Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June—Dr Andras Balogh, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw, at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

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

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

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
Cooperate in tackling environmental issue

More than forty per cent of the earth are the drylands. The main factors for desertification are deforestation, drought, overgrazing, poor land management, and wind and water erosion. Because of carbondioxide and CFC (chlorofluorocarbon), the hole in the ozone layer has become wider. And careless disposal of refuse by some people, dumping of industrial waste in the rivers or at sea and emission of gases has caused air and water pollution. Indiscriminate logging has led to deforestation and this can endanger wildlife.

Due to deforestation, trees cannot absorb carbondioxide. Thus, the greenhouse effect has become more obvious and extremes of temperature and the erratic pattern of climatic conditions, storms and earthquakes have occurred.

Irregular climatic changes can bring about destruction of farmland, deterioration of soil, drop in crop yields and the cultivable land becomes sandy and poor.

The ten per cent of the total area of Myanmar is dry zone. It is in Central Myanmar. It is very important to prevent soil erosion there. Therefore, the three-year plan for the greening of nine districts started in 1994 and it has been extended to cover 13 districts.

Myanmar became a signatory to the UN Convention on Desertification in 1997. According to the Convention, projects and work programme to eradicate poverty and prevent soil erosion are being implemented in the member nations, especially in developing countries.

Sustainable social and economic development is impossible without conservation of the environment. The environmental issue is a great challenge facing all nations of the world and therefore the onus is on the international community to cooperate in tackling this problem.

Minister for Industry-1 receives Chinese guests

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe speaking at work coordination meeting of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. — SWD

Cash assistance rendered to children of FSD

Director-General of FSD U Myint Tun presents cash reward to an outstanding student of staff. — FSD
Experts say US funding Somali faction leaders

WASHINGTON, 6 June—The United States has been funneling more than 100,000 US dollars a month to faction leaders battling Islamist militia in Somalia, according to a Somalia expert who has conferred with the groups in the country.

The US operation, which former intelligence officials say is aimed at preventing emergence of rulers who could provide al-Qaeda with a safe haven, appeared to be seriously set back on Monday when an Islamic coalition claimed control of Mogadishu. US government officials refused to discuss any possible secret US involvement in the strategically placed Horn of Africa state, which has been wrecked by years of fighting.

But former US intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said an operation to support the warlords’ alliance appeared to involve both the CIA and US military.

John Prendergast, who monitors Somalia for the think-tank International Crisis Group, said he learned during meetings with alliance members in Somalia that the CIA was financing the faction leaders, with cash payments.

Prendergast estimated that CIA-operated flights into Somalia have been bringing in 100,000 US dollars to 150,000 US dollars per month for the faction leaders.

The flights remain in Somalia for the day, he said, so that US agents can confer with their allies. The Bush Administration has maintained a silence over allegations in recent months of a US proxy war against Islamist radicalism in the country.

Pentagon spokesman Navy Lieutenant Commander Joe Carpenter reiterated the Administration’s position that the United States stands ready to “disrupt the efforts of terrorists wherever they may be active.”


Two coalition soldiers killed by Afghan bomb

KABUL, 7 June —A roadside bomb killed two US-led coalition soldiers Tuesday when it exploded near a military vehicle in eastern Afghanistan, a US military spokeswoman said.

The vehicle was conducting security operations in Nangarhar province when the bomb exploded, said the spokeswoman, Lt Khrysten Darm.

She said that two soldiers were killed and one soldier and an Afghan interpreter were wounded. She said she could not immediately disclose the nationalities of the soldiers.

The provincial police chief, Gen Abdul Basir Salangi, said the attack targeted US military vehicles. He said he did not have any casualty information.

In a separate attack also in eastern Afghanistan, a suicide car bomb injured three American soldiers in a US-led coalition convoy, US and Afghan authorities said.

Two soldiers were taken to a medical facility, while the third had only minor injuries.

In a third incident in the same part of the country, explosives apparently being attached to a motorcycle in preparation for an attack detonated prematurely, killing three people and wounding seven, Afghan officials said. Afghanistan has suffered a series of suicide bombings in the past 10 months, but most have been in southern provinces, where the Taliban are strongest and not in the east. The suicide car bomb in Khost province, 60 miles southeast of Kabul, exploded after the assailant approached the convoy from the opposite direction and manoeuvred the car into the middle of the line of vehicles, according to information from Afghan and US officials.

The province’s deputy police chief, Gen Mohammed Zaman, said the blast was so powerful it melted the asphalt on the road. He said the attacker’s car was loaded with explosives and dozens of mortars.

Indian Assam flood situation worsens, 25,000 people hit

NEW DELHI, June—Floods triggered by heavy rains in Assam, northeast India, have affected some 25,000 people and snarled road and rail communications, a state official said on Sunday.

Floodwaters of the Brahmaputra River have inundated at least 70 villages in the districts of Nagaon, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Karimganj and Hailakandi, said C Nath, an official spokesperson.

“At least 25,000 people were forced to take shelter in makeshift arrangements with floodwaters submerging villages,” a government statement said.

The worst hit by the first wave of the flooding that began Thursday is the eastern Dhemaji District, about 550 kilometres from Assam’s main city of Guwahati.

“At least 22 villages spread over 947 hectares of land have been submerged with another 642 hectares of farmland already devastated by the floods,” said the statement. Road and rail links in many parts of the state have been severely hit.

“In many places in southern Assam, floodwaters have overtopped roads and caused breaches, disrupting surface transport,” stated Nath. —MNA/Xinhua

Residents clean the road after heavy rain at a village in Leishan County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province on 6 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Internet cafe fire injures 27 in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 6 June — An Internet cafe fire has left 27 young people injured, including five people in serious condition, in central China’s Henan Province, local authorities said on Monday.

The fire broke out at about 1:00 am Sunday at an Internet cafe located in Pingleishan City of Henan Province, according to the local administration for work safety. A total of 27 people, all youths, were injured and sent to nearby hospitals. Five of them are in critical condition, the administration said.

Local police are investigating the cause of the fire. —MNA/Xinhua

China to build ecological safe belt in Tibet

LEZHA, 6 June — China plans to establish a series of ecosystem protection zones and forest reserves in Tibet to curb the environmental degradation in the region, local officials said on Monday. The belt is part of China’s efforts to strengthen eco-security, said Zhang Tianhua, deputy director of the regional Environmental Protection Administration.

The central government is expected to allocate 38.7 billion yuan (about 4.84 billion US dollars) to support the protection of the environment in Tibet between 2006 and 2020. —MNA/Xinhua
Increasing numbers of foreigners study in China

BEIJING, 6 June — More overseas students than ever before studied in China last year, an education official said on Monday, as Beijing’s growing economic and diplomatic clout draws an increasing number of foreigners.

In 2005, there were more than 140,000 overseas students studying in China, said Ministry of Education spokesman Wang Xuming. By comparison, around 119,000 Chinese went abroad for study last year, he added. “2005 was the year where we had the most students coming to China to study from the most amount of countries,” Wang told a news conference.

Most of the overseas students paid their own way, though the Chinese Government gave scholarships to more than 7,000 of them, Wang said. MNA/Reuters

Five died, 28 injured in far-western Nepal road mishap

KATHMANDU, 6 June — At least five persons died and 28 others injured on Monday in a road mishap in far-western Nepal, local police office confirmed.

“At least five persons died on the spot when a passenger bus they were travelling in met with an accident in Sunkuda Village of Bajhang District, some 800 kilometres west of Kathmandu,” Bajhang District Police Office said in a Press statement.

A total of 28 other passengers injured when the bus belonging to Mahakali Yatayat, a private company, skidded off the road and fell some 100 metres below on Monday night, the statement said.

Of the injured, six are in critical condition and are undergoing treatment at local Team Hospital of the district.

A total of 22 others are undergoing treatment at neighbouring Dadeldhura District Hospital, the statement said.

According to an action plan, the participating countries pledged to cooperate on fighting terrorism, anti-drugs, energy, transportation, environment and other issues during a one-day ministerial Central Asia plus Japan Dialogue held on Monday in Tokyo, Kyodo News reported.

Japan, Central Asian nations agree on all-around cooperation

Tokyo, 6 June — Japan and four Central Asian countries agreed to cooperate on fighting terrorism, anti-drugs, energy, transportation, environment and other issues during a one-day ministerial Central Asia plus Japan Dialogue held on Monday in Tokyo, Kyodo News reported.

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US Marines accused of killing Iraqi civilian

WASHINGTON, 6 June — The US Marines were accused of killing Hashim Ibrahim Awad al-Zobai, an Iraqi civilian, on 26 April in a central Iraqi village, and all parties to the case agreed that he was shot dead by American soldiers, The Washington Post reported on Monday.

But there were differing accounts of his death and they were at the heart of another investigation into the conduct of American forces in Iraq, the report said.

Members of the Marine foot patrol under investigation in the case said they came upon Hashim digging a hole for a bomb near his home in Hamdaniyah, the Sunni Arab village of about 30 homes near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. The Marines said they killed Hashim in a brief gun battle and that they found an AK-47 assault rifle and a shovel by his side.

But according to accounts given by Hashim’s neighbours and members of his family, and apparently supported by photographs, the Marines went to Hashim’s home, took the 52-year-old disabled Iraqi outside and shot him four times in the face, the report said.

The assault rifle and shovel next to his body had been planted by the Marines, who had borrowed them from a villager, family members and other residents were quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

World Environment Day being observed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 June — The World Environment Day is being observed throughout Nepal by organizing various programmes for a week beginning on Monday.

The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, different government and non-governmental organizations, students, teachers, businessmen and the people from civic society are participating in the programmes.


Inaugurating the competition, Secretary at the Ministry Bal Krishna Prasai said that the promotion of awareness is a must for the protection of environment.

Acting Executive Director of the Radio Nepal Rajendra Sharma highlighted the usefulness of the programme. Meanwhile, Nepal Forum of Environment Journalists has decided to confer its “Environment Journalism Prize - 2005” on Ramesh Kumar Paudel of the Chitwan post daily, Chitwan for the contribution he made in the field of environment journalism.

The prize is given away on 5 June, the World Environment Day, every year for the last 20 years. — MNA/Xinhua

A schoolgirl passes by a shop window filled with World Cup soccer balls in the Croatian capital Zagreb on 5 June, 2006. — Internet

Qianmen Gate at the south end of Tiananmen Square looms through thick haze in Beijing on 6 April, 2005. China's pollution problems cost the country more than US$200 billion (euro156.07 billion) a year, a top official said on 5 June, 2006. — Internet

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Nigeria develops fast fruit-yielding cocoa seeding

LAGOS, 6 June—Nigerian agro-scientists have recently successfully developed a cocoa seeding that can bear fruit in 18 months after planting, the state-owned News Agency of Nigeria reported on Monday.

Feysira Okelana, assistant-director of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), was quoted as saying that further research into the fast fruit-bearing seeding was going on.

“We have only a limited amount of the seedlings and the demand for them is very high,” she said.

If the research findings were adopted by cocoa farmers, Nigeria could regain its number one position among cocoa producers in the world, she said.

According to Okelana, it took about three years for cocoa to bear fruits after planting in the west African country until the latest development.

Nigeria is currently the number six world cocoa producer with an estimated 400,000 tons a year, while Ivory Coast leads the pack with an annual production of one million tons. — MNA/Xinhua

Study says US lawmakers took free trips worth $50m

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Members of the US Congress and their aides took free trips worth nearly $50 million US dollars paid for by corporations, trade associations and other private groups between January 2000 and June 2005, according to a study released on Monday.

Some of the 23,000 trips featured 500-US-dollar-a-night hotel rooms, 25,000 US dollars corporate jet rides and visits to popular spots such as Paris, Hawaii and Colorado ski resorts, said the study, by the Centre for Public Integrity, American Public Media and Northwestern University’s Medill News Service. “In many instances, trip sponsors appeared to be buying access to elected officials or their advisors,” the study said. While some excursions were legitimate fact-finding missions, others appeared to have been little more than “pricey vacations” wrapped around speeches or seminars in which the lawmaker was joined by family members, the study said.

The data emerged from a nine-month-long review of congressional travel disclosure forms and coincided with ongoing federal investigations of political corruption and efforts to clean up how Congress does business.

Lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to fraud charges in January and admitted he showered golf trips, sports tickets and other gifts on lawmakers in return for actions that would help his clients.

In response, the Senate and House of Representatives have voted to toughen ethics guidelines and require greater disclosure. But critics have charged more needs to be done.

Under a bill passed by the House, members would need prior approval from the House ethics committee before flying on corporate jets or accepting privately funded trips. — MNA/Reuters

Gunmen abduct 50 workers from Iraq transport firms

BAGHDAD, 6 June—Gunmen in police uniforms abducted up to 50 employees of various Baghdad transport companies on Monday, police and Interior Ministry sources said. They said the gunmen carried out what appeared to be a coordinated action along a Baghdad street that is home to several companies offering transport to Syria and Jordan.

The kidnappers are usually politically motivated Islamic militants or criminal gangs seeking a ransom. — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan, ASEAN to conduct feasibility study over FTA

ISLAMABAD, 6 June— Pakistan and ASEAN on Monday decided to hold economic officials’ level discussion on a joint feasibility study on free trade agreement (FTA) between the two sides, and the study will be completed by next July.

Saying the third meeting of Pakistan-ASEAN Joint Sectoral Committee has been “highly beneficial”, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan told a joint news briefing that Pakistan is looking forward to a comprehensive partnership with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and deepening trade and economic cooperation with the group.

Pakistan has decided to place one million US dollars in the Pakistan-ASEAN Fund, which would be used to carry out the joint feasibility study on FTA with ASEAN as well as other mutually agreed projects, the foreign secretary said.

One Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN, who is leading the ASEAN delegation for the meeting, told newsmen that ASEAN is looking forward to extensively working with Pakistan in the areas of interest.

Views on a number of areas other than the eight agreed areas namely trade, investment, industry, environment, tourism, science and technology, drugs control and human resources development have been exchanged during the meeting, including cooperation in energy, bird flu and other areas, according to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan.

Pakistan also proposed a Joint Task Force and a Joint Working Group for cooperation in agriculture, and satellite remote sensing for agriculture, water and disaster management with ASEAN. Riaz said.

Pakistan is a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN since 1997. The Pakistan-ASEAN relationship has been intensified since 2004, and Pakistan signed with the group a Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and a Joint Declaration on Combating Terrorism with ASEAN. — MNA/Xinhua

India’s tigers in losing battle against poachers

KANHA TIGER RESERVE, 5 June—On a routine patrol of a vast jungle in the central highlands in April, forest guards came across a gruesome scene.

Flies swarmed beside thick undergrowth where a tiger lay dead: together with maggots, they had reduced the animal’s once-magnificent, gold-and-black striped body to a putrid, hollowed carcass.

“Poachers poisoned the tiger but could not carry it away,” said Khageshwar Nayak, chief of Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, which was made famous in the jungle tales of Rudyard Kipling. After three decades of serving the Indian Forest Service, Nayak has concluded that the killing of tigers is unstoppable. “Even if you make thousands of strategies, you cannot stop poaching. You cannot make it zero,” said Nayak, sitting in his air-conditioned office from where he surveys the 1,349 square km wildlife reserve, home to 129 tigers.

Conservationists say that India, which has about half of the world’s surviving tigers, is losing a battle to save the big cats. “Poaching is the main reason why we are losing the tiger. At the current rate, we could lose them all in 20-50 years,” said Rahul Kaul, director of the Wildlife Trust of India. — Internet

A man walks through the rubble after a Shiite building was targeted for a mortar attack in Baghdad on 6 June, 2006. — Internet

British author Zadie Smith poses with her third novel ‘On Beauty’ prior to winning the Orange Prize for Fiction at the Royal Court of Justice in London, on 6 June, 2006. Smith, 30, had been the bookies’ favourite for the 30,000-pound (US$53,600; euro43,300) prize, which celebrates excellence in writing by women. — Internet

Models display Sony Corp’s new Alpha DSLR-A100 digital cameras in Tokyo on 6 June, 2006. — MNA/Reuters
Representative Kennedy released from drug rehab clinic

PROVIDENCE, (Rhode Island), 6 June — US Representative Patrick Kennedy, son of Massachusetts Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy, has been released from a drug rehabilitation programme a month after crashing his car into a cement barrier and seeking help for dependency on prescription drugs.

Kennedy, who has acknowledged he suffered from depression and had abused alcohol and prescription drugs for years, vowed on Monday to shun all “mood-altering drugs” and insisted he did not receive preferential treatment from police.

The nephew of President John F Kennedy crashed his car into a security barrier in Washington on 4 May. He has said he was disoriented from sleeping pills and other medications.

Kennedy, 38, appeared with red, watery eyes, slurred speech and unsteady balance after the accident — his second in three weeks — but no sobriety tests were conducted at the scene. He was charged with three driving violations and driven home.

“Every day I’m on my knees thanking God that I didn’t hurt somebody,” he told a news conference, describing the crash as a wake-up call to seek help after suffering from alcohol and chemical dependency nearly his entire life. Rhode Island De-mocrats have endorsed him for re-election but the state Republican Party said he should consider resigning because there was no guarantee that he will be able to do his job effectively.

“The Kennedy name seems to have maintained much of its luster, however illogical as it may seem under the circumstances,” said Chuck Newton, state Republican Party spokesman. Kennedys have been prominent in American politics for decades. Kennedy’s uncles included John Kennedy, assassinated in 1963, and Robert Kennedy, a former US attorney general who was assassinated in 1968 during his run for President.

Patrick’s father, Ted Kennedy, is a powerful liberal voice in the Senate and one of the longest-serving senators. Several family members have had much-publicized drug and alcohol problems.

China’s mathematicians unravel toughest puzzle

BEIJING, 6 June — A leading Chinese mathematician Yang Le said here on Sunday that the successful unraveling of one of the world’s toughest puzzles is an outstanding job.

Two Chinese mathematicians, Zhu Xiping and Cao Huaidong, have put the final pieces together in the solution to the puzzle that has perplexed scientists around the globe for more than a century. The pair have published a paper in the latest US-based Asian Journal of Mathematics, providing complete proof of the Poincare Conjecture promulgated by French mathematician Henri Poincare in 1904. A Columbia professor Richard Hamilton and a Russian mathematician Grigori Perelman have laid foundation on the latest endeavors made by the two Chinese. Professor Hamilton completed the majority of the programme and the geometrization conjecture.

Yang, member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said in an interview with Xinhua, “All the American, Russian and Chinese mathematicians have made indispensable contribution to the complete proof.”

Professor Zhu at Guangzhou-based Zhongshan University and Professor Cao at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania co-authored the 300-page paper, “The Hamilton-Perelman Theory of Ricci Flow — The Poincare and Geometrization Conjecture,” which was published in the June issue of the journal.

China’s environmental protection industry generates profits

BEIJING, 6 June — China’s environmental protection industry generated 457.21 billion yuan (57 billion US dollars) in revenue and 39.39 billion yuan (4.9 billion US dollars) in profits in 2004, according to a government white paper issued here on Monday.

The white paper titled “Environmental Protection in China (1996-2005)” says China actively promotes the industrialization of environmental protection.

By the end of 2004, China had 11,623 enterprises, each with an annual sales income of more than 2 million yuan (250,000 US dollars), engaged in environmental protection, employing a total of 1.597 million workers, says the white paper issued by the Information Office of the State Council.

An employee of Nintendo Co Ltd displays the company’s next-generation game console “Wii” (L) and it’s control unit before their corporate strategy meeting in Tokyo on 7 June, 2006. — INTERNET

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Search for knowledge and information

Aung Than Tun (Monywa)

“If a man recites a little of Sacred Text but puts its precepts into practice, ridding himself of craving, hatred and delusion, possessed of right knowledge, with mind totally freed, clinging to nothing in this or in any other world, he shares the blessings of a recluse.”

Dhammapada

“These is only one good, that is Knowledge: there is only one evil, that is Ignorance.”

SOCRATES

“Knowledge is the food of the Soul.”

PLATO

“Better be unborn than untaught; for Ignorance is the root of misfortune.’

PLATO

“Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est:
Better be unborn than untaught; for there is only one evil, that is craving, hatred and delusion, possessed of
the blessings of a recluse.”

“Knowledge or Panna.

Since our childhood, we start going to school in search of basic and fundamental knowledge, at least LRs, reading, writing and arithmetic which we call primary education. Then, we proceed to middle, high school and thence to the University if ever qualified. Some have mistaken notion that education or learning is completed after graduation. They do not realize that education, learning or search for knowledge is a lifelong process. It is limitless and boundless. Postgraduate studies know no bounds.

What is knowledge? Knowledge comes from the word, “to know;” What to know? That is to know about something—some facts; some matters, etc. MAN has the instinct of curiosity, interest or thirst for knowledge. They just wish to see, pry, peer into things known and unknown. They want to inquire, investigate, examine, scrutinize, analyse and get information of anything around and above they want to ask so many questions; what? why? wherefore? whence? whither? where? how is it? what is the reason? why it is so? what is the matter? when? who? how come? what’s up? what’s news? etc., etc.

Out of these questioning, examination and inquiries, we have the knowledge — we have the information, understanding, awareness, learning and enlightenment. These results are crucial for our human advancement which we calls human civilization and culture. Due to these efforts endeavours and achievements, we are able to tide over difficult and painful periods of history and arrived at the current LEARNING AGE or KNOWLEDGE AGE.

Today, we are confronted with the new challenges of the said modern circumstances and new technology—Information Technology. Since the end of the Cold War period, all the nations, both the developed and the developing countries are engaged in frantic competition for economic and financial development which call for new knowledge, higher education standard and technological skills and expertise. IT involves new knowledge of computing, telecommunication and renovated office systems. The required information should have a smooth and regular flow from the sources of collections, processing, storage, packaging and due dissemination.

With a view to upkeeping and uplifting IT process, our Government has duly enacted Myanmar Computer Technology Development Law, 1996 and founded Myanmar Computer Technology Council and Federation to implement the project and scheme. Under these objectives, the State has established E-mail, Data Communication Services and Internet Services which are accessible to private sector. ICT Parks are opened at Yangon in 2002 and at Mandalay in 2003, providing application service and other necessary requirements in order to widen the scope of knowledge for our people at large. E-National Task Force, Myanmar Word System and Unicode use Myanmar Word System are also successfully created. There are now two Universities of Computer Studies and 24 Computer Colleges offering computer degree courses. They are now working in full swing.

To build a LEARNING SOCIETY, we need two requirements: —

(1) Highly-qualified human resource development based and aided by highly-educated and qualified personnel, and

(2) Regional Human Resource Development for all the people of Myanmar.

To substantiate our human resources, two Resource Centres were opened, viz.,

(1) (NCRC) New Century Resource Centre: Where e-Education was installed and information and communication technology as well as electronic technology are provided;

(2) (RCAm): Resource Centre for Ancient Myanmar Manuscripts where interested persons, students and scholars could study and do research.

E-Education Centres such as, e-Education Learning centre, e-Education resource Centre, Computer Training Centre and Language and Laboratory had been established and linked to Electronic Data Broadcasting System.

According to Buddhadhuma, we have three ways of gaining Knowledge or Panna. (Learning methods are: —

(1) THUTAMAYA PANNA: being taught and trained by others;
(2) SEINDAMAYA PANNA: thinking and contemplating by oneself;
(3) BAWANAYA PANNA : by meditation, pondering and reflection being engaged in deep thought.

All those computerized, electronic, IT and INTERNET kind of knowledge and Information fall into the first category. All the important, essential and real and true Knowledge could be gained through the second and third kinds of methodology, that is to say, by means of thinking, contemplating, and meditating.

Be that as it may, in the context and concept mundane affairs, we have to promote the modern scientific and electronic mode and methodology of Information Technology in order to cope with the challenges of the Knowledge Age, for our own survival and progress.

The West is also abusing and exploiting the INTERNET to their advantage by interfering in the internal affairs of our sovereign State by dispersing false and fabricated information in the INTERNET to cause political instability and financial crisis in our country. We have to counteract these onslaugths with diligence and vigor. We should be ever vigilant and protect and defend against those oncoming and outpouring of Western concepts, outlook and culture which are incompatible and discordant to our traditional and cultural values, norms, precepts and criteria. These impacts are now steadily wrecking the very fabric and foundation of our Myanmar Cultural Heritage. This should be stamped out in time.

“A field however fertile, cannot be fruitful, without cultivation, neither can a Mind without Learning.”

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CICERO
Rubber earns largest amount of foreign exchange behind that of pulse and bean in the nation

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects preparation for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Palaw, Thayetchaung Townships

YANGON, 7 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the rubber growing ceremony of Min Tun Trading Co in Papyin Village of Myeik Township on 4 June.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on the plan to cultivate 1,000 acres of rubber in three years presented by U Aye Lwin of Min Tun Trading Co.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oso said that Taninthayi Division PDC fulfills requirements of rubber growers to obtain cultivable land. So far, 32,127 acres of land out of 48,775 acres have been allotted to the farmers. Assistance will be provided to the local people for reclaiming vacant and virgin lands on either side of the Union Highway to put the land under rubber.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address, saying that the Head of State had given guidance to grow 200,000 acres of rubber in Taninthayi Division.

The division has a large number of acres of fallow and virgin lands, and locals have adequate knowledge to grow rubber in their region. Rubber earns the largest amount of foreign exchange behind that of pulse and bean in the nation. As the Government is building roads, bridges and dams, the division enjoys better transport thanks to construction of Yangon-Kawthoung Union Highway.

He urged departments concerned to provide necessary assistance to those who will undertake cultivation of rubber. Lt-Gen Maung Bo planted rubber saplings in the farm of Min Tun Trading Co. The company plans to grow 200 acres of rubber this year.

In Magyigon Village of Palaw Township, they attended the collective ploughing ceremony for cultivation of monsoon paddy of Palaw Township. Departmental officials reported on arrangements for cultivation of 500,000 acres of monsoon paddy in the division.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the Government sets sights on cultivation of 16.44 million acres of monsoon paddy for 2006-07 to meet the target of 1.18 million baskets of paddy. Therefore, efforts are to be made for growing 500,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 50,000 acres of summer paddy, 50,000 acres of oil palm, 200,000 acres of rubber and 36,041 acres of pepper in Taninthayi Division. He added that the division has 99.08 per cent of local food sufficiency in 2004-05 and 115.28 per cent in 2005-06. Preparations are to be made for supply of food to the increasing population of the division. Therefore, service personnel, members of social organizations and local people are to take part in undertaking the surplus of paddy in Taninthayi Division and implementing the targets of agricultural sector.

In Palak Station, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with officers, Tatmadawmen and family members. They arrived at the site of Oil Palm Cultivation Project of Anawa Soe Moe Co Ltd in Lower Thayetchaung Village, in Thayetchaung Township. Taninthayi Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Tin Maung Myint and Managing Director U Kin Sein of the company reported on cultivation of oil palm in Taninthayi Division and 5,000 acres of oil palm plantation of the company.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on cultivation of physic nut plants as mixed cropping. Next, he attended the physic nut plant growing ceremony there. After that, they attended the collective ploughing ceremony for 2006-07 cultivation season of Dawei District in Yango Village, Thayetchaung Township.

On arrival at Nyaungzin Model Village in Dawei Township, they attended the ceremony to donate TV and radio sets, cash and books to the self-reliant library.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented TV and satellite receiver to Village PDC Chairman U Kyaw Wai. Next, library committee members U Kyi Shein and U Aye Kyu accepted 5 radios, 250 books donated by the commander; and K1 million by Taninthayi Division Fishery Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Win and family.

There are 265 members at the library of Nyaungzin Model Village, and 3,276 assorted books are collected at the library.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and party proceeded to Dawei.

Tikyit coal-fired power plant inspected

YANGON, 7 June—Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint on 3 June afternoon inspected the exploration and storage of coal at the mining site of Shan Yoma Naga Co Ltd in the Tikyit coal-fired power plant in Pmaung Township.

They also inspected the control room, generators, boilers and water purifying factory.

In meeting with the manager and service personnel, and officials of the company, the minister called on the staff to make efforts to become competent ones, to run the plant at full capacity, and to operate and maintain the machinery systematically.

Tikyit coal-fired power plant generates 960 million kilowatt hours a year and distributes the power through Kalaw sub-power station.

Minister inspects Mann Thambayakan refinery

YANGON, 7 June—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited Mann Thambayakan refinery of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise in Minhla Township, Magway Division, on 5 June.

Officials including Managing Director U Thein Lwin of MPE presented a report on crude oil storage, fuel production, distribution and storage, process of refinery and efforts to run the refinery at full capacity.

At his meeting with MPE staff, the minister discussed wastage reduction, fire prevention, environmental greening project and extended physic nut plant cultivation.

His itinerary also included Hlaukshabin/Kani oil field where he observed storage and distribution of crude oil to refineries, drilling of new oil wells and crude oil production and met with staff at which he stressed completion of drilling work according to schedule.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visits Mann Thambayakan refinery in Minhla Township, Magway Division. — ENERGY
Self-reliant village libraries play dominant role in promoting rural education
Each village in Mon State gets self-reliant library

COMMANDER BRIG-GEN Thet Naing Win addresses ceremony to mark the successful establishment of self-reliant libraries in entire Mon State.—MNA

YANGON, 7 June—Mon State celebrated its successful completion of the task to establish a self-reliant library in each village in it along with the setting up of trust funds and presenting of TV sets, radios and publications at a ceremony held at Yamanya Hall in Mawlamyine this morning.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win said that the Head of State gave guidance on three requirements for building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline — stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order; strong national economy; and development of human resources with high education standard of the people.

The commander said that the entire nation is enjoying the fronts of development due to the efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are making in concert in accordance with the guidance.

In the nation, rural people make up 70 per cent. So, only with the high education standard of rural folks, will human resources develop and so will the nation. Establishment of a self-reliant library in every village plays a dominant role in raising the education standard of rural people.

Up to 16 January 2006, 82 ward libraries and 1,198 self-reliant libraries have been opened in Mon State. The Mon State PDC has donated computer accessories and CDs on subjects to 240 multimedia classrooms and 26 learning centres. In Mon State, it has also opened 10 e-libraries in 10 townships including Mawlamyine and donated computer sets and accessories and more than 2,800 CDs to them.

The commander expressed thanks to the wellwishers for making donations for opening libraries throughout Mon State. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that today's celebration is knowledge age and thus technologies are applied in producing goods, and education and health sectors. Efforts are to be made with added momentum for the brighter future of the nation.

More than 54,177 out of 61,494 villages across the nation have been facilitated with libraries. Myanmar can be proud to be the first nation where a library is opened in each village.

The considerable achievement is largely due to the three strengths — the government, local people and wellwishers. So far, 14 ceremonies to donate publications to the self-reliant libraries have been held and wellwishers have donated about two million publications, more than 1,900 TV sets and radio and K 106.8 million with a total value of more than K 300 million.

For long-term existence of the libraries, the minister called for implementation of the five work programmes.

In conclusion, the minister urged all to perform their tasks through four strengths of local authorities, village library committees, USDA members and departmental staff.

Chairman of Mon State Self-reliant Library Opening Committee Commissioner U Aung Win of Mon State General Administration Department reported on opening of the libraries in Mon State.

The commander accepted TV sets, radios and books donated by Deputy Commander Col Min and local authorities.

Likewise, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K 100,000 each donated by Mon State MCWSC and Mon State Women's Affairs Organization; K 384,500 by printing entrepreneurs and newspaper agents; K 550,000 by departmental personnel; K 100,000 by Mon State USDA; K 100,000 by Mon State War Veterans Organization; K 1 million by Mon State Video Entrepreneurs and sub-groups; K 500,000 by actress Academy Nanda Hlaing; K 500,000 by OK Yadana Rice and General Trading; K 400,000 by three markets in Mawlamyine; K 300,000 by MyanmarU Construction; and K 150,000 by Home Taik Construction.

Wellwisher U Ko Ko Naing presented K 100,000 and Kyaw Pyi K 100,000 to Deputy Director-General U Ye Htet of IPRD.

The considerable donations were accepted for 1,198 self-reliant village libraries.

On 6 June, the minister inspected IPRD Office in Kyaiiko and instructed officials to maintain the library, increase books and periodicals, extend the library, add more furniture to the library and systematically.

A total of K 3,653,765,600 was donated for establishment of a self-reliant library in each village in rural areas was launched in 2004-2005. Up to 17 May 2006, K 3,557,282,210 worth of TV sets, radios and books have been accepted for the libraries in Mon State

— MNA
Minister inspects upgrading of roads, bridges

YANGON, 7 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun arrived at Panmonn Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw Road on 1 June. Kalay District Senior Engineer U Saw Han and Gangaw District Senior Engineer U Tun Aung Kyaw heard reports on progress of Kalay-Gangaw Road and work to be done in 2006-07 financial year.

The minister inspected tasks of road and bridge along Kalay-Gangaw Road.

Next, the minister viewed choice of new axis from Haunkha Village to North Khinyan Village.

On 2 June, the minister inspected upgrading of Yangon-Pay-Mandalay Road and road and bridge along Yangank Road, and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Hotels in Bagan to provide satisfactory services

YANGON, 7 June — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing on 4 June met with hoteliers and tour operators in Bagan-NyaungU. After the meeting, he inspected hotel services of hotels in the archaeological zone in Bagan-NyaungU and fulfilled the requirements to see that services are satisfactory to the guests.

During his tour of inspection, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing went to a hotel construction site in Bagan Hotel Zone-1 and inspected the construction tasks and gave instructions.

Afterwards, the minister and party went to Nannya Tower of Htoo Trading Co Ltd. Next, he inspected hotel services of Nannya Hotel.

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing also met with employees of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services in Bagan. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects development of libraries in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Director U Maung Pe of Information and Public Relations Department and officials, attended the ceremony to open Chamnya Thika Library worth K 1.5 million built by member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aung Shwe-Daw Htay Htay Myint and family in Chamnyahtahi Township on 5 June.

The deputy minister, Secretary of the Township PDC U Saw Tun Oo and Acting Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Sein Myint formally opened the library.

Next, the deputy minister accepted a 21-inch colour TV donated by U Tin Shwe-Daw Mar Tin and family.

In Patheingyi Township, the deputy minister accepted one set of 21-inch colour TV for Pyinnya Library donated by villagers of Kyweyaygon Village. He presented VCD and books to the library.

Afterwards, the deputy minister proceeded to Alinyaung Library in Tawma Village of Singaing Township. He accepted a 21-colour TV, one radio and books donated by wellwishers. Later, the deputy minister presented VCDs and books to the library. — MNA

Fires break out in Insein, Pabedan townships

YANGON, 6 June — A fire broke out in Ward 7, Pabedan Township, Yangon Division, at 8.22 am today. The fire destroyed the air-conditioner, cassette electric shot and it set fire to the house at 8.22 am today. The fire destroyed the air-conditioner, a cassette and mattresses valued at K 50,000.— MNA

Cash and kind donated to Storm Relief Committee of Gwa Township (Yangon)

YANGON, 7 June — Storm Relief Committee of Gwa Township (Yangon) opens its office at Danyawady Missionary Monastery in Bahan Township.

Chairman of the Committee U Kyaw Yin (Thandwe District) donated equipment worth 5 million from the committee and 3,500 clothes of wellwishers to the victims in Gwa Township.

Yesterday, 15 wellwishers donated cash and kind worth K 2.45 million and film actress Pa Pa Win Khin 114 assorted clothes to the Storm Relief Committee of Gwa Township.

Patrons of the Committee U Aung Shwe Oo and U Ba Shwe expressed gratitude.

Four wellwishers and Kyauktaw Youth Funeral Welfare Association have also donated K 100,000 to the committee. — MNA

Early childhood development course concludes

YANGON, 7 June — Yangon Command’s Maternal and Child Welfare Association held early childhood development course at the hall of the command yesterday morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Waimade a closing speech on the occasion and presented prizes to trainees. Next, the schoolhead of No 5 Primary School of Social Welfare Department Daw Khin Thiin Myint presented completion certificates to the trainees. Executive Daw Nan Hla Si of Yangon Command MCWA presented souvenirs to course instructors, and a trainee spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the chairperson and party studied teaching aids and charts on display. — MNA

Shipments of palm oil arrives

YANGON, 7 June — Under the arrangements of the State, palm oil is imported from Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

MT Ama 3 loaded with 2,700 tons of palm oil arrived at Asia World Port Terminal, here, this evening.

Shipments of 2,800-ton and 2,900-ton palm oil are expected to arrive on 12 and 14 June. — MNA

MT Ama 3 loaded with 2,700 tons of palm oil seen at Asia World Port Terminal. — MNA
“Gerda, Half-Length Portrait” by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. The exhibit “Berlin-Tokyo, Tokyo-Berlin —The Art of Two Cities” opening on 6 June, 2006 in Berlin, will showcase painting, sculpture, graphic arts, photography, video art and sketches from groundbreaking German and Japanese artists, including Kirchner.

INTERNET

Venezuelan National Assembly legislators had passed laws against people trafficking and the government planned to invest 170,000 US dollars in fighting the trade during 2006, said a statement issued by the Venezuelan Embassy in the United States.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department, Venezuela was listed among 12 nations rated “Tier 3”: the worst offenders who could face sanctions if they do not take counter-measures within 90 days.

During the last 12 months, Venezuelan authorities have made great efforts to protect victims of human trafficking, sentence smugglers, and help police and public institutions to solve the problem, the Venezuelan Press reported.

There was no evidence to support the US government’s accusations, the statement added.

Chinese doctors successfully remove 3rd arm of two-month-old baby

SHANGHAI, 7 June — Chinese surgical experts on Tuesday successfully removed an abnormal third arm of a two-month-old baby boy in Shanghai.

According to Chen Bochang, chief surgeon at the Shanghai Children’s Medical Centre who carried out the complicated surgery, the operation was very successful.

The operation of the baby, from east China’s Anhui Province, was unique because both left arms were well formed but neither was fully functional, giving doctors pause over which one to operate on.

“He is now in a pretty good condition although he still needs a longer period to get fully recovered,” Chen said after the three-hour operation.

Babies who are born with an additional limb usually have one much more developed than the other on that side. The baby’s case has a rate of incidence of about one in two million, according to Chen.

Chen opted to remove the arm that was very bent and the hand was closed in a fist that could not be opened,” said Chen.

Despite the apparent success, Chen said the boy would likely need a long time of rehabilitation to make his arm function properly and be like a normal arm.

The remaining left arm is normally shaped but does not move unless it is pulled, and does not have a palm, according to Chen.

CARACAS, 7 June — The Venezuelan Government on Tuesday rejected a US report which rated Venezuela’s fight against human trafficking poorly, saying it was “part of the greater campaign to discredit President Hugo Chavez”.

A presentation detailing the ambitious project called China Pearls and Jewellery City (CPJC), has drawn the attention of hundreds of jewellery merchants attending the world’s largest jewellery exhibition being held here.

The CPJC will be a large-scale, modernized and one-stop trading platform for pearl and jewellery manufacturers, wholesalers and suppliers from all around the world, said Ricky Cheng, chairman of Man Sang Group.

Situated in Zhuji City, the CPJC is jointly developed by Man Sang Group from Hong Kong and six major leading pearl companies from Zhejiang.

Cheng said that the CPJC is planned to occupy an area of approximately 1.2 million square metres and host about 5,000 shops and booths upon completion of all phases of construction.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s pearl trading centre eyes to become world’s largest

LAS VEGAS, (The United States), 7 June — A conglomerate of pearl companies from China’s Hong Kong and Mainland is planning to build the world’s largest pearl trading centre in coastal Zhejiang Province in eastern China, a Hong Kong businessman from one of the companies told Xinhua here on Monday.

A presentation detailing the ambitious project, called China Pearls and Jewellery City (CPJC), has drawn the attention of hundreds of jewellery merchants attending the world’s largest jewellery exhibition being held here.

The CPJC is planned to occupy an area of approximately 1.2 million square metres and host about 5,000 shops and booths upon completion of all phases of construction.

MNA/Xinhua
China completes 800,000 rural drinking water projects

BEIJING, 6 June— China has completed more than 800,000 rural drinking water projects in recent years, solving difficulties and insecurity in this regard for 67 million rural residents, says a white paper entitled Environmental Protection in China (1996-2005) issued on Monday.

The Chinese Government has launched campaigns to build towns and乡镇ships with a beautiful environment and ecologically advanced villages in recent years, pushing forward comprehensive control of the rural environment, according to the white paper released by the Information Office of the State Council of China. China is concentrating on the demonstration of comprehensive control of pollution from livestock, poultry and fish breeding, and non-point pollution in Taihu, Dianchi and Chaohu lakes, as well as in the Yangtze, Zhujiang and Yellow river deltas.

Delhi, Mumbai are transit points for drug cartels

NEW DELHI, 6 June— International drug cartels, particularly those run by Nigerians, are increasingly using New Delhi and Mumbai as transit points for trafficking drugs to most parts of Asia, according to Indo-Asian News Service on Sunday.

Indian officials said these individuals act as "carriers" to smuggle narcotics from Afghanistan and Pakistan. They added that international cartels bring the "consignment" to New Delhi and export it to Nigeria where it is further processed before being smuggled to the capital. Police have also recovered 20,000 tablets of ecstasy, drugs, including Ecstasy.

India officials said these individuals act as "carriers" to smuggle narcotics from Afghanistan and Pakistan. They added that international cartels bring the "consignment" to New Delhi and export it to Nigeria where it is further processed before being smuggled to the capital. Police have also recovered 20,000 tablets of ecstasy, drugs, including Ecstasy.

China invests 3.5b yuan to publicize new energies in rural areas

BEIJING, 6 June— The Chinese Government spent 3.5 billion yuan (around 438 million US dollars) during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period (2001-2005) to popularize new types of energy in China’s rural areas, says a white paper entitled Environmental Protection in China (1996-2005) issued on Monday.

By the end of 2005, there were more than 17 million households using methane, and the yearly output of methane reached 6.5 billion cubic metres, according to a paper released by the Information Office of the State Council of China.

China regarded the development of new-energy projects including an ecological model of marsh gas in rural areas as an important approach to protecting and improving the rural ecological environment.

The government has devoted major efforts to developing a project producing methane from wastes in livestock and poultry breeding, the white paper says.

IATA boosts airlines’ loss forecast to $3b

PARIS, 6 June — Soaring oil prices will mean losses of three billion US dollars for global airlines this year, industry lobby group IATA said on Monday, raising its forecast from 2.2 billion US dollars as fuel woes outpace cost-cutting efforts.

The figure for now remains below the loss of 3.2 billion US dollars for 2005, but IATA Chief Executive Giovanni Bisignani told the group’s annual meeting in Paris that uncertainty remained.

“Oil is the wild card. Prices are racing ahead of efficiency gains and robbing our profitability,” he said in a speech on the state of the industry.

“The industry fuel bill will top 112 billion US dollars this year — 21 billion US dollars more than 2005,” said the International Air Transport Association, which represents 261 airlines handling 94 per cent of the world’s scheduled air traffic. — MNA/Reuters
**Kidney cancer gets new drugs, competition**

**ATLANTA, 6 June** — For the first time in decades there are new treatments available for kidney cancer, and as more data emerges about their efficacy, the competition looks set to heat up.

Data presented on Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology confirmed the potency of Sutent, a drug marketed by Pfizer Inc that was approved by US regulators in January.

For the first time, too, data was released from a late-stage, or Phase III, clinical trial of an experimental new drug from Wyeth called Temsirolimus that showed it improved overall survival by 49 per cent in patients with the poorest outlook.

Sutent, a drug made by Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc and Bayer AG, was approved in December and has already shown that it doubled the time before the disease progressed to 24 months from 12 months for patients in the placebo group.

On Monday, investigators will release updated survival data for Nexavar.

This time last year, interim results of a Phase III trial showed that Nexavar improved survival by 39 per cent, but the results were not statistically significant.

While trial investigators for Sutent and Temsirolimus each claimed superiority for their drug, they conceded that direct comparisons were impossible as each trial was designed differently.

The Sutent trial, for example, tested patients with a wide range of disease severity, from those whose prognosis was favourable to those whose prognosis was poor.

About 40 per cent were in the middle.

The late-stage confirmatory trial of Sutent showed the median time before which a patient’s disease progressed was 11 months in the Sutent group compared to five months in the group taking standard interferon therapy.

**Academic voices China should expand military spending**

**BEIJING, 6 June** — China should pump up its military spending to safeguard national security because of the danger of Taiwan declaring independence, state media reported on Monday quoted a government think tank academic as saying.

China also does not spend enough money on defence, considering the rapid growth of its economy, the official Chinese News Service quoted Hu Angang, director of the Centre for China Studies at the prestigious Tsinghua University, as saying.

China should further increase the percentage of national defence spending, given the fact that China has not been truly unified and faces the possible danger of Taiwan’s independence,” Hu was quoted as saying.

China’s military spending was officially about 30 billion US dollars in 2005, a 12.6-per-cent rise on the previous year, but many foreign experts believe the real figure could be significantly higher.

**Chinese universities set quota on electricity consumption**

**BEIJING, 6 June** — Beijing University is setting a monthly quota on electricity consumption by its students beginning the upcoming new semester in September in the hope of cutting its overall power usage.

An undergraduate will be allowed eight kilowatts per hour of electricity a month free of charge, while a postgraduate can use nine to 13 kilowatts per hour and a doctorate, 14 kilowatts per hour, a source with the university’s General Affairs Department said Monday.

Students living together in same dorm will be asked to pay for power over the set limits, the source said.

Currently, a kilowatt per hour of electricity costs householders in Beijing 0.48 yuan (6 US cents).

“Generally speaking, the quota can satisfy the basic need of students for electricity. We hope the students could cultivate a good habit of economizing on electricity,” a university official said.

The Beijing University has an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students. A number of universities in Beijing and other Chinese cities have already set different monthly quotas on electricity consumption for their students.

**Britain’s 2nd quarter factory output strongest in decade**

**LONDON, 6 June** — In the last three months, the manufacturing sector in Britain turned in its best performance in a decade, driven by the strongest pick-up in export orders in 11 years, a key industry report showed Monday.

The Engineering Employers’ Federation (EEF) said its output balance for engineering firms and manufacturers over the past three months surged to 22 from 13 reported in March.

The figure was the highest since the end of 1996, and reflected growth among firms in most sectors and regions, EEF said.

**Indian court allows “toxic” ship to drop anchor**

**NEW DELHI, 6 June** — India’s Supreme Court on Monday allowed a former cruiser liner that environmental activists say contains toxic asbestos to enter Indian waters, but said it could only be scrapped once it was declared safe.

Greenpeace and other groups say the 46,000-tonne Blue Lady, which is sailing for the Alang shipbreaking yard in the western state of Gujarat to be dismantled, contains more than 900 tonnes of asbestos.

Activists say Indian yards lack the modern technology to safely handle such waste, putting the health of workers at risk.

While refusing to ban the ship, the court said Customs and port authorities would verify the amount of contaminants on board and report their findings to it.

A decision would then be made on whether work on scrapping the vessel could be carried out safely at the Indian yard. In February, the French Government recalled the former aircraft carrier Clemenceau headed for Alang after a lengthy campaign by Greenpeace, which said the ship carried toxic waste.

**French Government recalled ship**

**NEW DELHI, 6 June** — The French Government recalled a ship with a high possibility of containing toxic asbestos to Indian waters, but said it could only be scrapped once it was declared safe.

The Clemenceau, which was sailing for the Alang shipbreaking yard in the western state of Gujarat to be dismantled, contains more than 900 tonnes of asbestos.

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**Sports**

**Pele, Maradona to parade before opening match**

MUNICH, 7 June — A total of 170 World Cup-winning players including Pelé and Diego Maradona will parade at the Allianz Arena before Friday's opening match between Germany and Costa Rica.

The pre-match ceremony will see also Pelé, who won the World Cup three times with Brazil, and German super-model Claudia Schiffer carry the World Cup trophy into the stadium.

The tournament will be opened officially by Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel, following a welcome speech by the president Horst Köhler, said FIFA president Sepp Blatter on Tuesday.

Speaking at a news conference, Blatter said Merkel would also attend the 55th FIFA Congress which opens on Wednesday.

He said it was FIFA's idea to invite all the players who had won the World Cup since 1930 to the opening parade. "As far as I know, 170 have said they will be there," said Blatter.

The entire 22-man squad of Germany's triumphant 1974 campaign will also be there at the event which, according to weather forecasts in Bavaria, will be blessed by the return of summer after days of cold and wet conditions. — MNA/Reuters

**German TV says 1966 win proved a curse for England**

BONN (Germany), June 7 — A German television documentary has taken a swipe at England's 1966 World Cup triumph and the controversial goal scored by Geoff Hurst.

The 3-Sat channel called the 4-2 victory a "curse" for England, comparing the two World Cups and three European championships won by German teams over the past 40 years to the fact their old rivals have drawn a title blank since 1966.

Tuesday's documentary "Wembley 1966, das Original des Klassikers" showed photographs and computer-generated reconstructions it said suggested hat-trick hero Hurst's second goal, England's third, had not crossed the line.

It also quoted players from the West Germany team, including captain Uwe Seeler, as saying it was a phantom goal.

With a tone as serious as if the game had been played last week, the documentary profiled Russian linesman Tofik Bahramov, who signalled the goal. — MNA/Reuters

**Germany’s Ballack misses training again**

BERLIN, 7 June — Germany captain Michael Ballack missed another training session because of his calf injury on Tuesday, heightening concerns that he may not be fit for the World Cup opener against Costa Rica on Friday.

Ballack had said he expected to be back training with the ball on Tuesday after recovering from the foot blisters which forced him off at halftime in Sunday's warm-up against New Zealand.

"There's a curse for England" — MNA/Reuters

**Ukraine ease past Libya 3-0 in warm-up**

KIEV, 6 June — World Cup debutants Ukraine warmed up for the finals in Germany with a 3-0 friendly victory over Libya in the Swiss town of Gossau on Monday.

Volodymir Yezersky headed the first from a 49th-minute corner before Oleksiy Belik and Andrey Vorobes added two late goals. Ukraine captain Andriy Shevchenko, recuperating from a knee injury he sustained last month, did not play.

The 2004 European Footballer of the Year, who joined English champions Chelsea from AC Milan last week, is expected to be fit for his team's World Cup opener against Spain on June 14.

Ukraine's other Group H opponents are Saudi Arabia and Tunisia. It was the second match between Ukraine and Libya, after they drew 1-1 in Tripoli two years ago in Oleg Blokhin's second game as Ukraine coach.

Libya had scoring chances but first-choice keeper Oleksandr Shovkovskyi and back-up Bohdan Shust, who came on after the dotted line was well to keep them out. Ukraine began their World Cup preparations with a 4-0 thrashing of Costa Rica on May 28 before holding Italy to a 0-0 draw in Lausanne last Friday. They face Luxor on June 14 in warm-up on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

**Ronaldinho recovers to train with Brazil**

KOENIGSTEIN (Germany), 7 June — Striker Ronaldinho trained with Brazil on Tuesday after recovering from the foot blisters which forced him off at halftime in Sunday's warm-up against New Zealand.

Ronaldinho took part in a defence-versus-attack practice as the world champions held their first training sessions since arriving in Germany late on Sunday.

"It was a match today, Ronaldinho would play without any problem," team doctor Jose Luis Runcio told reporters.

"The blisters have healed. He was treated with a powder. It's all been sorted out." — MNA/Reuters

**Rooney lifts England on training pitch**

BUHLERTAL (Germany), 7 June — Striker Wayne Rooney gave England's World Cup hopes a boost on Tuesday when he began a training session with the rest of the squad.

Rooney, who broke his foot on April 29, took part in the first 20 minutes of the session at their training base near Baden Baden, to the delight of coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

The 20-year-old Manchester United forward then did a mixture of running, sprinting and ball work on his own with England fitness coach Ivan Carminati.

"I think he looks very good," said Eriksson. The 20-year-old Man-

**US national soccer players Carlos Bocanegra (L) and Eddie Johnson (2nd R) fight for the ball during a training session in Norderstedt, near Hamburg on 6 June, 2006. —INTERNET**

**Brazil, Italy, Mexico are spend forces**

NEW YORK, 7 June — Brazilian, Italian and Mexican soccer fans set to be the top spenders during the World Cup which kicks off on Friday, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Whether they are football fans or casual fans, people from those countries are more likely to spend at least $100 on products or services, according to the MasterCard International-sponsored survey found.

Brazil, Italy and Mexico are among the top four countries that have played the most games, including qualifiers, in FIFA World Cup history. The fourth is Germany, which ranked among the top spenders in terms of avid fans but not casual ones. — MNA/Reuters

**Women play soccer with the ball of World Cup Germany 2006, during a school's eliminatory in a stadium of San Salvador, El Salvador, on 6 June, 2006. —INTERNET**

**Swiss Roger Federer returns a forehand to Croatia’s Mario Ancic during the quarter-finals of the French tennis Open at Roland Garros in Paris. Federer won 6-4, 6-3, 6-4. —INTERNET**
Rights activists rip US detainee medical guidance

WASHINGTON, 7 June
— The Pentagon on Tuesday unveiled its most comprehensive guidance to date for medical professionals in dealing with detainees, but rights activists denounced it for allowing broad use of prisoners’ health data to guide interrogations.

The directive allows a detainee’s medical information to be disclosed for several reasons other than medical treatment, including “lawful law enforcement, intelligence or national security-related activity,” which includes interrogations.

“Detainees shall not be given cause to have incorrect expectations of privacy or confidentiality regarding their medical records and communications,” the directive stated.

It also reaffirmed the military’s policy of force-feeding detainees who engage in a hunger strike, as has often occurred at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Leonard Rubenstein, executive director of Physicians for Human Rights, said the directive “puts doctors and other health professionals in the untenable position of assisting in the infliction of harm,” and pushes the United States further away from basic medical, ethical and legal standards.

The group called the directive an assault on medical ethics, the professional integrity of military medical personnel and the Geneva Conventions governing treatment of wartime prisoners.

William Winkenwerder, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Health Affairs, said the directive pulled together and added greater detail to various existing policies.

“It is a comprehensive, thoughtful policy document that’s reaffirming high ethical principles and humane care and treatment for detainees and persons under the authority and control of the United States Armed Forces,” Winkenwerder told reporters.

- Critics have accused US military medical personnel of being complicit in the abuse of detainees.
- By allowing clinical information from medical records to be used in interrogations, Rubenstein argued, the Pentagon is violating core ethical principles protecting confidentiality of information provided by patients to health care providers.

With access to such information, Rubenstein said, interrogators could exploit a detainee’s anxieties, phobias or depression, or take advantage of physical problems leading to back pain by using “stress positions” in an interrogation.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Manadalay Divisions and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (3.78) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.68) inches, Ye (2.09) inches, Putao (1.97) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.69) inches, Minbu (1.18) inches, Magway (0.67) inch and Meiktila (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 6-6-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 7-6-2006 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-6-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 6-6-2006 was (3.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 7-6-2006 were (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (1.69) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.50) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (17.64) inches at Mingaladon, (23.50) inches at Kaba-Aye and (24.92) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (16:20) hours MST on 6-6-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the North and Central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-6-2006: Rain will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States. Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in upper Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-6-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-6-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-6-2006: Likely of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Panama

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June — Mr David Guardia Varela, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw, at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA

Weather Forecast for (8-6-2006)

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

Yangon & neighbouring areas
One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).