Established 1914

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 reconciliation
* 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

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Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to King of Thailand

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of His Majesty’s accession to the throne which falls on 9 June 2006, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. — MNA**

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June—**
Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro, newly accredited Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil 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 and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

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Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Union of Myanmar Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

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Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA
Work for emergence of healthy and intelligent citizens

Basic education schools in the entire nation reopened on 1 June. In the new academic year, it is necessary for students to attend class and do their lessons regularly in order that they can have a good chance of achieving success at school.

Each new academic year usually coincides with the onset of the rainy season when outbreaks of dengue haemorrhage fever and dysentery are common. Therefore, it is advisable for students to keep healthy by taking care of their personal hygiene.

In the 2005-2006 academic year, the student population in the basic education sector was nearly eight million. Parents have to pay expenses for the education of their children and it would be worthwhile only if the students work hard at their studies.

Teachers have more contact with their students than parents do. Only with the good teaching of their teachers, will students become good achievers and time and money involved in their education be worthwhile.

Some students are apt to stay away from school when they should be in class. Good manners come only with learning or wisdom, not with education or craft. Teachers should lead and guide their students to avoid unhealthy and corrupt habits and behaviour.

Teachers ought to have genuine goodwill towards their students, natural bent for their career and spirit of sacrifice. They are required not only to educate their students but also to be role models for them.

For students to become good achievers, the onus is on parents, teachers and students themselves to work in cooperation with one another. Only then will healthy and intelligent citizens emerge.

Computers, printers donated

YANGON, 8 June — Computers and printers were donated to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 6 November.

At the donation ceremony held at UMFCCI here, Mr William Ng, Trade Representative of Republic of Naun Trade Promotion Office in the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of China Nauruam Entrepreneurs Association, presented 15 sets of computers and printers to Adviser to UMFCCI Dr Kyaw Htin, Vice President U Win Aung, U Aung Lwin, U Thaung Tin and General Secretary U Sein Win Htaung. U Sein Win Hlaing next presented a certificate of honour to the donor. — MNA

CPT Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — A work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs took place on 5 June morning at the ministry here.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered an opening speech and state and division managers reported on their respective tasks being carried out and future work. Next, Officer on Special Duty Col Win Maung and Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin presented cash assistance for 8,248 students who are children of the staff of the ministry to officials concerned.

Then the first day session of the meeting concluded. — MNA

Ambassador U Htein Win accredited to Argentina

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htein Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Argentina.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses the meeting of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. — CPT

Thakayta Township gets a tax-free market

YANGON, 8 June — In a bid to supply food to public at reasonable prices, a tax-free market of Yangon City Development Committee will be opened in Thakayta Township.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin today inspected preparations for opening Shukhintha tax-free market in Thakayta Township and fulfilled the requirements.

The construction of shops of the market has been completed, and products and goods of Ministry of Industry-1, Ministry of Energy, Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Myanmar Rice Merchants’ and Dealers’ Association and Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association will be on sale at the market on reasonable prices. Besides, fish will be available at the market.

On his tour of inspection, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin called for cleanliness of the market. The mayor inspected the tasks for a proper flow of drain and extended construction of a road in South Okkalapa Township.

He also went to Dagon Myothit (North) Township and inspected the paving of Panglong Road which is being upgraded to four-lane one.

U Sein Win Hlaing presents a certificate of honour to Mr William Ng. — UMFCCI

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects preparations for upgrading of Thusingalar Street between Thitsar Street and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township. — YCDC

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Chinese FM spokesman refutes US criticism on China’s mily spending

BEIJING, 7 June— A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday refuted the United States’ recent criticism on China’s lack of transparency in military spending, saying the censure is “groundless.”

Spokesman, Liu Jianchao made the remark in response to a question concerning US Defence Minister Donald Rumsfeld’s recent criticism on China’s military development and its lack of transparency. “The development of China’s national defence is peaceful development, and does not pose threat to any country or any person,” Liu said.

China’s military is defensive in nature and it has no history of invading other countries, Liu said, calling on the international community to have “clear” understanding about this point. “We cannot accept the constant criticism from the country which has the largest military spending in the world,” he said.

Rumsfeld made the criticism during a defence conference in Singapore, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, over the weekend. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi PM says 2,500 Iraqi detainees to be released soon

BAGHDAD, 7 June—Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Tuesday that 2,500 Iraqi detainees would be released on Wednesday or Thursday.

The detainees would be released from US-run detention centres and Iraqi custody after a special committee reviewed their cases, Maliki said. “Those who will be released will be people who are not loyal to ousted President Saddam Hussein or terrorists or anyone who stained his hands with the Iraqi people’s blood,” Maliki said.

“Those who committed killings or bombings will not be released,” he said, hailing the release as an important move to reach national reconciliation. —MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows one in five British motorists admit to drug driving

LONDON, 7 June—One in ten British motorists has driven after taking illegal drugs and four in ten think their driving is either unaffecte or even improved after indulging, a survey showed on Wednesday.

“Brits are some of the worst drug driving offenders in Europe, and drug driving could become as serious a problem in Britain as drink driving,” said Dr Rob Tustinbridge, a drug impairment expert and consultant to insurer MORE TIP N which carried out the study.

“18 per cent of drivers killed in road accidents in this country have traces of illicit drugs in their bodies,” he said in a statement. The poll conducted via myvillage.co.uk of 1,072 respondents found 10 per cent of drug drivers admitted they offended because they thought they could get away with it. One third (32 per cent) said they would be deterred if the police did more checks. —MNA/Reuters

Over 100 Turks killed in Iraq since outbreak of Iraqi war

ANKARA, 7 June— More than 100 Turkish people have been killed in Iraq since the start of the Iraqi war in March 2003, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said in a statement on Monday.

“Nearly all of the killed Turkish people were truck drivers,” Gul said in reply to a question of Unmet Kandogan from the True Path Party (DYP).

A total of 86 Turkish citizens were kidnapped in Iraq and 39 of them were released, Gul said, adding that efforts are underway to determine the whereabouts of the remaining.

Most of the truck drivers were killed or kidnapped by gunmen on Iraqi roads while transporting goods into the country.

Some drivers were believed to be attacked for ferrying goods to the US-led forces.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 7 June, 2006 shows the “South Sea Rescue Ship 111” at tourism dock of Haikou port in Haikou, capital of south China’s Hainan Province. China’s most advanced professional rescue ship “South Sea Rescue Ship 111” was put on service in Haikou base of South Sea Rescue Bureau on 7 June 2006. The 98-metre-long and 15.2-metre-wide ship can sail 12,000 sea miles continuously on the sea. It can also withstand typhoon of maximum 14 on the wind scale and break ice. —INTERNET

US says personal data on 2.2m troops stolen

WASHINGTON, 7 June—Personal information on about 2.2 million active-duty, National Guard and Reserve troops was stolen last month from a government employee’s house, officials said on Tuesday in the latest revelation of a widening scandal.

This means nearly all current US military personnel may be at risk for identity theft, the Pentagon said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said the information, including names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth, may have been stored in the same stolen electronic equipment that contained similar personal data on 26.5 million US military veterans.

Lawmakers and veterans’ advocates have expressed alarm that the government failed to safeguard the data, which in the wrong hands could be used in credit card fraud and other crimes.

Law enforcement agencies investigating the incident have no indication the stolen information has been used to commit identity theft, officials said.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson disclosed last month that unidentified burglars on 3 May broke into the Maryland residence of a Veterans Affairs data analyst who had violated official procedures by taking the data home. The thieves stole equipment containing the veterans’ data. —MNA/Reuters

A five-day-old baby hippopotamus rests with its mother at a zoo on the outskirts of the south Indian city of Chennai, on 7 June, 2006. —INTERNET

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Indonesian DM tells Rumsfeld that US is “overbearing”

JAKARTA, 7 June — Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hailed restored US military ties with Indonesia, but was told that America was seen as “overbearing” when it appeared to be pushing its anti-terrorism policies on others.

The Pentagon chief heard the blunt message from Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono, who said “as the largest Muslim country, we are very aware of the perception or misperception that the United States is overbearing”.

Rumsfeld, on the final leg of a three-country Asian tour, called the minister’s advice that specific anti-terrorism measures be left to US partners “not unreasonable at all”. He said Washington did not insist on one-size-fits-all policies.

His visit to Jakarta came six months after the State Department waived Congressional restrictions that had cut US military aid and arms sales to Indonesia imposed in 1992.

Rumsfeld said the restoration of military ties was “good for both countries”, adding that Washington intended to give Jakarta sustained access to American training and equipment.

US and Indonesian forces “need to know each other and be able to communicate well with each other and understand each other when there is a disaster,” Rumsfeld said after talks with Sudarsono and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Work starts on world’s largest solar power plant in Portugal

LISBON, 7 June — Construction of the world’s largest solar energy plant in Portugal’s southern Alentejo region began on Tuesday, General Electric said.

General Electric will invest $75 million in US dollars to build the photovoltaic power plant, which will cover 60 hectares (150 acres) of gently rolling hills with solar panels.

The panels, which will be raised around 2 metres off the ground in an area dotted with olive groves, will produce 11 megawatts of electricity, or enough to supply 8,000 homes.

The plant is expected to be ready in January 2007 and will have 52,000 photovoltaic modules.

It is near the town of Serpa, 125 miles (200 kilometres) southeast of Lisbon and in the heart of Portugal’s Alentejo, an overwhelmingly poor agricultural region and one of the sunniest spots in Europe.

The scheme fits into Portugal’s plans of reducing its reliance on imported energy and cutting output of greenhouse gases that feed global warming.

Portugal’s emissions have surged about 37 percent since 1990, one of the highest increases in the world.

Money traders work in front of a display showing the Nikkei average in a dealing room in Tokyo, on 7 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Troops risk undetected brain injury

WASHINGTON, 7 June—Thousands of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan may be risking permanent brain damage by returning to combat with relatively minor but undiagnosed concussions, often caused by bomb blasts, military researchers say.

Doctors say they are only now understanding the scope of the problem. Researchers screening returning soldiers and Marines at four military bases found that about 10% suffered at least a minor brain injury during combat. About 20% of troops in front-line infantry units suffered such injuries. The injuries frequently go undiagnosed because troops have no visible wounds or may not know they suffered a concussion, doctors say.

Medics and field doctors often aren’t aware of what happened during fighting.

More than 500,000 soldiers and Marines have served in or near Iraq and Afghanistan since 11 September, 2001, sometimes more than once.

“This blast group is going to be potentially huge,” says Angela Drake, a neuropsychologist with the Defence and Veterans Brain Injury Centre, a research arm of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Pentagon. “We’re looking at thousands of potential patients.”

Military doctors describe brain injuries as a signature wound of these wars. That’s because advances in body armor save soldiers who might have died in previous conflicts, but blast waves from roadside bombs can cause brain damage.
China to increase exchanges with Brunei Darussalam

BEIJING, 7 June — China will enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation with Brunei Darussalam in political, economic and cultural fields, said Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan on Tuesday.

Tang made the remarks in a meeting with Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.

Tang said the Chinese Government, in line with the principle of building friendship and partnership with neighbouring countries, will continue expanding cooperation with Brunei Darussalam in various fields and strengthening coordination with Brunei Darussalam in major international and regional affairs.

Brunei Darussalam is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Tang told Lim Jock Seng that China-ASEAN relations have witnessed sound development, and China is ready to further increase cooperation with the ASEAN nations. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the China-ASEAN dialogue relations.

Survey shows HK people are world’s greatest shopaholics

HONG KONG, 7 June — Results from the global ACNielsen on-line survey about consumer’s attitudes towards shopping have confirmed that the world’s biggest shopaholics are to be found in Asia and more closely, in Hong Kong.

A recent ACNielsen global on-line survey conducted among 22,000 Internet users in 42 markets has revealed that 74 per cent of world’s consumers admit to shopping as a form of entertainment while 93 per cent of Hong Kong consumers see the same.

According to the survey, seven of the top 10 markets with most people claim to shop once a week simply to amuse themselves all hail from Asia. People in Hong Kong (34 per cent), United Arab Emirates (30 per cent) and Thailand (27 per cent) top the world for shopping once a week for entertainment.

Hong Kong citizens rank first again for shopping as frequent as twice a week just for something to do, followed by the United Arab Emirates (40 per cent) and Singapore (37 per cent). Hong Kong has long been promoted as a shopping paradise. The opening of bigger and better shopping malls with shopping, dining and entertainment all under one roof are everywhere, said Benvenuto Niles, regional president of ACNielsen, Asia Pacific.

Toyota dominates 2006 quality rankings

DETROIT, 7 June — Toyota Motor Corp. continued to dominate the initial quality rankings, grabbing the top spot in 11 out of 19 segments in the 2006 survey by JD Power and Associates, released Wednesday.

Porsche dominated the overall ranking of brands, averaging 91 problems per 100 vehicles. That compared with an industry average of 124 problems per 100 vehicles.

The study, in its 20th year, was revamped to isolate consumers’ concerns about design flaws, as distinct from defects and malfunctions. The change in methodology makes year-to-year comparisons impossible.

However, a parallel survey conducted using the old methodology found that as a whole, the industry improved 8 percent from 2005, said Joe Ivers, executive director of quality and customer satisfaction research at JD Power.

Lexus, Toyota’s luxury brand, came in second in the overall nameplate rankings, with 93 problems per 100 vehicles.

The Toyota brand came in fourth with 106.

“They’re the closest thing to defect-free,” Ivers said of the two brands.

In vehicle segments, Toyota had five winners, including the Corolla for compact car, the Camry for midsize car, and the Sequoia for large sport utility vehicle. Lexus had six top vehicles, including the IS 250 and IS 350 for entry premium car, the SC 430 for premium sporty car and LX 470 for large premium SUV.

Of the Big Three domestic automakers, General Motors Corp. made the strongest showing. Its vehicles won in two segments — large pickup (Chevrolet Silverado) and large car (Pontiac Grand Prix). The Chrysler Town & Country was the top-ranked van, and the Ford Ranger won for midsize pickup.

US senators urge Bush to act on Haditha probe

WASHINGTON, 7 June — US senators demanded on Tuesday that the Bush Administration swiftly establish what happened in Haditha where American Marines are suspected of killing 24 unarmed Iraqis.

They said only rapid action could salvage the image of the military and US international relations.

The Senate Armed Services Committee plans hearings soon on last November’s incident in the western Iraq town and to determine whether the military tried to cover it up.

One senator, from President George W Bush’s own Republican Party, insisted Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld should be brought to account.

Senator Susan Collins of Maine said the committee must “ask hard questions such as, ‘When did Secretary Rumsfeld learn of the allegations?’ and ‘What action did he take?’”

The senators spoke on the same day a senior State Department official brushed aside criticism from Iraq’s Prime Minister over the Haditha incident.

“It’s a defence mechanism ... I wouldn’t make too much out of it,” James Jeffrey, the State Department’s Iraq co-ordinator, said of the criticism from Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

He said he believed US forces were well-respected in Iraq and Maliki’s outburst was to be expected.

“There is a constant buzz in Iraq of what our troops did or didn’t do,” Jeffrey told a group of defence writers. Last week, Maliki demanded the United States share files from the investigation of the Haditha killings, which he called a “terrible crime”.

Senators just back from a week-long recess blasted the Pentagon for taking months to start a probe of the incident first reported by Time magazine.

15 kidnapped people released in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Fifteen of the 50 people kidnapped on Monday in central Baghdad were released, a police source said on Wednesday.

“Our police patrol found around Tuesday midnight 15 people of those 50 kidnapped two days ago in Salhiyah Street,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“All of the 15 people showed signs of torture, including three with bullet holes in their legs,” he said.

The released people said that the kidnappers accused them of terrorism and assisting terrorists who came from Syria.— MNA/Xinhua

Workers try to clean waste along the banks of the Yangtze River near the Three Gorges Dam in Yichang, in central China’s Hubei Province on 5 June, 2006. — INTERNET

An Afghan man rides on a donkey cart in downtown Kabul, on 7 June, 2006. — INTERNET
World needs 430m new jobs by 2015

GENEVA, 7 June—Some 430 million new jobs will be required from now to 2015 to keep pace with growth of the world’s labour force, International Labour Organization (ILO) Director-General Juan Somavia said on Monday.

Somavia noted that some 80 per cent of the world’s work force live in developing countries, so new jobs are especially needed in that part of the world. The director-general was speaking in an address to the 95th International Labour Conference, which is participated by more than 4,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from the ILO’s member states. “That job creation challenge comes on top of the pressure of a continuing large scale shift out of agriculture and rural areas toward cities, pulled by the hope of a better job,” he said.

According to Somavia, the global economy is not delivering enough decent jobs that people need. “Despite the many benefits of globalization, we see again and again how the dignity of work has been devalued,” he said. He pointed out that economic optimism for some was matched with profound social pessimism for many.

“This is why we must put in place policies that replace jobless growth with quality, ‘job-rich’ growth,” he said.

Somavia cited the service economy as a “major growth area for employment”, adding “this is linked to another virtually global phenomenon—skill shortages side-by-side with rising unemployment”.

He said the hardware of the new technologies was spreading much faster than the human software of manager and worker skills to make full use of its potential.—MNA/Xinhua

Two US women charged over life insurance fraud

LOS ANGELES, 7 June—Two old women involved in the hit-and-run deaths of two homeless men are to be on trial next month on fraud charges related to multiple life insurance policies that allegedly took out on the victims, a US federal court said on Monday.

The judge has set a 25 July trial date for 75-year-old Helen Golay and 73-year-old Olga Rutterschmidt after they pleaded not guilty to nine fraud charges.

The two Los Angeles women are suspects in the deaths of Paul Vados, 73, in 1999, and of Kenneth McDavid, 50, last year, according to investigators. Both the two homeless men had life insurance policies that listed Golay and Rutterschmidt as the beneficiaries, and were found dead after having been run over in alleys during early morning hours.

Criminal investigation found that the two women befriended the men, putting them up in low-rent hotels until the end of a two-year period, after which it is more difficult under state law for an insurer to revoke a life insurance policy.

The women allegedly made rubber stamps bearing the men’s signatures, which they used to apply for policies.

And when they applied for the policies, the women allegedly claimed to be the men’s fiancées, or relatives. —MNA/Xinhua

Italian soldier killed in Iraq, four wounded

ROME, 7 June — An attack on an Italian military convoy killed one soldier and wounded four others in Iraq on Monday, the Defence Ministry confirmed. A roadside bomb hit the Italian vehicle, which was escorting a British convoy on its way to Tallil, some 100 kilometres north of Nassiriya in the south of the country, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

One of the soldiers died shortly after the explosion, he said.

Prime Minister Romani Prodi expressed his “sorrow for this new grief to befall the Italian people,” describing it as “very heavy news.”

Italian troops have been under frequent attacks recently. On 27 April, an explosion occurred near the headquarters of Italian troops in Nassiriya, killing three soldiers aboard a military vehicle.

In the past three years, 34 Italian soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

Several leaders of the centre-left coalition government on Monday night called for an immediate withdrawal of the troops from Iraq.

The Prodi government, which won the general elections in April, has announced plans to reduce the number of Italian soldiers deployed in Iraq from 2,700 to 1,600 during this month and to withdraw the remainder by the end of the year. The military contingent will be replaced by a civil group still to be defined.

The Italian troops were sent to Iraq in 2003 under former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who was a strong ally of US President George W Bush. Italian public opinion has been against the Iraq war.—MNA/Xinhua

UNESCO says world illiteracy “worrying”

HAVANA, 7 June—The world illiteracy situation was worrying, the chief of the Latin America branch of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) said here on Tuesday.

At the opening session of the International Seminar for Literacy Policy and Prower force, Herzlman Van Off called on the international community to take measures to eradicate the illiteracy which affects 770 million people worldwide.

He said that few donors and development banks referred to the topic in their aid projects.

Van Off also said that the statistics would soon be updated to include as illiterates those people who leave primary education without a solid grasp of the basics, a criterion adopted by richer nations.

“Literacy should not be a goal, but rather the path towards greater knowledge, towards a new society marked by cultural broadness, and by men and women able to live in peace and harmony and respect diversity,” he said.

At the seminar which is to end on Friday, experts from 30 countries will review progress on the UN millennium development goals set in 2003 and also share experiences in literacy promotion.—MNA/Xinhua

Demonstrators dressed as US President George W Bush (L), Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, (2nd L), Vice President Dick Cheney (2nd R) and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld protest against Bush’s administration in front of the White House in Washington, on 6 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Visitors look at a sewage plant on the outskirts of Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province on 5 June, 2006.—INTERNET

A 2-month-old baby boy born with three arms underwent a successful operation on 6 June, 2006 at Shanghai Children’s Medical Centre to remove his extra limb. He is the third instance of its kind in the world. The baby is expected to recover from the operation in one to two months, but rehabilitation could take a long time, according to Chen Bochang, head of the orthopedics department of the hospital.—INTERNET
Union National Races Village that vitalizes Union Spirit

“It is called Twi Kuang in our language, which is a hollowed-out log for storing water. We usually place it in front of our homes”, Chin nationals Ma Shinnmon Kyein and Nyaung Khin Hauk told me during my visit to Union National Races Village. The two staff of the Chin village explained what I wished to know about traditional household items of Chin people. I first noticed the Twi Kuang in the photo which I liked best among the pictures of the 2006 calendar published by the Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races under my arrangements. The photo portrays a Chin maiden pounding rice in front of her house with the nearby Rhododendron tree in full bloom. The house was located near the edge of a Chin mountain. The Twi Kuang and other traditional objects can also be seen in the photo named “Rhododendron Flowers and the Chin Mountain Range.”

It was a newly edited song on the Union National Races Village shown on TV that inspired me to visit the Village again. The newly edited version showed new structures such as the Namnyint Tower and the archway that were not included in the original song on the Village telecast during April.

Early May showers made weather cooler and the Village looked greener and more pleasant. It was in the cultural museum located on the ground floor of Namnyint Tower where paintings of various types and personal and household items of nationalities were exhibited. Next to the tower was a dome under construction to stage traditional dances of ethnic people.

What’s new for me were a three-string harp and a Malakon harp made of cat hide exhibited at Rakhine village, a place I have already visited so many times that most of the items displayed there were familiar to me. Toddy-palm-leave hats made in Thandwe region were also on display at the village. I saw a large crowd of visitors at the Bamar village where a replica of Mingun Bell was kept. Between the Bamar village and the Mon village was a Mon traditional alms offering structure where visitors were taking a rest. I felt as if I were travelling in Mon State.

At the Kayin village were a bed, a chair and a table all made of bamboo indicating Kayin people’s skill in making household goods. With the use of bamboo and two long traditional farm-used hats shown together with other displays including Frog drum, traditional musical instruments and the addition of a stair to the house every time a son of the family got married. In the photo of Kayah village were so eager in explaining all about their traditional household, farm-used, social and personal items displayed there.

Visitors are among the villagers who were busy visiting folk dances. My discussions with a staff, Tanji, at Kachin village was about the calendar, Tanji posed as the bullock-cart driver ferrying eight girls in traditional costumes. Bamboo baskets or Num Kawa Nhye in Kachin language that attracted tourists were among the objects I had studied at the village. But what captivated me most was the way Kachin people roofed their homes, that was different from Bamar.

New displays at the Shan village included various kinds of baskets with sling and earthen kettles, and on the mini-Inlay Lake were a number of people riding boats for pleasure and fun. Staff of Kayah village were so eager in explaining all about their traditional traditional alms offering structure. I felt as if I were travelling in Mon State.

Visitors to the Village are welcomed by eight-pillar archway symbolizing the unity and oneness of the national races. In this Union live the nationalities including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, with unity remains intact and friendship ever enhanced. They respect each other’s traditions, culture and customs. For them the Union of Myanmar is their only motherland to live in, and on this motherland are a large number of Union villages forming as mini- Unions.

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to be well equipped with Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

As for me, I would like to say that the Union National Races Village near the Thanlwin Bridge in Thakayta, Yangon Division, is a place that helps vitalize Union Spirit.

Kyemon: 8-6-2006
According to an official of Kyawtha Construction Co Ltd, the three-storey building is expected to be completed by March 2007. The building is being constructed on 17.05 acres of land.

Besides, Lt-Gen Maung Bo went to the construction site of the main building of Dawei University and assisted in the construction tasks. Pro-rector of Dawei University U Kyaw Kyaw Htay reported on academic matters; an official of the Public Works on construction of lecture halls, hostels and staff quarters and an official of Ever Green Co Ltd on construction of the four-storey building measuring 507 feet in length and 303 feet in width. Together with 2,454 students of University of Distance Education, there are 4,490 students studying at the university now. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw- Mandalay- Nay Pyi Taw express train launched

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — For the convenience of government employees and commuters going from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw, the Ministry of Rail Transportation launched the Nay Pyi Taw- Mandalay- Nay Pyi Taw express train yesterday evening.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin and officials inspected the express train, on which he greeted the passengers who were going to board and presented gifts to them at Pyinmana station.

Later, the minister and the deputy minister sprinkled scented water on the engine RBE-3611 and the train started running.

No 25 Nay Pyi Taw- Mandalay- Nay Pyi Taw up train leaves Pyinmana station at 10 pm and arrives at Mandalay station at 5 am.

No 26 down train daily leaves Mandalay station at 7 am and arrives at Pyinmana station at 2 pm.

The trains stop at Ywataw, Tatkon, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Thazi, Myitha and Kyaukse stations.

The train fares are K 650 for the ordinary class and K 810 for the first class.

Ticket for the first class can be booked 3 days in advance and ticket for the ordinary class one day in advance.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials wave to the passengers on board Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train in its first run. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min sprinkles scented water on locomotive engine RBE-3611 of Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presents a gift to a passenger on board Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train. — MNA

No 25 Nay Pyi Taw- Mandalay- Nay Pyi Taw up train leaves Pyinmana station at 10 pm and arrives at Mandalay station at 5 am.

No 26 down train daily leaves Mandalay station at 7 am and arrives at Pyinmana station at 2 pm.
Minister inspects progress in building Pyapon Bridge

YANGON, 8 June—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials from Public Works on 5 June inspected the construction tasks along Hlinethaya-Kanbe-Kungyangon-Dadey-Pyapon road.

At the briefing hall, deputy superintending engineer U Kin Maung Se reported on progress of work and future tasks. The minister viewed the construction task and attended to the needs.

Reinforced concrete Pyapon Bridge will be 3,932 feet and eight inches long. The 28-foot motorway will be flanked by 12 feet wide pedestrian lanes. It can withstand 60-ton loads. — MNA

Measures for tourism promotion coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on 6 June held a meeting to coordinate its functions in Nay Pyi Taw.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing addressed the meeting, calling for tourism promotion and coordination of its functions in Nay Pyi Taw. He said the ministry’s income, systematic levying of taxes, reduction of expenditures, and carrying out the tasks with duty consciousness and goodwill.

Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Hay Aung reported on departmental affairs for 2006, and Managing Director of the Myamma Hotels and Tourism Secretariat gave an account of plans of the department set for 2006.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu gave an account of tourism promotion measures.

The minister presented cash awards to five staff who won medals for their outstanding performances. The minister, the deputy minister and officials presented prizes to winning departments and enterprises under the ministry. Cash assistance for 2006 was also provided for the departments.

The minister assessed the reports and called for tourism promotion and cooperation with private entrepreneurs in the hotel and tour field for higher income. — MNA

Chinese mily delegation visit NDC

YANGON, 8 June—The visiting 6-member Chinese delegation led by Naval Command College of Chinese Army Deputy Commandant Rear Admiral Li Tiemin together with military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Military Attaché and officials visited the National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this afternoon.

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Zaw Win extended greetings. They discussed mutual cooperation on learning between two countries.

Next, Brig-Gen Zaw Win and Chinese Deputy Commandant Rear Admiral Li Tiemin exchanged gifts. The Chinese delegation viewed round the booths displayed at the National Defence College. In the evening, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Zaw Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation at the Mya Yek Nyo Royal Hotel. — MNA

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Zaw Win meets Rear Admiral Li Tiemin and goodwill delegation members. — MNA

Ceremony to assign duty held in Nay Pyi Taw Command

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June — A ceremony to assign duty to meet project goals for the year 2006-2007 in Pyinmana district was held at Mingala Kantaw hall in Pyinmana on 6 June.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, local authorities, departmental officials and others attended the ceremony.

Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin urged the officials to go all out for the regional development and project goals.

After hearing reports on work being done, the commander attended to the need.

The commander later assigned the duties to the officials concerned and the ceremony ended.

MNA

Commander inspects development of Aphyauk, Taikkyi

YANGON, 8 June—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony to hoist Shwehtitaw (umbrella) atop Zeya Thattatu (Yan Aung Myin) Pagoda in Changoon Village-tract of Taikkyi Township this morning.

On the occasion, the commander hoisted Sembudaw (diamond orb) atop the pagoda. The commander and party later attended the collective ploughing ceremony in Uto Village of Taikkyi Township.

In Aphyauk of Taikkyi Township, the commander inspected the natural gas field, the station hospital, and construction of the embankment to prevent against flooding the town.

At the station hospital, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar presented K2.5 million for the Sangha ward to Dr Dawk Khin Aye Yi.

At Ngwe Udaung Hall, the commander met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people. He heard reports on regional development by officials and attended to the needs.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai donated 50 dozens of exercise books and stationery to students at Aphyauk BEHS, and accepted 1,000 MCWA membership applications from Chairperson Daw Saw Shwe of Yangon North District MCWSC.

The commander in-spected Taikkyi-Uto-Chaung-thongwa Aphyauk Road. Later, the commander and wife attended the physic nut sapling growing ceremony in Gyohya Model Village. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing speaks at the meeting. — MNA

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Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June  — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited Mann oil field.

The minister gave instructions to boost oil and gas and inspected production of crude oil at Well No 455.

MANN OIL FIELD

Gas Plant and looked into the operation of machines. In his meeting with service personnel, the minister heard reports on production process of the plant by officials. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi fulfilled the requirements to run the plant at full capacity.

Bayintnaung palace under excavation

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June  — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint inspected the project site for excavation of old Kanbawzathadi palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago this afternoon.

Officials concerned conducted the minister around the project. In response, the minister said that King Bayintnaung unified the Second Myanmar Empire. In explaining about the history of the palace to local and foreign researchers, special attention should be given to close bilateral relations and stronger national solidarity.

All the exhibits displayed in the archaeological zones are to be with historic evidences. In making references, reliance should be placed on the stone inscriptions donated by the king. Means are to be sought to prevent the bats and pigeons making the buildings dirty. Staff of the Department of Archaeology need to be knowledgeable about the Myanmar’s history and cultural civilization. The area of Bago archaeological zone is vast but it is completely inhabited. So, they should disseminate historical knowledge to local people so that the latter would come to know and value the history well.

Minister For Energy inspects Mann oil field

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June  — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited Mann oil field at Minbu, Magway Division, on 5 June. General Manager U Kyi Shein gave instructions to boost oil and gas production of Well No 455 and efforts for production of more oil and gas at Mann oil field.

The minister gave instructions to boost oil and gas and inspected production of crude oil at Well No 455.

The minister and party were drilled of new oil well No 474 and No 640 and also inspected physic nut plantation at Mann oil field.

On 6 June, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited Minbu Liquefied Natural Gas Plant and looked into the operation of machines. In his meeting with service personnel, the minister heard reports on production process of the plant by officials. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi fulfilled the requirements to run the plant at full capacity.

Deputy Minister for Health back from UN

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June  — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and Deputy Director (HIV/STDS) Dr Min Thwe of the Health Department attended the AIDS General Conference held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, from 31 May to 2 June.

Permanent Representative Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe of the Union of Myanmar to the UN also attended the conference.

On 31 May, the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo attended the ceremony to inaugurate the conference at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters.

UNGA Chairman Mr Jan Eliasson presided over the conference. UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, UNAIDS Executive Director Mr Peter Piot and a AIDS patient delivered addresses. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo held an informal meeting with HIV/AIDS Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Asian and Pacific Region Dr Nitis Sudik. He also called on the special adviser to the UN Secretary-General who is also the Undersecretary-General, and discussed control and prevention against HIV/AIDS in Myanmar.

On 1 June, the deputy minister attended the meeting for leaders of the delegations and UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and WFP.

On 2 June, the AIDS General Conference continued at the same venue. Afterwards, the ministerial meeting was held at the two groups. In the group-1, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe presided over the meeting. The deputy minister delivered an address.

On 2 June, UNGA Mr Jan Eliasson delivered a concluding address and the conference ended at 10 am. The deputy minister and party arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw on 7 June.

Books donated to Amatytywa self-reliant library in Sittway

Sittway, 22 May  — With the aim of developing self-reliant libraries and disseminating knowledge to local people, the books donation ceremony was held at Amatytywa self-reliant library in Theikpyin Ywama village, Sittway Township on 22 May.

Assistant Director U Ngwe Tun of Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on durability and development of the library.

At the books donation ceremony, Village PDC Chairman U Kyaw Zan and responsible persons accepted various kinds of books, journals and newspapers donated by wellwishers.
1,200-year-old temple found in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 June — Bangladeshi Archaeology Department has discovered a Buddhist temple and a brick-roaded road dating possibly between the seventh and eighth centuries in Bogra District, 280 kilometres northwest of Dhaka, during a Bangladesh-France joint excavation recently, local media reported on Wednesday.

Sources said a good number of antiques including ornamental and polished bricks, clay ornaments and toys, terracotta pieces and cast coins, were also found at the site.

Abdul said more excavation is needed to know more about the temple and its structure. A huge number of bricks have been stolen from the temple at different times — both before and during the excavation, officials at the Archaeology Department said, alleging lack of security at the site.

Earlier, the department discovered an earthen stove of 400 BC from the same area along with other antiquities from different periods. Ancient coins, statues, terracotta and old house structures have been discovered at different points of the site during the joint excavation since 1993. — MNA/Xinhua

Members of the Russian Coast Guard (R) spray water on a mock wrecked ship during a drill at the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum, which is conducted for law enforcement and search and rescue exercises by coast guards of South Korea, Japan, Russia and the US as well as delegation from China and Canada, in Pusan, about 420 km (262 miles) southeast of Seoul, on 8 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Oil minister says Iran would prefer not to use oil weapon

TEHRAN, 8 June — Iran said on Wednesday it hoped it would not have to play the oil card in a dispute over its atomic programme but insisted it would defend its rights.

When asked about using the world's second biggest reserves of crude oil and natural gas as leverage, in the nuclear row, Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri-Hamaneh said he hoped matters would not reach such a point.

“I hope these remarks are only used as a show of strength and we will not be forced to use this tool as leverage,” he was quoted as saying by the IRNA student news agency.

“We need oil exports because currency that comes from them should be used to build infrastructure. However, if we feel we have to, we will defend our rights,” he added.

His words chimed with those of Yahya Rahim Safavi, commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Guards who also on Wednesday said Iran was not looking to make trouble in the region or imperil world energy supplies.

However, Rahim Safavi said he agreed with comments by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khameini on Sunday that world energy flows could be endangered by any US “wrong move” against the world’s fourth biggest crude exporter.

“We do not want any kind of insecurity in the region or to world energy supplies, but we believe any insecurity in Iran would apply to the whole region as well,” he was quoted as saying by the IRNA.

“As a military commander, I believe the security of world energy is bound to the Middle East region and Iran. They are meshed together,” he added while inaugurating a pipeline in southern Iran.

Iran is the focus of a heated international dispute on whether it is seeking to develop nuclear arms. Iran denies the charge but has failed to convince the international community and has been hauled before the UN Security Council.

INTERNET

Iran prefers cooperation to confrontation

TEHRAN, 8 June — Iranian foreign minister ManouchehrMottaki said that his country preferred cooperation to confrontation over the nuclear dispute, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

“Over the nuclear issue, we prefer cooperation to confrontation,” Mottaki told reporters after meeting with his Kazakh counterpart Kasyymzhomart Tokayev here on Tuesday.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana submitted the proposals to Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on Tuesday.

“We had a constructive talk, there are some positive steps but also ambiguities in the proposal, we will study the package and then give a response,” he was quoted as saying by the IRNA.

“Now that the proposal is on the table, I hope we can receive a positive response which can satisfy both sides,” Solana said after a separate meeting with Mottaki.

28 people killed Tanzania lorry accident

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 June — Twenty eight people were killed and 12 others severely injured when a truck they were travelling in overturned in northwestern Tanzania, a police official said on Wednesday.

The seven-tonne vehicle was laden with fish, which its more than 50 occupants were ferrying to Kigoma region, northwest of Dar-es-Salaam, from a town on the shores of Lake Victoria.

“Most of those in the lorry were fish traders who had gone to Lake Victoria to buy sardines and other fish,” said Ignatius Mbinga, Kagera regional police commander.

British police arrest 12 in drug trafficking raids

LONDON, 8 June — Police arrested 12 men on Wednesday suspected of being involved in international drug trafficking networks in Britain and Colombia. More than 100 officers conducted a series of “pre-planned, synchronized” dawn raids on 19 houses across London and Kent, the Metropolitan police said in a statement.

“Today’s arrests are the culmination of a two-year intelligence-led operation … into three criminal networks, one Colombian, and two London-based,” the statement said. — MNA/Reuters

Japan lobbied for UN seat at Pacific Summit

WELLINGTON, 8 June — A seat on the United Nations Security Council was heavily on Japan’s mind as it hosted Pacific Island Leaders in Okinawa last week, said the Suva-based news agency PACNEWS on Wednesday.

It said Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi used the opportunity to urge for support from the 14 Pacific island leaders on Japan’s bid for a seat at the United Nations.

The small island nations hold 14 UN votes, about 7 per cent of the world body’s total.

The Japanese Government offered nearly 400 million US dollars in aid to attract the leaders’ attention, said PACNEWS.

It said Japan normally contributes more than 89 million US dollars annually to these nations, and the hefty increase signals Japan’s goal to garner support for its interests.

INTERNET
China starts issue of 30b yuan book-entry T-bonds

China began on Tuesday to issue 30 billion yuan (3.75 billion US dollar) worth of book-entry treasury bonds with terms of maturity of three months.

The T-bonds, the seventh batch of its kind issued this year, carry an annual pure interest rate of 1.66 per cent, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement posted on its website.

The issue of the T-bonds is available to investors with accounts for investment in fund, share and bonds investment at China Securities Depository and Clearing Co or China Treasury Bonds Depository and Clearing Co. The bonds will also be floated for cash trading from 13 June at the national interbank bonds markets or the stock markets.

The ministry said that 24 of the 61 members of those selected through writing institutions were awarded the rights on Monday to distribute the T-bonds. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy PM urged to speed Iraq pullout after killing

ROME, 7 June— Prime Minister Romano Prodi faced pressure by leftist allies on Tuesday to accelerate the withdrawal of troops from Iraq after another Italian soldier was killed near the southern city of Nassiriya.

Prodi, who called the Iraq war a “grave error”, upon taking office last month, authorised the latest killing and his Defence Minister reelected pledges to pull out Italy’s 2,600 troops by the end of the year.

But other allies on the left of his coalition, which ranges from Roman Catholic moderates to Communists, suggested six-months was too long to wait.

The roadside bombing on Monday night near the Italian base in Nassiriya also wounded four soldiers.

It was the second since Prodi was elected on a platform that included troop withdrawal. Four soldiers were killed by an April blast, the deadliest attack against Italian troops since 2003.

Dawa Sherpa sets Mt Everest speed climb record

KATHMANDU, 7 June— Dawa Sherpa became the world’s first ever speed climber to have scaled Mt Everest since 2003.

Dawa began his solo climb on 21 May at 9:00 pm from the Base Camp in China’s Tibet side and descended to the Base Camp in Nepal, The Himalayan Times reported on Wednesday.

The mountaineer claimed it took him 20 hours and 15 minutes to complete the mission.

Dawa began his solo climb on 21 May at 9:00 pm from the Base Camp in China’s Tibet side, conquered the summit at 8:40 am on 22 May and reached the Everest Base Camp at 5:15 pm local time (1130 GMT) the same day.

Sherpa, who hails from Tamshikhani in Solukhumbu District in eastern Nepal, some 300 kilometres north-east of Kathmandu, also hoisted the flags of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries atop the world’s highest peak.

“I am a Nepali and I completed my mission for the country and I hope to get my feat registered in the Guinness Book of World Records,” he said at a programme organized by the World Peace Everest Expedition 2006 here Tuesday.

He also stressed the need of peace in every nook and corner of Nepal and across the world. — MNA/Xinhua

China starts issue of 30b yuan book-entry T-bonds

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The ministry said that 24 of the 61 members of those selected through writing institutions were awarded the rights on Monday to distribute the T-bonds. — MNA/Xinhua
China to supply fireworks for Thai King’s celebration

BANGKOK, 7 June—The government of China will cooperate with the private sector to set Bangkok’s skies aglow with historic fireworks celebrating the 60th anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s accession to the throne, the Community Support Foundation Thailand said on Monday.

Fireworks supplied by the Chinese Government will be exhibited on 9 June at Benjakitti Park at National Queen Sirikit Convention Centre. About 10,000 fireworks will be launched to a height of 100-200 metres and will explode into music.

A detail of a display entitled ‘Up against the wall’ made of lenticular postcards by artist David Mach is displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts in central London, on 7 June, 2006 as part of its 238th Summer Exhibition. —INTERNET

Office rents in Singapore expected to rise further

SINGAPORE, 7 June—Prime office rents in Singapore are expected to rise another 15 to 20 per cent in the rest months of this year, Channel NewsAsia report quoted consultants as saying Monday.

The rents surged some 21 per cent in 2005 and rose by a further 8 per cent in the first quarter of this year to reach the current average of 5.6 Singapore dollars (about 3.6 US dollars) per square foot per month.

It is believed that there is room for the rents to grow further as they are still 40 per cent below the trough in 2004, the report said.

Singapore ranked the 43rd on the list of the world’s top 50 cities with the most expensive office rents, according to the latest report on global market rents issued by CB Richard Ellis, an America-based real estate consulting company, in May this year.

Consultants said that the city state could enjoy sustainable growth in office rents without losing competitiveness in the next two to three years because the rents are “fairly manageable” here as compared with the country’s economic growth. —MNA/Xinhua

Study shows premature babies at hyperactivity risk

LONDON, 7 June —Premature and low birthweight infants are up to three times more likely than bigger babies to suffer from hyperactive behaviour, according to a study published on Monday.

Premature and low birthweight infants are up to three times more likely than bigger babies to suffer from hyperactive behaviour, according to a study published on Monday.

Danish research shows that babies born at 34-36 weeks have an 80 per cent increased risk of hyperkinetic disorder (HKD) than full-term infants.

Low attention span and impulsiveness are symptoms of HKD and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“Children born pre-term, close to term, or at 37 or more completed weeks of gestation with low birthweights had an increased risk of clinically verifiable HKD,” said Dr Karen Limnet of Aarhus University Hospital.

Low birthweight is a weight of less than 2,500 grammes (5.5 lbs). The link between extreme prematurity and assessed risk of developmental problems and hyperactivity is known. But Limnet and her team have shown the risk is not limited to just very premature babies.

Charlotte Davies of the London-based baby charity Tommy’s said the study, published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, showed a desperate need for more research into the causes of premature birth.

“All too often pregnancy complications, such as premature birth, are viewed as only affecting the family directly concerned, yet behavioural problems such as ADHD or HKD can have an effect on society as a whole,” she said in a statement.

The researchers compared the birth records of 834 children born between 1980 and 1994 with HKD and 20,100 children with no behavioural problems.

Full-term babies who weighed less than 2,500 grammes at birth were 90 per cent more likely to develop the condition.

The risk of HKD decreased with an increase in birthweight.

The researchers added that nine out of 10 of the babies that developed HKD were boys. The condition was diagnosed when the children were 2-18 years old. —MNA/Reuters

Multi-purpose vehicles selling well in Vietnam

HANOI, 7 June —Three out of five best-selling automobiles in Vietnam in the first three months of this year were multi-purpose vehicles (MPV), local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Tuesday.

Hi-Lander, the MPV family of Isuzu, accounted for 81 per cent of the automaker’s total sales in Vietnam in the three-month period. Other families like Innova and Zace of Toyota, and Everest of Ford also sold well in the country.

MPV sales reached 3,066 units, accounting for over 11 per cent of the total sales of different kinds of automobiles in Vietnam in 2002. The figure increased to 12.1 per cent in 2003, 15 per cent in 2004, and around 22 per cent in early 2006, said the report.

Main reasons for the bigger sales include higher numbers of local wealthy business people and state cadres, and more diversified models of MPV assembled in and imported to Vietnam.

Total sales of 11 automobile joint ventures in Vietnam posted a year-on-year decline of 14.6 per cent to 4,700 units in the first quarter of this year, according to the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association. —MNA/Xinhua

Tea industry faces multifarious problems in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 7 June —Bangladesh’s tea industry is facing multifarious problems that resulted in the decline of export earnings from the sector, private news agency UNB reported on Monday.

According to statistics, there are 162 tea gardens in the country. Of the total of 114,912 hectares of land in the 162 tea gardens, only 52,201 hectares are now under tea cultivation while the rest remained fallow.

Sources in the Tea Board said tea production is being hampered due to unfavourable weather and lack of proper development and maintenance of the tea gardens.

Besides, theft of shade trees, frequent load shedding and rise of production costs have also been hindering the production.

Tea Board sources said tea export has declined as the production of tea failed to keep pace with the increasing domestic demand.

The domestic consumption of tea has been rising 3.5 per cent annually against 1.5 per cent increase in production, they said. —MNA/Xinhua

Workers lower a bigger-than-life poster of Argentina’s soccer star Lionel Messi from a high-rise bank building in the centre of Frankfurt, on 7 June, 2006. The World Cup soccer will kick off on Friday with the first Group A match Germany versus Costa Rica.—INTERNET
Brazil coach hopes refs will clamp down on violence

KOENIGSTEIN (Germany), 8 June — Brazil's World Cup coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has appealed to referees to clamp down on violence and protect his players.

Parreira said he had heard numerous promises of tough action in the past and wanted to see words translated into deeds this time.

"We always hear this before a World Cup," he told reporters on Tuesday.

"They always say violence will not be allowed and gamesmanship will be stopped. It's a good idea and I want to see it put into practice."

Parreira said a clampdown would not only benefit Brazil.

"If that happens, it will be great for Brazilian football, great for South American football and for football in general," he said.

"Football will be better to watch, there will be less fouls, but I want to see action. So far, I've heard a lot of promises but it hasn't happened." Parreira said up to 30 minutes of every game was wasted for various reasons.

"At the moment, the ball is in play for an average of 60 minutes per match," he said. "The rest of the time is wasted with players being treated for injury, the ball out of play for free kicks and so on." — MNA/Reuters

Spanish Raul, left, challenges Croatia's Robert Kovac (in a friendly soccer match between the national teams at the Stade de Geneve in Geneva, Switzerland, on 7 June, 2006. In the first round of the World Cup Spain will play in Group H with Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine. Croatia will play in Group F with Brazil, Japan and Australia.—INTERNET

60 players celebrate their birthday during 2006 World Cup

BERLIN, 8 June — Of the 736 players participating at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, 60 will celebrate their birthday during the competition, said FIFA Communications Division on Wednesday.

Furthermore, two coaches and two referees will also mark a birthday between 9 June and 9 July.

Of the 64 competition 'birthday boys', six, mostly Frenchmen, will be celebrating in style as their birthdays coincide with a match day of their home nation. They are:

KLOSE Miroslav (09.06.1978), a German striker who will mark his 28th birthday by playing in the opening match against Costa Rica.

MALOUDA Florent (13.06.1980), who will turn 26 on the day of France's first match during the tournament against Switzerland.

LEMERRE Roger (18.06.1941). The Frenchman who coaches Tunisia is the only coach to celebrate a birthday/match day at the group stage. His birthday coincides with France's match against South Korea.

LAMPARD Frank (20.06.1978). On the occasion of his 28th birthday, he will be partying on the pitch with his team mates against Sweden.

And two maestros on a same day: ZIDANE Zinedine (23.06.1972) and VIEIRA Patrick (23.06.1976). They will not only share a birthday, but also celebrate it by playing for their national team against newcomers Togo in their final group match. — MNA/Xinhua

French national soccer team player Thierry Henry, centre, kicks the ball between players of China during their friendly soccer match in Saint Etienne, central France, on 7 June, 2006. France will play against Switzerland, South Korea and Togo in Group G during the first round of the upcoming soccer World Cup in Germany.—INTERNET

German paper exposes Brazilian players night out

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 June — German daily newspaper Bild reported on Wednesday's edition that Brazilian players spent their first night in Germany at a night club in Frankfurt.

According to the daily, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Emerson, Robinho, Adriano, Cafu and Julio Cesar left the hotel in Konigstein, Germany, around 1:30 am on Monday, 5 June, and headed to a night club in Frankfurt, where they stayed drinking champagne until 5:45 am.

The players had arrived in Germany in the evening of 4 June and had the following day off. In the story, the paper stated that Brazil has a peculiar way of preparing itself for the Cup and added that consuming alcohol a week before their first game cannot be good to players.

Last week, a Swiss newspaper published photos of Brazilian players in a night club in Lucerne, near the hotel where the team was based. In the following day, Brazil head coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he would not punish the players. Parreira did not give any indication on Wednesday that he would do so now.

One of the players who were in the Frankfurt club, defender/wing Cafu, had something in particular to celebrate. It was the eve of his 36th birthday.

"It's great to be able to be playing at a World Cup at this age," he said.

Cafu has received several gifts from his fans, but said the one he really wants is the World Cup.

MNA/Xinhua
Italy FM says Iraq troops to return by end of 2006

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D’Alema said on Wednesday he believed Italian troops would return home from Iraq by the end of this year.

“We believe the Italian military mission in Iraq is moving towards its end. During the coming months military forces will return to their country,” he said during a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Hoshyar Zebari, speaking through an Arabic translator.

“We think that by the end of this year the Italian military mission will end in Iraq.”

Italian Prime Min-
Lt-Gen Maung Bo calls for working together for development in Yebyu Township

YANGON, 8 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence called on departmental officials and local residents for the development of the region.

In meeting with service personnel and social organizations in Kaleinaung on 5 June, he urged them to cultivate paddy, rubber, pepper and physic nut plants on vacant land along both sides of the road to the town while carrying out the five rural area development tasks.

He added while the government is encouraging the cultivation of physic nut as a national duty, residents are to cultivate the plants in every house as a fence in a bid to contribute to the government’s plan.

The Chairman of Dawei District Peace and Development Council reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, rubber, palm oil, pepper and physic nut plants in the region.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo went to Kaleinaung Station and met with officers and other ranks and their families. At the meeting, he urged them to carry out the farming on manageable scale to increase income.

During his tour of Yebyu Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the construction of the Government Technological College in Dawei and heard reports on academic matters. (See page 8)

NLD leaders under the pretext of human rights and democracy were using party members as stepping-stone to grab power

Nine executives collectively quit NLD as they no longer support the party that in practice is plotting and working to destroy the nation

YANGON, 8 June — Nine executives of Momauk Township National League for Democracy in Bhamo District, Kachin State, resigned from the party of their own volition and sent the signed letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and the respective authorities. The executives collectively presented the letters of resignation to Momauk Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission on 11 May.

Vice-Chairman of the township NLD U Hla Pyay on behalf of the nine said that they joined the NLD with the belief that the daughter of the late national leader would save the nation from near disintegration caused by the 1988 unrest. They first thought that the NLD would be able to develop and modernize the country and are taking part in the National Convention in a family manner. On the other hand the NLD left the party was invited. The nation will automatically become a colonialist minion if the power falls into the wrong hands of the NLD that is making connections with foreign embassies and dancing to the tune of foreign countries like a puppet.

He added while the government is encouraging the five rural area development tasks, the NLD with 13 members, without their knowledge, he requested the respective local authorities to take legal action against anyone who reforms the township NLD executive committee or reassigns duties due to power craze. Even the national race armed groups that opposed the Tatmadaw through the armed struggle line returned to the legal fold after realizing the deeds and sincerity of the government and are taking part in the National Convention in a family manner. On the other hand the NLD left the party was invited. The nation will automatically become a colonialist minion if the power falls into the hands of the NLD that is making connections with foreign embassies and dancing to the tune of foreign countries like a puppet.

They quit the party of own volition. Joint Secretary of the township NLD U Aung Hsan, on behalf of the nine, presented the letters to the chairman of Township MPGES.

The township NLD was formed with 13 members. As the nine including the chairman and the vice-chairman had already quit the party only four left. As the remaining four members are now living in other regions, the township NLD has no activities at present. The chairman and members of the Township MPGES, departmental personnel, local authorities were also present. — MNA

Weather Forecast for (9-6-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

IN SIDE

Visitors to the Village are welcomed by eight-pillar archway symbolizing the unity and oneness of the national races. In this Union live the nationalities including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, with unity remains intact and friendship undivided. They respect each other’s traditions, culture and customs. For them the Union of Myanmar is their only motherland to live in, and on this motherland are a large number of Union villages forming as mini-Unions.