True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Russian Ambassador

Yangon, 20 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon received Mr Oleg V Kabanov, Ambassador of Russian Federation to Myanmar, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council/Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Myint Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office and Third Secretary of Russian Embassy Mr Alexey V Semenikhin. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of dam, cultivation of summer paddy in Mandalay

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials inspected 30 acres of Shwethweyin paddy field at Nweni Village in Pathinogyi Township on 18 June.

Manager U Aung Kyin reported in harvesting of summer paddy and cultivation with the use of power tillers.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected 14 acres of paddy of farmer U Maung Htwe in Madaya Township.

They went to No 5 integrated farm (Yenatha) of Central Command and they were welcomed by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and senior military officers. (See page 7)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work in concert in production and sales of gems

Gemstones of Myanmar such as jade, ruby, sapphire and pearl are world famous and popular because of their good quality.

The Ministry of Mines holds gems emporiums every year to earn more foreign exchange. The government is also taking measures in order that national private companies can take part in the emporiums.

Special sales of jade, gems and pearl started at the Mynamar Convention Centre and the Myanma Gems Mart in Yangon on 20 June and it will continue till 4 July. A total of 500 lots of A and AA quality pearl will be on sale. They will be sold to national gems merchants on 22 June and to foreign gems merchants on 23 June.

More than 60 foreign gems merchants have been invited and most of them are from Japan and Hong Kong. At the Myanmar Convention Centre, only jade will be on sale and the other gems and pearl lots will be on sale at the Myanma Gems Mart.

The ministries concerned are assisting national private companies by providing technology to them so that these companies can offer finished products and by exploring new markets and making necessary arrangements in order that they can take part in international trade fairs.

We believe that the government and national gems merchants will work together in the production and sales of gems for mutual benefits and for boosting foreign exchange earnings.

Commander attends opening of chess competition for 2006

YANGON, 19 June — Commander’s Shield Chess Competitions for 2006 was opened at the hall of the command here this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended and made a speech on the occasion. Then, he opened the competition by making a starting move on chess board.

Next, the commander and party cheered the competitors taking part in the chess contest. Altogether 17 teams are participating in the contest which continues till 24 June. — MNA

USDA members urged to step up efforts for development tasks in Magway

YANGON, 20 June — Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha on 17 June went to Taungdwingyi Township and called on USDA members to step up their efforts for implementing the tasks.

At the meeting with executives and members of Taungdwingyi Township USDA, he briefed on the five rural area development tasks.

After the meeting, he inspected the renovation of the spillway of Aungmingala Lake which supplies 200 acres of land in the township.

In the afternoon, Minister U Soe Tha and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe met with members of district USDA in Magway Division and gave instructions on tasks of USDA to provide desks to schools in Magway Division.

On 18 June, Minister U Soe Tha attended ceremonies to provide desks to schools in Pwintbyu and Salin Townships held at Pwintbyu and Salin Townships and delivered addresses. At the ceremonies, the secretaries of the township USDA presented lists of desks for schools to the heads of the township education department.

Minister U Soe Tha yesterday met with employees of the planning offices in Meiktila and Yamethin Districts on his tour of Meiktila and Yamethin yesterday and gave instructions. — MNA

Medical equipment donated

YANGON, 20 June — Daiyukai Medical Foundation of Japan donated (1) unit of Diagnostic Ultrasound, (6) units of ICU beds and (49) units of Hospital Beds worth US$ 39,300 to the Ministry of Health today.

Present on the occasion were Dr Paing Soe, Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Tin Win Maung, Director-General of Department of Health, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Director and Medical Superintendents of the Ministry of Health, Mr Kozo Matsuhiro, General-Manager, Prof Satoshi Ito, Mr Toshiyuki Shibata and Mr Yuko Kawato of Daiyukai Medical Foundation, personnel from WHO and Embassy of Japan and Mr Yoshinori Komaru, Managing-Director of Myanmar Yutani Co. Ltd.

Dr Paing Soe accepted documents related to the donations presented by Mr Kozo Matsuhiro and presented a certificate of honour to the donor. — MNA

UN senior official says Guantanamo prison no good for US

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 June — UN Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown said on Monday that keeping the Guantanamo Bay prison operating will do no favours to the United States.

Keeping the prison going will be no good for the American reputation, Brown told reporters in Putrajaya, the administrative centre of the Malaysian Government, where he is attending the inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development.

Sharing the view with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Brown said that the prison should be closed down. — MNA/Xinhua
Prison chief says Britain running out of jail places

LONDON, 19 June—The chief inspector of prisons warned on Sunday Britain’s jails are becoming over-crowded and may soon have to refuse entry to newly convicted criminals.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, Anne Owers said there were fewer than 1,800 places left from a total of 79,500 and that some jails may have to put up “house full” signs. Broking point could be as early as mid-September.

“One have a system where prison numbers are rising inside what is already a hugely pressured area,” she said.

“That may hit the buffers soon at a point where there are not any more spaces. I think the point will come at which prisons have to put ‘house full’ notices.” Owers questioned whether government ministers fully appreciated the severity of over-crowded prisons when they made calls for tougher and longer sentences.

The leader of the House of Commons, Jack Straw, defended the government’s record. “We have built more prisons and more prison places and the chances are more will need to be provided,” Straw, a former Home Secretary, told BBC television.

“I wish it were possible to deal with criminals outside prison, but most people who end up in prison go there because community punishments have failed.”

He said the prison service had an “extra-ordinary capacity” to deal with prisoner number pressures. In recent days a number of government ministers have spoken out against what they see as lenient sentences set by some judges.

Reports says Getty Museum antiquities bought from suspect dealers

LOS ANGELES, 19 June—The J Paul Getty Museum’s trust has found 350 of its Greek, Roman and Etruscan artefacts were bought from dealers suspected or convicted of dealing in looted artefacts, the Los Angeles Times has reported.

The report comes amid talks between the Los Angeles museum and the governments of Italy and Greece over allegedly looted material in Getty’s collection.

A review conducted by the trust last year to gauge the Getty’s exposure to claims against objects in its collection “shows that the trust purchased far more pieces from suspect dealers than has been previously disclosed,” the newspaper reported. The 350 vases, urns, statues and other sculptures were valued at close to US$100 million.

Three in a row... by comparing with the genetic information from ancient hairs, Chinese scientists have identified Florida Confucius descendants by DNA testing

BEIJING, 19 June—Those who claim themselves as descendants of Confucius would soon know whether it is true or not by offering a hair for DNA testing, Chinese scientists said.

Lacking proof, some people who want to be registered in the Confucius family tree turned to scientists after DNA research identified Florida accountant Tom Robinson as descendant of Genghis Khan.

The Beijing Institute of Genomics of Chinese Academy of Sciences has embarked on setting up a data base of Confucius descendants with DNA tests on a few direct ones.

Testing instrument can read the genetic information of a person within one day, and by comparing with the database it is easy to tell if he or she is a descendant of Confucius, said Deng Yajun, an official with the Beijing Institute of Genomics.

Four killed in minibus blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 June—A bomb detonated in a minibus in Baghdad’s southern district on Sunday, killing four people, an Interior Ministry source said.

An explosive charge went off in a KIA minibus while travelling in Saidiyah neighbourhood shortly after 4:00 pm (1200 GMT), killing four people aboard, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Three badly charred bodies were evacuated to nearby hospitals whereas the fourth was not found, the source said citing witnesses and initial police report.

The police is investigating whether the minibus was transferring the explosive charge or the bomb was planted in it, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Bomb in eastern Turkey wrecks cargo train

ISTANBUL, 19 June—A bomb explosion on a railway track in eastern Turkey destroyed eight carriages of a cargo train on Sunday, state news agency Anatolian reported.

The bomb, which exploded as the train passed, flipped over 12 carriages, leaving eight unusable, and wrecked 20 metres (65 feet) of track in the eastern province of Mus, Anatolian said. No further details were available.

Attacks against security forces, civilians and property in the mainly Kurdish east and southeast have escalated in recent months, while Istanbul has also been targeted with bomb blasts claimed by a group linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

A bomb exploded in a trash can in central Istanbul this week, which has not been claimed, while on Friday a bomb in the eastern province of Van injured three and smashed the windows of a meteorological centre.

Moderate earthquake jolts Tokyo

TOKYO, 20 June — A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.8 jolted Tokyo and the surrounding areas on Tuesday morning, Kyodo News reported. The quake, which happened at 6:47 am, was originated from about 80 kilometres underground in the northwestern part of Chiba Prefecture, which borders Tokyo, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No damage or injury has been reported so far.

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They are in addition to 52 items in the Getty collection that Italy has demanded back, contending they were illegally exported and exported, it said. “The assessment does not address the question of whether any of the 350 objects were purchased illegally, nor does it evaluate their artistic significance,” the newspaper said. But Getty records show that they include 35 of the museum’s 104 masterpieces.”

Seven died, 38 injured in western Nepal road mishap

KATHMANDU, 19 June.—At least seven persons died and 38 others injured Saturday in a road mishap in western Nepal, state radio reported.

“At least seven persons died when a passenger bus they were travelling in met with an accident in Darbariyadanda area of Arghakhanchi District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu,” the radio quoted Arghakhanchi District Police Office (ADPO) as saying. A total of five passengers died on the spot, while two others died on the way to hospital.

A total of 38 other passengers were injured when the bus skidded off the road and fell some 200 metres below due to brake failure, the ADPO, local police office, revealed.

The injured are under going treatment at local Lumbini Zonal Hospital at Butwal City of neighbouring Rupandehi District.

“Some of the injured are in serious condition,” the radio reported.

Chinese scientists to identify Confucius descendants by DNA testing

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The police is investigating whether the minibus was transferring the explosive charge or the bomb was planted in it, it said.—MNA/Xinhua
Death toll of E China chemical plant rises to 14, two still missing

HEFEI, 19 June — Death toll in a chemical plant blast in east China's Anhui Province rose to 14 as of Saturday afternoon, and two workers are still missing, a provincial work safety official confirmed.

"The death toll has risen to 14, so far 24 injured workers are receiving medical treatment in hospital, and three of them are still in critical condition," said Chen Shuo, Deputy Director of the Anhui Provincial Administration of Work Safety, in a briefing at the blast site in Dangtu County. The blast site has been cordoned off and rescue and search work is going on.

The two-storey workshop complex has been razed to the ground. Rescuers said that their work is difficult, since there are combustible materials in the plant, which might lead to further blasts. The blast occurred at 5:09 pm Friday at a workshop of Dun'an chemical Group Co, Ltd in Dangtu County.

The provincial government has founded a working team, headed by Vice-Governor Huang Haisong. And according to an initial investigation, the plant produces explosives for such civilian uses as mining. The blast was ignited in the emulsification process of the powder.

The provincial government convened an urgent telephone conference Friday evening, urging all the mining corporations in Anhui to perform a work safety checkup. —MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao returns to Beijing after wrapping up CICA summit tour

BEIJING, 19 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived here on Saturday night after attending the second summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Kazakhstan's Almaty.

During the one-day summit, Hu Jintao delivered a speech calling for building a harmonious Asia of enduring peace and common prosperity.

Heads of state or government, or their representatives of CICA members also exchanged views on the regional situation, prevention of conflicts, the peaceful solution of disputes and adoption of confidence-building measures in the meeting.

The CICA, a forum aimed at increasing security in Asia, was initiated by Kazakh President Nazarbayev, who called for its creation at the 47th UN General Assembly in 1992. The first CICA summit was held in Almaty June 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine President appoints new Labour Secretary

MANILA, 19 June — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Court of Appeals Justice Arthuro Brion as new Labour Secretary to replace Patricia Sto. Tomas, who was named chairperson of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the government announced on Saturday.

In a Press briefing at the Presidential Palace, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye welcomed Brion to the Cabinet as he cited the achievements of Sto. Tomas as labour chief. Brion will be returning to the Department of Labour and Employment where he was under-secretary for labour relations from March 2001 to July 2002, said Bunye.

Bunye said Sto Tomas would finish the rest of her "brilliant career" as Labour Secretary and assume the top post of DBP in the first week of July, after turning over her position to Brion.

Sto Tomas said last month she would resign from the labour department to take a good rest as advised by her doctors. She is one of the longest serving Cabinet members of the President, Bunye said.

A monument to China's first nuclear weapons development base is erected in Xihai Township, Haibei Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province. Covering an area of 1,100 square km, Yuanzheng, or Atomic city, is China's first base for the development of nuclear weapons, which is located on the Jinjintan Grassland to the north bank of Qinghai Lake.

Six drug-related killings reported in western Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 19 June — At least six drug-related killings were reported over the weekend in the western Michoacan State, the state prosecutor office said on Sunday.

The killings took place in Apatzingan, Aguililla, Zitacuaro, Buena Vista Tomatlan, Zamora and Morelia, the capital of the state. The prosecutor office said the victim's bodies were found in such a way that they were clearly committed by drug gangs or contract killers.

The victims included two men who were kidnapped on Friday by armed men.

Ruben Mendez Cevallos, 27, also kidnapped over the weekend, was found riddled with 12 large-calibre bullets. The remaining victims were also killed by large calibre weapons.

Violence, mainly due to drug trafficking, is rampant in Michoacan, about 300 kilometres west of Mexico City. — MNA/Xinhua

Report says Klimt painting gets record $183m

NEW YORK, 19 June — A 1907 portrait by Gustav Klimt has been purchased by cosmetics magnate Ronald S Lauder for $183 million, the New York Times reports.

It is the highest amount ever paid for a painting. The price tops the $141.2 million paid for Picasso's 1905 Boy With a Pipe (The Young Apprentice) in an auction at Sotheby's in 2004. The portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, the wife of a Jewish sugar industrialist, is considered one of Klimt's masterpieces. It was the focus of a restitution battle between the Austrian Government and a niece of Mrs Bloch-Bauer, who argued that it was seized along with four other Klimt paintings by the Nazis during World War II.

In January all five paintings were awarded to the niece, Maria Altmann, and other family members, the paper reports.

The sale is subject to confidentiality agreements and Mr Lauder would not confirm the price in a telephone interview, the paper says.

But experts familiar with the negotiations, who spoke to the paper on condition of anonymity, say he paid $183 million for the work.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime acquisition," Mr Lauder said. He is a founder of the five-year-old Neue Galerie, a tiny Manhattan museum devoted entirely to German and Austrian art.

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A worker prepares to tow an abandoned car near a highway overpass in New Orleans, on 19 June, 2006. The city has ordered the removal of thousands of damaged vehicles left behind after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Portrait of Jeannette Klimt, or Adele Bloch-Bauer I, by Gustav Klimt has been purchased by cosmetics magnate Ronald S Lauder for $183 million, the New York Times reports.

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Internet
Traffic accident kills 28 in India-controlled Jammu

NEW DELHI, 19 June — At least 28 people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident in India-controlled Jammu early on Sunday, according to New Delhi TV.

The bus heading to Srinagar skidded off the Jammu-Srinagar highway and fell into the 350-feet-deep valley in Rambar at around 8:05 am (0235 GMT) on Jammu-Srinagar highway.

"It was basically a human error. May be the driver was under the influence of drugs or liquor, since people had asked him to drive carefully," the TV quoted Ramban Superintendent of Police Basant Kumar Rath as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Diarrohea, pneumonia claim 15 lives in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 June — An outbreak of diarrohea and pneumonia has claimed 15 lives, mostly children, in northwestern Bangladesh in the last seven days while 500 more are suffering from the diseases, The Daily Star reported Monday.

According to the daily, all deaths were from northwestern Thakurgaon District.

A heat wave sweeping across Thakurgaon District is helping spread viral diseases like diarreoha and pneumonia and young children are the primary victims of these diseases, Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital sources confirmed.

Eight of the victims died of pneumonia, while the rest fell prey to diarreoha. The age of the children who died ranged from one day to 12 years.

The hospital sources added that many people of different ages are rushing to the hospital every day with heat-related diseases. — MNA/Xinhua

Ten killed in road accident in Thailand

BANGKOK, 19 June — Ten people were killed and several others were injured when a Bangkook-bound van crashed into a power pole early Sunday morning in Thai northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, police said.

Police Major Wisit Prompitsat said the accident happened on the Mittraphap Road in Pakchong District of the province. The van was transporting 17 passengers from Yasothon Province to Bangkok.

Wisit said seven passengers and the van driver died at the scene and two more others died at hospitals. The rest of the passengers were severely injured. One of them, Sakchai Yusuk, 32, said all passengers were asleep when the accident happened. Police said the driver might fall asleep, causing the speeding van to lose control and crash into the power pole on the side of the road. — MNA/Xinhua

US photographer arrested at Nigerian oil facility

LAGOS, 20 June — The Nigerian Navy has detained an American journalist for taking photographs of an oil facility operated by the local unit of Italy’s Agip, a rights group said on Sunday.

Ed Kashi of the National Geographic was photographing a gas flare at the Obama flow station in Bayelsa State when he was arrested on Friday along with his Nigerian fixer, Dimieari Von Kemedi of Our Niger Delta said.

“They said he did not obtain permission to take pictures of the facility and that the area is volatile and he could have been kidnapped,” Kemedi told Reuters.

“We are worried that the Navy is not even acknowledging that they are in detention. They say every day that they will release them but they still haven’t,” he added.

A Navy spokesman said the matter had been resolved and the detainees would be released.

“We have sent a chopper down to bring him (the American) back to Port Harcourt and release him,” the spokesman said by telephone from the Nigerian capital Abuja. — MNA/Reuters

China grants another $250m quota to foreign investors

BEIJING, 19 June— China’s foreign exchange authority has awarded additional investment quotas totalling 250 million US dollars to two qualified foreign institutional investors (QFIs).

The two QFIs are the Bank of Nova Scotia in Canada and the KBC Financial Products UK Limited, which received investment quotas of 150 million dollars and 100 million dollars respectively from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

The Bank of Nova Scotia, established in 1832, is one of the major financial institutions in North America with total asset exceeding 260 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, left, reviews an honour guard with Chinese President Hu Jintao during a welcome ceremony in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People on 19 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Gallery unveils Picasso painting

MELBOURNE, 19 June— The National Gallery of Victoria has unveiled the first painting featured in a new exhibition of works by Picasso.

Titled Picasso: Love and War it focuses on the artist’s relationship with his muse and mistress — photographer Dora Marr.

The first consignment of more than 350 works has arrived from France and the exhibition begins at the end of June.

The gallery’s director, Gerard Vaughan, says it is a great coup for Mel- bourne.

“This is an extraordinary exhibition,” he said.

“It’s a collaboration between ourselves and the Musee Picasso in Paris, and we are the only other institution to have this exhibition. It opened in Paris this year, it was an enormous success.”—Internet

Chinese President Hu Jintao during a welcome ceremony in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People on 19 June, 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

Police arrest two teens over Kent boy’s murder

LONDON, 19 June— Detectives in Kent were questioning two teenagers on Sunday after the pair were arrested on suspicion of murdering 16-year-old Michael Chapman.

Police said the dead boy from the Sittingbourne area of the county died on Friday night after an “unprovoked attack” at the p., laying fields at Gore Court Cricket Club.

A 18-year-old man and a 16-year-old youth were arrested late on Saturday night before being taken to separate police stations.

Officers have appealed for people to come forward with any information. — MNA/Reuters

Teenagers on bicycles pedal through floodwaters amid stranded vehicles on a flooded freeway feeder road caused by severe thunderstorms in Houston, on 19 June, 2006. — INTERNET
China, India to reopen border trade at Tibetan mountain pass

LHASA, 19 June — China and India agreed on Sunday to reopen border trade at the Nathu La Pass on 6 July after 44 years’ closure.

Officials from both sides ended the discussion on the issue in Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, and signed on the agreed minutes on Sunday.

The Nathu La Pass is 4,545 metres above sea level. It is 460 kilometres away from Lhasa and 550 kilometres from the Indian coastal city of Kolkata. The pass used to be an important trade passage between China and India.

The reopening of the pass is expected to give a major boost to bilateral trade between the two most populous countries. Trade in this area accounted for 90 per cent of the total border trade volume between China and India in the early 1990s. Trading through the pass was suspended in 1992 after border conflicts.

“The reopening of border trade will help end economic isolation in this area and play a key role in boosting market economy there,” said Hao Peng, vice-chairman of the autonomous region.

“It will also boost the transportation, construction and service industries, paving the way for a major trade route that connects China and south Asia,” Hao added.

“The resumption of border trade is a great historic event, not only for enlarging trade, but also for greater relations between the two great countries,” said Dr. Chris Fernandez, additional secretary of the Indian Department of Commerce.

The resumption of border trade reflects the improved ties between China and India, said Professor Liu Jiangyong with the institute of international studies of the Beijing-based Qinghua University.

Both sides marked 2006 as the year of Sino-Indian friendship. More than 5,000 border residents came to Yadong County, where the Nathu La Pass is located, every year for trade of 3.6 million yuan (450,000 US dollars), although the trading port in Yadong did not officially open, statistics from the county show.

MNA/Xinhua

14 killed as bus falls into river in Indian Kashmir

JAMMU (India), 19 June — At least 14 passengers were killed and 22 others injured when a bus skidded off a mountain road and plunged into a river in Indian Kashmir on Sunday, police said.

The accident took place near Ramban, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Jammu, winter capital of the revolt-torn state.

“It was a passenger bus on its way to Srinagar when its driver lost control near a bend and the bus rolled down into a river near Ramban,” a police officer told Reuters. Srinagar is the summer capital of the disputed state which is also claimed by neighbour Pakistan.

MNA/Reuters

Australian FM leaves for Europe visit

CANBERRA, 19 June — Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer left Sunday for Europe, where he will urge a greater UN role in violence-torn Timor Leste.

His nine-day visit will take him to France, Germany and Britain. He is expected to discuss with his French and British counterparts an expanded UN role in Timor Leste, the Australian Associated Press reported on Sunday. In France, he will also sign a bilateral tax agreement. And in Germany, he will be in Frankfurt to promote Australian trade and investment before opening a new consulate-general in the financial capital.

MNA/Xinhua

Two giant US Australian military bases to be built in Australia

CANBERRA, 19 June — Two huge US-Australia military bases will be built in north-western Australia, with one of them being “larger than Holand,” a leading Australian newspaper reported on Monday.

This is the first time that details of the bases, which are sensitive to Australia’s neighbours, are reported.

A new base at Bradshaw in the Northern Territory will be equipped with a landing strip for giant C-17 military transport aircraft and accommodation for some 750 troops, or a US marine expeditionary battalion, The Australian Financial Review reported.

The newspaper quoted senior sources as saying that the base covers about 41,000 square kilometres and is larger than the military base in Holand.

The area is reported to be outside civil air traffic radar coverage and this will enable military planes with heavy equipment and larger numbers of troops to come and go unnoticed, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese activists and cultural exchange diplomats hold a press conference at the Chinese embassy in Moscow on 19 June, 2006. The Chinese government suspended diplomatic relations with Russia in 1966. The Chinese government has since struck 22 agreements and carried out 151 cultural exchange programmes, according to the Chinese Ministry of Culture.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

Police dogs guided by their handlers patrol the Shanghai South Railway station in Shanghai on 19 June, 2006. The Shanghai South Railway station will begin trial operations on 25 June and normal operations next month, Xinhua News Agency reported. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

View taken on 16 June 2006 in the “Musee du quai Branly”, a museum of primitive arts from Africa, Asia, Oceania and America designed by French architect Jean Nouvel. Europe’s newest museum, dedicated to celebrating tribal arts and cultures, will be inaugurated on Tuesday by French President Jacques Chirac, the culmination of an 11-year personal quest. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Two giant US Australian military bases to be built in Australia

CANBERRA, 19 June — Two huge US-Australia military bases will be built in north-western Australia, with one of them being “larger than Holand,” a leading Australian newspaper reported on Monday.

This is the first time that details of the bases, which are sensitive to Australia’s neighbours, are reported.

A new base at Bradshaw in the Northern Territory will be equipped with a landing strip for giant C-17 military transport aircraft and accommodation for some 750 troops, or a US marine expeditionary battalion, The Australian Financial Review reported.

The newspaper quoted senior sources as saying that the base covers about 41,000 square kilometres and is larger than the military base in Holand.

The area is reported to be outside civil air traffic radar coverage and this will enable military planes with heavy equipment and larger numbers of troops to come and go unnoticed, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of dam, cultivation of summer...

(from page 1)

Lt-Col Tin Oo of the command reported on cultivation of 200 acres of physic nut. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended cultivation of paddy in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander planted physic nut.

They went to Marlenattaung Dam Project site in Singu Township and inspected spillway, construction of diaphragm wall, earth work and control tower. Director of Irrigation Department U Aye Thein reported on progress of the project.

The earth Marlenattaung Dam, 11,850 feet long and 72 feet high, will be built on Marlenattaung Creek. Its catchment area is 75 square miles. Its water storage capacity at full brim is 57,470 acre feet and it can irrigate 10,000 acres.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected cultivation of physic nut of Forest Department, rural health care unit and Myanma Farms Enterprise and cultivation of irrigated summer paddy in Kyanikan Village in Patheingyi Township.

They spent the night in Mandalay.—MNA

YANGON, 20 June — Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Russian Ambassador Mr Oleg V Kabanov. (NEWS ON PAGE 1) —MNA

Minister attends coord meeting of special gems sales

YANGON, 20 June — A coordination meeting for the special gems sales for 2006 was held at Myanmar Convention Centre yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and members. Responsible personnel reported on preparation for the special gems sales. Next, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made concluding remarks. —MNA

Two injured in land mine blast

YANGON, 20 June — Two people were injured when a land mine exploded in Palaw Township, Taninthayi Division, on 16 June.

The land mine planted by KNU insurgents blew up when U Tin Tun, 31, of Kainggyi Village in Palaw Township, hit it while he was collecting djenkol beans together with 10 other people near Shandut Village in the township. Because of the explosion, U Tin Tun sustained serious injuries to his right foot, leg, arm and left foot and another villager was also injured.

The injured are being given treatment at the hospital in Palaw Township. —MNA

KNU extorts money from villagers

YANGON, 20 June — KNU insurgents extorted K 700,000 from villagers in Thaton Township, Mon State, yesterday.

Thirty KNU insurgents led by Kyaw Naing with the rank of lieutenant yesterday morning abducted four villagers of Dingaseik Village in the township and demanded a ransom of K 1 million. After receiving K 700,000, the abductors released the four villagers, the villagers said.

KNU insurgents have jeopardized the community peace and tranquillity and have committed terrorist acts. —MNA

Kyaukkyi Township USDA to join hands with locals for development tasks

YANGON, 20 June — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Aung Min yesterday met with Kyaukkyi Township USDA members at Kyaukkyi Station and urged them to strive for the development of the region in cooperation with local people.

Kyaukkyi Station Commander Col Khin Soe, the chairman of the township PDC and member of USDA in Kyaukkyi Township attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the commander and Maj-Gen Aung Min went to Thanbo Village’s middle school in the Township and donated exercises books to students. —MNA

Ministry of PBANRDA offers alms

YANGON, 20 June — With the patronage of Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khaing and service personnel of the ministry offered a day’s meal to members of the Sangha from the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at the refectionary on Thirimingala Kaba Aye Hill, Mayangon Township this morning.

The minister and guests received the Five Precepts from Pro-rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandhavasaca Pandita Bhaddanta Ottama. Deputy Director-General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Win Aung donated K 250,000 for a day’s meal.

Afterwards, those present shared merits gained and offered alms to the members of the Sangha. —MNA
In Myanmar at present, the globally proclaimed seven-point Road Map is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing state. The government on its part has been striving to fulfill the three requirements for the flourishing of democracy — prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law in the entire nation including border areas; cementing of foundations for ensuring a robust national economy, and raising of the intellectual level and thinking power of the people — while in the process of smooth and gentle democracy transition despite the many obstacles and difficulties. The more we witness and understand the government’s endeavours for the cause, the greater confidence we have in them.

The first and the most important step of the Road Map is the National Convention that is going to conclude successfully in the near future as it has already adopted over 70 per cent of the detailed basic principles that will shape the future state’s structure and materialize the form and essence of the legislative power. In other words, the public desired peace, progress, prosperity and democracy are within our reach.

BCP remnants to destroy the nation. He has installed a website in which he raised the method of sending foreign troops into Myanmar to remove the government with military force, instigating opposition members to launch an armed revolt and organizing some Tatmadawmen to join forces with the opposition. Likewise, the NCUB is also distributing fliers calling for a commotion that will be followed by an anarchist acts. Some foreign radio stations in collusion with BCP and NCUB are also trying to deceive the public.

Here, the powers of the West who terribily hate the communists and foreign radio stations under their domain, political opponents, expatriates and insurgents are in the same bandwagon rolling according to the BCP’s scheme to set up an authoritarian rule, while advocating democracy with slogans. Why? This is what we have been studying.

What is undeniable for all is the road we are marching on towards multiparty democracy. What is obvious for all is the market-oriented economy we are practising. What is within our reach is a new constitution firmly proclaiming the adoption of democracy and the market economy. Hence, it is crystal clear that the plot of the persons to install democracy through a commotion is none other than to push the people into an abyss just to grab power.

The option of grabbing power through aboveground insurrection and underground armed struggle line is the extremist ideology, the BCP has been following since its birth till today. The option spread to other inexperienced leftist politicians who ignited the internal strife burning in the nation beginning 1948. While the communists were following the policy of insurrections and armed insurgency after their regained independence, insurgents holding narrow racism were also turning to armed struggle line. Those insurgents fuelled riots followed by looting and destruction. They destroyed roads and bridges the government had built for the nation.

To make matters worse, they had in hand the remnants of the arms and ammunition used in the time of World War II, and so they chose that armed struggle line that later spread throughout the country. Such above-ground insurgency also instigated mass protests, at the expense of the lives of the people. Indeed, until now all the aboveground and underground insurgent political groups have constantly practised the policy of inciting the people to stage mass demonstrations. Now, there remains just a few of politicians in the nation who practise politics in the interests of the nation and the people. Surely, the BCP will stick to its dogmatism until it comes into power. And with the grudge, the remnant BCP insurgents will continue to oppose the Tatmadaw that strongly stands by the people and has dealt a devastating blow on the spoke ill of and insulted their relations.

Some of them became so inhuman that they even committed patricide. BCP member Po Htoo, son of BCP Central Committee secretary Ye Htaw, made an emphatic demand for death penalty for his father claiming “I will kill traitor Nga Htay. I will behead him”. Together with other BCP Tatni members, Po Htoo fisted, kicked and struck his father to death.

It is Bo Yan Aung who was killed by BCP members on 26 December 1967 with the charges of being counter-revolutionary, revisionist and traitor. Among the BCP members who committed that murder was Bo Yan Aung’s dearest son BCP Ze Latt (a) Yebaw Ba Tin who claimed “I have no sense of relations in the class struggle. I have to kill even my own father or son if necessary”. Member of the central committee Bo Tun Nyein, Ye Htaw Tun Shein and Ye Htaw Ba Tin (a) Goshal were among the victims who met their tragic end after the BCP’s policy of “dismiss, remove and kill” of the BCP.

At that time, BCP Tun Kyaw (a) Soe Win, brother of BCP Po Than Gyaung, emphatically claimed “My parents are merely explorers and capitalists. I will not hesitate to kill them if I am under the circumstances of the revolution”. BCP members Bo Than, Bo Tha, Khin Win and Tun Kyaw (a) Soe Win, who placed too much reliance on the BCP and went underground from Yangon to Sittwe and brothers, did not manage to survive the campaign. They were accused of being followers of Bo Tun Kyaw and were strick with solid bamboo sticks to death at the central office of the BCP at 1.30 pm on 13 September 1968. Those who accused (See page 9)

Yebaw Bo Tin (a) Goshal, a BCP CEC member who met his tragic end together with Ye Htaw Htay, after he presented a letter in parallel to Thakin Than Tun’s review paper. He was stabbed to death by Bo Tin Maung group for submitting the paper saying that the failure of the internal peace negotiation was the result of the mistake of taking improper opportunities to extend underground organization and to pressure the government through unrest and comrion.

Tun Kyaw (a) Soe Win, son of Ludu U Hla and Ludu Daw Amar, died after declaring that he would not hesitate to kill even his own parents if the revolution demanded.

The first and the most important step of the Road Map is the National Convention that is going to conclude successfully in the near future as it has already adopted over 70 per cent of the detailed basic principles that will shape the future state’s structure and materialize the form and essence of the legislative power. In other words, the public desired peace, progress, prosperity and democracy are within our reach.

The plots of saboteurs inside and outside the nation and the truth that should be realized — 1

Soe Mya Kyaw and Saw Mya Aung

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In Myanmar at present, the globally proclaimed seven-point Road Map is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing state. The government on its part has been striving to fulfill the three requirements for the flourishing of democracy — prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law in the entire nation including border areas; cementing of foundations for ensuring a robust national economy, and raising of the intellectual level and thinking power of the people — while in the process of smooth and gentle democracy transition despite the many obstacles and difficulties. The more we witness and understand the government’s endeavours for the cause, the greater confidence we have in them.

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The plots of saboteurs inside and outside the nation and the truth that should be realized — I

Myanmar has passed the stormy years replete with tragic events and now the nation is not far from the period of prosperity and well-being. We do not want the nation to relapse to the adversities and miseries of the past. Hence, we have presented the ruthless and inhuman acts of the internal and external elements who had pushed the nation and the people into the hellish situation as well as their latest attempts and schemes to destabilize the nation in order that readers may weigh the pros and cons of events. We will continue to present our observation and assessment of the developments.

BCP Tun Kyaw and party of being traitors and reactionaries, struck them to death and washed their legs with the blood of the victims were BCP Tatni female members. Such extreme acts despicably committed in the BCP central camp in Bago Yoma in 1967-68 are stated in detail in the book “Last days of Thakin Tun Thun” by Yewhaw Mya, Yehaw Hla Khet, Bo Min Din, Yebaw Saw Hla and Bo Tin Shien who fled BCP to return to the legal fold. Due to the well-plotted instigation of hard-core BCP UGs, the 1988 unrest was infected with mob rules initiated by the BCP members who became inhuman and desperately anxious to grab State power.

The 1988 unrest was followed by a number of inhuman murders committed under the mob rule in the public places and that was totally against the Myanmar culture. During the period, various fabrications were being manufac-tured widespread to mislead the people into the wrong views and many innocent people who were not connected with purported cases were under various accusations and decapitated without thorough investigations. During the one-month period from 18 August to 19 September 1988, the BCP UGs and KNU who had been plotting for years to wage armed attacks, beheaded innocent people. At around 8-88, 45 innocent people were killed by the BCP UGs and the embassies of the West bloc and propaganda of the broadcasting stations, namely, BBC, VOA, AIR, and so on, and newspapers and periodicals, namely, the Nation, Bangkok Post, Antework, Far Eastern Economic Review and so on. Those staged demonstrations out of general discontentment were overwhelmed by the anarchists who cut off communication links between the upper and lower Myanmar. Raids were disconnected. With blockages in the respective townships railway and bus services were brought to a halt. In the meantime, the government ordered to ransack, godowns broken into, the public property looted, and strike groups were formed thereby causing the breakdown of the administrative machinery; these are all subversive acts. In downtown Yangon and major cities, those who were ready to commit cruelties and bully people dominated the unruly mob.

The majority of the people thus lost protection of the rule of law. They had to live in fear of the nearest bullies. During a short period of anachistic and chaotic situation between 1-8-88 and 8-8-88, 45 mills and factories, 61 warehouses, 75 government office buildings, 13 sections of roads and bridges, 22 shops and 37 vehicles of various types were torched. The productive capital of the State-owned mills and factories worth K 535 million were destroyed. Other property losses amounted to as high as K 620.5 million. Communications and commerce were disrupted. Fuel production was reduced causing the shortages of the item. This in turn brought about a halt in commodity production.

During the one-week period from 12-3-88 to 18-3-88, there took place 15 cases of arson, 86 cases of destroying State-owned property and 16 cases of destroying cooperative shops. During the 12 day period from 21 June to 2 July the same year, there were 23 cases of destroying the State-owned property. As it coincided with the period of the socialist economic system, the government had to shoulder the multiform duties to ensure the hygiene of the people such as food, clothing and shelter. However, it was no longer in a position to do so in the light of riots and destruction. The worst was shortage in the supply of the very basic item, rice. The people were on the brink of starvation due to riots. At the time, there were not many people who were sensible enough to foresee the danger of massive starvation if the situation was not addressed sooner.

The economic sector of the State was brought to a halt for about three months due to riots. Production of goods and services nose-dived. When the Tatmadaw took over the responsibilities, it was confronted with the worst situation of the economy. A foreign correspondent even remarked that it was unlikely the Tatmadaw government would be able to take control of the nation in the long run in view of the fact that there was only 8 million dollars in reserve when it assumed the responsibilities. It was estimated that the government would be able to earn as much as 15 million dollars in two or three months. During the 1988 disturbances, a group of elements committed all kinds of destructive acts. The BCP and KNU schemed in advance, launched attacks. The powers from the west tried to make Myanmar a satellite nation. They insulted sovereignty of the nation. The senior persons who had witnessed the rigours in the time of the Japanese occupation said that the situation at the time was no match for that of the 1988 disturbances. Only when the situation returned to normal, all came to thank the Tatmadaw. The nation would be reduced to ashes if the Tatmadaw was about two days late to take over the responsibilities of the State, it was generally believed.

An eighth standard girl student of a man who was beheaded by the destructive elements asked if her father had anything to do with the demands for democracy and whether democracy meant committing such acts. An article described about the girl who was in grief with all tears. She must now be more than 30 years old and she may have graduated. The rigours of the 1988 disturbances will remain afresh in her memory. She would not like her husband to experience similar fate of her father. Myanamar has passed the stormy years replete with tragic events and now the nation is not far from the period of prosperity and well-being. We do not want the nation to relapse to the adversities and miseries of the past. Hence, we have presented the ruthless and inhuman acts of the internal and external elements who had pushed the nation and the people into the hellish situation as well as their latest attempts and schemes to destabilize the nation in order that readers may weigh the pros and cons of events. We will continue to present our observation and assessment of the developments. Translation: TMT, MS, AK *****
Skill demonstration of policewomen of Myanmar Police Force held

YANGON, 20 June — Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, a skill demonstration of policewomen of Myanmar Police Force organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the training ground of No 7 Police Battalion in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division this morning.

Present were Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay, CEC members, chairpersons of women’s affairs organizations of townships and districts in Yangon Division and members, Police Brig-Gen Soe Win Myint of MPF, Yangon Division Police Commander Police Col Hla Min, Yangon Division Commissioner U Hla Soe, Yangon Division Deputy Police Commander Police Lt-Col Se MaungWireless and Traffic Police Commander Police Lt-Col Aung Naing, South District Police Commander Police Lt-Col Myo Thant, Police Lt-Col Than Swe of Police Battalion Control Office, Acting Police Commander of No 7 Police Battalion Police Major Aung San Win and policewomen of MPF, departmental officials and guests.

First, policewomen of MPF saluted and welcomed Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay and CEC members. Next, guns were fired into the air to hail Myanmar Women’s Day. Inspector Tin Mar Htwe of Myanmar Police Force reported on duties of the policewomen. They then performed their fighting skills. Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay presented K 200,000 to the policewomen after the skill demonstrations. — MNA

Physic nut plants grown in Loilem

YANGON, 20 June — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women’s Day for 2006, Loilem District held a ceremony to grow physic nut plants on 10 June. Present on the occasion were Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Tint, chairperson of Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Htwe Hla and chairperson of Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Ngan Ngwe Htwe and members, members of social organizations, local authorities, departmental officials numbering over 700.

At his meeting with departmental personnel, social organizations and local people in the town hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than spoke of the need to make harmonious efforts to cultivate ten major crops designated by the government, crops that grow well in the region, pepper and physic nut, raise sea water prawns and local chicken strains, and implement the five rural development project. The following day, he delivered an address at the ceremony to grow physic nuts in Sittway Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander presented physic nut saplings to social organizations and departmental personnel. The township will put 5,000 acres under physic nut in 2006-2007, another 10,000 acres in 2007-2008 and another 10,000 acres in 2008-2009. — MNA
Industry-1’s 11 factories to run on joint venture

YANGON, 20 June — Ministry of Industry-1 today invited private sectors to operate its 11 factories on a joint venture.

The factories to be on joint venture are Textile Factory (Pwintbyu), Mandalay Beer Factory, Yangon No 1 Cigarette Factory, Pakokku No 2 Cigarette Factory, Ahlon Soft Drink and Ice Factory, Mandalay Soft Drink Factory, Cosmetic Factory (Yangon), Thanlyin Glass Factory, Paint Factory, Sewing Factory (Kyaukse) and Myanma Bicycle Factory (Yangon).

Briefing on the joint venture will be held on 26 June at Ministry of Industry-1 in Nay Pyi Taw. More information is available at Ph 067408081, 067408337, 067408129 in Nay Pyi Taw and Ph 577074, 562641 and 562211 in Yangon.

MNA

US military charges 3 over prisoner deaths in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 June — The US military said on Monday three US soldiers had been charged over the deaths of three male prisoners in Iraq on 9 May. It said the soldiers faced charges including "murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, communicating a threat, and obstructing justice". It was not immediately clear whether all three faced the murder charge.

"Three members of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division have been charged in connection with the deaths of three male detainees," the US military said in a statement.

The case comes as the US military is investigating other cases of alleged abuses, including the killing of up to 24 unarmed civilians in the town of Haditha last year by US Marines.

MNA/Reuters

ASEAN health ministers arrive to attend ministerial level meetings

YANGON, 20 June — Health ministers from ASEAN countries arrived here today to participate in the 8th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting, the 2nd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting and 1st ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting to be hosted by Myanmar.

Malaysian Health Minister Dato Chua Soilek, Health Minister of Singapore Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Health Minister of Brunei Darussalam Honorable Pehin Dato Sayoi Osman, Health Minister of Cambodia Dr Nuth Sokhom, Health Minister of Laos Dr Pommek Dalaloy, Deputy Minister of Health of Vietnam Dr Tran Chi Liem, Deputy Minister of Health Aunglin Charvarkal of Thailand arrived by air this evening.

Deputy Minister for Health of Myanmar Dr Myo Oo, Ambassadors of ASEAN nations and officials welcomed them at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

1,446 gem merchants to participate in jade, gems sales

YANGON, 20 June — A total of 1,446 gem merchants at home and abroad gathered here to bid for gems and jade lots at the special sales for jade, gems and pearl for 2006.

The sales of gems and pearl lots will be held at Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the sales of jade lots at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township from 24 June to 4 July.

Local merchants are allowed to examine pearl lots at Myanmar Gems Emporium until 21 June and sales will be held on 22 June and the sales of gems and pearl lots for foreign merchants will be held on 23 June through tender system.

Both foreign and local merchants are allowed to examine jade lots at Myanmar Convention Centre until 23 June and the sales of jade lots will be held from 24 June to 4 July through tender system.

MNA

Health ministers and deputy ministers from Laos, Vietnam and Thailand are welcomed at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Local and foreign gem merchants examining the jade lots. — MNA

MNA

MNA
China helps Africa on desert control

Greenland seeks to hunt humpback, bowhead whales

More Chinese bankers believe macro economy overheated

Desertified land shrinks in Beijing

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21 June 2006

LANZHOU, 19 June—Officials and technicians from African countries will come to northwest China’s Gansu Province in August for an annual training programme on combating desertification.

The African trainees will learn Chinese experiences on desert control through lectures and field practice, said Man Duoqing, head of the international affairs department of Gansu Desert Control Research Institute (GDCRI).

"They will spend some 25 days in the field across Gansu and neighboring provinces and regions to learn how to choose plants for desert control and how to set up windbreaks, among others,” according to Man.

The two-month China International Training Course on Desert Control Science and Technology is run by the GDCRI, a leading anti desertification agency. It has more than 1913 trainees this year, among whom a dozen come from Africa.

One third of the world’s land faces threat of desertification that which causes 42 billion US dollars in economic losses every year, UN statistics show.

With deserts including the Sahara, Africa is the most worst-desertified region in the world. The poverty-stricken continent is in urgent need of international economic and technical assistance.

China will cover all the expenses of the trainees, including tuition and accommodation, as well as air tickets to and from China if needed, GDCRI director Wang Jie said.

Wang said China aims to cooperate with desert control and help developing countries especially those from Africa in this regard.

Since the first session of the programme in 1993, about 150 African officials and technicians from more than 30 countries including Egypt, the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Angola and Tanzania have been trained, Wang added.

China will help Africa on desert control

Greenland seeks to hunt humpback, bowhead whales

BEIJING, 19 June—Beijing has seen its deserted land shrunk by 1,613 hectares, a drop from three percentage points five years ago.

A report released by the municipal horticulture and afforestation bureau Saturday shows that 92 per cent of the city’s largest piece of eroded land around Yongding River has been put under control from further expansion in the past five years.

Beijing, the host of the 2008 Olympic Games, has been frequently hit by sandstorms over recent years. Previous reports said that 32 per cent of the city was a seemingly unabated investment binge.

As so to cool down the overheated economy, the People’s Bank of China in April raised the minimum rate commercial banks charge on one-year loans in local currency, the yuan, 27 basis points, to 5.85 per cent in an aggressive move to discourage lending. It was the first increase since October 2004.

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MNA/Xinhua

"We’d be very concerned about extending the hunt to two new species,” said British Environment Minister Ben Bradshaw.

Commercial whaling and sealing was banned in 1986 to save great whales from extinction but the IWC issues quotas to aboriginal communities which have a tradition of whale hunting.

Japan and other pro-whaling nations had been expected to take control of the meeting and to begin chipping away at the global whaling ban. But anti-whaling nations including Australia and Spain offered to the IWC proposal given the fragile state of most whale species.

Environmentalists also said they were pleased by the idea because Greenland has for years failed to meet a quota of minke whales and fin whales that its indigenous hunters were permitted to catch under an exemption from an international moratorium on commercial whaling.

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NASA says “Discovery” set for launch on 1 July

WASHINGTON, 21 July—The US space shuttle Discovery is set for a new launch on 1 July after an almost one-year pause meant to review the safety issues concerning a future mission, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration said Saturday.

After two days of meetings with managers and engineers, NASA administrator Michael Griffin finally made the decision to launch Discovery on a trip to the International Space Station although some had recommended no flying until improvements were made on the shuttle’s fuel tanks.

Griffin insisted that the launch would not pose a danger to the shuttle’s crew despite the fact that there were still room for improvement in the design of the outer fuel tanks.

The Columbia shuttle disintegrated shortly after a launch in February 2003, killing all seven astronauts aboard, in a disaster that was blamed on a chunk of foam breaking away from the external tank.

NASA suspended its shuttle programme to open a long-time review of safety issues following Discovery’s last flight in last July.

Two bomb attacks kill three, wounds five in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 June — Anti-Afghan government militants in their latest and coordinated wave of violent attacks conducted two bombing attacks, leaving three dead and five others wounded in a single day on Saturday, officials confirmed.

The militants in an attempt to target government’s soldiers in the restive Helmand Province planted a mine in a highway but it went off prematurely, killing three suspected Taleban operatives while another bomb explosion wounded five including two Afghan soldiers in the southwest Nimroze Province.

“Three suspected Taleban wanted to plant a bomb near Ghosk area on Helmand-Kandahar highway but it went off killing the three on the spot at 1 a.m. this morning,” spokesman of Helmand provisional government Hagji Mohiuddin Khan told Xinhua.

The second attack occurred in the southwest Nimroze Province when a suicide bomber detonated himself near a convoy of Afghan National Army (ANA) in Dilarum District, wounding two soldiers and injured three civilians, Wahid Khairzad, the spokesman of Nimroze governor said.

Bolivia’s President opens Chavez-funded coca factory

LA PAZ (Bolivia), 19 June — Bolivian President Evo Morales visited a coca-growing region on Saturday to open a Venezuelan-funded factory where coca leaves will be made into legal products such as tea and soft drinks.

Morales rose in politics as the leader of Bolivia’s coca farmers and part of his anti-drug policy is to encourage licit uses for coca — the plant used to make cocaine, which is also revered by Andean peoples for its medicinal properties.

“Manufacturing coca (products) doesn’t do any harm because coca is not a drug.” Morales told hundreds of coca farmers gathered in a stadium in the town of Irupana, in the Yungas region 85 miles (140 kilometres) from La Paz. The event was broadcast on state television.

Coca has been cultivated in the rolling green valleys of the Yungas for centuries and the region’s coca crops are considered grown for traditional uses such as chewing or making tea to ward off hunger and altitude sickness.

The law allows 29,650 acres (12,000 hectares) to be grown in the Yungas, although government and US officials have expressed concern that cultivation is rising in the world’s third-biggest cocaine producer.

Washington funds coca-eradication programmes in Bolivia’s other main coca-growing region, Chapare, where Morales led sometimes violent protests against forced crop destruction.

The government is optimistic of finding markets for the country’s legal coca products in Venezuela, Cuba, China and India — which officials say have already expressed interest.

British singer and musician Myleene Klass arrives in London’s Leicester Square, for the British Premiere of the film, The Lake House, on 19 June, 2006

Jordanian King meets Abbas

AMMAN, 19 June — Jordanian King Abdullah II met on Sunday with visiting Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on the deteriorating security and economic situation in the Palestinian territories.

During the meeting, the King called on all parties on the Palestinian front to exert efforts to overcome challenges facing the Palestinian people.

He underlined the importance of ending any military escalation and calming tension between the Palestinians and Israelis to build confidence at this stage and ensure a quick return to the negotiating table.

He also urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities through ensuring the flow of international aid to the Palestinian lands to avoid a humanitarian crisis.

The Palestinians were “the only ones affected by the halt of aid”, he said, adding Jordan will continue to work with other countries to solve the problem.

He also briefed Abbas on the outcome of his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on June 8, saying that a two-state solution is the only solution that all parties in the Middle East and the international community should work to achieve.

Abbas expressed appreciation for efforts exerted by Jordan to help the Palestinians overcome difficult conditions.

Camel trainers run their camels past construction developments opposite the Nad al-Sheba race truck in Dubai on 20 June, 2006.—INTERNET
Switzerland send Togo crashing out

DORTMUND, 20 June— Switzerland overcame a stiff challenge from World Cup debutants Togo on Monday ending the African side's hopes with a battling 2-0 win.

After suffering in ferociously hot conditions during their opening 0-0 draw with France, the Swiss still had to work hard with Alex Frei's strike in the 16th minute and Tranquillo Barnetta's 88th minute drive finally dividing the teams.

Togo, whose players had threatened on Sunday to boycott the match over a long-running internal pay dispute, seemed unhampered by the unorthodox build-up as the game finally got underway.

Aside from Frei's goal, there was little to distinguish the two teams during the first half with Switzerland enjoying plenty of possession but Togo looking the more dangerous on the break.

Just as Switzerland were starting to look shaky, top scorer Frei came to his side's rescue once again, finishing off a well-worked move to claim his 25th international goal.

Right back Ludovic Magnin pressed forward before crossing the ball to Baretta who deftly flicked a first touch pass across the goalmouth for Frei to turn in.

Spain fight back to claim place in last 16

STUTTGART, 20 June— Late strikes from Raul and a Fernando Torres double saw Spain come from behind to claim a dramatic 3-1 win over Tunisia that clinched a place in the knockout stages of the World Cup.

Tunisia had looked on course for a shock Group H win over the much-fancied Spaniards when midfielder Ziad Jaziri had teed his way past three Spain defenders in the eighth minute.

The 2004 African champions looked as though they might keep Spain at bay as their defence deflected wave after wave of attacks in the second half. But Spain skipper Raul and fellow substitute Cesc Fabregas turned the course of the match.

Raul powered on the rebound after Fabregas' low shot from the edge of the area was parried by keeper Ali Boumnijel to level the scores 19 minutes from time.

Five minutes later Fabregas fed a great through ball to the feet of Fernando Torres who rounded Boumnijel and steered the ball into the empty net.

Torres then grabbed his second goal from the penalty spot, and became top scorer at the tournament with three goals, when he fired home in the first minute of stoppage time.

The striker, who had himself been fouled in the area by Substitute Ahmed Yahia, almost got a hat-trick late on but his drive was brilliantly saved by Boumnijel.

Spain had been quick off the mark, with striker David Villa of Spain is brought down by Anis Ayari of Tunisia.—INTERNET

Villa going close after five minutes when he fired a rasping shot into the side netting.

But Mmani stunned them with his early goal and although Spain enjoyed more of the possession they were unable to unlock the Tunisian defence in the first half.

Casillas had to react sharply to stop Jaziri sneaking in for a second while defender Hatem Trabelsi proved to be a real handful with his rampaging runs down the right flank.—MNA/Reuters

Ukraine's Anatoly Tymoshchuk tries an acrobatic kick.—INTERNET

Ukraine cruise past Saudi Arabia 4-0

HAMBURG, 20 June— Ukraine revived their hopes of advancing to the World Cup's second round with a crushing 4-0 victory over Saudi Arabia in World Cup Group H on Monday.

Goals from Andriy Rusol and Serhiy Rebrov had given a fired-up Ukrainian side a deserved 2-0 lead before Andriy Shevchenko headed home from an inswinging free kick just a minute after halftime.

The striker, who had himself been fouled in the area by Substitute Ahmed Yahia, almost got a hat-trick late on but his drive was brilliantly saved by Boumnijel.

Torres then grabbed his second goal from the penalty spot, and became top scorer at the tournament with three goals, when he fired home in the first minute of stoppage time.

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China to evaluate local officials on energy-efficiency

Hangzhou, 20 June — China is encouraging officials to spare some of their attention, usually focused on GDP growth, for energy conservation.

Zhejiang, an economically booming province in the country’s east, has decided to add energy efficiency to the evaluation system on local officials’ performance.

Eleven mayors and 58 county heads in the province have recently been appointed as top officials in charge of local energy-saving work.

The new indicator is intended to encourage officials to score more by lowering enterprises’ costs, promoting technological innovation and adjusting industrial structures for energy and ecological security, according to Lu Zushan, the province’s governor.

The coastal province, like most developed areas in the country, is suffering from a sharp conflict between energy shortage and galloping economy.

The average per capita GDP in Zhejiang exceeded 3,400 US dollars in 2005, while 95 percent of its resources relied on imports or transfer from other places in China.

The province has set a goal which requires the energy consumption per unit of GDP in 2010 decline by 15 percent from 2005, Lu said.

Some government officials used to be indifferent to energy conservation, as exemplified by their ignorance of energy wasting in government buildings they worked every day.

A survey showed that the daily per capita electricity consumption by the provincial administration centre building in 2004 was nine times that of common residential buildings.

The building was later driven to upgrade its energy-saving measures, including raising the temperatures of air-conditions, using central heating system and power-saving lights.

In addition to Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shandong, Hebei, Gansu provinces and Shanghai have also decided to evaluate officials’ performance on energy conservation.

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan called earlier this month for the establishment of a new evaluation system that relates energy-efficiency to the appraisal of local officials. — MNA/Xinhua

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, tourists and young people of the Dai ethnic group splash water to cool off in the hot weather during the Fourth Dai Water-splashing Carnival in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on Monday, 19 June, 2006. — Internet

WEATHER

Tuesday, 20 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Kayin State, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Magway Division and isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Aunglan (3.70) inches, Chauk (1.81) inches, Myingyan (1.70) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (1.56) inches, Pathein (1.42) inches, Kyaukpyu (1.15) inches and Yathmein (1.10) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-6-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 20-6-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hours MST on 20-6-2006 was (93%). Total sunshine hours on 19-6-2006 was (2.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-6-2006 were (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.31) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.12) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (21.73) inches at Mingaladon, (29.84) inches at Kaba-Aye and (34.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (18.15) hours MST on 19-6-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Anamal Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-6-2006: Rain or thunder showers will be scattered in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin States and Bago Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Shan and Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and Magway Divisions.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-6-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-6-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-6-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stresses to grow 100,000 acres of rubber in Rakhine State

YANGON, 19 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence took part in the ceremony to grow physic nut in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 16 June.

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein, Brig-Gen Yar Pyi of Kyauktaw Station, senior military officers, departmental personnel, Tatmadawmen, social organizations and local people also grew physic nut at the ceremony.

After hearing the reports on physic nut growing methods presented by officials, he distributed physic nut saplings to them.

(See page 10)

Measures taken for smooth transport between Yangon West University and Ayeywalay Village

YANGON, 20 June—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the road project between Yangon West University and Ayeywalay Village in Htantabin Township this morning.

The project is being implemented for smooth transport in Yangon Division by the Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges) of the Yangon City Development Committee.

He was welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hlay Win and chairman of Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Head of the department U Bo Htay and the engineer in charge reported on the laying of gneiss and asphalt, the tarring of the road, work progress, and future tasks. The mayor gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into the construction site.

So far, out of the 16,500-foot road, the 11,500-foot section has been covered with gneiss, the 9,510-foot section with two-inch-thick tar, the 9,118-foot section with first layer of tar, and the 8,745-foot section with asphalt. —MNA

Weather Forecast for (21-6-2006)

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

Yango & neighbouring areas
Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

WORLD CUP 2006

Germany 3
Ecuador 0
Poland 2
Costa Rica 1

NLD carrying out activities heading for collision course that could cause hardships of nation and people

YANGON 20 June — U Bo Ke, member of social assistance committee of Namhsan Township National League for Democracy, Shan State (South), resigned of his own volition from the party and sent his letter of resignation to NLD Headquarters and local authorities on 10 May.

In his letter of resignation sent to Namhsan Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commission, he said that he joined the NLD in 1990 and served the duty of social assistance committee member on 13 May 2002. The NLD did not carry out party politics only and its activities headed for the collision course that could cause hardships of the nation and the people. That was why he was disappointed with its acts and resigned from the post of member of social assistance committee and party member. —MNA