also shrinking.

The energy-intensive desalination plants which turn salt water into fresh water in some energy-rich countries in the Middle East are not generally attractive in an era when energy prices are rising rapidly.

A worker restores an ancient vase at the Karnak Temple in Luxor, Egypt on 4 June, 2006.

Millions breathe cancer-causing air in India

Mumbai, 5 June — Millions in India breathe air loaded with cancer-causing chemicals and toxic gases present at levels that are thousands of times higher than permissible limits, an independent report said on Saturday.

India, one of the most polluted countries in the world, does not even have a standard for many harmful chemicals and gases, and thus no monitoring nor regulation for them, the report said.

The study by the Community Environmental Monitors (CEM), an independent environmental and health agency, is India’s first comprehensive national survey of ambient air that based its findings on a two-year survey carried out in 13 locations.

“As India is poised to nearly double its industrial capacity in the coming years, our nation is pathetically behind in terms of its infrastructure to safeguard its environment or the health of people from air pollution,” said CEM’s Shweta Narayan.

The study found that millions of Indians in cities and villages were exposed to at least 45 dangerous chemicals, including 13 carcinogens, some of which were present at levels 32,000 times higher than globally accepted standard.

Last month, the World Bank said pollution was growing rapidly in India and China because of inefficient investment in energy. — MNA/Reuters

China’s aviation transportation ranks second in world

BEIJING, 5 June — China’s overall aviation turnover by regular flights reached 25.77 billion ton-kilometres in 2005, ranking the second in the world, only after the United States.

According to the statistics from International Aviation Organization and the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, China’s international route turnover reached 8.38 billion ton-kilometre last year, up 9.2 per cent compared with 2004, still ranking the 10th in the world.

Passenger turnover reached 201.96 billion passengers-kilometre, up 14.6 per cent. Cargo turnover surpassed 7.57 billion ton-kilometre, up 7.9 per cent compared with the previous year. — MNA/Xinhua
**Sports**

**Netherlands clinch European Under-21 title**

**Rotterdam** (Netherlands), 5 June—Netherlands brushed aside Ukraine 3-0 in the final of the European Under-21 championship in the Do Besso Stadium in Oporto on Sunday. Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored twice before Nick Hof's sealed the win in injury time. Ukraine twice hit the post before Hof's setup Huntelaar for the first goal in the 10th minute.

MNA/Reuters

**Dutch trio injured in 1-1 draw with Australia**

**Rotterdam** (Netherlands), 5 June—Three Dutch players were injured in a 1-1 draw with Australia in a World Cup warm-up on Sunday.

Netherlands, who started with their first-choice team, opened the scoring after nine minutes when Andre Ooijer's shot was blocked by goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and Ruud van Nistelroyo netted the rebound. The hosts, with wingers Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie in good form, played well but wasted several scoring chances.

Philip Cocu was the first Dutch player to limp off 10 minutes before the break.

Wesley Sneijder and Giovanni van Bronckhorst also joined the injury list in the second period. Australia's Tim Cahill equalized from close range nine minutes into the second half after a penalty from Mark Viduka, who was fouled by Joris Mathijisen, struck the crossbar.

MNA/Reuters

**Brazil overpowers New Zealand in final warm-up game**

**Geneva**, 5 June—Brazil forwards Ronaldinho and Adriano shrugged off their disappointing club form by scoring to set the world champions on their way to a 4-0 win over New Zealand in their final World Cup warm-up match on Sunday.

Ronaldinho, who has suffered a frustrating series of minor injuries with Real Madrid, opened the scoring two minutes before halftime.

Adriano, also under scrutiny after failing to find his scoring touch with Inter Milan, thumped home the second shortly after halftime.

Kaka added the third with a breakaway goal in the 85th minute and Juninho Pernambucano made it 4-0 in injury time as Brazil completed their 10th match without defeat.

An excellent performance by New Zealand goalkeeper Glen Moss, currently without a club, prevented the world champions adding to their score.

Brazil, whose last defeat was against Mexico in last year's Confederations Cup, open their World Cup campaign against Serbia and Montenegro in Leipzig next Sunday. Netherlands start their campaign against Croatia in Berlin on 13 June.

MNA/Reuters

**Essien sparks as Ghana brush aside South Korea**

**Edinburgh, 5 June—**Goals from Asamoah Gyan, Sulley Muntari and Michael Essien steered Ghana to a 3-1 victory over fellow World Cup finalists South Korea on Sunday.

Essien's power was too much for Korea's lightweight trio of Lee, Park Ji-sung and Lee Ho and it was from this cross that Muntari nodded Ghana back in front in the 62nd minute.

MNA/Reuters

**Coach's son Petkovic scores in Serbia's 6-0 rout**

**Muenster** (Germany), 5 June—Serbia and Montenegro defender Dusan Petkovic put a smile on his father's face by netting in a 6-0 World Cup warm-up victory over a Carinthia Province select team in St Veit, Austria on Sunday.

Paja Petkovic was criticized by the media last week for including his son as a last-minute replacement in his squad and Dusan's second international goal will certainly relieve pressure on the Serb coach.

The Serbs were given a warm send-off by about 3,500 Austrian-based exiles who completely outnumbered a handful of home fans.

Substitute Danijel Ljuboja grabbed two goals in two minutes midway through the second half and Sas Aicic sealed victory after Petkovic had made it 5-0.

MNA/Reuters

**Badminton players Zhu Lin (L) and Lu Lan of China show their medals after the women's singles final match at the Indonesia Open Badminton Championships in Surabaya, east Java on 4 June, 2006. —INTERNET**

**German town gets Saudi Royal treatment**

**Bad Nauheim** (Germany), 5 June—The tranquil German town of Bad Nauheim, 40-kilometres north of Frankfurt, rolled out the red carpet for a royal guest when Saudi Arabia destroyed its local team in a one-sided World Cup warm-up on Sunday.

Prince Sultan Bin Fahad Bin Abdulaziz, president of the country's soccer federation, sat in a pitch-side marquee surrounded by a sizeable entourage as he side a representative team from the Wetterau region 15-0.

MNA/Reuters

**Ghana's Asamoah Gyan (2nd L) scores from the penalty spot against South Korea during their international friendly soccer match at Hibernian's Easter Road Stadium in Edinburgh, Scotland on 4 June, 2006. —INTERNET**

**German town gets Saudi Royal treatment**

**Bad Nauheim** (Germany), 5 June—The tranquil German town of Bad Nauheim, 40-kilometres north of Frankfurt, rolled out the red carpet for a royal guest when Saudi Arabia destroyed its local team in a one-sided World Cup warm-up on Sunday.

Prince Sultan Bin Fahad Bin Abdulaziz, president of the country's soccer federation, sat in a pitch-side marquee surrounded by a sizeable entourage as he head a representative team from the Wetterau region 15-0. The cobbled streets of the town centre were splashed with the green of the Saudi flag while local restaurants offered traditional Arab dishes and music.

After experienced captain Sami al Jabber scored seven goals, the Saudi players showed their appreciation by handing out green soccer shirts to hundreds of local children inside the Waldstadion.

The football-mad Prince, son of the late King Fahad, has offered attractive cash incentives for the Saudi players, and Brazilian coach Marcos Paquetta said he liked to offer encouragement in the dressing room.

"He is very enthusiastic about the team and the tactics," Paquetta told reporters. "He talks to the players a lot and motivates them."— MNA/Reuters
Japan’s Abe pitches “second chance” policies on TV

TOKYO, 5 June — Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, front-runner in the race to become Japan’s next prime minister, took to the airwaves on Sunday, pitching policies aimed at giving people who falter in tough economic competition a second chance.

But Abe, appearing in a trio of TV talk shows, sidestepped the touchy questions of whether he would visit a controversial shrine for war dead or would raise Japan’s consumption tax to help fix the country’s massive public debt.

Neither Abe nor his potential rivals have formally declared their candidacy to succeed Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi as ruling party leader, and hence premier, when he steps down in September. But with the current session of Parliament due to end later this month, the unofficial race is heating up.

Abe, 51, a political blueblood known for his tough stance towards China and North Korea, has consistently topped the list of politicians voters say they want to see as prime minister.

Former chief cabinet secretary Yasuo Fukuda — a critic of Koizumi for hurting ties with China and South Korea — has narrowed the gap in recent polls. But a survey of 500 voters by Fuji TV released on Sunday showed Abe well ahead with 42.4 per cent against 26.4 per cent for Fukuda.

Death toll in latest south China floods rises to 29

GUANGZHOU, 5 June — Rainstorms and ensuing floods in southern China’s Guangdong and Fujian provinces have left at least 29 dead over the last several days, affecting hundreds of thousands of others, according to local government sources.

In the past three days, seven residents of Meizhou City in Guangdong have been killed in landslides and 270,000 others affected in the spate, the largest in a decade, the provincial water conservancy bureau said on Saturday.

More than 50,000 people were evacuated from flood-hit areas. Some 784 houses collapsed, nearly 15,000 hectares of cropland and various infrastructural facilities including dykes and roads were damaged by the rain and floods, inundating hundreds of thousands of people.

The provincial meteorological bureau issued an alarm Saturday on forthcoming rainstorms and floods, warning regionals holding the seasonal dragon-boat races to ensure people’s safety.

WEATHER

MONDAY

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 isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (8.07) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.32) inches and Hmalaun (2.01) inches.

Maximum temperature on 4-6-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 5-6-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hours MST on 5-6-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 4-6-2006 was (nil) hour approx.

Rainfalls on 5-6-2006 were (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.48) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (16.81) inches at Mingaladon, (21.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (23.35) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (23:10) hours MST on 4-6-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-6-2006:

Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, Ayeawady, Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon, Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

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

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 6-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Renovation of roads in Chin State inspected

YANGON, 5 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on 29 May inspected the renovation of bridges on Haka-Gangaw Road in Chin State and fulfilled the requirements for renovation of the road section.

The 77-mile gravel road linking townships in Chin State (North) and the plains is being upgraded to a tarred road. Over 13 miles have been tarred so far.

On his way to Thantlang the minister also inspected paving of road and laying of conduit pipes on Haka-Thantlang-Sarsichauk Road.

At Thantlang in Falam District, the minister met with senior engineers of Public Works and discussed renovation of roads and tasks to be carried out in 2006-07 fiscal year. At the meeting, the minister gave a green light to upgrade the Haka-Thantlang Road to a tarred one and attended to the needs.

10 members quit NLD as they witness with pleasure government’s all-round development endeavours

Dislike various kinds of concepts, wish to join hands with government

YANGON, 5 June — Ten members of Kutkai Township National League for Democracy — chairman U Thein Maung, vice-chairman-1 U Ko Lay, vice-chairman-2 U Khun Ohn, secretary U Win Myint Naing (a) Katta, joint secretary U Maung Ohn, treasurer Daw Bauk Khaun, and members U L Zaw Han (a) Ko Tu, U Kyaw Zan (a) U Kyaw Hsan, Sai Tun Yin and U Paw Hman collectively resigned from the party of own volition.

They sent signed letters of resignation to NLD HQ and the respective local authorities on 10 May.

In the signed letters, they said that they opened the Kutkai Township NLD in 2002 with the aim of setting up democracy based on public interest, and joining hands with the government in regional political, economic and social undertakings.

They witness with immense pleasure the government’s endeavours for all-round development covering social, economic, education and religious sectors and much more. The endeavours they have witnessed are the reason behind their dislike of various kinds of concepts. They resigned from the NLD and party duties as they wish to join hands with the government, to work solely for regional development, and to concentrate on religion and family business because they are ageing.

The township NLD was formed with 11 members. Now ten members including the chairman have quit the party of own volition, and the remaining member U Than Tun is serving his prison term. The township NLD has been abolished and the office closed as there is not a single member left in it.

The NLD executives have been resigning and township party offices were closed down in northern Shan State. All NLD members have already quit the party in eight towns in the region — Hserwi, Kutkai, Tangyan, Namatu, Kyaukme, Nawngkhio, Momeik and Mahein townships. The remaining members are five in Lashio Township NLD, two in Muse Township NLD, five in Hsipaw Township NLD totalling 13.

Weather Forecast for (6-6-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).