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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of the Portuguese Republic

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 June—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June, 2006.—MNA

Successful realization of seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit stressed

Development tasks in Shan State (North)’s Momeik, Mabein inspected

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Hut and senior military officers, on 7 June inspected two bridges in Momeik and gave instructions on durability of the bridges.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win arrived at Nammaung Bridge at Mile Post No 0/3 in Momeik. Senior Engineers of the Public Works reported to him on the maintenance of the 300-foot-long and 14-foot-wide bridge. Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Nammek Bridge spanning Nammeik Creek in Momeik. The bridge is 376 feet long and 14 feet wide and has a clearance of 13 feet. After inspecting the maintenance of the bridge and flow of the river, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions. During his inspection tour, he also inspected condition of road and bridges and thriving summer paddy fields along Momeik-Myitsone Road. During his stopover in Shwezarli Village-tract on the way to Myitsone Village, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected thriving 160-acre summer paddy field at the village. After hearing reports, he called for the transformation from tradition farming to modern farming using agricultural machinery and cultivation of high-yield Hsinshweyi paddy strains instead of low quality strains.

At Myitsone Village on the bank of Shweyi River, he gave a green light to officials of the Public Works to upgrade Momeik-Myitsone road. At the village, he also met with officials of Myanma Timber Enterprise and called for the systematic logging of teak and afforestation, and sustainable production of timber in the region exceeding the target.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win arrived at Mabein and attended a ceremony to cultivate physic nut plants in the town. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Hut planted physic nut saplings and those present on the occasion grew physic nut plants. (See page 8)
MRTV-3 New Studio Complex to be auctioned

YANGON, 9 June — The 9.187-acre MRTV-3 New Studio Complex of the Ministry of Information between Kyundaw and Hanthawady Roads in Kamayut Township will be sold with reserve price K 18.56919 million through competitive bidding.

The person/organizations wishing to purchase the complex may buy proposal forms at the Privatization Commission Office, Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, No 313, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon, beginning 14 June.

The furnished proposal forms are to be submitted to the building No 32, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in Nay Pyi Taw, from 10 am to 4 pm on 14 July (only one day).

For further information, anyone may contact the Privatization Commission Office, Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, No 32, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA
** Stocks drop in Asia, Europe, Latin America **

Tokyo, 8 June—Stock markets in Asia tumbled to their lowest levels in months Thursday and European shares also declined amid anxiety that interest rates hikes in both Europe and the United States will slow global economic growth.

Jagan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 index tumbled 3.07 percent to 14,633.03 points, its lowest in six months, while Indian shares plunged 4.7 percent as regulators there raised rates. South Korean shares dropped to their lowest level in seven months after the Bank of Korea also raised interest rates unexpectedly, and Australia’s stock market fell 2.35 percent.

London’s FTSE 100 index was down 2.51 percent at 5,562, the German DAX Xetra 30 was off 2.9 percent at 5,383 and the French CAC-40 index fell 2.91 percent to 4,684. Heavy losses were seen in the commodities, oil and technology sectors.

The global selloff continued in Latin America as well, with Mexican and Brazilian markets sharply lower for the fourth straight day. Confusion about US monetary policy and doubts about US growth have hammered global markets over the last month, particularly in Asia. A slump on Wall Street has made investors jittery.

“The downturn has been “largely induced by sentiment over the interest rate background and in particular the Fed’s intentions,” said Mike Lenhoff, chief strategist at Brewin Dolphin Securities. “If the central banks are a little too aggressive in raising interest rates, then that will impair the prospects for corporate earnings growth.”

The European Central Bank raised its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 2.75 percent Thursday, as expected, in a move aimed at keeping inflation at bay. The Bank of England held interest rates steady at 4.5 percent. 

** Red Cross triples emergency appeal for Indonesia **

Geneva, 8 June—The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on Wednesday tripled its appeal to 38 million Swiss francs (31 million US dollars) to help survivors of last month’s devastating earthquake in Indonesia.

The Geneva-based humanitarian agency said it aimed to provide 325,000 people with medical care, food, drinking water, sanitation and emergency shelter over the next year. Its initial appeal for 12.8 million Swiss francs has been fully met. The 27 May earthquake killed 5,782 people and tens of thousands were made homeless in central Java near the ancient city of Yogyakarta.

Many survivors are poor labourers and farmers with little money to buy food or other essential supplies. 

** Five dead as bridge under construction collapses in east China **

Jinan, 8 June—Five people were confirmed dead when an arch bridge under construction collapsed Tuesday in east China’s Shandong Province, the local government said Wednesday. The accident, which happened at 11:00 am Tuesday in Wendeng, also left one person injured, said a spokesman for the city government of Wendeng. He said rescue work ended on Tuesday afternoon and investigation is still going on, giving no other details. Wendeng is a county-level city in Weihai, dubbed one of the country’s most inhabitable cities on the east coast.

** 14 Euro states colluded with US on prisons **

Paris, 8 June—Fourteen European countries colluded in a “global spider’s web” of secret CIA prisons and transfers of terrorism suspects, a European rights watchdog said on Wednesday.

European states played an active or passive role in operations run by the US Central Intelligence Agency and were not merely unwitting victims of the operation, the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe said in a report on its Web site. “It is now clear — although we are still far from having established the whole truth — that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities,” Swiss Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty said in the report. “Other countries ignored them knowingly, or did not want to know,” he said in the conclusions of the 65-page report that he is to present to a news conference in Paris. The report pointed the finger at a number of states for “active or passive” collusion with the network of secret flights and renditions that snared thousands of people.

They include: * Poland and Romania on the running of secret detention centres * Germany, Turkey, Spain and Cyprus for being “staging points” for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees * Ireland, Britain, Portugal, Greece and Italy for being “stopovers” for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees * Sweden, Bosnia, Britain, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Germany and Turkey were cited in relation to cases involving specific individuals.

** A white whale reacts to a young girl visitor as she admires the marine creature at the Sea Paradise aquarium in Hakkeijima, west of Tokyo, on 8 June, 2006. —INTERNET **

** Kylie Minogue was named Woman of the Year at a showbiz awards ceremony in London on 7 June, 2006. She was honoured at the Glamour Women of the Year Awards for her battle against breast cancer. —INTERNET **
Annan rejects US plea that he repudiate his deputy

UNITED NATIONS, 8 June — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan refused on Wednesday a US demand that he repudiate his deputy for accusing Washington of relying on the United Nations but failing to defend it against domestic critics.

An outraged US Ambassador John Bolton, while not demanding the resignation of UN Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown, called his remarks “a very very grave mistake”.

“Even though the target of the speech was the United States, the victim, I fear, will be the United Nations,” Bolton told reporters after speaking with Annan.

Malloch Brown, a Briton named deputy secretary-general in March after serving as Annan’s chief of staff and head of the UN Development Programme, delivered on Tuesday what he called a “sincere and constructive critique of US policy towards the UN by a friend and admirer”.

“Even though the prevailing practice of seeking to use the UN almost by stealth as a diplomatic tool while failing to stand up for it against its domestic critics is simply not sustainable,” Malloch Brown told a New York political conference.

“You will lose the UN one way or the other,” he said.

Bolton accused Malloch Brown of employing “a condescending, patronizing tone about the American people” and said, “My hope is he looks at the potential adverse effects that these intertemperate remarks would have on the organization and repudiate it.” Annan, however, agrees with his deputy’s views, UN chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

“The secretary-general stands by the statements made by his deputy. So there is no question of any action to be taken against the deputy secretary-general,” he said.

“The UN’s role is in effect a secret in middle America even as it is highlighted in the Middle East and other parts of the world,” he said.

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Indonesian police arrested a Nigerian national with 1.1 kilos of heroin. The arrest was made at the national Passport Control Office in Kathmandu, where the Nigerian was trying to fly back to India.

KATHMANDU, 6 June — Acting on special information, a police team from the NDCEU arrested 33-year-old Ozol Michel, who landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport on Monday from the Q.R 352 flight of Qatar Airlines,” NDCEU said in a press statement. A total of 64 pieces of plastic-coated white heroin weighing 1.1 kilos were taken out of his body after a surgery at the Birendra Police Hospital on Tuesday where he was taken for medical checkup.

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Bus-motorcycle collision kills four, injures eight in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 June — Four women were killed and eight others injured in a road accident Wednesday in Bangladesh’s Rajshahi District, 270 kilometres west of Dhaka, private news agency UNB reported.

A bus of Rajshahi University (RU) carrying students to their campus crashed into a motorcycle in front of the university at 9:50 am local time, according to the local Police. The head-on collision left two women passengers dead on the spot and 10 others wounded and the injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where two more women died, the police said, adding that among the rest of those wounded in the accident, condition of three RU students was said ‘critical’.

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Indonesia’s Merapi roars back to life, residents flee

KINABREJO, 8 June — Indonesian’s Mount Merapi emitting hot ash and ash yet and sparking panic among residents already jittery from last month’s quake.

Misman, a local official in Umbulharjo village, told AFP that some residents in another hamlet seven kilometres from Merapi’s bubbling crater had panicked after being surprised by the clouds.

“There was some panic, as people near Kaliadem saw the huge clouds, especially because it has been a long time since such clouds headed this way,” the official said.

Metro TV showed residents, including weeping women carrying their infants, waiting for evacuation by trucks and cars provided by the district governments at designated spots in the danger zone.

The video footage, taken by its cameraman with other reporters fleeing on board a speeding car, also showed several villagers running or riding motorcycles down the main road.

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IBM to invest $6b in India over three years

NEW DELHI, 8 June — IBM Corporation, the world’s largest IT products and services firm, announced in Bangalore on Tuesday that it would invest six billion US dollars in India over the next three years, according to Indo-Asian News Service.

Addressing about 10,000 IBM employees at the company’s 2006 Investor and Influencer briefing in Bangalore, chairman and CEO Samuel Palmisano said the investment would ensure that the Indian subsidiary would make the most of opportunities to grow in the market place and enable the firm to become a globally integrated company.

In the past three years, the company had invested two billion US dollars in the country, the biggest investment by a multi-national corporation in India in recent years.

The announcement was made in the presence of Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam and IBM corporate leaders.
French farm offers hope for endangered Asian crocs

PARIS, 8 June—A French crocodile farm said it had stepped up efforts to breed one of the world’s most endangered species, the Indian gharial, with the hope of ultimately returning animals to their habitat in South Asia.

The Pierrelatte Crocodile Farm, in Pierrelatte, southern France, said it had now moved six gharials to an artificial river, with the hope that the crocodiles will breed once they reach maturity five or six years from now.

The six reptiles were a gift from the Chitwan Nature Reserve in southern Nepal in 2000 and now measure about three metres (10 feet) long. The slender-snouted crocodile, which grows up to six metres (20 feet) in length, inhabits muddy rivers in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal, such as the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus, Ayeyawady and Mahanadi.

As few as 2,000 gharials are now left in the wild. Their numbers have been drastically reduced by fishermen, who see the crocodiles as competitors for fish, and by the consumption of their eggs, which are laid in nests on the river banks and are harvested by villagers.

“Officially, there are about 400 gharials in Nepal, but I would say the figure is much closer to 150,” the farm’s technical director, Samuel Martin, who has close ties with the Chitwan reserve, told AFP. The facility now has 500 crocodiles, from nine species, living amid tropical vegetation in greenhouses that are heated from waste energy generated by a nearby uranium enrichment plant.

Scientists say heavy ion, best radioactive cure for cancer

BEIJING, 8 June—A leading Chinese nuclear physicist said on Tuesday that Chinese scientists are building the country’s first heavy ion therapeutic machine to be used as a radioactive cure for cancer.

Zhan Wenlong, member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said in an interview with Xinhua “The physical feature of heavy ion radiation makes beams of the particle the most ideal weapon to kill tumour cells while leaving healthy cells intact.” Scientists from the CAS Institute of Modern Physics, which is headed by Zhan, are trying to use heavy ion beams from the Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou (HIRFL) to cure cancer patients.

Zhan said they were successful when tested on animals. The CAS institute now is applying for an official permit for medical use. American, German and Japanese scientists have already developed such equipment for cancer treatment.

Traditional medical use of gamma-rays, electron-rays or X-rays in treating cancer patients would inevitably kill healthy cells while eliminating tumors. Heavy ion is unique in concentrating its energy on the target of tumors.

Only a little radioactive elements would affect healthy human cells in the heavy ion therapy, Zhan acknowledged.

The application has been widely tested in the United States, Germany and Japan since the 1990s. German and Japanese scientists even created special heavy ion accelerators for medical use. In the coming couple of years, Zhan said, there might be six to ten such machines in Europe and the Japanese are going to make 60 machines.

“Although the heavy ion method is effective and safe,” Zhan said, “we still need to address some basic technical problems for its medical use.”

S Koreans kidnapped in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 8 June—Five South Koreans believed to be staff of Daewoo Company, South Korea, were kidnapped at 0100 on Wednesday (2310 GMT on Tuesday) in Cawthorne Channel, Nigeria’s southern state of Rivers.

Jomo Gbomo, a self-described spokesman for the Movement of Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), said the fighters of the MEND “attacked the premises of the Daewoo Company, contractors to Shell... in response to the court of appeal judgment of 6 June, 2006, on the continued detention of Asari.” According to him, the five Koreans held hostages are staff of Daewoo who gave their names as: HJ Kwon, A Park, SB Kim, OK Kim, and HD Kim.

“They are in good health and have been returned to one of our bases,” he said. The MEND spokesman explained that “we are of the opinion that the government may be interested more in a prisoner exchange rather than releasing the persons whose release we have demanded.”

He added that they also advised the Daewoo Company to close down its operations with immediate effect as “a second attack will bring only death.”

He said similarly oil service companies in the Niger Delta which have been clamouring for contracts on the repair of pipelines they previously destroyed should rethink this foolishness.

“Workers for such daring companies will be executed if caught at those sites,” he said.

Attacks would increase with frequency with the destruction of several facilities of crucial importance to the oil industry in the next few weeks, he warned, but promised that they would not kill those captured.

He warned oil companies in the Niger Delta again to leave the Niger Delta.

Iran offered possibility to carry out uranium enrichment

WASHINGTON, 8 June—Iran has been offered a possibility to carry out its uranium enrichment if it meets certain strict conditions, a leading newspaper reported on Wednesday.

According to the Washington Post, the possibility is based on strict conditions. European and US officials said Iran has to satisfy International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors and the UN Security Council, in line with a package proposal worked out by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

IAEA must determine that Tehran’s nuclear programme is peaceful and the Council must be satisfied that it is not seeking a nuclear weapon, the officials told the newspaper.

INTERNET
Under a plan on developing the Van Don economic zone in Quang Ninh province approved by the government, the airport will be capable of annually serving 500,000-800,000 passengers in the first phase, and 3-3.5 million ones in the second between 2016 and 2020, said Nguyen Duy Hung, vice chairman of the provincial People’s Committee.

"We plan to complete the airport’s design in 2010, then work out concrete schemes for the construction," he said, noting that the capital is expected to come from the state budget and local investors.

According to the plan designed to develop Van Don into a major ecotourism resort, Vietnam will also upgrade a domestic seaport in the island and build a highway linking Hanoi capital with the province’s Mong Cai Town, Hung said.

Vietnam’s aviation sector served nearly 3.1 million domestic and foreign passengers and transported 50,800 tons of cargo in the first five months of this year, registering year-on-year rises of 11.8 per cent and 16.2 per cent respectively, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

Eight people killed in Baghdad attacks

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Eight people, including six policemen, were killed and five others wounded in separate attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

An Iraqi civilian was killed and two of his children were injured when a mortar round landed at 6:00 am (0315 GMT) on their house in the Baladiyat neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, four Iraqi policemen and a civilian were killed at 7:15 am (0315 GMT) when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a group of policemen in Baghdad’s western district of Mansur, the source said.

Meanwhile, two police officers—a colonel and a major—were killed and two policemen wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol in Baghdad’s eastern district of Zayyouna, the source said.

Quake batters tourism of Indonesia’s Yogyakarta

YOGYAKARTA (Indonesia), 8 June — The May 27 earthquake has struck a heavy blow on the tourism industry of Indonesia’s Yogyakarta, the second most popular tourist destination in the country after Bali, with officials estimating a 60 per cent decrease in the industry in the short run.

Liem Na Na, a tour guide from the city’s Nusantara Tour and Travel, said her company has seen a sharp drop of business since the quake struck Yogyakarta and surrounding areas 10 days ago, killing over 6,000 people.

“June has always been the big season (for tourism). But after the quake, many tourists, both local and overseas, cancelled their trips to Yogyakarta. In fact, we haven’t got even a single foreign tourist since then,” Liem said, adding tourists were avoiding the area because they were afraid of aftershocks.

Many of the city’s popular tourist attractions were also damaged by the earthquake, including the Tranjumas Pavilion at Yogyakarta Palace, the Hamengkubuwono IX Museum and the Tamansari waterpark within the palace compound.

The Prambanan Hindu temple complex and other ancient temples like Plaosan and Sojiwan, which make the area better known by outsiders, also suffered damages to various degrees.

Two of Prambanan’s temples sustained serious damages, with large pieces of broken columns and sculptures scattering around the shrines.

Millions compete in China’s national matriculation test

BEIJING, 8 June — Almost nine million Chinese students flocked to hundreds of thousands of examination venues across the nation Wednesday morning for the annual national college entrance examination.

With more people sitting than any other examination in the world, 8.8 million candidates started the paper simultaneously at 9:00 am Wednesday, with many of the venues guarded by police and anxious parents waiting outside.

The Ministry of Education announced earlier that universities and colleges this year will enroll 2.6 million freshmen for a four-year higher education — just one place for every four candidates.

At 8:15 am, with 45 minutes to go, hundreds of parents were standing in front of the Beijing No 35 Middle School. Many waited till their children came out.

“I asked for a three-day leave to accompany my son,” said Guo Yusen. He woke up early this morning and cooked breakfast for his 18-year-old son.

At least five policemen were patrolling the 200-metre stretch of road in front of the school, with a parked police car flashing emergency lights. The street was choked with people and cars.

New technique to create genetically modified chickens

LONDON, 8 June — A US biotechnology firm said on Wednesday it had developed a new technique to produce genetically modified chickens that could be used to produce treatments for human diseases.

The technology, devised by scientists at the privately-owned Californian company Origen Therapeutics and researchers at the University of California, Davis, may also lead to improved poultry production and chickens resistant to avian flu.

Origen is one of several biotech groups that have been working on new ways to produce human antibodies and proteins in eggs, milk and farm crops.

“We now have a technology to genetically modify chickens in a very precise way,” Robert Kay, the president of Origen, said in an interview. He said the technology would allow scientists to alter the chicken genome in ways that could allow them to produce drugs in very large quantities and develop new therapies.

The technology is based on genetically engineering primordial germ cells, the precursor cells to sperm and eggs, in chickens. Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir, the senior scientist at Origen, said the cells were the key to introducing genetic elements into chickens and to passing them on to future generations.

The company hopes to use the technology, described in the journal Nature, to produce antibody-based therapies for illnesses and to overcome the problem of drug resistance in certain diseases.

Drug resistance in certain diseases
Myanmar is a nation where there is freedom of religious faiths and people of different faiths live in amity and harmony. It means all the men and women in the nation have access to equal rights in terms of religion.

Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races who have been living through thick and thin. Each national race has its own culture, customs and characteristics. Irrespective of race and creed, every citizen has the right to preserve, practise and develop his culture. It reflects that Myanmar is absolutely free from discrimination against or for men, women, races and colours but with freedom to follow the culture concerned.

Myanmars are, in fact, native peoples to the country. Since the Tagaung Period, Myanmars have been living in the nation with their own monarchs for more than 2,500 years. According to the compelling evidences of stone tools and weapons and wall paintings, the ancestors of the Stone Age lived in the nation.

In other words, Myanmars have lived in the nation for millions of years. According to the fossils and anthropoid primates found in the additional research in Pontaung Ponnya Region, Myanmar can be proud for the fact that man originated in Myanmar, and Myanmar originated in Pontaung Ponnya Region. According to the information discovered as the results of the research done by experts of international community, the fossils and anthropoid primates of Pontaung Ponnya Region dated back about 40 million years.

Myanmars are the people who have lived in the nation from time immemorial. And Myanmar is not a nation founded by immigrants from other nations. In Myanmar, literature, music, drama and the ten traditional arts and crafts such as art of painting and sculpture, and architecture have flourished for thousands of years. Myanmar is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources with paddy and various kinds of precious stones in abundance. Moreover, it is blessed with temperate climates and fertile soil. These are salient points for which Myanmars can take pride. In reality, Myanmar women are fortunate to be born in Myanmar.

Myanmar women have enjoyed the rights traditionally in the religious, economic, political and social fields. Since the mid-20th Century, Myanmar women have fully enjoyed political rights or fundamental rights of citizens including the rights to vote and to be voted. Moreover, they have an access to the right to profess the religion of their choice. They also enjoy equal rights of employment and commerce. Myanmar women can be seen shouldering duties in the fields of agriculture and defence (Tatmadaw, police forces) and religion, factories and offices. The brilliant performances of Myanmar women went down in the annals of Myanmar history such as in the battles to fight the alien invaders while the nation lost its sovereignty and was under servitude, in the independence struggles of the organizations such as the Young Men’s Buddhist Association, the General Council of Buddhist Association, Doh Bamar Asiayon, Pha-Ta-Pa-La, and the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League along with combats against the education policy designed to prolong servitude, Oil Field Uprising, Peasants’ Uprising, anti-Fascist resistance, and independence struggles. Myanmar women played an important role in the drive for regaining independence. Now, Myanmar womenfolk are cohesive and active in the measures for ensuring perpetual existence of independence and the Union as long as the world exists. Mass of women at different ages from all walks of life are participating in the national-building tasks for ensuring peace and stability and development of the Union. They are also taking an active part in the successful implementation of the State’s seven-step Road Map for transition to a democratic nation with flourishing disciplines.

The objectives of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, which is taking a leading role in organizing the mass of Myanmar women in the national development tasks, are as follows:-

- to enhance the role of women in the reconstruction of a peaceful, modern and developed nation
- to protect the rights of women
- to ensure the economic, health, education and general welfare of women and to provide measures for their security
- to instil and foster in Myanmar women a greater appreciation for their national, cultural heritage and customs
- to systematically protect women from violence and provide means for rehabilitation where necessary
- to diminish and finally eliminate trafficking in women and children as a national task
- to collaborate with international as well as local organizations, in ensuring the rights of women in accordance with the traditions and customs of the ethnic groups.

Now, the mighty strengths, capacities and skills of the mass of women are mobilized to defend and safeguard the motherland, to raise the national economy, and to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. Naturally, women are of a weak disposition but physically and intellectually strong enough to defend and develop the mother country.

Thanks to the intellectual power and skills of Myanmar women, national prestige is flourishing, which is Union Spirit made up of true patriotism, nationalistic spirit and nationalist fervour.

I write this article to hail the Myanmar Women’s Day, and wish Myanmar women all success in their effort with Union Spirit to improve the lives of the people, restore peace and stability, and to ensure perpetual existence and development and prosperity of the Union.

Translation: MS

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Myanmar women: to strive for development of Myanmar society.
Successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit stressed...

(from page 1)

Mabein Township is targeted to put 500,000 acres under physic nut plants from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008. Kayaukme District has put 3,000 acres under physic nut plants in 2005-2006 against its target of 11,000 acres. And arrangements are being made for putting the remaining acres under physic nut plants.

After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to the Township Hospital in Mabein where Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Myint Tun and officials conducted them around the medical ward and operation theatre.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win provided patients with eatables and spoke words of encouragement.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met with departmental officials, members of social organizations, townswelders and local people at the Town Hall of Mabein and gave instructions on regional and national development.

Chairman of Mabein Township Peace and Development Council U Tun Tun Naing reported on development of agricultural, education and health sectors of the township.

Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made a speech, saying that progress has been made in agricultural sector of Mabein Township that has enjoyed self-sufficiency in food. Departmental officials are to strive together with local people for regional development including the development of agricultural sector.

In an effort to ensure all-round national development, sound economy is of utmost importance. In this regard, efforts are being made for the development of agricultural sector that plays a pivotal role in the growth of national economy. Therefore, officials concerned are to make relentless efforts for successful realization of the project.

With the national development, the socio-economic life of the people will improve in all aspects, and departmental officials with Union Spirit are to organize the people to be convinced of the goodwill and policies of the State. Moreover, departmental officials, social organizations and local people are to make concerted efforts to meet the target of growing industrial crops, rubber and physic nut plants in the region. At the same time, they are to do their bit for successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit.

After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met with the secretary of Mabein Township USDA and executives at Shweli Yeiktha and stressed the need for them to participate actively in regional development work and widely engage in farming works.

Also present at the meeting were Patron of Kachin State USDA Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Patron of Shan State (North) USDA Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut and others.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived in Momeik.

China, Myanmar sign general loan agreement

YANGON, June — Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received Vice-Chairman of China Export and Import Bank of the People’s Republic of China Mr Su Zhong and party at his office yesterday.

They discussed matters on banking services. Later, a signing ceremony of general loan agreement for the special loan with low interest rates, which will be given by the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar was held at CBM on No 1 Sathmu road here.

Vice-Governor of CBM U Than Nyein and Mr Su Zhong spoke on the occasion. And they signed the agreement and exchanged documents.—MNA

CIG holds Introduction of Responsible Care Activity Guidelines

YANGON, June — The Ninth Meeting and Introduction of Responsible Care Activity Guidelines, organized by Chemical Industry Group of Myanmar Industries Association, was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road yesterday.

Chairman Dr Kyaw Htin of CIG delivered an opening speech. General Secretary U Paw Hein explained the CIG’s tasks. U Sein Thaung Oo discussed upgrading of Chemical Industry Group to Myanmar Chemical Industry Association, and U Aung Win, Responsible Care Guidelines.

Director Daw Tin Swe Aye of Cottage Industries Department, Director Dr Soe Tint of Health Department and Dr Myo Thant Tin gave supplementary reports. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Chairman Dr Kyaw Htin.—MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee meets

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win speaking at the meeting of Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee. — MNA

YANGON, 9 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, who is also Chairman of Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee, called for enforcement of traffic rules and regulations and speedy conversion of diesel and petrol engine vehicles into CNG ones at a work coordination meeting of Yangon Division SSTSC held at Yangon Command Headquarters this evening.

Rectors, pro-rectors and officials of universities and colleges in the division, members of the committee, departmental officials and chairmen of bus lines reported to the commander on matters related to ferrying students, road safety measures and progress in conversion of cars with diesel and petrol engines into CNG ones. In response to the reports, the commander gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Course opens to choose welfare coordinators

YANGON, 9 June — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee today opened an instructor course No 1/2006, a part of the plan to choose coordinators for every ten households.

Chairperson of the division MCWSC Daw Mar Wai explained salient points of the course to choose coordinators among the members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Secretary Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint elucidated the method of choosing coordinators for every ten household and duties.

Forty-eight trainees after completion of the course will act as instructors of the refresher courses to be conducted in the respective districts and townships to choose coordinators.

MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Portuguese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Diogo Freitas Do Amaral, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June, 2006. — MNA

Medicines, medical equipment donated to hospitals

YANGON, 9 June — CEC member of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Nwe Nwe and party donated medicines and medical equipment worth K 7.5 million to Dr Soe Tint of Teaching Hospital in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Medical Superintendent Dr Mu Mu Nyo accepted the donation.

Daw Khin Khin Nwe and party also donated the similar items worth K 7.5 million to Teaching Hospital in North Okkalapa Township. Director Dr Soe Tint of Health Department and Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thaung accepted the donation and expressed thanks for the donation.

Officials concerned of Health Department, members of MCWSC and WAO also attended the donation ceremonies. — MNA

Cec member of MMCWA Daw Khin Nwe Nwe and party present medicines and medical equipment worth K 7.5 million to Dr Soe Tint of Health Department and Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thaung. — MNA

School Enrolment Day held in Thongwa

THONGWA, 1 June — School Enrolment Day ceremony was held at BEHS-1 in Thongwa Township on 28 May with an address by Thongwa Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Khin Maung Aye and an explanation on measures being taken for school enrolment by Township Education Officer U Than Htay. It was also attended by Township PDC members, USDA members, wellwishers, headmaster and headmistress and students.

The ceremony, wellwishers presented school stationery and cash assistance to students.

Myanma Alin

Aged receive free medical care

MAGWAY, 28 May — Magway District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and District Women’s Affairs Organization on 21 May provided free medical care and donated medicines to the aged in Magway Township’s Phayapyo village.

The two social organizations provided the free treatment to 17 aged people and donated cash. Educational talks on health was also held at the village.

Patron of Magway District WAO Daw Mya Aye made an address at the talk. Magway District MCWA Chairperson Daw Bauk Nan gave talks on measures being carried out by Magway District MCWA, In-Charge for Raising Living Standard of Myanmar Women Daw Khin Than Win, on personal hygiene, Organizing In-Charge Daw Thin Thin Yu, on traditional medicine, and Culture In-charge Daw Khin Kar Nyo, on politeness of Myanmar women. — Myanma Alin

Newly-built middle school opens in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 30 May — A ceremony to open newly-built middle school for Yayhaw Monastic Education School was held at Yayhaw Monastery in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North) on 25 May. Yayhaw Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Ma Ma Aung Sein formally opened the new building.

The newly-built middle school was constructed with the contribution of wellwisher U Aung Win Sein-Daw Aye Kyaw and family. It costs over K 7.5 million. Other wellwishers also donated desks and cupboards amounting to K 635,000. — Myanma Alin

Magway District MCWSC and WAO offer medical treatments to the aged in Magway.

Myanma Alin

Thongwa Township PDC Chairman U Khin Maung Aye addresses School Enrolment Day ceremony in Thongwa.
Countdown to FIFA World Cup opening

**MUNICH, 9 June**—The FIFA 2006 World Cup will open in Germany in just a few hours. The ceremony will take place in Munich, and will be followed by the first of 64 games that will end with the final in Berlin in exactly a month’s time.

The ceremony will be held before the opening match of the World Cup between host Germany and Costa Rica. The 66,000 seater stadium is the second biggest in Germany. The seven storey stadium cost R340 million to build, and was opened just last year by the legendary Franz Beckenbauer. Today it hosts the opening ceremony and the first match between the hosts and Costa Rica.

However, there are special places for fans to watch matches outside the stadion all over Germany. A smaller version of the Olympic stadium, the Adidas Arena, has been opened. In front of Berlin’s landmark Reichstag building, the German parliament, and next door to the fan mile which has already seen thousands of visitors, the mock stadium will provide 10,000 people with the chance to watch matches on a large screen inside.

While there has been much focus on the German team, there is plenty too on reigning champions, Brazil. Ronaldo missed Brazil’s open training session, but a carnival atmosphere still filled the stands at Kickers Offenbach stadium. An estimated 25,000 strong crowd packed the ground and some 10,000 were left outside. Both the opening ceremony and the first match will be broadcast live on SABC 1, beginning at 4pm.

**FIFA President Joseph Blatter, left, and German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer, the president of the local Organizing Committee, applaud German President Horst Koehler, center, as he declares open the 2006 Soccer World Cup in Germany ahead of the Germany v Costa Rica Group A soccer match at the World Cup stadium, Munich, Germany, on 9 June, 2006. The other teams in Group A are Ecuador and Poland.**

**INTERNET**

Pele and Maradona to grace World Cup opening ceremony

**MUNICH, 9 June**—Football legends Pele and Diego Maradona along with some 170 former World Cup-winning players will show up at the opening ceremony on Friday.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter told reporters at a press conference: “Maradona and Pele will be present at the opening ceremony.”

He added: “Pele will bring the World Cup trophy on to the pitch of the Munich stadium with German supermodel Claudia Schiffer.”

The ceremony will be held before the opening match of the World Cup between hosts Germany and Costa Rica.

Blatter said that the presence of the 170 former world champions would create “a special atmosphere”.

“They will be on the pitch at the opening ceremony,” he said. “We are very grateful for them over the years.”

He said that all 22 players from the 1974 final in which West Germany beat the Netherlands 2-1 here have announced they will be present on 9 June.

**Brazillian football legend Pele and German supermodel Claudia Schiffer take part in opening festivities at Munich’s World Cup Stadium ahead of the opening 2006 World Cup match between host Germany and Costa Rica. A parade of more than 140 former World Cup winners was the centrepiece of the colourful opening ceremony.**

**INTERNET**

World Cup past winners, German supermodel open 2006 tournament

**MUNICH, 9 June**—Winners of the previous 17 soccer World Cups including Pele joined German model Claudia Schiffer, Berlin hip-hop bands and Bavarian folk dancers for the opening ceremony of the 2006 World Cup.

German President Horst Koehler officially opened the latest edition of the world’s most-watched sports event, a monthlong tournament comprising 32 teams. Eight countries, including Togo and Ukraine, are playing in the competition for the first time.

“Finally it’s starting,” Koehler told the 65,000 spectators at the year-old Munich Arena. “We’re really looking forward to four weeks of football, football, football.”

Following the half-hour event at the 340 million-euro ($439 million) stadium, Germany will play Costa Rica in the first of 64 matches that culminate in the July 9 final in Berlin. FIFA, soccer’s governing body, expects 1 billion people to watch today’s match live on television.

For the first time, members of the previous winning teams were invited to the ceremony.

The 158 who made the trip were led onto the field by German children.

**INTERNET**

**German President Kohler to declare World Cup open**

**MUNICH, 9 June**—German President Horst Kohler will declare the 18th World Cup open at the Munich World Cup stadium at an half-hour opening ceremony.

The highlights of the opening ceremony will be the parade of the 158 former World Cup winners. For the first time in the 100-year plus history of FIFA, all the world champions still alive have been invited to actively participate in a World Cup opening ceremony.


The opening ceremony starts on 16:23 local time and ends at 17:55. —Internet
Malaysia opens new tourism info hotline

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 June — Malaysia has launched a new tourism information hotline to cater for the influx of tourists during Visit Malaysia Year 2007, local media reported on Thursday.

The new infoline, 1300-88-5050, will replace the existing 1300-88-5776, said Tourism Minister Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

The new infoline will provide as much information as possible about tourism programmes in Malaysia to foreign tourists, and the frontliners are all well-trained, said Tengku Adnan, adding his ministry will hire multi-lingual operators during peak holiday seasons to better serve to non-English speaking tourists.

Economy cars popular in China’s booming auto market

BEIJING, 9 June — Economy cars with low emission were among the best-selling cars in China in the first five months of 2006.

Their popularity stems from soaring oil prices and more preferential government policies on vehicles with low emission. Statistics with China Association of Automobile Manufacturers show that Xiali, manufactured by Tianjin FAW and popular for its low energy-consumption, topped the brand sales list in the first five months with a sale of 81,300, followed by Elantra of Beijing Hyundai with a sale of 73,900. Among the top 10 brands, five of them were cars with low emission.

Laos to register 15% tourism growth

HANOI, 9 June — Laos is expected to register annual tourism growth of 15 percent from now to 2020, Laos’ news agency KPL reported Wednesday.

The country is set to annually receive, on average, 1.5 million international arrivals from now to 2010, 1.8 million between 2010 and 2015, and 2.2 million in the five following years. The agency quoted deputy chairman of the country’s National Tourism Authority, Vang Rattanavong, as saying.

To this end, Laos intensifying tourism promotion, increasing quality of tourism services and upgrading infrastructure. The country welcomed one million foreign visitors, and posted tourism revenues of 146 million US dollars in 2005, respectively up from nearly 895,000 and 118 million dollars in 2004.

Namibia plans mass polio vaccination campaign

WINDHOEK, 9 June — The Namibian Government said on Thursday it would begin a mass vaccination campaign to combat a deadly polio outbreak after supplies of vaccine are airlifted into the southwestern African nation later this month.

Seven people have died and another 27 have been infected with polio in Namibia in the past month. Namibia’s Ministry of Health plans to begin inoculating people on 21 June using the monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine (mOPV).

Polio, a viral disease of the brain and spinal cord that normally affects children, attacks the central nervous system, often causing paralysis, muscular atrophy and deformity. Five to 10 per cent of those infected die.
Russia expresses alarm at US' arms plans

MOSCOW, June 8 — US plans to develop some of its strategic weapons could be destabilizing and dangerous since they could lower the threshold of military response, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday.

Lavrov, speaking on national security to the Lower House of Parliament, also denied foreign reports that Russian military power was in decline. “Such findings try to fit reality to what people want to think,” he said, quoted by Interfax news agency.

Lavrov’s remarks reflected the cool relations with Washington since US Vice President Dick Cheney on May 4 sharply attacked Russia’s record on democracy and accused it of using its energy exports to blackmail its neighbours.

Lavrov’s officials say that Pentagon plans to put non-nuclear warheads on submarine-launched Trident missiles are dangerous because it would be impossible to tell in flight what sort of warhead they were carrying.

Lavrov, whose repeated Russia’s strong opposition to former Soviet Ukraine and Georgia joining the US-led NATO alliance, expressed misgivings about US plans to station parts of its anti-missile defence system in NATO members Poland and the Czech Republic.

The United States was moving missiles to eastern Europe on the grounds of defence against Iranian missiles, he said. “There is a danger these planned anti-missile defences silos could be used for secretly stationing ballistic missile weapons.”

Banana rustlers give Australian growers the slip

SYDNEY, June 8 — Yes, they have no bananas. Three months after a cyclone devastated Australia’s banana crop, some growers have reported a new threat — banana rustlers.

The slippery thieves have been stealing bunches off trees in the northeast of New South Wales to take advantage of sky-rocketing prices after crops further north were decimated by Tropical Cyclone Larry in March.

Police in Coffs Harbour, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) north of Sydney, are investigating several thefts in the area.

Australian Banana Growers Council, told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday. “They usually come in after the farmers have gone home,” he said.

Growers council chief executive Tony Heidrich said there appeared to be a level of organization involved in the thefts, which would typically involve at least two people to harvest and transport their valuable booty.

Singh said bunches of bananas that would normally sell for A$10-A$40 ($7.50-$30) have been selling for between A$150 and A$180, normally selling for A$10-

A$40 ($7.50-$30) have been selling for between A$150 and A$180, with the going rate depending on the size.

A$100 and A$150 ($7.50-$30) have been selling for between A$150 and A$180, with the going rate depending on the size.

A$100 and A$150 ($7.50-$30) have been selling for between A$150 and A$180, with the going rate depending on the size.
Rare giraffe-like animal ‘rediscovered’ in Congo park

JOHANNESBURG 8 June— Delighted conservationists said on Friday that they had found conclusive proof of the existence of a rare giraffe-like creature in Congo’s Virunga National Park that has defied the odds of survival in a region battered by savage conflict.

First discovered in what is now Virunga in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in 1901, the shy forest-dwelling okapi had not been found in the park since 1959, was known to be present elsewhere in the Congo, but there were concerns it had gone extinct in the place of its discovery because of violence and lawlessness.

But a recent survey of the area by conservation group WWF and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) found 17 okapi tracks and other evidence of its presence.

No sightings of the elusive animal, which resembles a cross between a giraffe and a zebra with a striped hind leg and a long neck, were made but its tracks were taken as absolute proof of the creature’s recent activity in the park. It is only found in the secluded forests of eastern Congo and is considered the giraffe’s closest living relative.

“The rediscovery of okapis in Virunga National Park is a positive sign,” said Marc Langoy, of WWF’s Eastern Africa Regional Programme. As the country is returning to peace, it shows that the protected areas in this troubled region are now havens for rare wildlife once more,” he said.

The animal’s eastern Congo home has been the scene of incessant conflict including a brutal civil war that erupted in 1998 and then escalated to engulf several other African states at a cost of millions of lives.

The Congo hopes to put the bloodshed and chaos behind when it holds its first free elections in four decades next month, but marauding rebels and militia continue to fight on in the remote east.

“Except for mountain gorillas, which have shown an increase in population due to important conservation efforts, most wildlife in the park (Virunga) have heavily suffered from poaching,” said WWF.

“The population of hippopotamus, for example, has dropped from 29,000 in the mid-1970s to less than 1,000 today,” it said.

China, Denmark launch wind energy development programme

BEIJING 8 June — China and Denmark on Wednesday launched a wind energy programme, which will be financed by a Danish grant of 45 million Danish Kronor (about 60 million yuan) over the next three years.

In an agreement signed on Wednesday, the Danish aid will be used to help China improve its technological and management capacity in wind power development, and also help local authorities develop their own wind energy development plans.

Denmark is leading the world in wind energy development. It has sophisticated wind energy technologies and windmills account for 23 per cent of its electricity installed capacity.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Zhang Guobao, deputy head of the China National Development and Reform Commission said China’s wind energy capacity has been increasing rapidly in recent years as renewable energy is taking greater importance in the country’s energy strategy. In 2005 alone, China’s installed capacity for wind electricity increased by 500,000 kilowatts, compared to a total of 780,000 kilowatts added in the past two or three decades, he said.

UNESCO to help Indonesia rehabilitate temples

JAKARTA, 8 June — The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has made commitment to help funding rehabilitation of several ancient temples damaged in a massive earthquake hitting Yogyakarta and parts of Central Java Province on 27 May. “UNESCO has been committed to assisting us in seeking fund sources to finance rehabilitation of damaged temples, especially the Prambanan Temple,” Antara news agency quoted Culture and Tourism Minister Jero Wacik as saying in resort island Bali on Wednesday.

The recent quake damaged a number of temples, including the Prambanan Temple, Indonesia’s biggest and most beautiful ancient Hindu temple located in Central Java, and it needs a lot of money to rehabilitate them, the minister said. The UN body had provided financial aid for field inspection by, among other things, using X-ray to identify the extent to which the quake-affected temples had been damaged in Yogyakarta and Central Java, he said.

Cell phone saves immigrants lost in Arizona desert

MEXICO CITY, 8 June — A group of stranded illegal immigrants facing death in the parched Arizona desert saved themselves by using a cell phone to call rescue services, the US Border Patrol said.

The group of eight Mexicans got lost in the desert during a two-day trek across the border from Mexico.

Disoriented and without food or water, they used a cell phone to dial 911. Rescuers dispatched helicopters and located the group shortly before dawn, the Yuma Sector of the US Border Patrol said in a statement.

President George W Bush visited Yuma on Tuesday as part of a tour to drum up support for an immigration overhaul that seeks to give millions of illegal immigrants a pathway to US citizenship and tighten security on the Mexico border.

Arizona is the principal route for mostly Mexican migrants seeking a new life in the United States. Last year more than 260 died trekking north over the desert, where summer temperatures reach highs of around 120 degrees F (49 C).

This year, the Border Patrol has stepped up flights over the scorching, cactus-strewn wastes in a bid to save more lives. So far agents have rescued 309 migrants in the Yuma area since 1 October, up from 203 in the same period a year earlier.

“This summer we are not going to be caught off guard...we are definitely better prepared,” said Richard Hays, the Border Patrol’s spokesman in Yuma.

The number of recorded migrant deaths in the desert state has dropped to 107 in the eight months since October from 124 in the same period a year earlier, Border Patrol figures show. — MNA/Reuters

South Korean pop group Jewelry performs at a concert in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh City, on 8 June, 2006. — INTERNET
England ready to send World Cup warning

BUHLERTAL (Germany), 9 June — David Beckham and Steven Gerrard believe England will send the rest of the World Cup a message by beating Paraguay in Saturday’s Group B opener.

Gerrard said: “They’ve got match winners and they’re going to be very good technically. “But we’ve got to concentrate on what we’re going to do — and we’re confident we can win on Saturday. “All the players realize there’s massive expectation back home. All the supporters and the media expect us to go all the way and the players are really confident we can deliver this time round.”

Beckham also believes England have the self-confidence needed to match their fans’ hopes and win their first World Cup since the 1966 World Cup. “These players can handle the expectation,” said the England captain. “They’ve done it week in, week out for their clubs and been in huge competitions and huge games — and they’ve all won trophies. “We all know what the expectations are in our country and rightly so because we’ve got some of the best young talent and some of the best experienced players in the world.

MNA/Reuters

Spain claim 2-1 comeback win over Croatia

GENEVA, 9 June — A classy extra-time goal from striker Fernando Torres and a free kick by debutant Mariano Pernia earned Spain a 2-1 victory over fellow World Cup qualifiers Croatia in their final warm-up match on Wednesday.

Spain went behind when centre back Pablo Ibanez nodded the ball into his own net in the 14th minute. Pernia, called up to the squad as a replacement for the injured Asier del Horno, equalized when his miscued free kick went through a forest of defenders and crept in at the far post on 62 minutes. Torres had a penalty saved by Stipe Pletikosa after 75 minutes before scoring a fine individual goal in stoppage time to allow Spain to stretch their unbeaten record to 22 matches.

“I’m pleased with the way we came back from our own goal and the missed penalty,” Aragones told reporters. “These are the sort of things that can happen in the World Cup and it shows the team is convinced it can win.”

Aragones chose not to use his preferred 4-3-3 system and solved his side’s lack of punch up front by deploying Jose Antonio Reyes and Joaquin in a 4-4-2.

MNA/Reuters

Shevchenko scores on Ukraine return

LUXEMBOURG, 9 June — Ukraine captain Andriy Shevchenko gave his side a huge World Cup boost on Thursday, scoring as a second-half substitute in the 3-1 friendly against Luxembourg.

Shevchenko, the 2004 European Player of the Year, featured for 30 minutes as Ukraine defeated Luxembourg 3-0 in their final warm-up.

The 29-year-old, one of the most feared strikers in world football, appeared to show no ill effects from the injury, sustained while playing for AC Milan, which has forced him to miss friendlies against Germany and Costa Rica on 9 June, 2006. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Australia beat Liechtenstein 3-1 friendly

ULM (Germany), 9 June — Australia rounded off their World Cup preparations with a scrappy 3-1 win over Liechtenstein at the Ulmer Donaustadion in southern Germany on Wednesday.

The Socceroos were always in control of the match, dominating possession from the opening whistle, but squandered a series of scoring opportunities and needed late goals from Josh Kennedy and John Aloisi to seal victory.

The match failed to hit any great heights and provided few real clues into Australia’s plans for their opening World Cup match against Japan on June 12.

Coach Guus Hiddink made six changes to the side that started last weekend’s 1-1 draw with the Netherlands, resting captain Mark Viduka and substituting Harry Kewell after 53 minutes.

Hiddink will be concerned about the way in which the European munros managed to expose problems in the Australian defence.

The Socceroos gifted Liechtenstein an own goal in the seventh minute when Lucas Neill headed a seemingly innocuous free kick past a sprawling Zeljko Kalac into the back of his own net. They almost leaked another after a mix-up between defender Tony Popovic and his goalkeeper.

Australia equalized in the 19th minute when Stan Lazaridis broke free down the left side and fired in a low cross that Mile Sterjovski was able to poke in and sealed victory with two more goals in the second half.

MNA/Reuters

Levi Leipheimer of the US, is followed by Denis Menchov of Russia as they climb the Mont Ventoux pass during the 4th stage of the Dauphine Libere cycling race between Tain l’Hermitage and Le Mont Ventoux, southeastern France, on 8 June, 2006. Denis Menchov of Russia won the stage and Levi Leipheimer of the US took the yellow jersey of overall leader. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

WORLD CUP FIXTURES

Saturday, 10 June 2006

England v Paraguay, 19:30 MST

Trinidad and Tobago v Sweden, 22:30 MST

Sunday, 11 June 2006

Argentina v Ivory Coast, 1:30 MST

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 10 June, 2006
Philippines raises alert after volcano spews ash

MANILA, 9 June — The Philippines has raised the alert level on one of its most active Volcanoes and warned residents on Thursday to stay away from the mountain after its crater belched ash clouds.

Bulusan Volcano in central Philippines spewed ash nearly two kilometres (1.2 miles) high, prompting authorities to raise the alert level to 2 from level 1 ordered in March when ash first began flowing from its crater. “We are seeing an increasing frequency of ash explosions,” Renato Solidum, director the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology told Reuters.

Solidum warned residents in Sorsogon Province not to venture within a four-kilometre (2.5-miles) zone of the 1,559-metre volcano because of fears of sudden explosions. “We raised alert level 2 last night,” he said as a measure of precaution.

At level 3 an explosion is considered possible, at level 4 it is seen as likely and at level 5, the highest alert, an eruption has occurred with lava flows or ash columns reaching 6 kilometres.

Bulusan, one of the six most active volcanoes in the Philippines, has had five ash eruptions since March.

The Philippines, like neighbouring Indonesia, lies in an area of the Pacific Basin that is vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

MNA/Reuters

Japanese models show off World Cup mascot Goleo, showing support for their national soccer team during a campaign in Tokyo, on 9 June, 2006. Japan will play in group F against Brazil, Croatia, and Australia during the first round of the upcoming 2006 Soccer World Cup in Germany.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Saturday, 10 June

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:45 am Music: –It’s gotta be you
8:45 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Anyman of mine
8:50 am National news & Slogan
9:00 am Music: Hold me
9:05 am National news
9:10 am Music: Come undone
1:30 pm News & Slogan
1:45 pm Lunch time music
–The sound of goodbye
–Goodbye to love
–If I can’t love you
9:00pm AASEAN news review
–Exchange news from AASEAN member countries
9:10pm Article
9:20pm M y a n m a r (culture by Dr. Khin Maung Nyun)
–Nayone, the month of religious Examination festival
9:30 pm Song
–He thinks I still care
–Day after day
–E’noos or never
9:45 pm News / Slogan
10:00 pm till

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9:45 pm News / Slogan
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Forecast valid until evening of 10-6-2006: Rain will be widespread in Rakhine, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, Bago and Ayeyawady Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 10-6-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-6-2006: One or two rain with sunny period. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-6-2006: Likelihood isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for third weekend of June 2006: Durin the coming weekend rain will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division and widespread in Yangon Division.

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Prime Minister sends felicitations to Portuguese Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jose Socrates Carvalho Pinto De Sousa, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June, 2006. — MNA

Locals to grow physic nut plants on vacant land on manageable scale for earning surplus income

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects development of Myitta in Dawei District

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the physic nut plant growing ceremony in Myitta of Dawei District on 6 June morning after meeting with staff officers at Dawei Station.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that all the countries are seeking various ways and means to solve problems on shortage of fuel. Therefore, all the people are to place emphasis on cultivation of physic nut plants to extract bio-diesel. As physic nut seeds fetch good price at the market, the locals are to grow physic nut plants on vacant land on a manageable scale for earning surplus income.

In Taninthayi Division, the cultivation of physic nut plants is being carried out as a national duty. A total of 181.46 acres of land have been put under physic nut plants in Myeik District, 337.96 acres in Dawei District, and 638.75 acres in Kawthoung District.

While in Myitta, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected development of Myitta Town and the police station. In meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the office of Myitta Town General Administration Department, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that departmental personnel are to make efforts for uplift of living standard of the local people. For ensuring local food sufficiency and surplus food of the town, local people and social organizations are to reclaim vacant and virgin lands for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, rubber, oil palm and pepper. In doing so, departmental personnel are to provide necessary assistance and technologies to the local farmers. And, emphasis is to be placed on development of Myitta Town through urbanization of Taunghlon Village and growing of double crops and seasonal crops on fallow and virgin lands.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance for Myitta Station Hospital, the education officer office and the police station to Dr Aung Zaw Latt and officials.

After inspecting Myitta Town, they went back to Dawei. Afterwards, they left Dawei and arrived back Yangon in the afternoon. — MNA

Emphasis is to be placed on development of Myittta Town through urbanization of Taunghlon Village and growing of double crops and seasonal crops on fallow and virgin lands.

Germany 4-2 Costa Rica

MUNICH, 9 June—Brilliant strikes from Philip Lahm and Torsten Frings lit up the opening match of the World Cup as hosts Germany won in entertaining style.

Lahm’s stunning sixth-minute drive from distance put Germany ahead, but Paulo Wanchope slid home to level.

Miroslav Klose converted from close range, then followed up his own header to put the home team 3-1 ahead.

Wanchope produced a smart finish to give Costa Rica hope, but Frings’ sensational 30-yarder sealed victory. It was the perfect start for Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann, whose side triumphed in the highest-scoring opening match in World Cup history. — Internet