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Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development tasks in Thayet District

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meeting with departmental officials and social organizations at Mindon. — MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 13 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 11 June morning attended the collective growing of physic nut plants near Htontaung village, Thayet Township, in which departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people took part.

In Thayet Township, a total of 702 acres were put under physic nut plants against the target of 3,003 acres.

At the briefing hall of Thayet Cement Plant Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development tasks in Thayet District under the Ministry of Industry-1, Factory Manager U Aung Thein Myint reported on production of industrial raw materials, acquisition of diesel and electricity and production of finished products to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party. During his inspection of the factory, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on exceeding the target, minimizing loss and wastage and running the factory at full capacity.

On arrival at the District Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung Htay and officials reported on the site chosen for construction of a two-storey operation theatre to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

At the meeting, Thayet District PDC Chairman Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence had a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations, local authorities and townswelders and gave instructions on regional development.

At the meeting, Thayet District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung San reported on work being carried out for regional development and future tasks.

Measures for development of Shan State (North) coordinated

NAV PYI TAW, 13 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence had a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townswelders in Namhsan on 11 June.

The chairman of Township PDC reported on facts about the region, use of natural resources, and agriculture, education and health sectors. Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented cash assistance to the township people’s hospital, uniforms to education staff, a TV to the village library, and medicines to the local national races.

In response, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that Namhsan is a hill station with beautiful natural scenery and is a tourist attraction. The town can earn a lot of income through tourism industry if it has a sufficient number of accommodations for guests.

He spoke of the need for departmental officials to disseminate methods on production of value-added goods for export and to organize local farmers to use modern agricultural methods for food security.

The government has been mobilizing the strength of the people in various sectors for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint meeting with departmental officials and social organizations at Mindon. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win seen on his inspection of the tea factory of the Tatmadaw at Namhsan. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Maintain the results of peace and stability

Now is the time when measures are being taken for promotion of human rights in Myanmar. Peace and stability and the rule of law are prevailing in almost every part of the nation. And steps are being taken to bring equal development to all regions of the Union, irrespective of their population and races living there. Moreover, efforts are being made for higher social and economic status of the national people.

Due to strong unity and steadfast cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, there have been tangible results in the political, economic and social sectors. For example, the population of Kayin State is nearly 1.7 million and the national races living there are Bamar, Mon, PaO, Shan and Rakhine. Kayin State is bounded by Shan, Kayah and Mon States and Tanintharyi Divisions. For the development of the transport sector in the region, tarred and gravel roads and bridges are being built and, as a result, local people can now go from one place to another in the region and travel to other regions as well.

Rice, as normally grown in 600,000 acres and edible oil crops, beans and pulses and industrial crops on 80,000 acres in Kayin State every year, the region not only enjoys food sufficiency but also has surpluses. And owing to the construction of dams and river water pumping stations, the use of modern agricultural technologies and increase in sown acreage, there will be further increase in crop yield.

Also in the meat and fish sector, more cows, goats, pigs, ducks, chickens and shrimps are being raised in Kayin State. More and more livestock breeding zones are being established in Hpa-an, Kya-in-Seikyi, Kawkareik and Myawady. There has been a proportionate growth in the forest, industrial and communication sectors.

There has been increase in the number of schools and the population of teachers in Kayin State and more than 80,000 students are pursuing basic education. Moreover, Hpa-an University, Government Technical College, Government Computer College and Education College in the region have paved the way for youths to be able to pursue higher education.

Development of all regions, including Kayin State, is due to peace and stability and the unity of national people. Therefore, it is necessary for all national brethren to maintain the results of peace and stability by living in unity and amity.

Bhama District’s development tasks discussed

YANGON, 13 June — Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Secretariat Member of USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 10 June met with departmental officials, social organizations and USDA members in Bhamo District and discussed matters relating to regional development tasks, cultivation of crops in the monsoon, electricity supply tasks and communication sectors in the region.

During the tour of Bhamo District, they inspected the telecommunication office in Dawphonyan, the 160-mile-long road linking Bhamo and Myitkyina and Myalauang hydel power project in Waingmaw Township. The hydel power project will be equipped with three 3.5-MW generators and is expected to generate 10.5 MW.

On 9 June, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw went to Dhamma Rakshita Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina and provided cash to the funds of the construction of a three-storey building. — MNA

U Saw Hla Min presents credentials to Swiss President

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June — U Saw Hla Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Swiss Confederation, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Moritz Leuenberger, President of the Swiss Confederation, on 16 May, in Bern. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw formally open a digital auto-exchange office in Waingmaw Township. — MNA

Ceremony to present Rakhine stipend award held

YANGON, 13 June — Organized by Rakhine Fellowship Organization (Yangon), a ceremony to present stipend award honoured by Rakhine Social Organization (Japan) and Rakhine Education Foundation (Malaysia) was held at IBC on Pyay Road this morning.

First, Chairman of Rakhine Fellowship Organization (Yangon) U Aung Shwe Oo, Patron of Rakhine Fellowship Organization (Yangon) Major Kyaw Maung (Retd), Patron Prof Dr Saw Mya Yi, Rector Dr Kyaw Thein (Retd), Patron U Shwe Zan and Daw Saw Khin Tint made speeches on the occasion.

Responsible personnel presented stipend awards to 34 students. On behalf of the students, Ma Myat Myat Khine, fourth year student of Institute of Medicine (Magway) spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Wood-based factory opens in Pakokku

YANGON, 13 June — Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the opening ceremony of a private wood-based factory in Pakokku Township on 10 June. The factory will export its value-added wood products.

The signboard of the factory owned by Tin Wun Co Ltd was unveiled by the minister.

Taking the job opportunities with the opening of the factory, residents can play a part in the development of the region. — MNA

Students from Institute of Nursing (Yangon) collectively donate blood

YANGON, 13 June — As a gesture hailing the World Blood Donors Day a city which falls on 14 June of 2006, students from Institute of Nursing (Yangon) led by Rector Dr Khin May Ohn launched a collective blood donation at Yangon General Hospital this afternoon.

First, National Blood Department In-charge Dr Thida Aung gave explanations on efforts for obtaining international level quality blood. Next, Prof Dr Daw Khin May Ohn spoke words of honour.

Afterwards, a total of 87 students collectively donated blood. — MNA

Pacific Congress on Marine Science and Technology PACON 2006 continues

YANGON, 13 June — The second session of the 12th Pacific Congress on Marine Science and Technology PACON 2006 was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning. The congress is organized by Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport, Myanmar PACON and PACON International.

It was attended by officials, academics and resource persons of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, MMU, Myanmar PACON, PACON International, DBEEDT Hawaii, National Ocean Service of University of Hawaii and School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), students, entrepreneurs, enthusiasts and guests. At the congress, internationally-known academicians read out their papers. MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thein Htay and Head of Management Department of MWAF Dr Daw Khin San Nwe participated in the workshop on women’s sector in marine science. The congress continues till 15 June and a total of 149 papers will be read. — MNA

Second day session of the 12th PACON 2006 in progress. — MNA
Suicides prompt new calls to shut Guantanamo

WASHINGTON, 12 June—The suicides of three Arab detainees at Guantanamo ignited new calls on Sunday for the United States to shut down the prison camp.

Two Saudis and a Yemeni hanged themselves with clothes and bed sheets on Saturday — the first prisoners to die at Guantanamo since the United States began sending suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban captives there in 2002. Prisoner advocates blamed the Bush Administration for the deaths and said the men were held under conditions “for all intents and purposes had already taken their lives.” Several countries urged Washington to shut the camp down.

“Their blood is on the hands of the Bush regime and their deaths will fuel the anger of the global Muslim community,” said Cageprisoners.com, a Web site that draws attention to the cases of detained Muslims.

Repentant robber returns cash, with interest

Tokyo, 12 June—A Japanese man who robbed a post office returned more money than he stole and turned himself in after deciding to come clean for the sake of his girlfriend. The 33-year-old stole 340,000 yen ($2,300) at knifepoint from a post office in western Tokyo on Saturday and went back to the post office at the end of May and left 350,000 yen in an envelope on the counter before running off.

Strong winds from a cold front that began sweeping northwards on Sunday had snapped a power line at the Oratuhu substation, the main supplier of power to the country’s largest city from the south, Transpower spokesman Chris Roberts told Reuters.

An earth-wire at the substation had fallen across a 110 kilovolt feed, one of two main feeds into Auckland, Roberts said, affecting about 230,000 customers.

About half of the region — including most of the south and central Auckland — were without power from just after 8:30 am (2030 GMT Sunday). West Auckland and the North Shore were unaffected.

Power was restored to the central business district at about 12:40 pm (0040 GMT). The Auckland City Council said power was being restored to the rest of the affected areas in stages, and all areas were expected to have power by 4:30 pm (0430 GMT). Roberts said the blackout had affected “everything without back-up power”. It halted trains on the suburban commuter rail network while about 300 buses of traffic lights also failed. Some central city businesses were evacuated, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

Hamas lawmaker caught at Gaza crossing with $5.67m

GAZA, 12 June —The spokesman for Hamas in the Palestinian legislature was caught with about 4.5 million euros (about 5.67 million US dollars) at the Rafah crossing on the southern Gaza border with Egypt on Saturday, Palestinian security sources said.

Salah al-Bardaweel, a Hamas lawmaker, was returning to the Gaza Strip from a trip to Arab countries via the Rafah crossing when Customs officials found the large quantity of money in his luggage, said the sources.

The seized money was later given back to al-Bardaweel after contacts between the Hamas-controlled Interior Ministry and the bureau of the Rafah crossing, the sources added. Last month, Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip Sami Abu Zuhri was caught by European monitors at the Rafah crossing with about 639,000 euros (about $817,000 US dollars) hidden under his clothes.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has ordered an investigation into the incident. — MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 June —A US soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bomb blast while patrolling near the Iraqi oil-rich city of Kirkuk, some 250 kilometres north of Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

“One 101st Sustainment Brigade soldier was killed and one was wounded by an improvised explosive device while conducting a combat logistics patrol at about 12:55 am (0855 GMT) 9 June, west of Kirkuk,” the military said in a statement. The wounded soldier was evacuated to a military medical treatment facility, the statement said.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending next of kin notification, it added.

The latest death has brought to about 2,480 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Power blackout causes chaos in NZ’s biggest city

Wellington, 12 June—A power blackout brought chaos to New Zealand’s Auckland City on Monday, leaving thousands of houses and businesses without electricity, roads gridlocked, phone lines down and hospitals closed. Strong winds from a cold front that began sweeping northwards on Saturday — the first day of an extended heatwave — cut power to Auckland’s grid at about 12:55 am (0855 GMT) Saturday.

The Auckland City Council said power was being restored to the rest of the affected areas in stages, and all areas were expected to have power by 4:30 pm (0430 GMT). Roberts said the blackout had affected “everything without back-up power”. It halted trains on the suburban commuter rail network while about 300 buses were unable to move. Some central city businesses were evacuated, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

Power was restored to the central business district at about 12:40 pm (0040 GMT). The Auckland City Council said power was being restored to the rest of the affected areas in stages, and all areas were expected to have power by 4:30 pm (0430 GMT). Roberts said the blackout had affected “everything without back-up power”. It halted trains on the suburban commuter rail network while about 300 buses were unable to move. Some central city businesses were evacuated, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

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New Cabinet of Nepal

KATMANDU, 12 June — Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Sunday reshuffled the existing Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, by appointing new ministers under his chairmanship. The following is the part of list of the new Cabinet members. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was assigned the portfolios of Defence, Royal Palace Deputy Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was assigned for Foreign Affairs. Deputy Prime Minister Amik Sherchan was assigned for Health and Population. Minister for Home: Krishna Sitaula. Minister for Finance: Ram Saran Mahat. Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives: Mahanta Thakur. Minister for Physical Planning and Works: Gopal Man Shrestha. — MNA/Xinhua

Zarqawi’s death reduces possibility of terror attacks in Jordan

AMMAN, 13 June — The possibility of new large-scale terrorist attacks in Jordan has been significantly reduced as a result of the death of al-Qaeda’s chief in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, local newspaper The Jordan Times reported on Monday, citing analysts. “Zarqawi’s death is definitely positive for Jordan as he had a long-standing grudge against the regime and was heavily involved in planning and staging attacks in the country,” Joost Hiltermann, the Jordan-based Middle East project director of International Crisis Group, was quoted as saying. Hiltermann also said that the likelihood of Zarqawi’s followers in Jordan carrying out attacks in emulation or support of their slain leader was minimal. “The chances now of large-scale al-Qaeda synchronized attacks has been greatly reduced with the end of Zarqawi. If there are attacks by his followers here seeking to emulate him, they are much more likely to be sporadic, low-key and unorganized,” said Hilterman. — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese Emperor starts visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 June — Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Saturday kicked off a two-day visit to Malaysia. Akihito’s first stop was in the northern state of Perak. Upon arrival in the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport on Saturday morning the royal couple were greeted by Perak Crown Prince, Raja Nazrin Shah, and his sister Raja Azureen. Perak Sultan Azlan Shah met with Akihito in the royal town of Kuala Kangsar and held a welcome luncheon for the Japanese royal couple. In the afternoon, Akihito toured the Sultan Azlan Shah Gallery and the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian police mistake rugby match for brawl

MOSCOW, 12 June — Russians playing a game of amateur rugby were arrested by police who mistook the match for a mass brawl, local media reported Monday. “We got a call to our control room saying there was a fight involving a lot of people on some waste ground just outside town,” RIA news agency quoted a police officer in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don as saying. The players and supporters — nearly 100 people in total — were taken to the local police station. They were released without charge when officers realized they had been playing rugby, the news agency reported. — Internett

Wolves and dogs guard Bosnian marijuana plantation

SELODJE, 12 June — Police raided a huge marijuana plantation in northwestern Bosnia and found it guarded by a family of wolves and 150 dogs, Bosnian media said Saturday. They seized 2,300 plants intended for the production of at least 800 kg (1,760 lb) of the drug, as well as hunting guns and rifles Friday, the Bosnian Serb News Agency SRNA quoted regional Interior Minister Stanislav Cadzo as saying. The dogs, and a pair of wolves with their cubs were kept in cages, SRNA reported. Police arrested the estate owner Zeljko Grbic and are still searching for his brother Radovan, who is wanted on charges of murder and robbery. — Internett

British soldier killed in southern Afghanistan

LONDON, 12 June — A British soldier was killed and another was seriously injured after an engagement with Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, the British Ministry of Defence said. “It is with great regret that I can confirm that British forces have suffered a fatality as a result of an incident in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan,” a ministry spokesman said. She said “a mobile patrol was engaged in a firefight against suspected Taliban forces” which resulted in the death and serious injury. The injured soldier was taken by helicopter to a medical facility at Camp Bastion, the main military base in the province. — MNA/Xinhua

Soccer fans of Brazil and Croatia celebrate at the ‘Fan Mile’, a public viewing zone in Berlin on 12 June, 2006. Brazil will play Croatia on 13 June, 2006 in the German capital. — INTERNET

China unearths largest ancient stone chimes

CHENGDU, 12 June — Chinese archaeologists on Saturday unearthed two good-sized stone chimes, an ancient musical instrument, dating back to the Shang Dynasty (16th-11th BC) in the southwestern province of Sichuan. The bigger one of the two stone chimes, which is about 110-centimetre long and the largest of all Shang stone chimes ever excavated, was found in the Jinsha Ruins in the suburbs of Chengdu, capital of Sichuan and about 2,200 kilometres southwest of Beijing. Small holes were drilled in the stone chime, which is in an elliptic shape, so that it could be suspended from a frame. The other smaller stone chime, unearthed together with the big one, has two string lines. “Stone chimes served as special musical instruments at imperial rituals in the Shang age, and it is the first time to find stone chimes in Southwest China,” said Wang Yi, director of Chengdu Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology. — MNA/Xinhua

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Zulu rebellion century ago remembered in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 12 June — President Thabo Mbeki joined thousands of South Africans on Sunday to commemorate a rebellion against British colonial rule one century ago, calling on people nowadays to protect hard-earned freedom.

Speaking at a ceremony in Mpumalanga outside Greytown in the eastern Kwazulu-Natal Province, Mbeki described Bambatha Zondi, the Zulu leader of the rebellion in 1906, as a role model for the liberation struggle in South Africa.

“We gather here today as South Africans so that future generations, Black and White, can get together to remember our forefathers and the futility of war,” Mbeki was quoted as saying by the SAPA news agency.

Mbeki said Bambatha was part of a history of resistance by traditional leaders to colonial rule, and it was leaders like him who began the process towards liberation.

Bambatha led an uprising to protest the imposition of a poll tax by then British colonial rulers in the Natal Province. As a result Bambatha was deposed as king by the governor of the colony of Natal in 1906. He later died in a battle near Inkandla. The uprising was the last armed resistance by Black Africans before the formation of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1912, which adopted armed struggle against the apartheid rule in the 1960s and eventually won the 1994 democratic elections under the leadership of former president Nelson Mandela.

“...must remind us of the role that our traditional leaders played to defend our freedom...to make sure that we achieve our liberation,” Mbeki said.

Strong quake jolts southern and western Japan

TOKYO, 12 June — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 jolted western and southern Japan on Monday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The focus of the tremor, which occurred at 02:15 am local time (06:15 GMT) in Kofu District in central Japan, was 140 kilometres (87 miles) below the surface of the earth in Gifu Prefecture, about 800 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Six killed in Baghdad bombing

BAGHDAD, 12 June — Six people were killed and 59 others wounded in a bombing in central Baghdad on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

The explosion occurred at around 8:15 pm (1615 GMT) in Karada District in central Baghdad when many people were shopping in this commercial area, the source said. Some shops and civilian vehicles were also damaged in the blast, the source added.

Firework workshop blast kills five in E China province

HEFEI, 12 June — Five people were killed and 14 others injured in a blast that hit a private fireworks workshop in a village in east China’s Anhui Province on Sunday morning. The workshop belongs to Ma Diansheng, a villager in Dama Village, Taihe County, who was among the dead, police said.

Volcano in central Philippines spews ash again

MANILA, 11 June — A volcano in the central Philippine province of Sorsogon, Mount Bulusan, spewed a column of ash one kilometre long into the sky before dawn Saturday because of build-up of steam, the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology (PHIVOLCS) said.

Ernesto Corpuz, PHIVOLCS’ chief monitoring scientist, told the local television network ABS-CBNNews that the explosion happened around 12:18 am local time (06:18 GMT) emitting ash. There was no sign of lava in the 1,565-metre high volcano.

The volcano’s ash explosion Saturday was sixth since 19 March when the volcano began showing signs of renewed activity following a mild earthquake in the area. The last explosion occurred on 31 May. The government had earlier declared the town of Casiguran, on the slope of the mountain, a “calamity” area after ash from the volcano rained down on roofs Wednesdays.

The authorities have also distributed face masks to residents to prevent them from inhaling volcanic ash.

Mount Bulusan forms part of a volcanic belt in the central Bicol region which consists of active and geologically young volcanoes.

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Venezuela to campaign for UNSC seat

CARACAS, 12 June — Venezuela will not withdraw its bid for a seat in the United Nations Security Council, despite objections from the United States, President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday.

“This election will be in October. Venezuela is a candidate and it will not withdraw,” Chavez said on his weekly television and radio show “Alo Presidente.”

Speaking from the state of Portuguesa in western Venezuela, Chavez said: “I wish to thank our great friend, the deputy foreign minister of Syria for the great support he has shown for the Venezuelan candidacy.” Brazil had also voiced support, he said.

Bangladesh, Kuwait agree to expand bilateral cooperation

DHAKA, 12 June — Kuwait agreed to finance a 450-megawatt power plant in Bangladesh’s southeastern city Chittagong and sell fuel oil worth 750 million US dollars to Bangladesh on deferred payment of 180 days.

Kuwait also expressed willingness to make investment in Bangladesh’s gas and energy sector, set up a modern hospital and recruit more skilled and semi-skilled manpower from here.

The assurances came during official talks between visiting Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia here on Sunday. “The talks were excellent and fruitful...we’ve discussed ways to increase the volume of trade and investment between the two countries.”

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told reporters at a Press briefing: “The meeting was excellent and fruitful, covering all areas cooperation, including energy and power.”

Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej (C) and his royal guests pose for a family photo at Ananda Samakhom Throne Hall in Bangkok on 12 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Kidnapped South Koreans return to Seoul

SEOUL, 12 June — Five South Korean workers who had been taken hostage by militants in Nigeria returned to Seoul in good health on Sunday.

The five men, employed by Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co and Korea Gas Corp, had been kidnapped by armed militants who staged a bloody raid on a natural gas plant in the Niger Delta on Wednesday.

The militants freed them after a plea by the jailed leader in whose name the Koreans were abducted.

“The five, looking tired but in good health, waved their hands to photographers as they walked into the lobby of the Incheon International Airport near Seoul.

Some of them were greeted by family members.

“I’m just happy to be back alive,” one of the released men, Kim HD, was quoted by Yonhap News as saying. “I knew that the militants won’t hurt us because they explained to us why they kidnapped us.”

MNA/Reuters

Foreigners take part in a dragon boat race in Suzhou City, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 10 June, 2006. Hundreds of foreigners from foreign-capital enterprises in Suzhou attended the race.—INTERNET

Thai imports, consumption of oil down in first five months

BANGKOK, 12 June — Crude oil imports and local consumption of oil products dropped significantly between January and May of this year, a senior Thai official said on Sunday.

Viraphol Jirapraditkul, deputy director-general of Energy Policy and Planning Office, said the consumption of diesel during the first five months of 2006 declined 8.9 per cent from the corresponding period of last year to 53.1 million litres per day, a drop of 11 consecutive months since last July, while consumption of benzene, both premium and regular, declined 2.2 per cent to 19.7 million litres daily.

Oil conservation measures launched by the government, continued increased oil prices and the government’s decision to float diesel price since July 2005 were responsible for the drop in diesel consumption during the first five months of 2006, according to Viraphol.

Because of the drop in local consumption, crude oil imports during January-May this year fell 1.9 per cent to 831,000 barrels daily, compared to the same period of 2005, he said.

But the value of imports during the period rose up 31.3 per cent to about 310 billion baht (about 8.2 billion US dollars) from the corresponding period of 2005 due chiefly to its price which rose at the average of 37.6 per cent monthly.

MNA/Xinhua

A school boy covers himself from the rain with a plastic sheet in Havana on 12 June, 2006. The first tropical storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, Alberto, dumped heavy rain on Cuba and was predicted to make landfall in the heavily populated Florida on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Two Palestinians killed by Israeli airstrike in N Gaza

GAZA, 12 June Two Palestinian militants of Hamas armed wing were killed in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza Strip on Sunday, witnesses and security sources reported.

They said that a group of militants from Hamas armed wing were killed on Saturday.

Palestinian medics said that two Palestinians were killed and one was critically wounded in the airstrike.

Hamas militants broke a 16-month ceasefire and resumed rocket attacks against Israel on Saturday to avenge the killing of seven Palestinian civilians by Israeli gunboat shelling on the beach in the northern Gaza Strip on Friday. The group claimed responsibility for firing more than 15 homemade rockets at southern Israeli towns over the weekend.

MNA/Xinhua

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 June, 2006

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 June, 2006
With the development in the science and industrial fields, the use of rubber is on the increase worldwide. An automobile is made up of more than 1,600 parts, over 750 of which are made of rubber.

Natural rubber is endowed with fine qualities such as a high degree of flexibility, and being well resistant to hard objects and heat. About 75 per cent of the rubber produced around the world is used in producing automobiles. Tyres made of rubber are light and strong. So, it is impossible to replace natural rubber with synthetic rubber.

Rubber is essential for the shoe industry, and shoes with rubber soles are strong and more serviceable. The bounce of rubber is more than that of any other objects. Rubber does not allow liquids to pass through it and is resistant to the impact and heat. So, it is used in producing not less than 30,000 kinds of goods. Trunks of old rubber trees that no longer produce latex can be used in making furniture.

Natural rubber is a substance made from latex of rubber trees. Synthetic rubber is a substance chemically made from other materials.

World nations use rubber in manufacturing finished goods. Such nations as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, China, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Liberia, Nigeria and Vietnam are not only boosting production of rubber but also doing research on it.

Myanmar’s rubber has gained a foothold in the world rubber market. Table (A) shows trade volume of exported rubber and turnover year-wise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acreage (under tapping)</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Ton</th>
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Rubber grows in uneven lands, ravines and hill slopes. In the past, rubber was grown only in Taninthayi Division and Mon State. Now success has been achieved in growing rubber in such border areas as Myitkyina region in Kachin State, Kokang, Hopang, Lashio and Kyaukme regions in Shan State (North), Kengtung, Mongla and Tachileik regions in Shan State (East), Rakhine State, and Sagaing Division.

Border areas and hilly regions get less annual rainfall than plain regions that grow rubber. But, they enjoy a little rainfall monthly. Surveys have shown that rubber thrives in hilly regions like plain regions. The plain regions in Lower Myanmar get a lot of rain in the rainy season, so the tapping of rubber latex has to be paused during the period. And rubber trees in the plain regions are more vulnerable to the disease that makes the leaves of rubber trees rotten. In hilly regions, the tapping of latex has to be paused just in the very cold month, and rubber trees have a good growth rate.

Rubber thrives in the lands at an altitude of 1,000 to 3,000 feet. Now, a five-acre plot each has been put under rubber as a test run in 2005-2006 in Tiddim, Falam and Haka in Chin State that are at an altitude of above 4,000 to 5,000 feet. The Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise conducted the course on growing rubber in these two regions, times.

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development tasks in Thayet District...

(from page 1)

After fulfilling the needs, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for concerted efforts for regional development, exceeding the target of paddy cultivation and growing of physic nut plants.

In meeting with officers and other ranks of the local battalion at Maha Bandoola Hall, Lt-Gen Ye Myint stressed the need for them to take part in regional development tasks, to engage in farming and to grow physic nut plants.

Next, they attended the physic nut plant growing ceremony held at Mezali village in Mindon Township and inspected the growing of physic nut plants by departmental officials and social organizations.

After that, they also took part in the physic nut plant growing ceremony held at Kyobin village in Kama Township.

They also visited the Thayet District Hospital and inspected the buildings of embankments and the spillway.

In his inspection of Tada Dun in Mindon Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to officials concerned. The dam is now benefiting 254 acres of monsoon paddy and 100 acres of summer paddy.

In meeting with departmental officials and members of social organizations at the Town Hall in Mindon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on implantation of the five rural development tasks, extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and meeting the target of growing of physic nut plants.

At Mindon People’s Hospital, they inspected operation theatre, X-ray unit, medical ward and medical store and gave instructions.

On arrival at Pahtan junction in Ngaphe Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report presented by the Superintendent Engineer U Tin Lwin on condition of roads along M in b u - P a d a n - A n - Sittway section and gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party stopped over for the night in Magway.

Minister for PBANRDA meets graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Degree College (Mandalay)

Yangon, 13 June — A ceremony to open Post-Primary School in Taingbyin village and present school uniforms and stationery in Taingbyin village, Yanbye Township, Rakhine State was held at the school on 6 June.

First, member-1 of Township Peace and Development Council U San Tun made a speech on the occasion. Wellwisher Thamada Thingantaik owner Siha Sudhamma Manijotadhara Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara U Than Naung spoke on the purpose of the donation. Wellwisher U Than Naung presented school uniforms and stationery for 126 students.

The wellwisher donated a computer to be used at Township Police Station and two air-conditioners to be used at Yanbye People’s Hospital. The donation amounted to over K 1 million. The member-1, township education officer U Nyo Tun and schoolhead U Kyi Maung spoke words of thanks.

Mya Ayeya Market Boat leaves for Yangon

Yangon, 13 June — Yangon/Mandalay Mya Ayeya Market Ship which belongs to Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport left Gawwun jetty, Mandalay for Yangon at 6 am today.

The ship carries 1,085 tons of general cargoes and it will berth Sagaing, Myyma, Hsimelhon, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Sinsbyugyun, Yenangyoaung, Minbu, Minhla, Mechaungye, Aunglan, Thayet, Kama, Pyay, Kyitho, Kyangin, Myanmar, Hinthada, Zalun, Danubyu and Maubin along Ayeyawady river.
Cooperation and coordination...

(from page 16)

Local people should run fish, prawn and chicken farms on manageable scale. The state should make efforts to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut plants within a period of three years. Officials' cooperation and coordination reaching down to the grassroots will lead to successful implementation of projects. All should serve the state’s interest.

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein explained education, health, economic and social progress of the state.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families at Sittway Station. He cordially greeted them after the meeting.

Accompanied by officials, he visited the No 1 jetty project at Sittway harbour. Officials explained progress of work. Standardization is important as the jetty will handle up to 4,000-ton ships, noted Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than. The project covers a 240-foot-long and 48-foot-wide jetty and a 444-foot by 24-foot approach structure. The whole project is expected to be completed in December next year.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also paid obeisance to Lawkananda Pagoda and Atula Marazein Pyilon-chantha Pagoda.

Measures for development...

(from page 1)

Now, the entire nation has seen stability and peace along with development owing to the harmonious implementation of the border areas and national races development projects and the five rural development tasks. He urged the departmental officials to make collaborative efforts to accomplish the State’s projects and to mobilize the cooperation of the students’ parents to raise the education standard of local youths to enable them to have access to computers and Internet. Local authorities are to equip small-scale hydel power plants to supply electric power to the rural areas.

He called for cooperation with local people to be increasingly imbued with Union Spirit and to contribute towards accomplishment of the State’s seven-step Road Map, and to make concerted efforts for regional development.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected Tatmadaw tea factory (Namhsan) in Namhsan, and instructed the officials to regularly maintain the machines, exert efforts to exceed the targets and take fire preventive measures.

He also visited Ne Myo Nagar Nwe Family Tea Enterprise in Namhsan. He also inspected the township people’s hospital and presented foods to the patients.

FM meets Japanese guests

Yangon, 13 June—

The members of the panel of alternate chairmen of the National Convention held a meeting in the Kyakkasan ground here this morning. Alternate chairman U Tun Yin Law presided over the meeting. Also present on the occasion were members of the panel of chairmen U Mya Sein, U Kyaw Myo Win, U Hla Myint and U Hla Tin, and Work Committee Joint Secretary-2 Dr Thaung Myint, member U Ba Han, Director of the office of the Work Committee U Than Aung and deputy directors.

They discussed matters on submission of proposals to the National Convention on the findings of members of the panel of alternate chairmen of the NC regarding the papers submitted by the eight groups on the detailed principles that should be adopted for legislative tasks of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the People’s Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw and the detailed basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Chapter the Role of the Tatmadaw that were discussed at the NC from 5 December 2005 to 31 January 2006.

National Convention panel of alternate chairmen meets

Yangon, 12 June—

Chairman of Japanese Liberal Democratic Party Executive Committee MP of the House of Representatives Mr Fumeo Tuma and party called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the ministry on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Mr Fumeo Tuma is also a senior adviser to the Associations of Japan-Myanmar Mutual Cooperation based in Tokyo.

The meeting focused on cooperation between the two nations for bilateral interests. Also present at the call were officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano and embassy staff.

Donate Blood

Members of panel of alternative chairmen of National Convention held a meeting in the Kyakkasan ground. —MNA
1,617 university students apply for USDA membership

Yangon, 13 June — Secretariat Member of USDA Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 10 June accepted the membership applications of USDA from three universities in Mandalay.

The ceremonies to present membership applications were held separately at Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Mandalay University of Distance Education and Yadanaabon University and Minister U Aung Thaung accepted 1,617 applications in total.

On the three occasions, USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung also briefed on objectives of the association and its participation in development tasks including the five rural development tasks.

Also present on the occasions were Patron of Mandalay Division USDA Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, senior officials of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), rectors, professors and lecturers and executives of Mandalay Division USDA.

A total of 1,617 membership applications — 194 from the Higher Education Department, 423 from Mandalay University and 1,000 from Yadanaabon University — were presented to the minister.

MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung delivers an address at a ceremony to present USDA membership applications from Mandalay University of Distance Education. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister inspects transformer factory

Yangon, 13 June — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by Col Khin Maung Soe and officials of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Committee, visited the transformer factory run by Soe Electronics and Machine Parts Co in Dagon Myothit (South) on 11 June. Managing Director U Soe Tint in his report to the minister said the factory started assembling transformers in 1989. Measures were being taken for making transformers more modern and standardized, he said.

The minister inspected transformers and other machine parts such as 47 MVA generators and corrugated radiator fins and physic nut plantations in the factory compound.

Next, U Soe Tint reported that the factory was established in 1983-84 and now it is being run by 250 staff members. The factory is taking a leading role in the country’s private industrial sector. Arrangements are being made for distribution of its products to ministries at a reasonable price and for assembling of transformers and other machines with domestically produced parts.

Later, the minister stressed the need for more production of transformers.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects transformer factory in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

MMCWA conducts educative talks on prevention against seasonal diseases in Tatkon, Yamethin

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 June — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association conducted an educative talk on prevention against seasonal diseases at Sauna Beikmen, Tatkon yesterday.

First, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint made a speech on the occasion. Next, Dr Daw Tin Tin Aye of the Ministry of Health talked on salient points of cholera while Assistant Director Dr Daw Khin Mon Mon dealt with diseases caused by mosquitoes.

Afterwards, responsible personnel replied to the queries raised by those present followed by cash and kind donation. Next, Joint-Secretary of Township MMCWA Daw Tin Tin Kyi spoke words of thanks.

Upon arrival at the delivery room of the township MMCWA, the vice-president and party met with pregnant women and talked on health care services for them. Afterwards, the vice-president and party attended an educative talk on prevention and fight against seasonal infectious diseases held at Thilawa hall, Yamethin Township.

First, wife of Commander of Central Command Daw Khin Pyone Win extended greetings while Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, Doctor Dr Daw Tin Aye of the Ministry of Health gave talks on salient points of cholera.

Next, wife of the Commander of District PDC Daw Than Nu spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the vice-president and party viewed office of Township MMCWA, its delivery room and primary school in Yamethin Township.

Minister of Health gave talks on prevention against seasonal infectious diseases in Tatkon, Yamethin Township.

Secretary of MMCWA (Central) Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha presented medicines and medical equipment to President of Mandalay Division Supervisory Committee for MMCWA Daw Khin Pyone Win. — RAILWAYS

Seeking its self-interest, NLD walked...

(for page 16)

modern and democratic nation with discipline flourishing. However, seeking its self-interest, NLD walked out of the National Convention and committed destructive acts that harm the interests of the State and the people in league with some foreign countries and underground and aboveground elements. That was why they got fed up with the NLD which had been on a collision course with the government, ignoring the interest of the people. Meanwhile, thanks to the strenuous efforts of local authorities concerned under the leadership of the government, national armed groups have returned to the legal fold. They have exchanged arms for peace and started participating in regional development endeavours. As a result, not only Kachin State but also other regions are enjoying now peace and stability and fruits of development. They quit the party because they no longer had trust in the NLD and now they wanted to serve the interest of the people and play their active part in the successful implementation of the road map, he added.

Next, executive of Mansi Township NLD U Makha Gan presented re-signation letters to the chairman of Mansi Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commission. Mansi Township NLD was established with nine members of the executive, among them, one is dead, seven has now quit the party and the other one has moved to the other region, it is learnt. — MNA

Corrigendum

Yangon, 13 June — Please read the total amount of cash donated at the second cash donation ceremony in commemoration of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association’s fourth conference was K 7,813,000. The story of the cash donation ceremony was released on 13 June issue of this paper. — MNA

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MNA
Badawi urges more cooperation between energy producers, consumers

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 June — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday urged energy producers and consumers to broaden their cooperation in jointly exploring new energy resources and developing future production capacity.

Energy producers and consumer nation should pursue “strategic alliances to explore new resources and develop future capacities to enhance the security of the world’s energy supply”, Badawi said at the opening ceremony of the 11th Asia Oil and Gas Conference here.

Noting the bottle-necks in the supply chain and possible speculative trading activities, the Prime Minister warned “the growing demand for depleting oil and gas resources is likely to trigger more intense competition to gain access and control over these resources”.

To cope with the situation, energy producers and consumers should have more collaborations based “not only on commercial terms but also trust”, said Badawi.

He encouraged those countries facing technical problems in oil extraction projects to introduce attractive investment policies and fiscal terms so that more energy consuming countries will engage in joint research and development efforts, which will help tap those potentially rich but difficult reserves in the longer term.

To go forward, what is required is to further enhance the level of cooperation to allow more resources sharing based on commercial terms, Badawi said, adding that when it comes to the energy supply in Asia, the Greater Asia Continent, which accounted for 60 per cent of oil and 51 per cent of gas reserves in the world, is largely unexplored.

He welcomed major oil and gas consuming countries to eye opportunities in Southeast Asia and seriously consider investing or becoming a partner in upstream exploration and development there so as to reduce the dependence on West Asian oil.

EU lawmakers back report on CIA terror kidnappings

STRASBOURG (France), 13 June — EU lawmakers backed accusations on Monday that the US Central Intelligence Agency had kidnapped and illegally held terrorism suspects on EU territory and flew them to countries that used torture.

Their report draws largely the same conclusions as that issued by the Council of Europe last week, adding to the embarrassment faced by European governments over their possible cooperation with US policies unpopular with domestic opinion.

... In a number of cases, the CIA or other US services have been directly responsible for the illegal seizure, removal, abduction and detention of terrorist suspects on the territory of member states," read the text of the report approved late on Monday by a special committee of the European Parliament.

The committee has heard testimony from several alleged victims and rights groups. While it has no legal powers, it can recommend political actions against any countries found to have been involved, including the United States.

Two escape death when plane crashlands in Zambia

LUSAKA, 13 June— Two people escaped death on Sunday when a light plane crashlanded in Livingstone, capital of Zambian Southern Province, Zambia Daily Mail reported on Monday.

A tourist and pilot escaped the death after the plane was forced to land on the Victoria Falls Road in the city after it experienced an engine failure. Southern Province police chief Chewe Bowa said it happened at about 13:00 hours.

“We suspect the pilot experienced an engine failure and was clever enough to have decided to land on the road. The passenger and the pilot have come out safe,” he said.

The passenger, who is on holiday from England, said he was in a state of shock and could not believe that he survived without a scratch.

Cambodia generates 10,000 new jobs in first part of 2006

PHNOM PENH, 13 June—The Cambodian Government has cooperated with the private sector to generate more than 10,000 jobs for the first part of 2006, local media reported on Monday.

From January to now, another 11,845 Cambodians have gained employment abroad and in 26 new factories at home, Business Press quoted officials of the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy as saying, bringing the total number of employed citizens to about 3.55 million.

Cambodians are working in foreign countries such as South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand.

Of the new factories, 21 produce garments and shoes. Two others process animal feed and the three remaining make plastic, paint products and cement, the officials said.

About 3.31 million Cambodians had jobs in 2005, 27,500 more than in 2004.

Brazilian police seize 3.6 tons of marijuana

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 June— Police seized 3.6 tons of marijuana hidden in a truck coming from neighbouring Uruguay during a search in Sao Miguel do Iguazu, Brazil’s federal police said on Monday.

The police said in a statement that they had arrested the driver, Joao Mario Nascimento, 27, who claimed he was hired to carry 27 tons of wheat flour to Sao Paulo and did not know he was carrying marijuana. He was sent to a prison in Foz do Iguazu, a Brazilian city on the border with Uruguay.

Earthquakes rattle Indonesia’s Sumatra Island

JAKARTA, 13 June— A powerful earthquake struck off the western coast of Indonesia’s Sumatra Island on Monday, there were no immediate report of injuries or damage.

The 5.9-magnitude quake was centred 530 kilometres southwest of Lampung Provincial capital of Bandar Lampung, reported The Jakarta Post online news, quoting report from the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

Lampung is located on the southern tip of Sumatra Island, about 250 kilometres northwest of Jakarta. Earlier on Sunday, two mild quakes rattled Padang Sidempuan mayoralty and Gunung Sitoli — the capital of Nias regency — in North Sumatra Province.

Spain’s Rafael Nadal celebrates winning against Switzerland’s Roger Federer in the final of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, on 11 June, 2006. — INTERNET
Pakistan destroys heroin-refining labs in big raid

QUETTA (Pakistan), 12 June—Pakistan’s anti-narcotics force has launched a huge raid near the Afghan border, destroying heroin-manufacturing facilities and seizing drugs and weapons, an official said on Sunday. Backed by helicopters and small planes, Saturday’s raid followed a tip that gangs had set up a heroin-manufacturing centre in Chaghi area in Baluchistan Province after they were chased out by authorities in neighbouring Afghanistan.

“It was the biggest operation recently,” Brigadier Anwarul Haq, a regional director of the anti-drugs agency, told reporters in Baluchistan’s capital Quetta. “Eight mobile heroin-refining laboratories have been destroyed.” He said 2025 kg (4,464 lb) of morphine, 10 kg (22 lb) of heroin and rifles, rockets and hand grenades were seized.—MNA/Reuters

Managing Director, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

China dedicated to raising women’s economic status

CAIRO, 12 June—Committed to raising women’s economic status, Vice-Chairwoman of China’s National Working Committee on Children and Women Hong Tianhui said here on Sunday.

China has been dedicated to protection of women’s rights and raising their economic status by cooperation with enterprises, Hong told Xinhua on the sidelines of the 2006 Global Women Summit, which was opened Saturday in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

Hong attributed China’s significant achievements in this field to its constant efforts to realize gender equality.

China has done its utmost to ensure women’s rights and opportunities and fair sharing economic resources and social progress since China hosted the fourth UN women’s conference in 1995 in Beijing, she said. During a pre-summit ministerial roundtable meeting on Saturday, Hong told 43 other participants that China has taken three measures to raise women’s economic status, including implementation of favourable policies to support women entrepreneurship, providing financial and technological support for women who want to set up their own businesses, and developing women’s potential to get jobs.

According to Hong, more and more Chinese women have begun to set up their own enterprises and women entrepreneurs now account for some 20 per cent of total Chinese entrepreneurs.—MNA/Xinhua

WWF honours Fijian leaders

Wellington, 12 June—The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) presented Friday Golden Globe Conservation Awards to Fijian Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase and Fijian Chief Rate Aisea Roni, in recognition of their work in protecting the country’s unique marine biodiversity. Conservation International (CI) said Ratu Aisea and Qarase were honoured for their partnership and commitment to ensure at least 30 per cent of Fiji’s inshore and offshore marine areas that would be effectively managed in an ecologically stable way.

“This award recognizes Fiji’s leadership in marine conservation,” said Simon Cripps, director of WWF’s Global Marine Programme. “The international donor community must now join with Pacific governments and people to protect their globally significant marine areas that are essential to the health and well-being of Pacific people, their cultures and their economies,” said Cripps.—MNA/Xinhua
Chinese villages to bid farewell to unsafe water supply by 2020

BEIJING, 12 June — One hundred million Chinese in rural areas will get safe potable drinking water in the next five years and every rural resident will be provided with basic water services by 2020, Minister of Water Resources Wang Shucheng said here on Friday.

Wang told a meeting on safe drinking water, organized by Global Water Partnership China, that the country developed the plan after a comprehensive survey of drinking water in 650,000 villages last year.

The country will invest eight billion yuan (one billion US dollars) this year to provide 20 million rural residents with safe potable drinking water, the minister said. China has spent 22.3 billion yuan (2.79 billion dollars) from 2001 to 2005 to give 67 million people easy access to safe water supplies, reducing the population with unsafe water from 379 million in 2000 to 312 million at the end of 2005.

He said the minister also said that the hurricane season had begun to US coastal residents battered by eight hurricanes in the last two years. Last year’s Hurricane Katrina was the most costly and one of the deadliest natural disasters in US history.

Italy Economic Minister raps G-8 over vaccine setback

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 12 June — The G-8 missed an opportunity on Saturday to fight disease in the world’s poorest countries, Italian Economy Minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa said after they failed to reach agreement on a vaccine programme.

However Padoa-Schioppa said the issue was “still open” and he hoped heads of state of the eight economic powers would still agree on a pilot project supported by Italy to fund research into vaccine for diseases afflicting the world’s poor.

The G-8 heads of state will meet in St Petersburg in July. “Good ideas are never dropped abruptly, they are gradually suffocated,” he quipped, but added that there was no reason to assume that would happen with the vaccine programme which had the potential to save 7 million lives a year. “It has a strong humanitarian component, limited costs, a good balance between the public and private sector and it offers huge benefits compared with cost involved,” he said.

Tropical storm “Alberto” edges toward Florida

MIAMI, 12 June — The first tropical storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, Alberto, formed off Cuba on Sunday and appeared headed toward Florida, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The storm, centred near Latitude 25.3 north and Longitude 87.7 west in the Gulf of Mexico, was about 385 miles (620 kilometres) southwest of Cedar Key on the west coast of Florida at 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT on Monday), according to the centre’s Web site (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov).

Although it was a weak tropical storm, Alberto was an unmistakable reminder that the hurricane season had begun to US coastal residents battered by eight hurricanes in the last two years. Last year’s Hurricane Katrina was the most costly and one of the deadliest natural disasters in US history.

Three explosions hit Manila, nearby province, wound eight

MANILA, 12 June — Three explosions rocked Metro Manila, capital of the Philippines, and a nearby province early Sunday, wounding eight people, as the Philippine police and military were on heightened alert before the upcoming Independence Day celebration, police said.

The first blast took place in the shattering its window glasses and piercing holes through its body, the police added. The third blast meanwhile occurred at Lawton, Metro Manila, shattering tiles outside of a police substation, the police said, adding that no injuries were reported.

The second explosion ripped through a bus which served as a police satellite station at 5:30 am local time in the Metro Manila suburb of Quezon City.
**World Cup Fixtures**

**Wednesday, 14 June 2006**

Spain v Ukraine, 19:30 MST
Tunisia v Saudi Arabia, 22:30 MST
Thursday, 15 June 2006
Germany v Poland, 01:30 MST

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**Sports**

**Cahill's late double delights Australia**

Kaiserslautern, 13 June—Tim Cahill made history in dramatic style, scoring Australia's first goals in a World Cup finals with two goals in the last six minutes to lead his team to a 3-1 win over Japan in their Group F opener on Monday.

A disputed goal from Shunsuke Nakamura had given Japan a 26th-minute advantage, his cross floating over goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer who seemed to have been impeded by Atsushi Yanagisawa as he came to punch clear.

Egyptian referee Essam Abd El Fatah waved away furious protests from Australia.

But Cahill levelled in the 84th minute when a long throw was missed by goalkeeper Yosikatsu Kawaguchi and he drilled the ball in from eight metres.

Substitute Cahill made it 2-1 five minutes later with a long-range drive going in off the post.

To complete Japan's misery, substitute John Aloisi added a third goal in injury time.

The Socceroos, playing in the finals for the first time since 1974, had hustled and bussed against a side content to pack the midfield.

Kawaguchi made fine saves from Luke Viduka and Marco Bresciano but covered from a groin injury they lacked a killer instinct until Cahill's equalizer.

Japan Football Association president Saburo Kawabuchi had stirred up controversy before the game, suggesting the Socceroos may play rough, a theory midfelder Bresciano did little to disprove when he felled Hidetoshi Nakata on the edge of his own box after 28 seconds.

Luke Wilkshire also gave Alex an early close-up of the punt but the Aussies soon settled, captain Viduka forcing a fine double-save from Kawaguchi at his near post.

Viduka, who belies his burly frame with neat footwork, proved a handful in the early exchanges, feeding well off Vince Grella as Japan were pinned back.

Japan, who reached the last 16 as co-hosts in 2002, were forced to rely on the counter-attack. From one such break Takashi Kufunishi fired over, then a nice turn from Naohiro Takahara was let down with an inaccurate finish.

**Eriksson optimistic for Rooney return on Thursday**

Baden-Baden (Germany), 12 June—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said striker Wayne Rooney could be fit to return ahead of schedule against Trinidad & Tobago in World Cup Group B on Thursday.

Rooney, who teammate Rio Ferdinand said was desperate to come on as a substitute in Saturday's 1-0 win over Paraguay, has been recovering from a broken foot sustained on 29 April.

Asked whether the 20-year-old striker had a chance of playing some part on Thursday, Eriksson told reporters: "I'm very optimistic, always. I'm born like that.

It would be Rooney's World Cup debut.

Such a move would not be popular with Manchester United, who have made it clear they do not want a player who cost them nearly 30 million pounds ($55.30 million US dollars) appearing before the second round on 24 or 25 June.—MNA/Reuters

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**Czechs win 3-0 but suffer Koller blow**

Gelsenkirchen, 13 June—Two goals for Tomas Rosicky and a Jan Koller header gave the Czech Republic a 3-0 victory over the United States on Monday but Koller later suffered an injury that threatens to end his World Cup early.

Rosicky struck a superb 25-metre goal in the 36th minute and then capped the win with his second and the team's third in the 76th minute.

However, the Czech Republic, already struggling to get Euro 2004 top scorer Milan Baros fit, could now be without Koller after the big front man, out for much of the season with a knee injury, appeared to tear a hamstring in the first half and was carried off on a stretcher.

His country's all-time top-scorer had shown his importance as early as the fifth minute when he powered home an unstoppable header from a sweet cross by overlapping right back Zdenek Grygera.

With Pavel Nedved pulling the strings in midfield the Czechs looked the better side in the first half hour but the US did carve an opening in the 28th minute when captain Claudio Reyna struck the base of a post from outside the box.

However, that effort was eclipsed eight minutes later by Rosicky. Seizing on a poor clearance by Oguchi Onyewu, the midfielder latched on from more than 25 metres to leave Kasey Keller helpless as the ball swerved away from him into the top left corner.

**Aussies says referee apologized over disputed goal**

Kaiserslautern, 13 June—Australia's players said Egyptian referee Essam Abd El Fatah had apologized for allowing Shunsuke Nakamura's goal to stand after Atsushi Yanagisawa collided with the Australian goalkeeper and knocked him off balance as the ball sailed into the empty net.

The goal, which led to a furious protest from the Australians, gave Japan the early lead and the controversy threatened to overshadow the match until the Australians scored three times in a devastating late flurry. “At the end of the day the referee made a mistake but everybody makes mistakes and I think it was big of him to admit it and overall I think he refereed the game okay,” Schwarzer told reporters.—MNA/Reuters

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**Pirola, Iaquinta help Italy floor Ghana**

Hanover, 13 June—Goals from Andrea Pirola and Vincenzo Iaquinta gave Italy a 2-0 victory over Ghana in an entertaining World Cup Group F match on Monday.

Midfielder Pirola's 40th-minute goal came after Ghana, looking sharp in their approach play, had wasted two good chances.

Italy rarely looked in danger after the break and substitute Iaquinta, who had been off the field receiving attention on an injury a few minutes earlier, secured victory in the 83rd.

The striker raced clean through after picking up a poor back pass from Samuel Kuffour and rounded goalkeeper Richard Kingston before drilling the ball in from eight metres.

"Our opponents showed themselves to be as strong as we thought they would be," Italy coach Marcello Lippi told reporters. "In certain aspects they were better than us.

"But I think overall we deserved to win. From a psychological point of view the first match is always difficult to win and I thought the lads did really well to close it out." Ghana, playing in their first World Cup finals match, looked nervous in the opening stages and almost fell behind in the 27th minute when Luca Toni wriggled free of marker Kuffour and blasted a shot against the underside of the bar.

That served as a wake-up call to the Africans who then produced their best spell of the game, twice giving the Italians a scare.

Asamoah Gyan should have done better when he drove wide after being set up by Matthew Amoah.

Emmanuel Pappoe then blasted high and wide from a promising position in the 32nd minute.

Italy responded with a thundering drive from 30 metres by Francesco Totti which Kingston tipped over.

Five minutes before the break Totti played a quick, short-corner to an unmarked Pirola who had the space to line up a shot which whisked through a crowded penalty area to give Lippi's side the lead.

Albertino Gilardino forced Kingston into action again in the 51st minute with a low drive after racing on to a delightful Totti pass but again Ghana replied.

Michael Eisen's 20-metre drive forcing Gianluigi Buffon to full stretch.

Totti limped off in the 56th minute to be replaced by Mauro Camoranesi and Italy continued to look the more dangerous, Simone Perrotta bringing a good save out of Kingston.

MNA/Reuters

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**Brides-to-be take a practice run around a course before taking part in a contest to win a $25,000 wedding**


**Greyhound competes during the Greyhound World Championship in Rabapatona, 140 km (87 miles) west from Budapest, on 11 June, 2006.**

INTERNET

**INTERNET**

The  New Light of Myanmar  Wednesday, 14  June, 2006
All vehicles to use bioethanol fuel in Japan by 2030

TOKYO, 13 June — All gasoline-powered vehicles in Japan will run on blend fuel that contains 10 per cent of environment-friendly bioethanol by 2030, Asahi Shimbun reported Tuesday, quoting Environment Ministry officials.

Bioethanol is a type of alcohol extracted from plants such as sugarcane and sweet corn. The carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted from burning bioethanol is regarded as a re-emission of CO2 that plants had absorbed while they were alive.

The ministry plans to introduce laws and regulations between 2008 to 2012 requiring all new vehicles to be compatible with a blend of 90-per-cent petrol and 10-per-cent bioethanol (E10), it said. Meanwhile, the ministry aims to have half of all fuel consumed by vehicles contain 5-per-cent bioethanol (E3). Under the Kyoto Protocol, Japan promises to cut CO2 emissions by 6 per cent from the 1990 level between 2008 and 2012.

E10 fuel will be available on the Japanese market starting from 2020. By 2030, all vehicles in Japan should be using E10 fuel, according to the plan.

By estimation, the overall shift to E10 gasoline will reduce Japan’s carbon dioxide re-emissions by about 10 million tons. The amount of bioethanol used by 2030 is equivalent to 2.2 million kilotons of crude oil, it said.

New cars currently on sale in Japan can use E3 gasoline, though the fuel is not generally available on market.

Malaysia’s first kidney recipient dies after cat bite

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 June—Malaysia’s first transplanted kidney recipient has died of a kidney-related problem after being bitten by a stray cat, a local newspaper reported on Monday.

Martin Rinyeb, who was also the country’s longest-surviving kidney transplant patient, died on 25 March of complications from a bite by a stray cat after living 31 years with a kidney from his younger brother, the New Straits Times said. Martin Rinyeb, a native in Malaysia’s eastern state of Sarawak, received a donor kidney from his younger brother in Hospital Kuala Lumpur on 15 December, 1975. When the urologist Hussein Awang made Malaysian medical history with the transplant operation.

The newspaper said that more than 1,000 kidney transplants have been carried out since then in Malaysia.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 13 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Magway Division, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated heavyfall in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Tada (3.86) inches, Kayan (3.82) inches, Sagaing (3.34) inches, Kyaukse (3.15) inches, Shwebo (2.87) inches, Monywa (2.32) inches, Mandalay (2.04) inches and Taungdwingyi (1.10) inches. Maximum temperature on 12-6-2006 was 85°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST of 13-6-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 12-6-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 13-6-2006 were (1.14) inches at Mongaladon, (0.67) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.63) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (20.67) inches at Mongaladon, (28.23) inches at Kaba-Aye and (31.14) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (16) mph from Southwest at (13:40) hours MST on 12-6-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-6-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 14-6-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 14-6-2006: Some rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 14-6-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Cooperation and coordination reaching down to grassroots will lead to successful implementation of projects**

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**Yangon, 13 June —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence met with Rakhine State level officials in Sittway on 11 June and discussed regional development.

He said that the government has been laying down and implementing plans to develop and modernize the whole nation, leaving no stone unturned. In accord with the Head of State’s guidance, it has built a network of roads and bridges in Rakhine State whose transport in the past was poor. Only Ayeyawady Division has witnessed the emergence of a greater number of bridges than Rakhine State where 34 over 180-foot long bridges have been commissioned into service. The state is making arrangements to put 1.2 million acres of land under monsoon paddy this year, which is 100,000 acres more than the previous year’s own acreage of 1.1 million acres. Land reclamation and own acreage expansion is required to realize the goal.

((See page 9))

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**Yangon, 13 June —** Seven executives of Mansi Township National League for Democracy in Bhamo District, Kachin State, resigned from the party of own volition after sending signed letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and the respective authorities.

They collectively presented the letters of resignation to Mansi Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission on 13 May. Chairman of Mansi Township NLD U Laban La chaired the ceremony to present the letters, and secretary U La Wom acted as master of ceremonies. Members of Township MPGESC, departmental personnel and local authorities were also present.

Joint secretary of Mansi Township NLD U Phaw Gantlarein, on behalf of the seven, said that they lost interest in the party and abhorred the NLD leaders who are concentrating their efforts on nation destruction for the party’s interest and grabbing power with-out taking into account anyone’s interest. On the other hand they have witnessed the harmonious efforts the government and the entire national people are making overtime for national development. They quit the NLD as they have become interested only in the national politics while losing confidence in the party politics. They joined the NLD with the sole aim of serving clean politics. First the NLD took part in the National Convention together with all the national races for emergence of a constitution, the lifeblood of the nation, for the national cause. The NLD put aside the national cause just for self-interest while ignoring the national interest when its demands for its own benefit were not met.

The government invited NLD to take part in the National Convention after it had globally publicized the seven-point Road Map to build a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous union, for the people to decide on it. The NLD leaders were solely interested in personal benefits and did not show any interest in the National Convention, as the NLD leaders walked out of the National Convention after it had globally publicized the seven-point Road Map to build a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous union, for the people to decide on it.

Seeking its self-interest, NLD walked out of National Convention, committed destructive acts that harm interests of the State and the people in league with some foreign countries, underground and aboveground elements. Wish to serve interest of the people and play active part in successful implementation of Road Map.

Members of Mansi Township NLD resign.

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**Rubber grows in uneven lands, ravines and hillsides. In the past, rubber was grown only in Taninthayi Division and Mon State. Now success has been achieved in growing rubber in such border areas as Myitkyina region in Kachin State, Kokang, Hopang, Lashio and Kyaukme regions in Shan State (North), Kengtung, Mongla and Tachilek regions in Shan State (East), Rakhine State, and Sagaing Division.**

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**WORLD CUP 2006**

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