**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of Mandalay downtown, Mandalay Industrial Zone**

NAV PYI TAW, 22 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and departmental officials, viewed thriving physic nut plants in Nanmyo of Mandalay on 20 June morning.

They inspected the construction of the 500,000-gallon-capacity water tank and No 4 booster station on 60th Street between 22nd and 25th streets. The pump station will supply two million gallons of water to the public daily.


Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected repaving of the road section measuring 4,284 feet long and 30 feet wide between 65th and 73rd streets being undertaken by MCDC in Chammyathazi Township.

They oversaw upgrading of roads in Chammyathazi and Pyigyidagun Townships. (See page 7)

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In introducing democracy to a nation, it is required to abide by the rules and regulations but to refrain from mobocracy and anarchism. Looking forward to the progress of the future nation with peace and stability, the government is therefore building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline that is not associated with mobocracy and anarchism.

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 23 June, 2006

Grow more monsoon paddy for food sufficiency

As the Union of Myanmar is an agricultural country, working for the development of all the economic sectors with the development of agriculture as the base is a practical approach. Therefore, virgin and vacant land is being reclaimed to increase the acreage of arable land and priority is being given to per-acre yields of various crops.

To boost the production of the agriculture sector, irrigation facilities are being constructed wherever possible to supply sufficient water to farmland. With the emergence of dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses and other crops can now be extended.

As Bago Division is a region where farming industry flourishes, it is one of the regions that can contribute to national economy. Efforts are being made to put more than 3 million acres of farmland under monsoon paddy and extend the cultivation of other crops suitable to the region. In addition to paddy, priority should also be given to the cultivation of rubber, pepper and physic nut from which bio diesel can be extracted.

Regiments and units, departments and farmers in Shweyin Township, Bago Division, are growing these major crops on a manageable scale as well as on a commercial scale. Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 is taking care of rubber trees on 2,000 out of 6,000 acres of rubber it has grown and will grow more in this rainy season.

With reclamation of more arable land, supply of more water to farmland, use of quality strains and new farming methods, more monsoon and summer paddy can be grown. In this way, yields of various crops will increase, thus contributing to food sufficiency.

**200 acres in oil field put under physic nut**

**Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi views growing of physic nut plants at Chauk Oil Field.** — MNA

YANGON, 22 June — After the physic nut cultivation ceremony in Chauk and Yenangyoung Oil Field on 19 June, the number of physic nut acres reached nearly 200 in the region.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi participated in the ceremony held in Chauk on 19 June. Magway Division, together with employees of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the ministry and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

A total of 2,000 people volunteered for the cultivation of 200 acres of physic nut plants — 106 acres in Chauk and 93 acres in Yenangyoung.

So far, 224,000 physic nut plants have been grown on 200 acres in Chauk and Yenangyoung Oil Field.

**4th Conference of MWJA on 1, 2 July**

YANGON, 22 June — The 4th Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will be held at Pyidaungsu Hall in Kyaikkasan Grounds on 1 and 2 July 2006.

Delegates from the States and Divisions are to contact the office of Management Committee on 30 June and a preliminary meeting is to be held at the same venue at 7 pm on 30 June. So, the delegates are to arrive in time, it is learnt.

**Commander, ministers inspect power plants in Kayah, Shan States**

YANGON, 22 June — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min and Loikaw Station Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint Shwe, accompanied by the deputy minister, the director-general of Hydro-Electric Power Implementation Department and officials, inspected storage of water, functions of the water intake building, valves of the sluice gate and supply of water to the No 1 Power Plant at Dawtacha Dam near Loikaw on 18 June.

Biluhaung No 1 Power Plant equipped with two 14-megawatt generators generates 200 million kwh yearly and supply to Toungoo, Yangon, Kalaw, Thazi and Mandalay through No 2 Power Plant (Lawpita).

The commander, the minister and party also inspected tasks of Biluhaung No 2 Power Plant. Biluhaung No 2 Power Plant is installed with six 28-megawatt generators to produce 1,200 million kwh annually. The electricity is being supplied to Yangon, Kalaw, Thazi, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Loikaw, Moebye, Dimawhso, Prusho and other towns through Toungoo and Hlawga sub-power stations.

At Tikyt Coal-Fired Power Plant in Pinaung Township, they inspected the test-running of the plant. On 19 June, Minister Col Zaw Min and party inspected tasks of Shan Yoma Naga Coal Mine.

**Member of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Daw Khin Than Cho recently accepted K 100,000 donated by Ko Kyaw Swa Myint, Ma Bauk Mai and friends of Archer Company Ltd of 45-B, Masoein Lane-I, 9th mile, Mayangon Township.** — MNA
Cuba tells EU end “complicity” on CIA flights

GENEVA, 21 June — Cuba on Tuesday called on the European Union (EU) to end a “silent complicity” under which it said the bloc had allowed secret CIA flights to transport terror suspects to detention centres in Europe for interrogation.

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, in a speech to the United Nations Human Rights Council, also accused the United States of running a “concentration camp” at its Guantanamo naval base on Cuba, where some 460 people are being held.

The new Geneva forum, which replaces the widely-discredited UN Human Rights Commission, opened its first session on Monday amid calls by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and others to avoid the finger-pointing and political point-scoring of old.

Cuba awaited a “rectification to the silent complicity” with which it said the EU had allowed hundreds of secret flights by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) carrying “kidnapped people and the establishment of clandestine prisons right on European soil, where prisoners are tortured and harassed”, Perez said.

“So far, the European Union has hypocritically hindered the investigation and the clarification of these events,” he added.

A Council of Europe investigator, Swiss Dick Marty, said earlier this month that more than 20 mostly European nations had colluded in a “global spider’s web” of secret CIA jails and flights of terrorist suspects stretching from Asia to Guantanamo Bay.

The United States — which has maintained a stance of neither denying nor confirming the allegations — chose not to stand last month for election to the new UN rights watchdog, but has said it may do so next year.

Perez also accused the EU of having lobbied unsuccessfully at Washington’s behest against Havana winning a seat on the new 47-member body.

“The absence of the United States is the defeat of lie; it is the moral punishment for the haughtiness of an empire,” Perez said.

Giant panda numbers surprise scientists

BEIJING, 20 June— Scientists say giant pandas may not be as much danger of extinction as feared, with a new British-Chinese study finding there could be twice as many living in the wild as previously thought.

“This finding indicates that the species may have a significantly better chance of long-term viability than recently anticipated, and that this beautiful animal may have a brighter future,” the scientists said in a statement.

Until now scientists thought there were about 1,950 giant pandas living in reserves in the mountains of China. Pandas, one of the world’s most endangered and elusive animals, are dependent on bamboo found in that area.

But scientists from Cardiff University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences now think there could be as many as 3,000 there after a survey using a new method to profile DNA from panda faeces revealed there was more than double the number of estimated pandas in one reserve. “This was surprising and exciting. In our opinion, the same para-meters can be applied across the whole mountain range,” Mike Bruford, professor of biodiversity at Cardiff University’s School of Biosciences, said.

Romanian soldier killed in Afghan blast

KABUL, 21 June — A roadside bomb hit a convoy of Romanian troops in Afghanistan’s southern province of Kandahar on Tuesday, killing a Romanian soldier and wounding four others, a spokesman for the US-led coalition said.

Major Quentin Innes said the blast struck a car in the convoy on the road from Kandahar City to the airport, a coalition base.

“A Romanian patrol convoy was hit... resulting in the death of one Romanian soldier and wounding four others,” he said.

In another incident, US forces on Tuesday shot dead three Afghan police who were on their way to disperse a group of residents who had blocked a main road in Wata Pur of eastern Kunar Province to protest the shooting of two women by US soldiers, provincial police chief said.

One of the two later died in a US military hospital, Abdul Jalal Jalal told reporters. The women were wounded two days ago after US soldiers fired at homes in Wata Pur when a vehicle of the convoy they were in was hit by a roadside bomb.

Two more Filipino journalists shot dead by gunmen

MANILA, 21 June — Two more Filipino journalists were shot dead on late Monday by unknown gunmen in Kidapawan City, the capital of Cotabato Province in the southern island of Mindanao, police said on Tuesday.

A husband-and-wife team of local radio news commentators, an ABS-CBN TV report quoted a police official as saying.

George Vigo and his wife Mazel were on their way home late on Monday when the gunmen on a motorcycle shot them, said Kidapawan police chief Danny Reyes.

“They died on the way to the hospital from several bullet wounds in the head and body,” Reyes told reporters.

The local police were trying to determine if the murders were related to their work at a local radio station, the report said.

Landslides kill 24 in Indonesia, 23 missing

JAKARTA, 21 June — Landslides caused by heavy rain on Indonesia’s eastern Sulawesi have killed 24 people, while another 23 are missing, an official said on Tuesday.

Two days of rain had caused landslides and floods in several areas in South Sulawesi Province. Sinjai regency was the worst-hit area after major flooding hit the area early on Tuesday, rescuers and police said.

Paramedics remove a woman from the Federal Correctional Institute in Tallahassee, Florida, on 21 June, 2006. A federal agent and a prison guard were shot dead and another worker was injured in a gunfight during an arrest attempt at a federal detention centre in north Florida on Wednesday, the FBI said.

“20 June another good day for Singaporeans to get married

SINGAPORE, 21 June — A total of 171 couples in Singapore chose to get married Tuesday because the date is written as “20-06-2006”, Channel NewsAsia report said at night.

The number is more than three times the daily average of 50 couples.

The double date, which happens to be in the World Cup season, is special and interesting to some Singaporeans and a couple even flew back from the United States to tie the knot on the day, the report said. On 6 June this year, an 11-year record number of 310 couples went through their marriage registration in Singapore because the date is written as “060606”.

Many Chinese believe that the number “6” stands for good luck and doing things smoothly.

“De boot” King Albert II of Belgium gives his coat to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands as they start a tourist cruise in Ghent on 21 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Clouds of dust rise from behind a truck as it crosses a road near the main Mazar-i-Sharif airport, northern Afghanistan, on 21 June, 2006. The truck was carrying military supplies to the American led coalition forces in the area.

Diverse yet peaceful coexistence is the only possible path for determining a new peaceful democratic order: President and Prime Minister Mr. Abdur Rashid Dostum during a press conference in Mazar-i-Sharif, northern Afghanistan, on 21 June, 2006.

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Near the Economic and Social Council.—
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But despite signs of progress, extreme poverty has
conditions are not improving, a new United Nations
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Fish oil supplements ease
ADHD symptoms
A University of South
Australia study gave more

than 130 children with
attention deficit hyperactivity
disorder a combination of fish oil and
evening primrose oil for
up to seven months.
At the end of the trial
almost half the children
showed a reduction in their

symptoms.
The head scientist,
Natalie Sinn, says the
results suggest that an
inadequate diet could
cause ADHD.

"[It] could be deficient
diet, could be an inherited
metabolic problem that is
making them deficient in
the omega-3 fatty acids
and hence creating a
greater requirement for
supplementation,” she
said.—INTERNET

Number of global millionaires grows

Dubai, 20 June—United Arab Emirates — The
increasing ease of becoming a millionaire became
clear on Tuesday, with the announcement that the
ranks of world millionaires had swelled to 8.7 million
last year — half a million more than the population
of New York City.

Millionaires also invested more aggressively,
pouring cash into emerging markets and pulling it out
of fixed income holdings, as their wealth reached
$3.3 trillion, more than double US economic output,
a study by Merrill Lynch and consultancy Capgemini
found. The red-hot Middle East saw nearly 10 percent
growth in millionaires — the world’s fastest rate —
with record oil revenues and soaring stock markets
pushing 300,000 people over the million-dollar mark.

“This is becoming a very attractive place to invest,”
said Mones R Bazzry, Merrill Lynch’s head of Middle
East private banking, based in the Gulf boomtown of
Dubai. One factor in the Middle East’s growth in
millionaires was the stock markets that spiked by more
than 100 percent in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab
Emirates last year.

Worldwide, the number of millionaires has nearly
doubled since Merrill Lynch found 4.5 million of them
in 1996. Last year’s 6.5 percent growth in millionaires
slowed slightly over last year’s 6.6 percent, with the
US and Europe slowing most alongside their cooling
economies.

But the ranks of the ultra-rich — those worth more
than $30 million — climbed by more than 10 percent
to 85,400.—INTERNET

Poorest countries see some
growth but poverty rates persist

United Nations, 21 June — An increase in
development aid since 2002 has raised health and
education standards and hastened gender equality
among the world’s poorest nations, but overall poverty
conditions are not improving, a new United Nations
report said on Monday.

The 2006 annual progress report of UN Secretary-
General Kofi Annan on the implementation of the
Programme of Action for the Least Developed
Countries (LDCs) said that domestic reforms and a
revival of commodity prices have underpinned strong
economic growth in many of those States. A number of
them also benefited from a steep rise in oil prices.

But despite signs of progress, extreme poverty has
depended, and overall social indicators remain cause
for concern, the report warned.

Chronic poverty continues to be aggravated by
diseases such as HIV/AIDS and by environmental
degradation, said the report, which Annan submitted
to the Economic and Social Council.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam consistently adheres to
friendly ties with China

Hanoi, 21 June—Vietnam treasures the
development of relations and clings to the
unchangeable friendship with China, hoping to
to ceaselessly promote exchange and cooperation
between the two parties, states, peoples as well as
among organizations and localities, a local official
said here Tuesday.

Pham The Duyet, Chairman of the Vietnam
Fatherland Front, made
the statement when
meeting with Hu Qun-
wen, Chinese Ambassa-
dor to Vietnam.

Duyet said he hoped the
two sides will unceasingly
reinforce and deepen the
mutual understanding and

traditional friendship
between the two peoples,
and strengthen the
publicity and education
about the Vietnam-China
traditional friendship
among the youths, especially youths, to
inherit the friendship
looked after by leaders of
the two countries, facili-
tating the bilateral ties to
enter a new period.

Duyet expressed thanks
to the Chinese Govern-
ment and people for
having actively searched
for Vietnamese fishermen
missing in the Typhoon
Chanchu, saying that it
shows the fraternal
friendly relations between
the two countries.

Hu stressed China
attaches importance
to developing the friendly
and cooperative relations with
Vietnam.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian company starts
biodiesel project

Rio de Janeiro, 21 June—Brazilian bio-
diesel producer BS Bios on Tuesday started
constructing the country’s first biodiesel plant,
which is expected to produce fuel from vegetable
oils and reduce diesel fuel imports.

To be located in Passo Fundo, in the Rio
Grande do Sul State, the
plant will be able to
produce 100 million litres
of biodiesel annually
when it starts production
in 2007, said Minister of
Rural Development
Guilherme Cassel.

Using soy, canola
and sunflower seeds to
produce biodiesel, the
plant will process around
90 tons of grains per
year. It is expected to
create over 1,100 jobs
and around 4,100
families who produce
grains in 100 towns near
Passo Fundo will be
benefited, said Cassel.

BS Bios invested 40.9
million reais (17.7
million US dollars) in the
project. The company’s
commercial director
Erasmo Carlos Battistella
said the plant is near
major fuel distributors,
who are future possible
clients.

The project also
received the Social Fuel
Stamp from Brazil’s
Ministry of Rural De-
velopment, enabling it to
buy cheaper raw materials
from local producers.

MNA/Xinhua

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to the Economic and Social Council.——MNA/Xinhua
Hydrogen-powered buses debut in China

BEIJING, 21 June—Three hydrogen-powered buses appeared in streets of Beijing on Tuesday, bringing emission-free public transport to China for the first time.

“This marks the first public operation of fuel-cell buses in Beijing, it is the first ever in China, and one of the first in a developing country,” said Renaud Meyer, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in China. “The hydrogen refuelling station will be fully operational this summer.” The buses will run 18.2 kilometres from the North Gate of the Summer Palace to the university district at Wudaokou.

Thirty-three fuel-cell buses have been released onto the streets in eight European countries including Britain, Germany and Spain. “It is our hope that through this project, we can build the foundation towards full-scale commercialization of hydrogen fuel-cell buses to promote sustainable transport, the use of renewable energy, and cleaner air,” Meyer said.

In Beijing and Shanghai, public buses are among one of the major contributors to air pollution. Later this year three more fuel-cell buses will be launched in Shanghai and a hydrogen refuelling station will be built. Beijing will expand the hydrogen refuelling station, and use data from the operation of the three buses to support efforts to commercialize fuel-cell technology.

GAID vows to narrow digital divides in the world

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 June—The newly-born Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) Tuesday vowed to narrow the digital divides between the rich and the poor around the world. “The Alliance will strive to overcome the social and digital divides by promoting policies and partnerships,” GAID said in a statement issued at the end of its inaugural meeting at Putrajaya, the administrative centre of the Malaysian Government.

Translation of the commitments made at the World Summit of the Information Society into action would really make a tangible and sustained difference in the lives of billions of people who currently do not have the benefits of the information revolution, GAID said.

“The irony of the present situation is that those who are currently with the least access to technology are precisely the ones who would benefit the most if wonders of modern information and communication technologies become indeed accessible and relevant to all of humanity,” it said. The Alliance vowed to put the problems and needs of the majority of humanity onto the “radar screens” of thinkers, business executives and government decision makers by supporting and initiating ICT for Development (ICT4D) activities. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Daimler Chrysler fuel cell buses have begun to run from the North Gate of the Summer Palace to Wudaokou in Beijing on 20 June, 2006. This is the first public operation of fuel cell buses in Beijing and in China. The fuel cell bus doesn’t discharge any pollutants.—INTERNET

Diabetes rate doubles in 30 years

UNITED NATIONS, 21 June—The occurrence of new cases of type-II diabetes has doubled over the past three decades, a report in the American Heart Association’s journal Circulation says.

“Most, but not all, of the increase in diabetes occurred in people who were obese - those with a body mass index of 30 or more,” lead author Dr. Caroline S Fox said.

The findings are based on a study of 3104 subjects, with an average age of 47 years, who were free from diabetes when they enrolled in the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s.

After an initial examination, the subjects were followed to document the occurrence of diabetes over eight-year periods. In the 1970s, the incidence of diabetes was the lowest, at 2 per cent among women and 2.7 per cent among men.

By the 1990s, the corresponding rates had climbed to their highest points: 3.7 per cent and 5.8 per cent.

Compared with the 1970s, the risk of developing diabetes in the 1980s and 1990s increased by 40 per cent and 105 per cent, respectively.

As noted, obese individuals accounted for the bulk of the increase in the incidence of diabetes, the report says.

However, the researchers found that weight did not account for all of the increase in the odds of developing diabetes. They suggest that “changes in dietary and physical activity patterns that are independent of changes in body weight may also contribute to the present findings”.

For example, the team says another study shows “consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is an independent risk factor for diabetes, even after adjustment for weight gain”. —INTERNET

New bird flu outbreak in China’s Shaanxi Province

BEIJING, 21 June — A new bird flu outbreak has been reported in north China’s Shaanxi Province, said sources with the Ministry of Agriculture here Monday. The outbreak was identified after chickens died in poultry farms in Changzhi County of Changzhi City.

Samples of the dead poultry were sent to the national bird flu laboratory and the H5N1 virus was identified in them, said the ministry.

The local government has launched an emergency response and quarantined the infected area. Experts and veterinarians have started disinfection and culling poultry in the area to prevent possible new outbreaks. The local veterinarian department has stepped up publicity campaigns to teach residents how to protect themselves against the virus. The Ministry of Agriculture has also sent a team of experts to Changzhi and reported to the case to international organizations.

Mobile TV service attracts more industry players in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 21 June — Channel NewsAsia, Singapore’s sole news television (TV) channel, has begun providing third-generation (3G) mobile service subscribers in the city state with mobile TV news reports. Singapore Telecommunications’ (SingTel) subscribers can watch “video clips compacted into one-minute news” on their 3G mobile phones, according to a report by the channel on Tuesday.

This service is available in English and Mandarin twice a day from Monday to Friday at present and is expected to be extended to weekends later this year.

Meanwhile, world’s leading mobile phone maker Nokia regards Singapore as the next potential market to expand its multimedia business including mobile TV, a separate news report said Tuesday.

Mobile TV service attracts more industry players in S’pore

Given the nearly 100 per cent mobile phone penetration rate here, Singaporeans’ readiness to accept hi-tech products, as well as the support by the government and local firms, the Finnish company expects great potential in mobile broadcasting in the city state.

It is estimated that some 300 million mobile phone users worldwide can access TV programmes on their phones by the end of this year, according to the report. SingTel, one of the major telecommunications operators in Singapore, rolled out its 3G TV mobile service in November last year, while StarHub, one of SingTel’s rivals, launched its i-mode mobile Internet service a week later, which enabled users to access certain TV news web sites. — MNA/Xinhua

The photo shows the main building of the Lhasa Railway Station. The construction of the terminal station of Qinghai-Tibet Railway-Lhasa Station was completed on 20 June, 2006, Xinhua reported. It was the largest railway station alongside Qinghai-Tibet Railway. With its location in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, the station was built with an altitude of 3,600 metres.—INTERNET

China’s Shaanxi Province

Mobile TV service attracts more industry players in S’pore

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Lao Govt determined to deal with poverty issues

HANOI, 21 June — The Lao Government is planning strategies to reduce poverty in the next five years, Lao’s news agency KPL reported Monday.

Lao will focus on creating more permanent jobs for local people, especially those in rural and mountainous areas, while upgrading infrastructure and promoting agricultural production in the areas, according to a recent statement released by Prime Minister Bouasone Bounphavanh.

The government will offer 49,500 US dollars to each of 47 poorest districts nationwide to support agricultural production. It will also provide money to renovate revolutionary bases, mainly in remote areas with poor residents.

The government will keep on using a poverty reduction fund supported by the World Bank to develop infrastructure, including bridges and roads, in more remote areas. Half of the fund totalling 25 million dollars has been disbursed so far.

UNESCO awards literacy prize to Cuban agency

HAVANA, 21 June — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has awarded Cuba’s Latin American and Caribbean Educational Agency the 2006 Rey Sejong Literacy Prize for its Yo Si Puedo (Yes I can) literacy programme, Cuba’s official newspaper Granma said on Tuesday.

The UNESCO committee which includes judges from the United States, Ecuador, South Korea, China, Senegal and Syria, described the Cuban programme as innovative, flexible and applicable.

The programme has been tested in both rural and urban areas, and Cuban teachers have managed to design a model that contains measures which allow teachers to see the impact of developing literacy in the family and the community as well as the individual.

Hecto Hernandez Pardo, Cuba’s representative to UNESCO, said that the award was for a programme that was specifically designed to help teach literacy overseas.

It has already received awards from Pakistan’s National Human Development Commission, Turkey’s Mother and Child Education Foundation, Morocco’s Education Ministry, and the Permanent Education and Literacy Agency of the Indian state of Rajasthan, Pardo added.

The prize will be presented on September 8 as part of the United Nations’ International Literacy Day.

Venezuela plans to produce own rocket launcher

CARACAS, 21 June — Venezuela will begin producing its own rocket launcher in four months in a bid to reduce its reliance on imported military equipment, Army Colonel Ender Galvis said on Tuesday.

Galvis told the state-run Bolivarian News Agency that the plan was part of a campaign by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to reduce military dependence and boost defence capacity.

The rocket launcher weighing nine kilograms has a range of two kilometres, and “the materials used in manufacturing this weapon are 100 per cent Venezuelan”, Galvis said.

He did not say how many of the weapons Venezuela would produce.

Chavez has signed defence deals worth about 2.7 billion US dollars to modernise the Venezuelan military.

Over 25 Indian children die of suspected encephalitis

NEW DELHI, 21 June — More than 25 children have died of suspected encephalitis in Bihar, India in the past few days, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Monday.

The dead in the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar reported sudden light fever in the early morning and then bouts of unconsciousness and convulsion before their death.

The Muzaffarpur District administration has sounded a high alert and doctors confirmed the deaths of the children due to suspected encephalitis.

Muzaffarpur-based SK Medical College and Hospital superintendent GK Thakur has urged health experts to visit Muzaffarpur to study the cause of spread of the disease and preventive measures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also expressed serious concern over the recurrence of encephalitis in Muzaffarpur.

This is the third time in seven years that encephalitis has hit Muzaffarpur. Last year over 30 children died of the disease in the district.

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This is the third time in seven years that encephalitis has hit Muzaffarpur. Last year over 30 children died of the disease in the district.
Yangon Division Police Force holds work coord meeting

Yangon, 22 June — A work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Police Force for 2006 took place at the office of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win. The commander said that the officials of Yangon Division PF were to strive for reduction of crimes, to commit themselves to the elimination of gambling as a national duty and to cooperate with the relevant forces in exposing the destructive elements within and without nation.

At the meeting, Police Col Hla Min, commander of Yangon Division PF, clarified measures to be taken and Police Lt-Col Se Maung discussed matters related to taking punishment. Heads of District and Township Police Forces also took part in the discussions.

Secretary of Yangon Division PDC, Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, departmental officials and others were present at the meeting. — MNA

Commander, Minister inspect fish breeding tasks in Pyinmana District

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein yesterday afternoon explained cooperation between Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for boosting production of fisheries at Yezin Fishery Camp in Pyinmana District.

The commander and the minister inspected the camp to sell 56 million fingerlings yearly and breeding of fish at the net cage in dams, rivers and creeks. The plan is underway to breed fish at the water area in Pyinmana District.

232 drug-related cases exposed in May

YANGON, 22 June — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department managed to expose 232 drug-related cases during May 2006. The drug-related cases exposed were 178,0036 kilos of opium in 42 cases, 24,8139 kilos of heroin in 79 cases, 343 kilos of morphine in one case, 6,5401 kilos of opium in 13 cases, 2,8238 kilos of low grade opium in 12 cases, 2,0176 kilos of morphine in one case, 714,630 kilos of stimulant tablets in 42 cases, 38,6415 kilos of opium in 18 cases, 75 ampoules of morphine injection in one case, 10,353 kilos of chemical liquid, 600 kilos of chemical powder, 2 cases for failure to register and other 6 cases. Action was taken against 374 persons—304 men and 70 women in 232 drug-related cases in May.

One of the remarkable cases, acting on information, a combined team searched Kyaw Guest House in No. 4 Ward of PyinOoLwin on 17 May and seized 7,920 stimulant tablets bearing WY letters inside the plastic bag of Myo Win (a) Sha Ku. Action was taken against Myo Win (a) Sha Ku by PyinOoLwin police station. A combined team, acting on information, stopped and searched a red van with a number plate 4 Ka/4769 driven by Hon Chin Yan and Lotar Myint in Muse and seized eight heroin blocks weighing 2.64 kilo. Action was taken against Hon Chin Yan and Lotar Myint by Muse police station.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 22 June — Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, accompanied by Director U Khin Maung Aye of No. 2 Basic Education Department and officials, on 20 June inspected the learning of students at No 1 BEHS, No 2 BEHS and No 3 BEHS in Pyinmana and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the deputy minister urged the students to work hard from the beginning of the academic year to be able to do well in the matriculation examination.

Then, the deputy minister and party visited No 6 BEHS and No 5 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and held discussions on child-centered teaching methods and higher qualification of students. — MNA

Arrival of gems merchants up

YANGON, 22 June — The arrival of merchants to the Jade, gems and pearl special sales for 2006 is spiralling up and so far, 2,157 have arrived.

A total of 757 local merchants from 330 companies and 1,400 merchants from 372 companies abroad examined gems and jade and pearl lots today.

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

Yadanabon Arts Gallery to be opened

YANGON, 22 June — Yadanabon Arts Gallery of Mandalay Association (Yangon) will be opened at No 628/632 at the corner of 30th Street and Merchant Street in Pabedan Township.

According to the association, an art exhibition will be staged at the new place under the title of “Classical & Fine Arts” from 25 June to 8 July to mark the gallery’s first opening and famous artists will exhibit their works. — NLN

Victory In Combating Drugs

* If children get whatever they want, they are wrongly pampered.
* What’s wrong and right.
* What’s good and bad.
* If they’re not corrected with reasoning, wrong is not right, fall into wrong path.
* Wrong path leads to wrong actions.
* With wrongful company, start with smoking.
* Then start on drugs.
* White powder gives new feeling.
* The elevation leads to hell on earth that’s bad end.
* Life will be at a loss.
* Human existence will be wasted.
* Life will end...
* Human existence will be wasted.
* Because dangers are enormous.

Let’s wage and fight.

On a national stance.

For Myanmar’s victory.

Wage with fervour.

* Cheint Naing (Trs)
The plots of saboteurs inside and outside the nation and the truth that should be realized — 3

Soe Mya Kyaw and Saw Mya Aung

It is common knowledge that alien powers regard the nations like Myanmar that do not accept alien domination as their enemy nations or the target of their political warfare. The people are therefore on the whole vigilant against the ongoing political warfare operation of the alien powers through which they are persuading Myanmar’s friendly nations and the nations that support Myanmar to marginalize the country and to bring forward Myanmar affairs to the UN Security Council to take action against it.

In the book “Political Warfare” by American mediamen John Scott, tactics of the political warfare are stated such as to weaken the strength of the enemy, if possible to destroy the enemy, if possible to weaken the strength of the enemy, by the Western powers is the economic sanction, impose terrorist acts. They are stating such as the enemy, if possible to destroy the enemy; if not, to weaken the strength of the enemy, political warfare operation are stated such as the tactics of the political warfare. In introducing democracy to a nation, it is required to abide by the rules and regulations but to refrain from mobocracy and anarchism. Looking forward to the progress of the future nation with peace and stability, the government is therefore building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline that is not associated with mobocracy and anarchism. In other words, in accord with the desire of the people, the government is pursuing the national goal through ways and means. However, it is disheartening to learn the tactics designed to incite the revolution. As the victims can file law suits against the criminals only after the revolution, it’s like telling them to prosecute the violators from their grave.

The report also says that unlike the 1988 unrest, the democracy revolution will end within days as everything is ready for the formation of a new government and its goal is to materialize the 1990 election result. But who will descend from the markets from bamboo platform to bloodbath and inferno resulting from the brainwork of the national and merciless persons? In the conclusion part, the instigative letter urges experienced politicians, all the political parties, all the Pyithu

(See page 9)
There has been a guidance given by the Head of State that, if taken for granted, independence can be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation and that the struggle to gain it, however, may cost dearly and take time. All need to be cautious of the conspiracies of the internal and external destructive elements to undermine the favourable conditions in a short time.
Minister meets with service personnel, hoteliers in Muse, PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June — Minister for Hotel and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, together with Director-General of Hotel and Tourism Service U Htay Aung, arrived at Lashio on 16 June. And the minister met with responsible personnel and hoteliers of Lashio, Muse and Hsibaw. Next, the minister gave instructions on strenuous efforts to be made for cooperation with the ministry for ensuring more tourists arrival at Lashio region as the hotel and tourism service help contribute towards the economic development of the State. Afterwards, Director-General U Htay Aung reported to the minister on measures taken by hoteliers. After hearing the reports, the minister attended to the needs. Upon arrival at Muse, the minister met with service personnel of Myanmar Tourism Service and hoteliers and travel agents in Muse.

The following day the minister met with service personnel of Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Services in PyinOoLwin and gave instructions on strenuous efforts to be made for development of hotel services.

YANGON, 22 June — High ranking officials of ASEAN nations and ASEAN Secretariat today held a meeting on establishment of a free trade area among ASEAN, Australia and Newzeland. The meeting was held at Sedona Hotel here and they discussed rules and regulations of tax, principles, trade and investment and cooperation in the free trade area. The meeting will continue tomorrow. — MNA

2nd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting, 1st ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting commence

The opening of the Second ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting in progress at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

ASEAN to establish free trade area with Australia, Newzeland

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YANGON, 22 June — The Second ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning. It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Cambodian Minister for Health Dr Nuth Sokhom, Singaporean Minister for Health Dr Khaw Boon Wan, Brunei Minister for Health Mr Pehin Dato Suyoi Osman, Malaysian Minister for Health Dato’ Chua Soi Lek, Laoitain Minister for Health Dr Ponnmek Dalaloy, Thai Deputy Minister for Health Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Health Mr Tran Chi Liem, Philippines Under Secretary of Health Dr Ethelya P Nieto, Indonesian Director-General of the Ministry of Health I Nyoman Kandun, Chinese Deputy Minister Dr Wang Longde, Japanese Assistant Minister for Technical Affairs Dr Takashi Toguchi, Korean Director-General Dr Dukhyoung Lee of the Ministry of Health, and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Wilfrido V Villacorta and senior officials. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Japanese Assistant Minister for Technical Affairs Dr Takashi Toguchi presided over the meeting. They discussed matters related to the ASEAN Unity in Health Emergencies and the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II workplan.

Next, the meeting issued a joint statement. At 11 am, the First ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting followed at the same venue, presided over by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. Participants of the meeting discussed matters related to the ASEAN+China Public Health Fund, control and combating HIV, and regional cooperation in prevention against bird flu and emerging diseases.

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CEC member meets USDA members in Toungoo, Thantauung

Yangon, 22 June — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min arrived at the USDA office in Toungoo on 18 June and met with Joint-Secretary of Bago Division (East) USDA U Nyi Nyi Myint and the secretary and members of Toungoo Township USDA and held discussions with them on regional development matters.

Next, the CEC member arrived at Thantauung Township USDA office and met with the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council and the secretary and members of the township USDA and held discussions with them on rural development tasks. The following day he met with local people and USDA members in Kanyoe Village in Toungoo and held discussions with them on agriculture and rural development tasks. — MNA

YANGON, 22 June — The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department today issued an announcement with regard to reconstructing and restocking of poultry farming in the areas where bird flu broke out. In 13 townships of Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, H5N1 bird flu disease broke out from the second week of March to the end of first week in April 2006. Therefore, 0.342 million of chickens, 0.32 million of quail, 0.18 million eggs and 1.3 tons of feedstuff were destroyed at 545 poultry farms. Now, the disease had been under control since 8 April.

Two experts from FAO and veterinarians of LBVD tested sample of disease of chickens and ducks from the destroyed farms. However, they did not find any virus of the disease. Though they took measures of regular diagnosis in Taikkyi, Hlegu, Hmawby, Insein and Mingala Taungnyunt, Thanlyin, Kayan and Thongwa Townships, any virus of bird flu was not found. At present, some experts are performing the test of samples of chickens and ducks in Bago, Thantatip, Toungoo, Daiku and Pyay Townships. In addition, they have been taking measures of regular diagnosis at laboratories by collecting plasma of the poultry and wild birds from townships in Shan State (South) since 19 June.

Spraying pesticides in poultry farms has been conducted in 13 townships of Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions according to schedules since the occurrence of the bird flu.

Due to breaking out of bird flu, transport of chickens and eggs was controlled during March and April. Local authorities, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health, Development Committee and Myanmar Fisheries Federation coordinated to open flow of commodities among States and Divisions beginning 1 May.


The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries will perform restocking and restructuring tasks such as surveillance of bird flu at poultry farms for three months, breeding of 50-100 chickens as sentinel bird at the farms, and construction of the saved bio-security poultry farm, allotment of the land for building chicken breeding zone outside Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, distribution of quality chicken pedigrees, supply of feedstuff, establishment of new network among the breeders, and talks on prevention against bird flu. Staff of LBVD, Health Department and UNICEF will make field trips to townships of Shwebo District where bird flu broke out and townships of Pathein District where the bird flu did not break out and will disseminate knowledge on bird flu control functions to the local people.

The LBVD has issued a reminder to breeders that they need to systematically trade poultry farming products. — MNA

Notice to Mariners

Yangon, 22 June — The PCM II Company in cooperation with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise will carry out the oil exploration at Block No M-4. — MNA

Cash, kind donated in honour of 4th Conference of MWJA

Yangon, 22 June — Hailing the 4th Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Dawbon Township WJA donated 250 pieces of publication worth K 100,000, Tin Shwe Sarpay K 100,000, Mohnin Township WJA K 20,000, Daw Saw Myint of Pathein K 100,000, U Bo Kyin (Dr Bo Thammam) K 11,700, U Kyaw Swa-Daw San San Myint K 10,000, Writer Nay Aung Aung (Jein Phaw Myay) K 10,000, Writer (Aung Lan -See Pay) K 5,000 and Taikkyi Township WJA K 5,000.

Vice-Chairman of MWJA U Than Maung (Than Maung) and officials accepted the donation. Cash or kind may be donated at Sarpay Beikman (first floor) at the corner of No 529 Merchant Street and 37th Street, Tel: 252417, 254173. — MNA

Educative talks on health held at Thakayta’s school

Yangon, 22 June — Health Sub-working Group of the Social and Cultural Working Group under Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation yesterday organized the educative talks on health at No 2 Basic Education High School in Thakayta Township.

Dr Khin Mar Aye of the Heal Sub-working Group gave talks on the dengue fever and diarrhoea and personnel hygiene and the prevention against infectious diseases. — MNA

Winners in article contest announced

Yangon, 22 June — The winners in the article contest hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2006 was announced today.

Dr Cho Cho Tint (Ma Tin-Myanmarso) won the first prize, Daw Nilar Myint (Nilar Myint) the second and Dr Kyaw Min Aung and Ma Saw Einda Thet Maung the joint third. Consolation prize winners were Daw Myat Myat Kyaw (Myat Myat Kyaw-Law), Daw Thin Thin Oo (Shem Mya Thin), Daw Su Khin Lay Oo (Su Khin Lay Oo), Daw Than Than Soe (Thwe Htar Nyo-Thakhalala), Ma Zin Mar Hte (Lay Thita-Magway), Daw Nan Saw Nyunt (Saw Nge Mohnyn), Daw Thida Sve (Khin Thida Sve) and Ma Thin Nu Sve (Thin Nu Sve).

The first, second and third prize winners will be awarded prizes at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day to be organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation on 3 July. State and Division WAOs will present consolation prizes to respective winners at the respective ceremonies.

The winners are to report to MWAF, 132, Thanlwint Road, Bahan Township, Tel: 01-511773 or Colour Photo Contest Organizing Committee, 22/24, Pansodan Street, Tel: 01-371340, not later than 30 June. — MNA

Winners in colour photo contest announced

Yangon, 22 June — The winners in the colour photo contest hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2006 was announced today.

Hlaing Than Tint (Shwe Pagyi) secured the first prize, Ko Oo the second and U Myint Thein the third. Works of Ko Oo, AK Moe (Zoology), Ko Kyaw Kyaw Win (MPS), Zaw Yan (Taunggyi), Aung Kyaw Tun (Pathetinngyi), Ko Kyaw Kyaw Win (MPS) and Saw Them Win (City News) won the consolation prizes.

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The 1st ASEAN+China Health Ministers Meeting (23-6-2006)
ANNOUNCEMENT

San San Maw, daughter of U Sein Maung and Daw Sin Ur of No. 62, Hledan Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, is married to Maung Tun Oo, son of U Eng Hoe and Daw Shu Kyi of No. 62, Hledan Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, on the 14th Waxing day of Nayon, 1368 M.E (9-6-2006) on Friday, before the elders and relatives of both sides, and witnesses. Wedding reception was held at Traders Hotel on (10-6-2006) (Saturday.)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN XIN JIANG VOY NO (127) Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN XIN JIANG VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 22.6.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81006) Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be present on 23.6.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Singapore launches Intelligent Nation 2015 masterplan

SINGAPORE, 21 June—Singapore launched an infographic masterplan called Intelligent Nation 2015 (IN2015) Tuesday, aiming to transform itself into an intelligent nation and a global city powered by infocomm. Announcing the IN2015 masterplan at the opening of the annual Infocomm Media Business Exchange event, Singapore’s Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Lee Boon Yang unveiled the country’s infocomm strategies for the years ahead.

“The building of the next generation national infocomm infrastructure is the first key initiative under the in2015 masterplan,” Lee said, explaining that the infrastructure will comprise a wired network and a wireless network, nation-wide to provide users with broadband connectivity anywhere and anytime on any device.

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Australia updates 10-year arms spending plans

CANBERRA, 21 June—Australia has updated plans to spend more than $1 billion Australian dollars (38 billion US dollars) to build up its military in a move Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said on Tuesday would match defence capabilities with potential threats. The 10-year Defence Capability Plan, last updated in 2004, outlines spending on new ships, planes and weapons.

It is the first review since Australia last December updated its strategic outlook to focus more on threats from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) L.L.B, LLM (UK)
P.O.Box 1109
Phone: 723043/372174
For: Donnors Sangsai & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand
Dated: 23 June 2006

DONATE BLOOD
Cervical cancer surgery allows for pregnancy

NEW YORK, 21 June — An operation called radical vaginal trachelectomy is an effective treatment for early cervical cancer that allows women to become pregnant later on, according to a report in the medical journal BJOG.

Cervical cancer is a common cancer among women, strongly related to infection with certain types of human papilloma virus or HPV. Earlier this month, the US Food and Drug Administration approved the first vaccine to target four of the HPV types commonly linked to cervical cancer.

Unlike hysterectomy, radical vaginal trachelectomy involves removal of only the cervix, not the entire uterus. As such, the operation is only recommended for early cancer that has not yet spread outside the cervix. In theory, women treated with the operation could still become pregnant, yet few studies have actually looked at the pregnancy outcomes of these women. The new findings indicate that while there are few complications, women who undergo the procedure have higher than normal rates of premature labour and miscarriage.

The findings are based on a study of 123 consecutive women with early cervical cancer who underwent radical vaginal trachelectomy. The procedures were performed between August 1994 and 2005 and the average follow-up period was 45 months.

The operation effectively prevented the return of cancer in all but five women, senior author Dr Thomas E J Ind, from St George’s Hospital in London, and colleagues report.

A total of 55 pregnancies were achieved among the 63 women who attempted to become pregnant, but only 28 live births occurred. The 5-year cumulative pregnancy rate for women attempting to conceive was 52.8 per cent. All but two of the live births occurred via cesarean section and thirteen of the infants were born prematurely. The results indicate that radical vaginal trachelectomy is a pregnancy-enabling option for women with early cervical cancer, but prospective patients should be aware of the high rates of miscarriage and premature labour, the authors conclude.

India to establish wildlife crime control bureau

NEW DELHI, 21 June — India will soon establish a special bureau against crime on wildlife to protect wild animals and strike against smuggling of animal skins and body parts, Indian Environment and Forests Minister A. Raja said Monday.

“We have decided to amend the Wildlife Protection Act and form a wildlife crime control bureau to protect wild animals and bring an end to the smuggling of animal skins and body parts,” Raja said after a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife at the residence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The bureau, which is to consist of forest and police officials, will be a centralized authority and will have independent powers to investigate crimes and take action.— MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia destroys 5,000 weapons in Kandal Province

PHNOM PENH, 21 June — The 50th Flame of Peace ceremony was held on Tuesday in Cambodia’s Takmao, Kandal Province, to destroy more than 5,000 surplus weapons as the EU ASAC programme, the programme of the European Union to assist Cambodia in small arms management, is in the final Flame of Peace.

More than 3,000 people attended the ceremony presided over by Prime Minister Hun Sen. EU ASAC has been operating in Cambodia since April 2000 in cooperation with the National Commission for the Reform and Management of Weapons and Explosives in Cambodia.

“All the goals set by the Council of Ministers of the European Union when the project began in 2000 have now been reached,” explained David de Beer, the EU ASAC Project manager, who further praised the Royal Cambodian Government for its co-operation throughout the years in making the project a success.— MNA/Xinhua
Mexico lose last round robin match 2-1 to Portugal

Gelsenkirchen, 22 June — Mexico paid the price for doing silly things on pitch, losing their third and last round robin match 2-1 to World Cup Group D leaders Portugal in an out-of-style way here on Wednesday.

Luís Figo's free-kick from 20 metres on the 22nd minute hit the wall before the ball went out for another corner, Marquez handballed it to concede a penalty, and Sabrosa Simao stepped up to confidently convert the spot from at 24.

Earlier in the half, Maniche had opened the scoring with a super strike for Portugal in just 6 minutes. The former Chelsea midfielder fed Simao on the left and followed up to collect the winger's square pass to fire into the top corner from 16 metres.

Mexico managed to pull back one goal five minutes later as Jose Fonseca, just being recalled to the starting lineup for Wednesday's clash, scored at 29 a fine glancing header from a corner to punish some slack Portuguese defending.

ANewhouse

Ivy Coast fight back to beat Serbs 3-2

Munich, 22 June — Ivory Coast fought back from two goals down to beat Serbia & Montenegro 3-2 and secure their first World Cup win in an entertaining and fiercely fought battle on Wednesday to avoid ending bottom of Group C.

Substitute Bonaventure Kalou struck the winner from the penalty spot after Serbia defender Milan Ducic handled the ball in the area for the second time, having given away a blatant first-half penalty that let Ivory Coast back into the match.

The theoretically meaningless game was played in continual rain, torrential at first, but there was nothing damp about the action on the pitch which was an exciting spectacle.

The crunching tackles and repeated yellow cards, seven in the first half alone, showed neither side wanted to end fourth in a group generally regarded as the toughest at this World Cup.

The result left Serbia & Montenegro, playing in their last match as one team after Montenegro's vote for independence, without a point. Both sides had already lost to Argentina and Netherlands and had no chance to qualify for the last 16.

The West Africans followed their now familiar pattern of letting in two early goals, before halving the advantage — they lost 2-1 to Argentina and Netherlands — showing they continue to suffer defensive lapses despite their efforts to solve them.

The Serbs, seeking self-respect after a 0-6 drubbing by Argentina in their last game, again had a man sent off as substitute stand-in left back Albert Nadaj was shown a second yellow just before the break. Striker Mateja Kazem had received a red card against Argentina.

Serbia took the lead in the 10th minute when striker Nikola Zigic controlled a long ball from Dejan Stankovic, rounded the keeper and slotted home.

They doubled their advantage in the 19th minute when Sasa Ilic pounced on a fumbled clearance by Ivory Coast stand-in captain Cyrille Domoraud from a Predrag Bjeljic cross. Only a minute earlier, the Ivory Coast had a golden chance when Arune Dindane shot against the keeper from close range before Kanga Akale missed an easy rebound. Coach Henri Michel, in his last match in charge, had his head in his hands. However, their pressure eventually paid off when Dindane tucked away a twice-taken penalty in the 36th minute following a needless handball by Dac ridic

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Argentinian Lionel Messi controls the ball against Netherlands’ Andre Ooijer during the World Cup Group C soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina in the World Cup stadium in Frankfurt, Germany, on Wednesday, 21 June, 2006. Other teams in Group C are Ivory Coast and Serbia and Montenegro. — INternet

Argentinia’s Héctor Alián steps up to take a penalty during the World Cup Group C soccer match between Argentina and Paraguay in Leipzig, Germany, on Wednesday, 21 June, 2006. Other teams in Group C are Spain, South Korea and Sweden. — INternet

Argentinian World Cup debutant Angel Di Maria, 19, celebrates his first international goal against Ukraine in a World Cup Group C match on Wednesday in Munich. — INternet

Angola tie Iran 1-1

Leipzig, 22 June — World Cup debutants Angola were held a 1-1 tie with Iran in their last Group D game here on Wednesday. Thus, both teams were eliminated while Portugal and Mexico cruised into the last 16 from the group.

Despite the elimination, Angola, one of the weakest teams viewed by experts at the 2006 World Cup, stunned the world by earning a goalless tie with soccer powers Mexico after losing to powerhouse Portugal 1-0. They won respect from the fans around the world.

Iran also showed their great skills on the World Cup pitch, playing attacking football with Mexico and Portugal and even dominating the matches for quite some time. Despite the two losses, no one could look down upon such an Asian team.

In today’s Angola-Iran clash, the two goals all came in the second half. Angola had their goal in the 60th minute. A right-wing cross from Figueiredo found substitute Flavio alone at the far post, and Flavio placed his header beyond the reach of keeper Ebrahim Bakhtiarizadeh headed home a corner. Angola coach Luis Oliveira Goncalves said after the match that his players had played him proud despite bowing out of the World Cup.

Goncalves said: “We were not intelligent enough to defend our 1-0 hope but I’m still proud of my players. Angola would have hopes of advancement, though their fate was not entirely in their hands.

With a win, they would have matched Mexico on four points although they trailed Mexico by three on goal difference before today’s duel. That means Angola would have beaten Iran and Mexico would have to lose to Portugal by a wide margin.

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Argentinian World Cup debutant Angel Di Maria, 19, celebrates his first international goal against Ukraine in a World Cup Group C match on Wednesday in Munich. — INternet

It seemed as though La Volpe's side had been given their second penalty in four minutes after Perez was brought down in the Porteguese's box on the 61st minute, but the referee refused to give a penalty and booked the midfielder for diving in the 62nd minute. Just four minutes earlier, the Mexicans missed their best chance of leveling the scores in the half as Perez forced Miguel into a needlesh handball right in the sight of the referee at 57. Omar Bravo came to the spot but his powerful strike fled high into the stands without ever looking likely to trouble Ricardo.

It is not the only time that Mexico had been turning down with silly com-mitments, with an in-box handball from skipper Rafael Marquez handing the Portuguese a penalty in the first half.

Luís Figo's free-kick from 20 metres on the 22nd minute hit the wall before the ball went out for another corner, Marquez handballed it to concede a penalty, and Sabrosa Simao stepped up to confidently convert the spot from at 24. Earlier in the half, Maniche had opened the scoring with a super strike for Portugal in just 6 minutes. The former Chelsea midfielder fed Simao on the left and followed up to collect the winger's square pass to fire into the top corner from 16 metres.
Town near central Philippines declared under state of calamity

MANILA, 22 June — Local officials placed Irosin Town in Sorsogon Province, the central Philippines, under a state of calamity after a series of ash explosions from the active volcano Mount Bulusan, a TV report said here on Tuesday.

Everything in Irosin Town, a populated area near Mount Bulusan, is covered with a thick layer of ash spewed by the volcano, updating TV footage from the ABS-CBN news channel.

The report said government troops have cordoned off the four-kilometre permanent danger zone around the active volcano to keep people out. Residents living around the volcano have started building temporary shelters in anticipation of the major eruption, while trucks were ready for a massive evacuation. MNA/Xinhua

Indian tail monkey in search of healing powers

KOLKATA, 22 June — Thousands of people are flocking to an impoverished Indian village in eastern West Bengal state to worship a man they believe possesses divine powers because he climbs up trees in seconds, gobbles up bananas and has a "tail".

Devotees say 27-year-old villager Chandre Oraon is an incarnation of the Hindu monkey god Hanuman — worshipped by millions as a symbol of physical strength, perseverance and devotion. "He climbs up trees, behaves like a monkey and is a strict vegetarian, but he is no god and his condition is just a congenital defect," says Bhushan Chakraborty, the local medical officer.

Tucked away in a hamlet in Banarhat, over 650 kilometres (400 miles) north of Kolkata, the state capital, devotees wait for hours to see or touch Oraon’s 13-inch (33-centimetre) tail, believing that it has healing powers.

Doctors said the "tail" — made up of some flesh but mostly of dark hair — was simply a rare physical attribute. "It is a congenital anomaly, but very rarely do we find such cases," B Ramana, a Kolkata-based surgeon, told Reuters. MNA/Reuters

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 scattered in Shan State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kanbalu (2.08) inches, Hpa-an (1.96) inches, PyinOoLwin (1.66) inches, Kalei (1.38) inches, Machinbbbaw (1.22) inches, Mawlamyine (1.10) inches, Myingyan and Katha (1.02) inches each, NyaungU, Pakokku and Kawthoung (0.94) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 21-6-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 22-6-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hours MST on 22-6-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 21-6-2006 was (1.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 22-6-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (22.52) inches at Mingaladon, (30.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (35.24) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 21-6-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the north and east central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-6-2006:

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in Yangon, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Rakhine State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-6-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-6-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-6-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Press conference on 8th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting held

The press conference on 8th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting, 2nd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting, and 1st ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting in progress. — MNA

YANGON, 22 June — A press conference on the 8th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting, the Second ASEAN+Three Health Ministers’ Meeting and the First ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting hosted by Myanmar was held at Sedoma Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Health Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials from ASEAN member countries, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, the Deputy Secretary-General and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, officials from the Ministry of Information, the President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members.

In his address, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said at the 8th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting, participants from ASEAN member countries discussed to take cooperative measures in prevention and combating health emergency problems regarding new diseases occurring in ASEAN region. He added that they discussed international health rules and regulations, and trade and security measures which need to be carried out together with health care services, experiences and lessons gained from natural disasters and consolidation of ASEAN countries. He noted that at the 2nd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting, the ministers held discussions on harmonious performances in combating infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, enhancement of human resources of health sector, wider health care services and improvement of traditional medicine and health and nutrition tasks.

The minister continued to say that at the First ASEAN+China Health Ministers’ Meeting, the ministers discussed setting up for the ASEAN+China Public Health Fund and participation of China in ASEAN+3 EID programme. ASEAN member countries are taking part in the international health care services. The minister asserted that the participants of the meeting agreed to exchange experiences in traditional medicine between China and other countries.

The Health Ministers from ASEAN member countries, China, Japan and Korea and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN replied to the queries raised by local and foreign journalists.

Minister for Mines visits Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006

YANGON, 22 June — Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint this afternoon viewed sales of pearl lots through tender and competitive bidding system at the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006 at the hall of Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here.

Next, he cordially greeted local and foreign gem merchants who were observing jade lots displayed at the compound of Myanmar Convention Centre, and left there.

A total of 250 lots of pearl were sold today through tender.

A total of 47 local gem merchants attended the special sales and purchased 213 pearl lots worth K 684,382,350.

Tomorrow, pearl and gem lots will be sold in euro to foreign merchants through tender and competitive bidding system. — MNA

Six quit ChaungU Township NLD as they lost interest in party and its functions

YANGON, 22 June — Youth in-charge U Myo Nyunt Aung (a) U Maung Oo and party member U Thant Naing of ChaungU Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division quit the party of their volition on 2 February and 6 March after sending letters of resignation to NLD headquarters and the local authorities.

In the letter they submitted to Sagaing Division Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, they said that as they lost interest in the NLD and had no more desire to serve the party they of own volition quit the party.

Member U Than Mya, treasurer U Chit Waing, member U Kyaw Sein (Kalagyi Village) and organizer U Than Mya of the township NLD had already quit the party of their own volition. — MNA

WORLD CUP 2006

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