Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For further development of border areas

As the Union of Myanmar is home to various national races, it is of utmost importance to strengthen national unity and bring development to all regions of the Union. With this in mind, all-round development plans are being implemented especially for border regions that were left behind others.

To be able to give top priority to the development of border regions, special efforts have been made since 1989 to gain peace and stability. Social and economic infrastructures have been built in those regions. It is necessary to maintain peace, stability and development.

Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges have been opened in Yangon and Mandalay in year 2000 in order that national youths can pursue higher education. These two colleges are training and nurturing national youths for human resource development in the border regions.

The graduation ceremony for the academic year 2005-2006 of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) was held at the hall of the college in Dagon Seikan Township and B.A. and B.Sc. degrees and AGTI diplomas were conferred on 66 students the other day. Altogether 98 students have also graduated from Na-tionals Youth Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) in the academic year 2005-2006. Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay have produced 574 graduates since they were opened in 2000. Now these graduates are with various ministries and some outstanding students are studying for M.A. and M.Sc.

The graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Colleges will have to work as management personnel in the education, administration, agriculture and construction sectors in border regions and at the same time they are required to do community welfare work. We believe that social and economic status of the national people in the border regions will improve only if the graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Colleges put their energies into their work in friendly atmosphere with local people.

Swift transport of commodity will directly benefit consumers

YANGON, 12 June—A ceremony to launch the special cargo service of the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport was held at the Mawtin Jetty on Strand Road here at 1 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Develop-ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputies Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, heads of department under the Ministry of Transport, managing director of IWT, departmental officials and guests. First, Managing Director of IWT U Soe Tant reported on matters related to extension of the transport schedule.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Lin made a speech, saying that the new cargo special (express) service, which will contribute much to proper evolution of market-oriented system being practised in the nation, swift commodity flow and stabilization of commodity prices, is launched in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister, the mayor and officials proceeded to Lanthit Jetty where the extended special cargo service is to be launched and formally opened the cargo service.

Later, the commander, the minister, the mayor and officials greeted passengers on a board ‘Widura’ cargo vessel that will be on maiden voyage.

With a view to ensuring smooth and secure transport, the schedule included Yangon-Bogale transport route and it will be cheaper than land route.—MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials waving at passengers of the maiden voyage of Widuya. —MNA

PBA NRDA Minister tours Hpa-an

Office and Hpa-an Township DAO in Hpa-an and gave instructions on development tasks in the region for 2005-06 fiscal year. During his tour of inspec-tion, Minister Col Thein Nyunt also went to voca-tional training schools under the ministry and filled the requirements.—MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister arrives back from Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—A Myanmar delega-tion led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air after attending the 10th ASEAN-ROK Dialogue held in Seoul from 7 to 10 June.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trades of Republic of Korea Mr Yun Byung-se. During the meetings relating to the regional situation, ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations, Result of the 8th ASEAN-ROK JPRC Meeting, Follow-up to the 2005 ASEAN-ROK Summit and Preparation for the 2006 ASEAN-ROK Summit were discussed.

At the invitation of Mr Yun Byung-se, Myanmar delegation participated in the meeting.

Before starting the meeting, U Kyaw Thu met with Mr Yun Byung-se and discussed the matters relating to the provisional agenda of the 10th ASEAN-ROK dialogue. After the meeting, Myanmar delegation attended the dinner hosted by leader of the Korean delegation Mr Yun Byung-se in honour of the delegations who attended the 10th ASEAN-ROK Dialogue.—MNA

USDA provides desks to Dawbon No 8 primary school

YANGON,12 June—Union Solidarity and De-velopment Association donated 30 desks to Dawbon Township’s No 8 Basic Education Primary School today. At the donation ceremony held at the school, CEC member of USDA Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa handed over the facilities to the headmistress of the school.

USDA has made arrangements to provide desks to schools in Yangon Division, said the mayor at the ceremony.

Director of No 3 Basic Education Department U Ye Lwin Aung spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Myanmar, Pakistan discuss boosting trade

YANGON, 12 June—A meeting between Medi-cal Entrepreneurs Association of Myanmar and Trade delegation of Pakistan took place at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel this morning.

Executive members of Medical Entrepreneurs Association and 15 members of Pakistani Trade delegation took part in the meeting. They discussed matters on boosting bilateral trade.—MNA
China expedites construction of land transport links to ASEAN

KUNMING, 11 June — A leading Chinese official of communications says a network featuring land transport links connecting China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) via Pan Pearl River Delta Region (PPRDR) of China will be completed by 2020. Weng Mengyong, Deputy Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Communications, believes the transport linking network will help China closer to the international market in an efficient manner.

Weng was here in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, attending a forum featuring regional cooperation and development of PPRDR. PPRDR encompasses one fifth of China’s territory, and one third of the country’s population.

China shares land border with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, all member states of ASEAN, at Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and there are now 11 trade ports along the borderline.

China also has a deep-rooted relationship with ASEAN because of one international river known as Mekong, or Lancang River in Chinese, which has bound Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam together.

China, Laos and Thailand have agreed to build a 1,818-kilometre international highway which will start from Kunming, capital of Yunnan, and end at Bangkok of Thailand.

PPRDR highway network can be expanded into ASEAN via the three main international highways: the Sino-Myanmar highway (Yangon-Mandalay-Kunming), the Thailand-Laos-China highway, and the Sino-Vietnamese highway (Haiphong-Hanoï-Kunming), according to Xu Rongkai, governor of Yunnan.

In the meantime, China is also stepping up construction of a railway scheme that link up China and ASEAN via Yunnan.

A feasibility study has completed for construction of the China section of the proposed Pan-Asian Railway that will run from Singapore, through Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar before reaching China’s Yunnan Province. The new 340-km railway section will connect Dali, a well-known scenic site in Yunnan Province, southwest China, to Ruili, another Yunnan town on the Sino-Myanmar border.

The proposed 2,600 km-long Pan-Asian Railway will start in Singapore, pass through Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Thailand’s capital Bangkok, Yangon in Myanmar, and terminate in Kunming, capital of Yunnan. — MNA/Xinhua
Andamans in “losing battle” with poachers

KOLKATA, 11 June— The fragile maritime ecology of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago is under threat from widespread illegal fishing, poaching of rare species and the collection of rare coral, a top official said on Friday.

The navy and coastguard have detained nearly a hundred poachers this year, as they step up a battle with an increasing number of boats from nearby Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka using dynamite and other explosives in search of handsome rewards.

IAEA reports Iran resumes uranium enrichment work

VIENNA, 10 June— Iran has resumed its controversial uranium enrichment activities, Austrin Press Agency (APA) quoted an IAEA report as saying on Thursday.

The cooperation between the Iranian Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was “insufficient”, according to the secret report, submitted to the IAEA’s 35-nation board of governors by Mohammed ElBaradei, chief of the UN watchdog.

Iran did not make any reactions to the recent inquiries put forward by the IAEA, said the report.

The report also indicated that Iran had resorted to feeding uranium gas into 164 centrifuges in Natanz on Tuesday, and was setting up more cascades of centrifuge enrichment machines.

Moreover, Iran disallowed the IAEA inspectors to install monitoring facilities.

The IAEA, which monitors Iran’s nuclear activities, can be used for civil nuclear purposes as well as for producing nuclear weapons.

The board of governors of the nuclear watchdog is set to discuss the report next Monday.

S Korean jet lands with no nose, no radar, no view

SEOUL, 11 June— A South Korean jet with 200 passengers on board landed safely after hailstones blew off the plane’s nose, destroyed its radar and shattered the front cockpit windows, airline officials said on Saturday.

Asiana Airlines Flight 8942 was pelted with hailstones late on Friday while flying to Seoul from the southern resort island of Cheju, a spokesman at the country’s second-largest carrier said by telephone.

“Hailstones took off the plane’s nose and cracked the cockpit windows, the spokesman said. The hail wrecked the housing for the main radar system and also punctured its engine covers.”

“The navy and coastguard have detained nearly a hundred poachers this year, as they step up a battle with an increasing number of boats from nearby Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka using dynamite and other explosives in search of handsome rewards.

Environmentalists say it’s a fight they are losing. “The navy and coastguards already have too much to do in terms of the security of the region,” said Samir Acharya, secretary of the Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology.

“Only a coordinated effort with the police and local administration can make any difference. It’s a losing battle.” The list of prey is long: tuna and other species of prized fish, sea cucumbers that fetch $100 a kilogramme in Japan, China and Thailand where they are prized for their supposed medicinal properties, rare turtles and salt-water crocodiles whose skins sell for $25,000.

The 91 people arrested so far this year, many of whom were armed, marks a dramatic rise from the 26 who were taken into custody last year, said Arun Kumar Singh, a navy commander in charge of maritime security in the region, 1,200 km to the east of the Indian mainland.

But at least as many are thought to be getting away. “They dive into the sea to get rare sea cucumbers and corals which are sold at exorbitant prices in other countries. This is destroying the ecology,” Singh said.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, home to some of the world’s most isolated tribes whose territory is off limits to outsiders, were badly hit by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

Thousands of people were killed and considerable damage done to the region’s rich marine life.

S Egyptian jet lands with no nose, no radar, no view

Shanghai, 10 June— A 46-year-old animal keeper was killed accidentally by an elephant in a safari park in Shanghai, east China, on Thursday, sources with the safari park confirmed on Friday.

The elephant was killed while the keeper was cleaning the animal’s enclosure.

Singapore pop singer Tanya Chua poses with the Best Female Mandarin Artist Award at the 17th Golden Melody Awards in China (Taipei), on 10 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Armenian “mercenaries” arrested in Kenya

NAIROBI, 10 June— Kenyan police on Friday arrested two Armenian brothers whose swaggering lifestyle turned them into celebrities after they were accused of being mercenaries involved in a controversial police raid on media offices.

There have been repeated allegations that the wealthy Armenians, known for their fleet of luxury cars and flashy jewellery, were protected by powerful political allies in Kenya. Police seized a Mercedes car with government plates during a raid on the heavily guarded home of Artur Margariyan and Arthur Sargsian (Eds: correct) in a ritzy Nairobi suburb early on Friday.

A lesser known brother, Arman, was also arrested. Police sources said they made the arrests after the brothers roughed up Customs officials at Nairobi Airport.

They have not made public any exact charges.

“They were supposed to pay for some items they were carrying, and they got into a scuffle before leaving. They were followed home,” said a police official on speaking on condition of anonymity.

The sources said later the brothers were at the airport on Friday awaiting deportation. The private Citizen television station showed police seizing a dozen car licence plates, including some supposed to be issued only to diplomats, during the raid. Among more than 10 luxury cars at their home, a Lexus truck could also be seen with red and blue police lights in the grille. The police official said guns, machetes and bulletproof vests were recovered.

Elephant kills its keeper in Shanghai Safari Park

SHANGHAI, 10 June— A 46-year-old animal keeper was killed accidentally by an elephant in a safari park in Shanghai, east China, on Thursday, sources with the safari park confirmed on Friday.

Li Guohua, the animal keeper, was suddenly thrown away by an Asian elephant using its trunk when he was helping veterinarians to treat this ill elephant at about 8:00 pm on Thursday. Li was thrown onto the guardrail in the safari park and died, an official in charge of the Shanghai Safari Park told Xinhua.

The official said that the elephant was born in the Shanghai Safari Park in 1999 and has been taken care of by a group of keepers headed by Li ever since then.

The elephant is about 3.2-metre tall and weighs about five tons. Cause of the accident is being investigated.

Mary Davis, trainer for a day programme participant, gets a kiss from a dolphin at the Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas recently.—INTERNET
S’pore President hosts state banquet in honour of Japanese Emperor

SINGAPORE, 10 June — Singapore President SR Nathan on Friday night hosted a state banquet in honour of visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Istana, the President’s official residence.

The President said in a toast that bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries has broadened over the years and that Japanese companies continue to play a critical role in Singapore’s economic well-being.

“Today, more than 2,200 Japanese firms are here and cumulative Japanese investment in Singapore stands at 37.6 billion Singapore dollars (about 23.6 billion US dollars),” the President said.

Citing electronics, chemicals, engineering, medical science, digital media, education and intellectual property as areas for bilateral collaboration, President Nathan noted that there exist “greater opportunities for cooperation and exchanges in the years ahead.”

Japan ranked Singapore’s sixth largest trading partner in 2005 with bilateral trade exceeding $2 billion Singapore dollars (about 33 billion US dollars).

Earlier on Friday, the Emperor and the Empress were given a state welcome by President Nathan at the Istana.

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew called on the royal couple in the afternoon and Premier Lee also hosted them a lunch at the Arts House.

The royal couple arrived in Singapore on Thursday for a three-day state visit at the invitation of President Nathan.

NZ Air Force rescues four people from sharks

WELLINGTON, 10 June — Four people were rescued from shark-infested waters near the South Pacific Tonga by a New Zealand (NZ) Air Force Orion aircraft Friday afternoon.

“The plane left New Zealand early this morning to respond to an emergency beacon signal,” an NZ Defence Force spokesperson said.

The fishing vessel the Pacific Sunrise had lost battery power, and the Air Force helped coordinate a rendezvous with another fishing boat, the spokesperson said, adding that on its way back to New Zealand the Orion was diverted by another emergency signal and found four people in the water.

The group, with no lifejackets, was clinging to debris and the Orion captain reported seeing sharks near the group. A life raft was dropped from the plane, which then stayed in the area until the people were picked up by a local fishing boat, the spokesperson said. — MNA/Xinhua

Ortega says US aims to block his return

MANAGUA (Nicaragua), 11 June — Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega told regional observers on Friday the US and Nicaraguan governments were working together to try to disqualify him from November’s presidential election.

Ortega, a former president and leader of Nicaragua’s leftist Sandinista revolution, is seeking to return to power and has clashed in recent months with the US envoy and the country’s main right-wing parties.

“We see a coordinated action between the United States Government and the government of President (Enrique) Bolanos, both of whom want to disqualify the Sandinistas,” Ortega said after a meeting with Organization of American States observers.

A spokeswoman at the US Embassy in Managua declined to comment on Ortega’s remarks, saying that Nicaraguan Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

US Ambassador Paul Trivelli has repeatedly criticized Ortega, who many think could return to power and end the 16 years of pro-Washington government that followed his 1990 defeat. In April, Trivelli met with right-wing parties to discuss forming an alliance to oppose Ortega in the 5 November election.

The United States has a controversial history of involvement in Nicaragua. Recent polls have shown solid support for the Sandinistas, which in the 1980s led a Soviet-and Cuban-backed government that battled US-funded Contra rebels. — MNA/Reuters

China recovers 3,000-year-old bronze vessel

BEIJING, 10 June — A huge round bronze ding, or three-legged bowl, dating back more than 3,000 years, has returned to China after being lost overseas for about 60 years.

The vessel, with the inscription “Zilong”, is the largest of its kind from the Shang Dynasty (1600-1100 BC) ever discovered.

It is believed the Zilong ding was unearthed in Huixian County in Henan Province in the 1920s and then lost to Japan in the 1940s.

The ding was a kind of cooking vessel with two loop handles and three (sometimes four) legs. Bronze dings were common during the Shang and Western Zhou (1,100 BC - 771 BC) dynasties and were still used in the Qin (221 BC - 206 BC) and Han (206 BC - 220 AD) dynasties, symbolizing the power and prosperity of a state or country.

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Schoolgirls, in traditional ‘no dui’ dresses and wearing masks to protect their faces against heat and dust, ride their bicycles on a street in Vietnam’s central Hue city on 10 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Teenage girl, boy die in British shooting

LONDON, 11 June — A 15-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy have died in Greater Manchester in northern England in a shooting incident, police said on Saturday.

The pair are believed to have been in a relationship which ended recently.

Police found the girl dead and the boy still alive at an address in Salford following reports of shots being fired around 10 am (0900 GMT) on Saturday.

The boy was taken by ambulance to hospital but died a short time later.

“It is being treated as a murder inquiry and officers will continue to follow all lines of inquiry,” a police spokeswoman said. The BBC reported the girl had been discovered outside the property with gunshot wounds to her head. — MNA/Reuters

Mount Bulusan volcano spews ash during its ‘phreatic eruption’ in Sorsogon Province, about 390 kilometres (244 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines in this 31 May, 2006 file photo handed out by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). — INTERNET

A huge round bronze “ding”, or three-legged bowl, dating back to more than 3,000 years, has returned to China after being lost overseas for about 60 years. — INTERNET

S’pore President hosts state banquet in honour of Japanese Emperor

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The royal couple arrived in Singapore on Thursday for a three-day state visit at the invitation of President Nathan.
Bhumibol calls for unity at his Diamond Jubilee

Bangkok, 11 June — Revered King Bhumibol Aduljadej called for national unity on Friday at joyous celebrations of his Diamond Jubilee.

King Bhumibol told a crowd in Bangkok’s Royal Plaza — estimated by police at one million and many millions more glued to their televisions around the country — to think and act in good faith and for the good of the nation.

“As long as Thais can still synchronize their thoughts, minds and behaviours for the good of the country, we can be assured the nation will continue to prosper,” the bespectacled monarch said from a balcony of the Ananda Samakhom Throne Hall.

“Therefore I would like to ask everyone here to keep this good virtue and continuously pass it on for the prosperity of the country,” said the 78-year-old King, clad in an ornate coat of gold thread, 60 years after his coronation.

When he finished his five-minute speech, the genuinely adored monarch was rocked by a wave of sound as the crowd, which stretched 3 kilometres (2 miles), shouted “Long Live His Majesty”.

Some broke down in tears as the King, Queen Sirikit alongside him, was moved visibly by the sound from the crowd, many of whom arrived in the early hours to stake out a good place to see him.

“This is a very auspicious opportunity,” said Chom Taenglek, 75, who arrived at dawn. “I would like to see all Thais sacrifice and do good for the country and our King, whom everyone should follow as a role model.”

Like almost everyone else in Bangkok, Chom wore a yellow shirt, the colour of the King’s birthday.

From Friday, Thais prepared for a four-day holiday weekend and with royalty from 25 nations heading to help celebrate the jubilee.

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Toxic grain claims 22 lives in Kenya

Nairobi, 11 June — At least 22 people have died and several others have been admitted to hospitals in the past two months after eating mould-contaminated grain in famine-prone eastern Kenya, a medical official said on Friday.

“A total of 22 people have died in the past two months as a result of aflatoxin,” said Kariuki Kimathi, a medical officer at the Ministry of Health.

This problem started in early April, several others are currently undergoing treatment in clinics and the situation is getting under control," the medical official who sought anonymity said.

“We have, however, delivered medical supplies to dispensaries in the region and asking people to stop eating contaminated food,” he said.

Officials said food shortages in the area, a chronic problem, forced hundreds of families to eat grain contaminated with aflatoxins, molds that grow as a result of improper storage.

Kitui lawmakers have asked the government to facilitate an elaborate scientific research to establish why the district in particular had been so susceptible to the aflatoxin food poisoning.

Last year, at least 30 people died and several hundreds others sickened after eating similarly contaminated grain.

Similar problem also claimed more than 100 lives in 2004.

Exposure to large amounts of aflatoxin over a short period causes acute liver damage and death, while the ingestion of small amounts over a longer period can cause liver cancer.

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China floods kill 93, half a million evacuated

Beijing, 11 June — Flooding from two weeks of heavy rain in southern China has killed 93 people, a further 11 are missing and more than half a million people have been evacuated to higher ground, the official China Daily said on Saturday.

“Nearly 12 million people in nine provinces, regions and municipalities have been affected by the weather,” the newspaper quoted the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying.

At least 560,000 people have been evacuated and direct losses from the heavy rains have reached 7.66 billion yuan (956 million US dollars, said the ministry.

Mudslides remained a danger, the daily said.

Fujiin Province, the hardest-hit area, was given 40 million yuan by the central government for relief work, it said.

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Thames Water seeks drought order

London, 11 June — Million of people in London face restrictions on their water use after Thames Water said on Friday it will apply to the government for special powers to cope with a drought in southern England.

If granted, the drought order would ban the washing of cars with a hosepipe, filling private swimming pools and watering parks and sports grounds.

Thames Water, owned by German utility RWE, said groundwater levels remained low, despite the wettest May in 27 years.

“We simply don’t know how much rain we will get in the rest of the summer,” the company’s Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Pelczer said in a statement. “If the weather is unusually hot and dry we will need to restrict water use more than we are at present.”

The company’s five million customers in London would be covered, while three million more in the Thames Valley will be exempt, he added.

Last July, Thames Water was criticized by regulator OFWAT for losing 915 million litres of water a day through leaks.

The company says that since November 2004 there has been below-average rainfall in the southeast in every month except one and that last year was the third-driest on record.

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Cambodian King leaves to attend Thai King’s anniversary

Phnom Penh, 11 June — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni left here Sunday morning for Bangkok to attend the grand celebrations to mark the Thai King’s 60th year on the throne.

It is the first time for Cambodian King to attend the grand events of Thai royalty since the early 60s, according to local media. Royalty from 25 nations will attend the celebration.

King Sihamoni will return home on Wednesday.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development work in...

He also attended a collective physic nut growing ceremony in the village at which 6,000 plants were grown on 5-acre land. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Yanpe Dam in Taungdwingyi Township and instructed officials to strive for meeting the target of cultivating 10,000 acres of paddy. Yanpe Dam project is being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. It can irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to the maize product factory project (Yanpe) in Payatkye Village. He was conducted round the factory by officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the physic nut plantations in the compound of the factory and gave necessary instructions to officials. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the 3-acre physic nut plantation in Lattat village in Taungdwingyi Township, attended a physic nut growing ceremony in Aunglan Township and inspected Kyayni Creek Bridge at mile post (226/2). — MNA

Kyaukme Township enjoying economic, social, health and education development...

At Sakhantha village, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended ceremony to grow physic nut plants where departmental personnel and social organizations will put 575 acres of land under physic nuts. Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win observed generators, millers, power-tillers and vehicles run with physic nut oil.

At the regional battalion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with Tatmadawmen and families, urging them to take part in nation-building tasks with might and main. He presented gifts to them.

He then met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local people. The commander and officials presented reports on regional development.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that Kyaukme Township is enjoying economic, social, health and education development. Departments and local people should make harmonious efforts for exceeding the targets set by the government.

With the strength of the entire nation, the government has been ensuring peace, progress, prosperity and the rule of law. Service personnel on their part should make physical and intellectual efforts for further development of the nation which in turn will help raise their living standard.

They should regard the regions they are working as their native place and should organize and educate the locals for regional development. They will have to make harmonious efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

No 7 Workshop on procedures to be followed for sale of medicines concludes

YANGON, 12 June — A conclusion ceremony of No 7 Workshop on procedures to be followed for the sale of medicines conducted by Myanmar Medical Entrepreneurs Association was held at Myanmar Accountants Association in Puzundaung Township this morning.

Dr Maung Maung Lay of MMEA and Dr Mi Mi Ko spoke on the occasion. Later, trainees were given completion certificates and the ceremony ended. No 8 Course will be opened on the last week of June.— MNA

USDA SG receives Japanese high ranking official

YANGON, 12 June — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo today met with Chairman of the Executive Council of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Mr Fumio Cuma at the headquarters of USDA here.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on promotion of Japan-Myanmar friendship and mutual cooperation.

U Htay Oo also clarified the objectives and tasks of USDA and its participation in development tasks of the country.

Mr Fumio is also a member of the House of Representatives and an adviser to the Association of Japan-Myanmar Mutual Cooperation.

Also present at the call were CEC member of USDA U Maung Pa and officials of the headquarters.— MNA
**Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to the Philippines**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 12 June** — On the occasion of the 108th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Honourable Alberto G Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

**Foreign Minister felicitates Russian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 12 June** — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2006. — MNA

**Ambassadors, diplomats, representatives of UN Agencies, local and foreign journalists visit Mon, Kayin states**

**Yangon, 12 June** — A study group comprising ambassadors and diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon, representatives of UN Agencies and local and foreign journalists, accompanied by officials made a study tour of Mon and Kayin states in South-East Command from 8 to 10 June.

Laotian Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane, Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr D M M Ranaraja, Indonesian Ambassador Mr Wypo Prodjowersito, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung, Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khairuzzaman, Malaysian Ambassador Mr Shaharuddin bin Md Som, Brunei Ambassador Pehin Daru Indorasagura Brig-Gen (B) Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusuf bin Ado Bakar and Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Charge d’Affaires a. i. of Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro Mr Dragan Janevski, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms Catherine Firth of British Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Helal Helal Ibrahim of Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, First Secretary Mrs Deng Qinghua of Embassy of the People’s Republic China, Second Secretary Mr Dennis D. Tidwell of Embassy of US, Attaché Mr Abdulzalim A. A Enzi of Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Deputy Representative Ms Akikosuzaki of UNDP, Chief Planning Session Ms May Pascual of UNICEF and Head of Office Ms Isbeele Bouan of IOM (TCB), President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and members and others totalling 60 were members of the study tour.

**Diplomats, Journalists visit...**

(from page 16) The over 2,392-foot-long bridge will contribute to the development of the region, he added.

Afterwards, diplomats and journalists visited the construction site of the bridge linking Bago Division’s Waw Township and Mon State’s Kyaukto Township. Construction of the bridge including 28-foot wide motorroad and 6-foot wide walkways is expected to be completed by 2007. During the tour of Mon State, they also visited Kadaik Dam project in Paung Township.

Construction of the dam is 75 percent complete and Construction Group-6 of the Irrigation Department is implementing the project on Kadaik Creek in Paung Township. The dam will be 134 feet high and 5,210 feet long with a water storage capacity of 56,000 acre feet, and on completion, it will irrigate 10,000 acres in summer.

Crop fields were facing annual floods as the volume of water coming down from the many mountains of Mon State was large. The government built Azin dam in 1990, Wapa dam in 1994, Shwenattaung dam in 1996, and Winphanon dam in 2001. It is striving to complete the Kadaik Dam Project in 2007-2008.

The minister and party visited Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), Project in Mottama, Paung Township. They (See page 9)
The second cash donation ceremony was held in commemoration of the Fourth Literary Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, heads of department, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and CEC members, donors and guests.

First, the minister accepted K 3 million donated by Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi (Shine Hope Co); K 100,000 by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation; 20 books and K 100,000 by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; K 200,000 by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon; K 100,000 each by Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon and Myanmar Traditional Handicraft Asiayon; and periodicals and cash donations by other wellwishers.

Myanma Radio and Television General Manager U Khin Maung Htay, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Managing Director U Aung Nyun, Vice Chairman-1 of MWJA U Tin Kha also accepted cash and periodicals donated by wellwishers.

Today’s donations were K 3,470,000 and 3991 books on various subjects.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the Information Minister attends cash donation ceremony in commemoration of MWJA Fourth Literary Conference

**Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepting cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA**

**Before 1954, 200-bed People’s Hospital in Hpa-an was a dispensary and it was upgraded to 25-bed hospital in 1954, 55-bed one in 1955, 100-bed one in 1959 and 150-bed one in 1962. It was upgraded to 200-bed hospital under the present government in 1991. Health care service is being provided to local people by specialists.**

**Diplomats, Journalists visit…**

(From page 9)

were welcomed by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win, officials, social organizations and national races cultural troupes.

At the project briefing hall, the minister said that the bridge is built at the convergence where Thanlwin, Attaran and Gyaing rivers meet. He explained the engineering methods and technology applied in building the bridge.

Officials explained the social and economic benefits of the bridge linking Mon State and Bago and Yangon Divisions that is helping further enhance love and amity among the national races. The government spent K 18,920 million for the main structure and K 11,533 million for the approach structures totalling K 30,453 million. Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint said that the bridge was built by Myanmar engineers and workers without taking any foreign assistance. Officials answered the questions raised by the members of the expedition.

The expedition team studied the grandeur of the bridge, one of the great accomplishments of Myanmar engineers, and the traffic on it. From the bridge they enjoyed the sun set view of Khaungse island and Mawlamyine.

At Mawlamyine Railway Station, the expedition members heard a report on the government’s plans for transport facilitation.

Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win hosted a dinner in honour of the expedition members at the Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Deputy Commander Col Zaw Min, senior military officers, and ambassadors, UN officials, departmental officials, members of Information Committee, the president and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and local journalists who were members of the expedition and guests attended the dinner. Musical programmes were staged before and during the dinner. Mon State and Kayin traditional and cultural troupes performed variety dances after the dinner.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted all those who attended the dinner.

(See page 10)
Department Dr Htay Naung, Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Myint, specialists and health staff.

Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Myint reported on the history of the hospital. He said before 1954, it was a dispensary and it was upgraded to 25-bed hospital in 1954, 50-bed one in 1955, 100-bed one in 1959 and 150-bed one in 1962. It was upgraded to 200-bed hospital under the present government in 1991. Health care service is being provided to local people by specialists.

He also spoke on number of in-patients, the medical funds, the ratio of patients and doctors.

The medical superintendent replied to queries raised by the journalists.

The study group led by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan arrived at Hpa-an University. The journalists raised questions on academic matters.

There are 193 faculty members and 3,000 students at the university.

The study group arrived back here in the evening.

Members of the expedition led by Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan enjoy a Kayin traditional dance. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win hosts dinner in honour of the expedition led by Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — MNA

Kataik Dam under construction in Paung Township, Mon State. — MNA

Annual meeting of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone held

YANGON, 12 June — The annual meeting of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone was held at the meeting hall of MMPA on Wingaba Road this evening.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan spoke on the occasion. He said five objectives for development of the film world were laid down and it is necessary to undertake the 12 basic points that lead to the realization of the objectives.

He said cooperation and investment are necessities in producing a film of high standard and quality.

Chairman of MMPA U Kyi Soe Tun extended greetings. Joint Secretary-2 U Maung Maung Oo (Snow White) submitted the annual report of the executive committee. — MNA
Deputy General Manager U Myat Lin of Myanma Railways replies to queries raised by diplomats, Representatives of UN Agencies and journalists. — MNA

Progress in construction of Sittoung Bridge (Moplin). — MNA

Bridges are built across the country to narrow the development gap. Upon completion of the Sittoung Bridge (Moplin) project, the over 2,392-foot-long bridge will contribute to the development of the region.
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Mr SRI MONG KOVOY (461) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 13.6.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV JS LEADER VOYO NO (0606)**

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** JOSUNG SHIPPING KOREA CO LTD

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** JOSUNG SHIPPING KOREA CO LTD

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**Three miners rescued 50 hours after S-W China colliery flooding**

Chongqing, 11 June — Three miners were saved Saturday morning more than 50 hours after they had been trapped in a flooded coal mine in southwest China, but seven others remain missing, local authorities said.

The three people, identified as Zhang Mingwei, Meng Shihua and Shen Shihua, were rescued at 4:50 am Saturday and were rushed to the local Nanchuan City People’s Hospital. The three miners were feeble when they were lifted to the ground but all with clear consciousness and normal signs of life, and now, they are out of danger, doctors said.

The Hou Shan Colliery in the city of Nanchuan was flooded at around 2:15 am Thursday, about 10 minutes after a blast to facilitate excavation. Eighteen miners were working in the pit and eight of them escaped. Zhang and the two others were working at a relatively higher location underground when the accident took place, said Li Chenggang, chief engineer with the Nanchuan City Bureau for Coal Mine Work Safety.

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**Three killed in building collapse in N Lagos**

Lagos, 11 June — Two persons lost their lives in the Sari-Iganmu area, the commercial capital of Nigeria, when a two-story building collapsed, Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer Olubode Ojumobi said here on Friday.

He said the corpses of the deceased had been retrieved from the scene and removed by policemen to a local public mortuary for autopsy.

The collapsed building which was constructed in the late 1970s, housed eight tenants believed to be traders. It had developed several cracks on its foundation and ground floor walls before finally giving way on Thursday.
Nepal to ratify anti-tobacco pact
KATHMANDU, 10 June — Nepali Speaker Subash Nemwang has said the government will support the campaign against tobacco by endorsing the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the Himalayan Times reported on Friday.

The government will not go against the people and will get the FCTC ratified by the Members of Parliament," the speaker was quoted by the newspaper as saying while addressing a seminar on FCTC and its ratification, which was organized by the Nepal Cancer Relief Society.

He assured that the campaigners will not have to go to the extreme of filing writ petitions against the government seeking ratification of the FCTC.

Mt Mearapi’s eruption to weaken
JAKARTA, 10 June — An Indonesian geologist predicted that Mt Mearapi’s later eruption would be weak as it has already exhausted its energy so far.

Suparkah, a geologist from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), told newsmen here on Thursday “as it has already exhausted its energy, its eruption later will certainly be weaker”.

It seemed the volcano’s eruption later would be weak in view of the huge hot clouds it had spewed on Thursday, Antara news agency on Friday quoted the geologist as saying.

The hot clouds of ash produced by the mountain at around 9 am on Thursday went as far as five kilometres away to the south, burning some forest area north of Kalidiam in Sleman, Yogyakarta.

Suparkah, who was promoted as a professor that day, said that the tectonic quake rattling Yogyakarta and some parts of Central Java on 27 May had affected the lava dome at Mearapi’s summit.

“The magma below Mearapi was certainly shaken so that it would seek a balance by producing energy. The energy collected by Mearapi could not be released at once,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Golfer Michelle Wie of Honolulu, Hawaii, waves after teeing off on the eighth hole during the second round of the McDonald’s LPGA Championship in Havre de Grace, Md, on 9 June, 2006. Wie finished the day at -5 under-par.— INTERNET

China issues new warning over milk powder
BEIJING, 10 June — China’s top food safety office has issued a warning about unsafe milk powder, two years after fake milk formula led to the deaths of at least 13 babies.

Several categories of milk products, including milk for the elderly, were found to have “almost no protein”, the state-run Beijing News said, quoting the State Food and Drug Administration.

“The potential for danger is very high,” the newspaper said, naming one brand and two companies involved in the manufacture.

An official at the administration confirmed it had issued a warning and said it had not received any complaints from consumers so far. — MNA/Reuters

Two Canadians accused of being Nazi guards
OTTAWA, 10 June — Two Canadian men in their 80s went on trial on Thursday in Canada’s Federal Court after being accused of working as Nazi guards during World War II.

Josef Furman, 85, and Skomatchuk, 83, of St. Catharines in the eastern Ontario Province, appeared in court for a citizenship revocation hearing, Canadian media reported. They could both have their Canadian citizenship revoked and be deported if they lose their cases.

The hearing began after documents allegedly detailing the men’s war histories were ruled admissible by the judge, the report said.

Historian Johannes Tuchel told the court that Skomatchuk’s name appeared on transfer lists several times, suggesting he was trained as an armed guard at the Nazi Trawniki camp before being transferred to serve at a number of concentration camps.

The court also heard from former concentration camp prisoner Jack Terry, who described the inhuman conditions of living in captivity, including details on some of the places where the two accused allegedly worked. — MNA/Xinhua

New power plant to benefit over 130,000 in S Central Brazil
RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 June — A new hydropower plant went into operation in Brazil’s central state of Minas Gerais on Thursday, providing electricity for about 132,000 customers in the north of the state.

The Irape water power plant, built on the Jequitinhonha River in the northern region of Minas Gerais state in south central Brazil, has a generating capacity of 360 megawatts, local media reported.

Inaugurated by the Minas Gerais State Energy Company on Thursday, the plant is expected to benefit about 132,000 people in 10 towns of the Jequitinhonha Valley, north of Minas Gerais.

The plant, with an investment of 415 million US dollars, has three power turbines. The company plans to use only one, initially, with the second and third to be put into operation in August and October respectively.

The construction of the plant is part of the local government’s latest efforts to develop the Jequitinhonha Valley.

Minas Gerais is relatively a wealthy state in Brazil, but the valley, a dry region, historically lags behind the rest of the state. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Canadians accused of being Nazi guards
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Pauleta goal sees Portugal past Angola

Cologne, 12 June—Portugal secured a 1-0 win over Angola on Sunday as the African World Cup debutants overcame a nervous start to hold their own against their former colonial masters.

Pauleta almost scored after 12 seconds and did so after four minutes as the Euro 2004 runners-up threatened to run away with their opening Group D clash in a one-sided first 20 minutes. But Angola overcame their jitters, created a few chances of their own and walked off the pitch with their heads held high at the end of an emotional encounter.

Angola gained a bloody independence from their opponents in 1975 after 400 years of colonial rule but relations between the two countries have thawed since and eight of the Angola squad play their club football in Portugal.

The European side, unbeaten winners of a tough World Cup qualifying group, warmed to their task immediately as Pauleta skidded a shot just wide when they broke straight from kickoff.

He did not have to wait long to find the net though as three minutes later Luis Figo collected the ball in acres of midfield space, easily skipped past Kali and pulled the ball back for the striker to tuck in his 47th goal in his 83rd international.

The Angolans looked in disarray as Pauleta ran free on to another long ball before looking over the bar but they eventually settled and enjoyed a flurry of half-chances.—MNA/Reuters

Mexico beat Iran 3-1 in World Cup Group D opener

Nuremberg, 12 June—Striker Omar Bravo scored twice as Mexico beat Iran 3-1 in their World Cup Group D opener here on Sunday.

The 26-year-old put Mexico ahead in the 28th minute after slotting in a pass from Guillermo Franco. He scored the second in the 76th minute to give the Mexicans a 2-1 lead after the matched had been deadlocked at 1-1.

Iran gave Mexico some nervous moments soon after the kickoff. Striker Vahid Hashemian could have given the Asians the lead.

Hashemian first missed when trying to backheel a cross into the net, then seconds later forced a flying save from Oswaldo Sanchez with a well-directed header.

The Mexicans, with a captain in Barcelona player Rafael Mquez at the back, settled quickly and found the net first through Bravo.

But defender Yahya Golmohammadi produced an almost immediate reply for the Iranians, prodding high into the roof of the net after Oswaldo Sanchez flapped at a corner and the ball fell at the defender's feet in the six-metre box.

Iran, who recorded only one win in their two previous World Cup finals, displayed an aggressive performance after the interval, pressing the Mexicans from the start and looked very strong from dead-balls.

Ricardo La Volpe's side was shocked as striker Jared Borgetti was forced off with a hamstring problem. The leading scorer in qualifying was replaced by Francisco Fonseca.

Mexico, competing in their 13th World Cup, upped the tempo again and skipper Marquez pulled their strings in the middle of the park.

In the 58th minute, Marquez was at the centre of a fabulous passing move, playing two brilliant one-twos before falling under a heavy challenge from Golmohammadi in the box, but referee Roberto Rosetti incredibly waved off their plea for a penalty kick.

La Volpe was frustrated at the bench as time went by and a draw was far from enough from his side in Group D, which also consists of Portugal and Angola.

Bravo rose to the occasion to help Mexico to retain the lead and only three minutes later, Antonio Zinha sealed the win with a bullet header in the 90th minute.

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92-year-old Zambian convicted for cultivating marijuana

LUSAKA, 12 June — A 92-year-old headman of Zambia has been convicted for cultivating marijuana.

Times of Zambia reported on Saturday.

The old man in Southern Province has been ordered to pay 1.8 million kwachas (about 529 US dollars) or in default serve a two-year jail sentence for cultivating 2.4 tons of marijuana.

The 92-year-old man was arrested last year after a tip-off from the public that he had a marijuana plantation near his village.

He was found harvesting the psycho tropical substance on the same day he was arrested.

Passing judgment, magistrate Kevin Lumbi after taking into account the mitigation of the convict being the first offender and old age to survive the poor state of the prison conditions, said the offence committed was so serious one hence the need to punish the offender to deter the would-be culprits from committing the similar offence.

He expressed worry at the increasing tendency of cultivating marijuana in the southern African country and called for an immediate halt because the trend is negatively affecting society and the country’s economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Briton nabbed working illegally in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 12 June — A British national has been detained in Tanzania for working illegally in the country despite explanations and warnings from the country’s immigration department, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

The Briton, identified as Clifford Len Hunt, was held for working with a road construction firm using a tourist’s visa. The detention was made on Friday at Clifford’s office.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 12 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagoa and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagoa and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yay (2.40) inches, Bago (2.05) inches, Kyauktaw (1.85) inches, Dawei (1.58) inches and Katha (1.30) inches.

Maximum temperature on 11-6-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 12-6-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 12-6-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 11-6-2006 was (4.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 12-6-2006 were (0.24) inch at Mingaladon, (1.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.86) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (19.53) inches at Mingaladon, (27.56) inches at Kaba-Aye and (30.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (14) mph from Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 11-6-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the North Bay and moderate in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-6-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Manda- lay, Magway and lower Sagoa Divisions, scattered in Shan, Chin, Kayin and Kayah States, upper Sagoa Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls are likely in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 13-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 13-6-2006: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 13-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to the Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June— On the occasion of the 108th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2006, a message of felicitations has been sent from General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar to Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Russian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2006.

Diplomats, Journalists visit Mon, Kayin States, witness regional developments including Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)

YANGON, 12 June — Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, ambassadors, diplomats, representatives of UN agencies and journalists on 8 June visited bridge and dam construction projects in Mon and Kayin States.

Members of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, diplomats, officials of UN agencies and journalists first visited Sittoung Bridge, an old one built in 1907, linking Bago Division and Mon State.

Afterwards, they went to Sittoung Bridge (Moplin) project in Kyakto Township, Mon State, where Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Commander of South-East Command Col Zaw Min and officials of the Public Works welcomed them.

Transportation among Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Yangon and Bago divisions will improve with the opening of the new rail-cum-road bridge across Sittoung River, said Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, bridges are built across the country to narrow the development gap, said Senior Engineer of the Sittoung Bridge (Moplin) project U Kyaw Lin. Upon completion, (See page 8)