Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Croatia

NAIPYITAW, 25 June—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2006. — MNA

Established 1914

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views private gem shops.—MNA

Secretary-1 opens sales of jade through tender and competitive bidding system at Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006

YANGON, 24 June—The opening of sales of jade through tender and competitive bidding of jade, gems and pearl special sales 2006 organized by Central Committee on Sale and Exhibition of Jade, Gems and Pearl of the Ministry of Mines was held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township this morning.

Chairman of Leading Committee for Development of Myanma Gems Industry Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally unveiled the signboard of the sale of jade.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council (See page 8)

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally open the special sales.—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 25 June, 2006

**Boosting production of fine quality goods**

The government is making efforts for development of industrial sector with greater momentum and it is also endeavouring for progress of technical know-how and boosting production in State-run industries. Moreover, scattered private industries were organized and industrial zones were established.

The Ministry of Industry-1 is building new factories and workshops in Kyaukse region, cement plant, sewing machine factory, vest factory, candy factory, shoe factory, bicycle factory and personal goods factory are built and they are in operation.

Production of iron and ironwares and other parts has begun in Mandalay industrial zone, Monywa industrial zone and Ayeyarwady industrial zone.

The Ministry of Industry-2 takes charge of heavy industry and is building new factories and workshops in Indagaw Industrial Region Project in Bago Township with the application of advanced technology. Production has started in disc wheel factory, radiator plant, metal bearing plant, power tiler engine factory, ball bearing plant, foundry shop and aluminium wire factory.

Industries related to the agriculture sector and farm produce-based industries and auto industry, plastic industry are now making progress.

At a time when the government is greatly encouraging investment in the development of industrial sector establishing modern factories and workshops, emphasis must be placed on full operation at the factories and workshops and boosting production of fine quality goods for fulfilment of the needs of the State and the people.

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**Work under way for greening Meiktila Plain**

**Deputy Minister for Health attends Health Secretaries’ Meeting, health plans and budget meeting**

**Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects flow of water into Mondaing Dam. — A&i**

**Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials. — HEALTH**

**U Tun Aung-Daw Kyin Mya of 67, Kyaukmyaung Road in Tamway Township recently presented K 100,000 to a member of Hninjigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board. — n**
Russian lawmakers slam US sanctions against Belarus

MOSCOW, 23 June — Members of Russia’s Upper House of Parliament slammed US sanctions against Belarussian officials on Wednesday, calling the punitive measures "an echo of the Cold War".

The US Treasury Department on Monday added 12 Belarusian officials including Lukashenko to its list of persons whose assets in the United States would be frozen.

In May, the United States and the European Union imposed visa bans on some Belarussian officials including Lukashenko after he won a third term in the March election, which Western governments said was rigged. The chairman of the Federation Council’s CIS affairs committee, Vladimir Gustov, deemed such policy "ridiculous" as the Belarussian leadership is in no way connected with the United States and hardly has financial assets there, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to donate funds to help tsunami victims in Maldives

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 June — Malaysia is expected to contribute additional one million ringgit (about 270,000 US dollars) to the Government of the Republic of Maldives in order to assist its tsunami victims.

The contribution will be made when Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar makes his first official visit to the country on 24-25 June since he assumed the post in 1999, according to a bulletin from the Malaysian Foreign Ministry available on Thursday. Last week, The Mercy Malaysia has been given one million ringgit to provide medical equipment to selected Maldivian hospitals and to finance disaster preparedness courses in Maldives. — MNA/Xinhua

FedEx blamed over misdirected bullets to US Embassy in Cambodia

PHnom Penh, 23 June — Thai Airways which was at the centre of the controversy over the 140,000 bullets that found their way into the US Embassy’s compound in Phnom Penh has confirmed that it had not mislabelled the cartons, and instead pointed the finger at American shipping company FedEx, a local daily reported on Thursday.

The airline said in a statement that the cartons it transported to the US Embassy last week were carried by FedEx from New York to Bangkok. "The Cambodia Daily" reported. The airline stated the cargo should have been four artwork pieces, weighing 460 kilograms. It transferred the shipment to Phnom Penh on TG698 on June 7. Initial news reports stated that the cartons of bullets weighed 1.7 tons.

The mislabelling was due to a shipping company in the US, the airline said. "Thai Airways opened an urgent investigation and found that these problems occurred as the warehouse in New York airport mislabelled the cases containing the artwork," the Thai national carrier confirmed in a statement.

Apparently the bullets were supposed to be delivered to four different countries in accordance with FedEx’s bill, added the airline. MNA/Xinhua

Mobile phone users warned of lightning strike risk

LONDON, 24 June — People should not use mobile phones outdoors during thunderstorms because of the risk of being struck by lightning, doctors said Friday.

They reported the case of a 15-year-old girl who was using her phone in a park when she was hit during a storm. Although she was revived, she suffered persistent health problems and was using a wheelchair a year after the accident.

"This rare phenomenon is a public health issue, and education is necessary to highlight the risk of using mobile phones outdoors during stormy weather to prevent future fatal consequences from lightning strike injuries," said Swinda Esprit, a doctor at Northwick Park Hospital in England.

Esprit and other doctors at the hospital added in a letter to the British Medical Journal that usually when someone is struck by lightning, the high resistance of the skin conducts the flash over the body in what is known as a flashover.

But if a metal object, such as a phone, is in contact with the skin it disrupts the flashover and increases the odds of internal injuries and death.

The doctors added that three fatal cases of lightning striking people while using mobile phones have been reported in newspapers in China, South Korea and Malaysia.

A robot capable of searching and rescuing trapped miners is developed in the China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province recently. The robot can go deep into the mine and transmit back images and information. It also carries medicines, foods and tools to help the trapped miners to get out. — INTERNET

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Four US soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 June — Four US soldiers have been killed and another wounded in clashes with Taleban guerillas in Afghanistan, the US military said on Thursday.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in Afghanistan this year, the worst violence since the 2001 overthrow of the Taleban. The violence has surged as NATO prepares to take over security duties from US-led forces in the south, the rebel heartland.

The latest clash occurred in eastern Nuristan Province on Wednesday. "Coalition forces attacked enemy extremists in a remote area of the Kamdesh District while conducting security operations to interdict enemy movement through northern Nuristan," the US military said in a statement.

"During the mission, four US soldiers were killed." — MNA/Reuters

A ferry with 120 people on board has sunk off Sumatra Island in western Indonesia due to bad weather, a senior rescue official said on Thursday, but there was no information on the status of the passengers.

Dianta Bangun, head of the search and rescue office in North Sumatra Province, told Reuters rescuers were still trying to locate the boat which he said had 108 passengers and 12 crewmen. A Navy official told a Jakarta-based radio two Americans were on board the vessel.

"The information is it has sunk between Sumatra and Nias Islands. The cause was a storm," said Bangun.

The Navy is leading the search operation, strictly enforced and many ferries are overcrowded. MNA/Xinhua

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Formula One driver Takuma Sato, of Japan, steers his Super Aguri on the hairpin during the afternoon practice session at the Canadian Grand Prix, on 23 June, 2006 in Montreal, Canada. — INTERNET

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"During the mission, four US soldiers were killed." — MNA/Reuters

A nurse attends to Chen Jiakun, a seven-year-old boy suffering from a rare heart ailment in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Shanghai after he receives a successful surgery on his vulnerable heart on 21 June, 2006. Chen suffers from a "pentalogy of Cantrell," with complex series of defects including congenital heart disease and sternum abnormalities. — INTERNET
**Indonesia confident of achieving trade target with China**

Jakarta, 23 June — The Indonesian Government said Thursday it was confident that the targeted bilateral trade volume of 30 billion US dollars with China will be achieved by 2010 as scheduled.

"The target will be achieved given that over the last 10 years, the bilateral trade volume has demonstrated a remarkable growth," Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said in a statement read by director of bilateral cooperation Sondang Anggraini in the Jakarta suburb of Depok.

Pangestu said China as the world's most populous country becomes an important trade partner of Indonesia. The minister urged more Indonesians to learn Chinese language to explore more business opportunities with China.

"Mastering the Chinese language is very important to gather as much information as possible. Success depends on ability to get information," she said in a speech delivered at a seminar at the University of Indonesia. — MNA/Xinhua

**42,000 Russians die a year from bootleg alcohol**

Moscow, 24 June — Poisoning by bootleg alcohol amounts to a "national tragedy" killing some 42,000 people a year, Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev has said, according to Russian news agencies.

"Poisoning of Russians from faked drinks has taken on the dimensions of a national tragedy and we must do everything in our power today to end the sale of faked drinks on Russian territory," Nurgaliyev was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS and RIA Novosti news agencies.

"Every year we lose about 42,000 people due to poisoning," he said. Nurgaliyev said that much of the alcohol was sold in bottles labelled as brands that officially disappeared long ago.

"For example, the cognac Bely Aist has not existed for three years but you can find it in shops. It is fake cognac and all there is in the bottle is a liquid that is dangerous for health and life," he said.

Nurgaliyev claimed that 40 percent of Georgian wine for sale and 70 percent of Moldovan wine was faked. Russia has imposed import bans on wine from both countries, a move that the two ex-Soviet republics describe as part of economic and political sanctions against the two nations.

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"We are willing to build a refinery in Panama, because at present our petrol reaches here via intermediaries who are getting rich as a result of this trade," Chavez added.

Chavez suggested to Panamanian President Martin Torrijos that the two countries create a joint venture to supply natural gas and fuel to Panama, while Colombia builds a marine gas pipeline to the country. Venezuela is the world’s fifth largest oil exporter and has been the major supplier to the United States.

However, as diplomatic tensions are mounting, Washington, Chavez, a defiant left-wing leader, is actively seeking new outlets for the country’s massive energy reserves as an countermeasure against the world’s No 1 energy consumer.

**Panama, Venezuela sign energy deal**

Panama City, 23 June — Venezuela agreed to supply Panama with natural gas and petroleum in a deal signed by their leaders on Thursday, just as Panama is experiencing one of its worst energy crises.

At a signing ceremony here, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez described the deal as a historic one, and said he had already signed such agreements with Uruguay, Argentina, Cuba, Brazil, Jamaica and Bolivia, providing them with much-needed petroleum at low prices.

"Venezuela’s petrol will serve the Venezuelan people and also Latin American nations," he said in a long and emotional speech.

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**Two Filipino oil workers kidnapped in southern Nigeria**

Lagos, 23 June — Two Filipino oil workers were kidnapped by armed militants on Tuesday afternoon at a jetty at Aker Base, Rumuolumeni, in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, local newspaper The Guardian reported on Wednesday.

The motive for the abduction was yet unknown but there were indications that the abduction was carried out by militant youths in six speedboats suspected to be from Old Bakana in Degema Local Government Area of the state. — MNA/Xinhua

**Four US Marines killed in Iraq’s western province**

Baghdad, 23 June — Four US Marines were killed in two guerilla attacks on Tuesday in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq, the US military said on Thursday.

It said that three Marines were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb while the other Marine was killed when he came under fire while conducting security operation, the military said in a statement.

The US military did not provide further information about the attacks. The latest death has brought to 2,505 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the start of the US-led invasion in March 2003.— MNA/Xinhua
Protein may fight lung cancers

WASHINGTON, 22 June—A naturally occurring protein called HLJ1 may slow down or even stop the progression of tumors in non-small-cell lung cancer, a new study finds.

Non-small-cell lung cancers comprise about 85 percent of lung malignancies, according to the American Cancer Society.

The new study included 71 patients diagnosed with non-small-cell lung cancer. Researchers at National Taiwan University analyzed levels of HLJ1 in the patients’ cancer cells, as well as the reaction of those cells to exposure to the protein.

They found that when HLJ1 was increased or eliminated in lung cancer cells, differences emerged in terms of tumor proliferation.

If the cell received increased exposure to the protein, the tumor experienced a decrease in cell division, as well as slower movement to other cells. This suggests that the protein may be a natural tumor-suppressor, the team concluded in the 21 June issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. In some cases, HLJ1 appeared to prevent the cancer cells from reproducing at all, they said.

The researchers also noted that in 55 of the patients studied, the cancer cells contained far lower concentrations of HLJ1 than non-cancerous cells.

Patients whose tumors were exposed to high concentrations of HLJ1 maintained higher survival rates and lower rates of cancer reappearance.

“These findings may identify a subgroup of non-small-cell lung cancer patients who may benefit from adjuvant therapy and facilitate the design of individualized therapeutic strategies for lung cancer,” the study authors wrote in a prepared statement.—INTERNET

A baker decorates a soccer World Cup 2006 cake in a Munich bakery, on 24 June, 2006. The second round of the soccer World Cup 2006 starts with Germany playing against Sweden on Saturday.—INTERNET

Bank manager and lover’s robbery bid foiled

SYDNEY, 23 June—New Zealand police said on Friday they had arrested a bank manager who had tried to rob his own bank with a gang of thieves that included his lover.

A gang of three armed bandits charged into a bank in Auckland, New Zealand’s largest city, on Tuesday dressed in balaclavas and overalls.

They held staff at gunpoint and tried to make off with NZ$65,000 (22,000 pounds) but two of the robbers were arrested at the scene after passers-by reported the robbery to police.

The third bandit escaped but police said questioning of the robbers in custody soon revealed that their accomplice was in fact the bank manager’s girlfriend.

All four have appeared in court on robbery charges.—INTERNET

Bulgaria seizes amphetamines worth $34m

SOFIA, 23 June—Bulgarian Customs officers seized over 180 kilograms of amphetamine pills with a recently around 27 million euros (34 million US dollars) in a tourist bus travelling from Bulgaria to Turkey, the Customs office said.

“Customs inspectors found 180 black nylon bags of light-pink pills that later tested positively for amphetamine with very high quality,” the Customs office said in a statement.

Bulgaria has long served as a key route for smugglers moving goods between Asia and Western Europe.

The EU has been warned by Brussels it should crack down on organized crime and enforce the rule of law or will have 2007 entry plans delayed by a year.—INTERNET

HK creates super-strong fibre for bullet-proof vests

HONG KONG, 23 June—Hong Kong researchers have developed a new technology to enhance strength of ballistic-proof vests, announced Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) here Wednesday.

Researchers at the HKUST have developed a high technology that can greatly enhance the ballistic-proof strength of ultra high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMWPE) fibre by adding carbon nanotubes to pristine high-strength fibre.

The new technology is expected to pave the way for new UHMWPE applications, such as more comfortable and effective bullet-proof vests and extra-durable nautical rope.

Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering of HKUST Ping Gao said, “The technology we have developed can effectively align nanotubes along the length of polymer fibres so the tensile strength of nanocomposite fibre becomes up to eight times stronger than steel.”

Carbon nanotubes can improve the engineering properties of plastic fibres and ballistic-resistant garments enabling the garments to withstand forces with very high impact yet remain light.

In addition, the high ventilating capability of carbon nanotubes means end products can be made more comfortable for users.

The eight soldiers were also charged with kidnapping, conspiracy and providing false statements, according to a statement issued by the Marine Corps from Camp Pendleton, California.

The Marines and Navy corpsman, from the Camp Pendleton-based 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, were accused of taking an unarmed man out of his house and shooting him to death without provocation, in the town of Hamdania west of Baghdad.

In another incident, 24 Iraqi civilians were allegedly killed by US troops on November 19 last year, in the western Iraq town of Haditha. The incident was being investigated over allegations of wrongful death and possible cover-ups by the US military.—INTERNET

UNICEF says help! someone stole our car-sized coin box

ATHENS, 23 June—The United Nation’s Children’s Fund appealed to the public in Greece on Wednesday for help in tracking down a car-sized container filled with loose change that was stolen from a busy Athens square just after Christmas. There have been no developments in the case of the missing 500 kilogrammes (227 pounds) piggy bank which UNICEF estimates contained about 6,000 to 7,000 euros (8,340 US dollars) in donations.

“It’s not a lot of money we’re talking about, but it has symbolic value,” said Elias Limberis, spokesman for the agency told Reuters. “It showed the charity of Athenian citizens.” — MNA/Reuters

US military charges soldiers with murder in Iraq death

WASHINGTON, 23 June—The US Marine Corps charged seven Marines and one sailor on Wednesday with murder in the death of an Iraqi civilian on April 26 this year.

The eight soldiers were also charged with kidnapping, conspiracy and providing false statements, according to a statement issued by the Marine Corps from Camp Pendleton, California.

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Thai ship Bangkhunnon lowers the skeleton of a garbage truck into the Gulf of Thailand, about 5.5 km (3.4 miles) from the southern province of Pattani, on 23 June, 2006. Thailand dumped 189 old garbage trucks off its southern coast on Friday in a bid to build an artificial reef to lure fish for local fishermen.—INTERNET

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Bulgaria has long served as a key route for smugglers moving goods between Asia and Western Europe.

The EU has been warned by Brussels it should crack down on organized crime and enforce the rule of law or will have 2007 entry plans delayed by a year.—INTERNET
Philips to sell semiconductors unit

BRUSSELS, 23 June— Dutch electronics giant Philips announced on Wednesday that it plans to sell a majority stake in its semiconductor division by the end of the year via a public offering, keeping only a minority stake.

Philips, the world’s tenth biggest chip maker, said it will sell the majority to financial investors, either privately or in an initial public offering (IPO).

“At this stage, an IPO or investment from financial investors is the preferred option,” a Philips spokesman said.

The chip unit, with sales of 4.62 billion euros (about 5.82 billion US dollars) in 2005, may be valued at between five to six billion euros, depending on levels of debt and other assets that may be included, according to analysts.

When Philips announced that it would separate the chips unit in December, analysts had said that the move indicated the eventual exit of Philips from the semiconductors business. The move to separate “is a further step for Philips in moving away from a focus on high volume electronics”, Chief Executive Gerard Kleisterlee said in a statement.

Philips said it will choose a name for the new company in the next three months. Philips is the world’s biggest lighting maker, a top-three maker of hospital equipment, Europe’s biggest consumer electronics producer and the region’s number three in semiconductors.

Bomb at market kills 5 in southern Philippines

MANILA, 23 June — A bomb killed five people at a crowded public market in the southern Philippines on Friday in an attack that police said was aimed at a powerful provincial governor allied with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Police and Army officials said the improvised explosives were hidden in a parked car and detonated as the motorcade of Andal Ampatuan, governor of Maguindanao Province on the troubled island of Mindanao, was passing by the market in Sharif Aguak Town.

“The governor is safe and is now resting at his home,” provincial administrator Norie Unas told reporters.

Four of those killed, including bodyguards and a former town mayor, were riding in the sixth car of the convoy going to Ampatuan’s farm, Unas said.

At least five people, including two children, were wounded in the blast at about 7 am (2300 GMT on Thursday), police said. — MNA/Reuters

Landslides, floods kill 188 in Indonesia’s Sulawesi

KAKARATA, 23 June — The death toll from landslides and floods on Indonesia’s eastern Sulawesi Island this week has reached 188, and another 145 people are missing, an official said on Thursday.

A search-and-rescue operation has been underway in South Sulawesi Province after two days of heavy rain at the beginning of the week. Sinjai Regency was the worst-hit area after flooding early on Tuesday, police and disaster officials say.

“The total dead are 188. Sinjai has 174 of the deaths. The total number of missing people is 145,” Moersen Buana of the disaster task force told Reuters by telephone from provincial capital, Makassar, about 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) east of Jakarta.

— MNA/Reuters

Direct marketing industry thrives in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 June — It is a good time to be a direct marketer in Singapore, Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang told participants in the ninth Direct Marketing (DM) Asia Conference here Thursday.

“Conditions are good for our direct marketing industry.

Our economy is thriving, technology is driving new means of reaching out to customers, and trust among consumers is high,” Lim said.

The Internet has become an important new marketing channel with Internet penetration rate reaching 75 per cent in Singapore, Lim noted, adding that some 27 per cent of Internet users shopped online with an average spending of 1,068 Singapore dollars (about 672 US dollars) in 2005.

As the success of direct marketing largely depends on collecting, storing and using customer data, the industry should delicately balance between the consumers’ desire for personalized services and their concerns on abuse of personal details, according to Lim.

Noting that the Singapore Government has appointed an inter-ministerial committee to review the matter of privacy, Lim urged the Direct Marketing Association of Singapore (DMAS) to put in place more media-specific guidelines and extend its code of practice to cover this area.

More than 30 industry practitioners from sectors such as retail, financial services, telecommunications, information technology and consulting will speak at the two-day meeting, which is organized by the DMAS and was inaugurated in 1996 in Singapore.

— MNA/Xinhua

Australia considers free trade agreement with gulf countries

CANBERRA, 23 June— Australia is considering to negotiate a free trade agreement to a series of Gulf countries, according to Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile.

Vaile, also the Trade Minister, said in a statement that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has already expressed a wish to negotiate a GCC-wide free trade agreement with Australia.

Australia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been negotiating a bilateral free trade deal since last year and the UAE has decided the deal should be incorporated into the GCC negotiations.

The GCC, which consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, is an important and growing market for Australia’s motor vehicles, agricultural products, metal and a growing range of services.

Australia exported 4.1 billion dollars (three billion US dollars) worth of goods to the region in 2005.

“I remain committed to expanding our strong and growing economic and trade relations with the region as a whole and we will look closely at using the good progress we made in the UAE negotiations to advance our export interests through a possible GCC wide agreement,” he said.

— MNA/Xinhua

Internet

An indigent man sleeps in a subway entrance, on 23 June, 2006 in New York. — INTERNET

Camels rest at Tengeri Desert, on the outskirts of Zhongwei, China’s Ningxia Autonomous Region, on 23 June, 2006. China, which is plagued by sandstorms every spring, has embarked on a campaign to plant billions of trees and says it is slowing the rate of desertification. — INTERNET

Philippine Marines hide in coloured smoke during a beach assault demonstration to mark the Navy’s anniversary at a naval base in the port city of Zamboanga, southern Philippines, on 23 June, 2006. — INTERNET
Prosperous new nation should not be far-off

Chan Mya Thaw

The National Convention Convening Convention held its meeting No 4/2006 on 17 June to coordinate preparations for the reconvening of the National Convention towards the end of this year when farmers end their agricultural work. Now, more than 70 per cent of the NC works have been completed. So, it can be said that the NC will be completed in the foreseeable future. In other words, successful completion of the framing of the State Constitution, the most fundamental step of the seven-step Road Map, is within reach, or the democratic nation or the prosperous nation, aspired by the people, will emerge soon.

At such a time, it is found that internal opposition groups, a handful of people who are making use of politics for their living, and the masterminds of these puppets are in harmony shouting loudly, complaining that the more nearing the successful completion of the Road Map, the more loudly they shout, and the reason is that in the process of the seven-step Road Map, as soon as the framing of the State Constitution is drawn, in accordance with that constitution, elections are to be held, representatives of political parties will take part in the elections, and the winners have to form a democratic government. The Tatmadaw Government has already declared that it will do according to above-mentioned procedures. This is democracy. Then, what will emerge is a new democratic nation. So, I would like to put some questions to certain internal and external elements that are making voices. Is the NLD’s coming to power democracy? Can democracy be introduced to Myanmar only when Daw Suu Kyi is elected as the State leader? The Tatmadaw Government’s stance is clear. It will transform the nation into a democratic one. It will not deviate from its chosen path even though NLD and Daw Suu Kyi are not included. Why Daw Suu Kyi and NLD members did not participate in the process is due to the fact that they objected the government’s offer to attend the National Convention. But he refused to oblige. That was the reason why Suu became the target of the notorious one.

Conspiracies of the infamous power are numerous. If one reads “Killing Hope” one will see clearly how it committed acts to install puppet governments in various countries. It has constantly resorted to the method of toppling the government saying that there was no alternative. In hatching such plots, the infamous power used the compatriots of the nation in question, and not any other foreigners. It provides the persons who think highly of the power and who would exactly dance to its tune with money and arms.

In the present situation in Myanmar, the notorious power has moved most openly. It has been following the old pattern of toppling the ruling military government. So, it would not accept the government’s plan to introduce democracy through the seven-step Road Map. If it truly values democracy and wishes the people of Myanmar to enjoy the fruits of democracy it should support speedy accomplishment of the Road Map. It should persuade Daw Suu Kyi to see that NLD attend the National Convention.

Hence, the peace-loving people of Myanmar will have to accept and welcome the peaceful and phased transition being brought about in the country today. Otherwise, the nation would be deprived of peace and stability and they would encounter riots, that would be to the liking of the mastermind. If this happens, the private sector economic enterprises that have developed the economy would suffer heavy losses. The people would encounter the rigours of anarchism. The prosperous new nation desired by the people would be beyond their reach.

Translation: MS+AK
Secretary-1 opens…
(from page 1)

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Patron of the Central Committee on Sale and Exhibition of Jade, Gems and Pearl Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, members of committee for formation of Myanmar Gem Merchants Association, gem merchants from home and abroad and entrepreneurs, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the sales of jade through tender and competitive bidding.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed display of jade of fine quality and private gem shops.

Next, The Secretary-1 and party and members of the Central Committee had documentary photos taken.

Coaches arrive from China

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin inspects unloading of coaches from the vessel at Sule No 5 Jetty.

YANGON, 24 June — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin inspected unloading of coaches from a liner M V ANXIN JAING at No 5 Sule Jetty, Yangon Port this afternoon. General Manager U Hla Yi and officials elaborated measures to be taken.

Out of 130 coaches presented by the People’s Republic of China as gift during the goodwill visit of the Prime Minister to China in 2006, 40 coaches arrived. They will run on Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay, Yangon-Mandalay routes.

Sales of jade lots commence

YANGON, 24 June — A total of 2,298 gem merchants — 1,425 from 381 companies of nine countries and 873 gem merchants from 372 local companies — observed 3,218 lots of jade at the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006 from 20 June.

This morning, the sales of jade was opened at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township. At the sales, 180 lots of jade were sold with euro currency through tender. At the sales, 2,862 lost of jade will be sold with euro currency through tender and 356 jade lots through competitive bidding system up to 4 July.

Myanmar delegation arrives back

Myanmar e-National Task Force Vice-Chairman, CSSTB member U Aung Myint being welcomed back.

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — After attending the ministerial level information and communications meeting held in Singapore on 19 and 20 June, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by air on 22 June morning.

He was welcomed back at the airport by officials concerned.

Member of the delegation Chief Engineer U Zaw Tint of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications also arrived back on the same flight.

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Croatia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Kolinda Graber-Kitarovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2006.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils the signboard of Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006. — MNA

Gem merchants inspect jade lots displayed at Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006. — MNA
Kayan Creek Bridge contributes …

(from page 16)

The most developed division in the economic sector. All the local people are to maintain durability of the bridge.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered an address. He said that the Government has opened 217 bridges including Kayan Creek Bridge since 1988. Kayan Creek Bridge is the 27th facility in the transport sector of the division. The construction of Kayan Creek Bridge started on 16 March 2005.

Kayan Creek Bridge is located on Bago-Thanatpin-Kayan-Thongwa-Thanlyin Road. Thanks to the construction of Kayan Creek Bridge, local farmers of villages in Kayan Township will have the opportunities to send agricultural and marine products to other regions speedily. As paddy, pulses and beans and marine products will be sent to Yangon in a short time, Kayan Creek Bridge will benefit Yangon Division as well as the nation.

Chairman of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally open Kayan Creek Bridge. — MNA

At the archway of the bridge, they posed for a documentary photo together with officials and local people. Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it. Likewise, the commander and the minister sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe cordially greeted local people.

The construction of Kayan Creek Bridge started on 16 March 2005. — MNA

Thanks to the construction of Kayan Creek Bridge, local farmers of villages in Kayan Township will have the opportunities to send agricultural and marine products to other regions speedily.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally open Kayan Creek Bridge. — MNA

Minister for Home Affairs meets departmental personnel in Kawthoung

YANGON, 24 June — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, accompanied by officials concerned, yesterday arrived at Kawthoung.

The minister inspected the Central Guard of Kawthoung Township Police Force. He met with police members and left instructions on observing police code of conduct.

Afterwards, the minister met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen at Myinzuthaka Hall in Kawthoung Township, and explained matters related to political, economic and social progress of the State. — MNA

Local resident U Myint Oo speaks words of thanks. — MNA

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2006

DRUGS ARE NOT CHILD’S PLAY
Brick Factory Projects inspected in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 June — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Managing Director U Aye Maik of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and officials, inspected the site for construction of Brick Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) near Mingon Village-tract of Pyinmama Township yesterday.

After inspecting the site, the minister presented cash assistance and construction materials for Basic Education Middle School to responsible persons of the village.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung views the site for construction of Brick Factory Project (Nay Pyi Taw). — INDUSTRY-1

Energy Minister visits CNG filling stations

YANGON, 24 June — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited CNG filling station Nos 003 (Ahlron), 016 (Kyimyin-dine) and 010 (Pyinnabvin) this morning.

During his inspection tour of the stations, the minister inspected the filling of cars with CNG, installation of CNG cylinders and measures being taken for worksite safety.

Energy Minister visits CNG filling stations

Now there are 17 CNG filling stations in Yangon, one in Mandalay, one in Paleik, two in Yananyoung and one in Chauk totalling 22. The stations are kept open around the clock. Later, the minister visited the site for construction of another brick factory.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects supply of natural gas at CNG Filling Station No 016 in Kyimyinda. — ENERGY

China gives extra-picky pandas their space

BEIJING, 24 June — China is giving an unusually endangered species of panda extra space, privacy and protection to help the animals reproduce, state media said on Friday.

The 300 pandas of a rare subspecies who call northwest China’s central Shaanxi Province home will soon be protected by five new reserves in the fog-shrouded Qinling Mountains, the China Daily said.

“This will mean better protection for the animals and help enlarge their population,” Sun Chengqian, of the Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, told the newspaper.

The reserves would cover about 80 percent of the pandas’ habitat once they are expanded from 181,100 to 500,000 hectares, the paper said.

The province also intends to improve monitoring of the pandas by the end of 2010.

China gives extra-picky pandas their space

Mandalay-Bhamo special cargo service launched

YANGON, 24 June — Transport Department (Ayeyawady Branch) of the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport launched Mandalay-Bhamo special cargo service in Gawwein Jetty in Mandalay this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, departmental heads and officials.

In his speech Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe said the special cargo service was launched on 12 June to promote the market-oriented system practised by the State, to facilitate speedy flow of commodities and to stabilize commodity prices. And the special cargo service (Ayeyawady Branch) started to be operational today. The Head of State gave guidance that special cargo services were to be launched to ensure the speedy flow of commodities and public consumption at reasonable prices. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made a speech.

Later, the commander and the minister cordially greeted the passengers on board Ponnya cargo vessel.

Daewoo Int’l Corporation Chairman calls on Minister for Finance and Revenue

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation Mr Tae-Yong Lee and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and officials. — MNA

Construction of Hlinethaya-Bayintnaung power line inspected

YANGON, 24 June — Accompanied by officials of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board Minister for Electric Power No2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited Hmawby Township General Administration Department on 23 June where he heard reports by officials on electric power supply.

Next, the minister also visited 33/11 KV Kaythpyukan Sub-power Plant in Hmawby Township, Htaukkyant Township General Administration Department, Yangon North District General Administration Department and the project site for building 230 KV Hlinethaya-Bayintnaung power line in Hlinethaya Township and gave instructions to officials on measures to be taken for fully supplying of electricity and worksite safety. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.
US missile defence system gains little confidence

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — US Government officials and defence experts showed little confidence in the missile defence system which has cost the Bush Administration 43 billion US dollars so far, a newspaper report said on Thursday.

The system would either be hit or miss incoming missiles in case of an emergency, the Los Angeles Times reported. The system has not undergone a test in nearly four years and have been beset by glitches that investigators blame, at least in part, on President George W. Bush’s order in 2002 to make the programme operational even before it had been fully tested, said the report.

Since Bush took office in 2001, he has pushed the ballistic missile defence system despite a controversy over the programme designed to down enemy missiles in various stages of flight.

The US has 11 ground-based interceptors in Alaska and at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Central California, the cornerstone of the administration’s new system. In all, the interceptors hit dummy missiles in five out of 10 tests, but these were under controlled conditions that critics say do not reflect the challenges of an actual missile launch.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said in March that programme officials were so concerned with potential flaws in the first nine interceptors now in operation that they considered taking them out of their silos and returning them to the manufacturer for “disassembly and remanufacture.”

“Quality control procedures may not have been rigorous enough to ensure that unreliable parts, or parts that were inappropriate for space applications, would be removed from the manufacturing process,” the office said in a notice.

“The problems in the ground-based system, as well as the ongoing experience of the war in Iraq, have not damped the administration’s enthusiasm for the programme,” the paper said. — MNA/Xinhua

More men than women get best care for heart attack

NEW YORK, 24 June — An initiative by the American College of Cardiology has increased the number of heart attack patients who get guidelines-based care, but women are still less likely to benefit than men, researchers report.

The Guidelines Applied in Practice (GAP) programme aimed to raise the quality of care for men and women who survived a heart attack. A major component of the effort was a “discharge document” that outlined best treatment options.

“The GAP programme and its associated discharge document were important in increasing the rates of evidence based care,” senior investigator Dr Kim A Eagle told Reuters Health.

Eagle, of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and colleagues investigated the management of about 1,400 men and a like number of women who had been treated for a heart attack before or after the adoption of GAP.

The study, in the Archives of Internal Medicine, shows that “the GAP discharge tool was independently associated with a substantial reduction in mortality after discharge at 1 year in women.” Nevertheless, women were still significantly more likely to die than men.

The investigators found that 27.9 per cent of women received a discharge document compared with 33.96 per cent of men, a statistically significant difference. “Greater use of the GAP discharge tool in women might narrow the post-heart attack gender mortality gap,” the team concludes.

Dr Philip Greenland of Northwestern University, Chicago, co-author of an accompanying editorial, told Reuters Health, “The reasons for this persistent treatment inequality in women when there were standardized orders in place are not clear and require further examination.” — MNA/Reuters

Singapore suggests IACS card to Malaysian frequent travellers

SINGAPORE, 24 June — Singapore suggested on Friday that Malaysian frequent travellers to the city state apply for the Immigration Automated Clearance System (IACS) card to replace their soon-to-expire Malaysian Restricted Passports (MRPs).

According to a statement issued by Singapore’s Ministry of Home Affairs on the day, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mahadhir Mohamad Saad were believed to have encountered technical problems, said the RMAF public relations officer Zulkiflee Abdul Latiff.

Malaysian fighter jet makes forced landing, two injured

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 June — A Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Hawk fighter jet made a forced landing Friday morning in Pahang State of the country, with two people aboard injured, but not seriously.

The accident took place around 10:45 am local time (0245 GMT) in Kuantan, capital of Pahang State, when the jet was undergoing a routine training flight.

Pilot Tan Hui Hock and trainee pilot Kapt Mahadhir Mohamad Saad were believed to have encountered technical problems, said the RMAF public relations officer Zulkiflee Abdul Latiff.

Indo-Pakistani water secretaries hold fruitful first round of talks

ISLAMABAD, 24 June — India and Pakistan on Thursday held “fruitful” talks here to resolve a longstanding dispute over New Delhi’s plan to construct a barrage over the Wullar Lake in Jammu and Kashmir and decided to continue with the parleys tomorrow.

“Thirty-five years of our bilateral relations had left a bad taste in the mouths of the people of the two countries. This is the first step taken in the right direction to break the ice.” — MNA/PTI

Chinese youths hold an Olympics-themed scroll on the Great Wall of China to mark the opening of an Olympic cultural festival at Badaling, north of Beijing, on 23 June, 2006. The 2008 meter-long scroll was painted by one million children from 200 cities across China, part of efforts to encourage public participation in Olympics related activities ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. — Internet

Japan’s Shinya Nakano takes a curve during the warm-up at the Dutch TT MotoGP motorcycle race in Assen, the Netherlands, on 24 June, 2006. — Internet

WASHINGTON, 23 June — The United States missile defense system gains little confidence in the programme amid a controversy over the Bush Administration’s enthusiasm for the programme, a newspaper report said on Thursday.

The Los Angeles Times said the US missile defense system, which has cost $43 billion so far, has undergone a test in nearly four years and has been beset by glitches that investigators blame on President George W. Bush’s order in 2002 to make the programme operational even before it had been fully tested. — MNA/Xinhua
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**Dampening Roller**

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China urges parties concerned to help peace, stability in N-E Asia

BEIJING, 23 June —China on Thursday expressed concern over the tensions aroused by the reported missile test of North Korea and urged parties concerned to act in a way conducive to the region’s peace and stability.

“We’ve noticed relevant reports and the position of each party. We are very concerned about the current situation,” China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a news briefing. "China has always been devoted to maintaining the peace and stability of the northeast Asia and China will continue to make constructive efforts to achieve these goals. On the six-party talks, Jiang said China has maintained close contact and communication with all parties concerned and made active efforts for the resumption. She said China believes that all parties should firmly follow the path of peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue, firmly uphold the goal of realizing a nuclear weapon-free Korean Peninsula and firmly push forward the six-party negotiation process. “China will make unremitting efforts with all other parties to jointly push forward the peaceful negotiation process,” she said.— MNA/Xinhua
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   - Any graduate
   - Writing and speaking English very well.
3. Operator Male (3) Posts
   - A.G.T.I (Any Diploma)
   - Application should be written in English and submitted together with C.V. Copies of certificate, Labour registration and 2 recent photos, to the following address, (Walk in interview)
   - Shay Pyai Industrial Co., Ltd., Kanaung Min Thar Gyi Road, Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon
   - Ph: 724011, 684530, 724823

**Soy component linked to heart health benefits**

NEW YORK, 23 June — A specific estrogen-like compound, daidzein, appears to be responsible for the healthy effects of soy on cholesterol levels in women, a new study shows.

Women with high levels of daidzein in their blood had lower levels of triglycerides, higher levels of HDL-C or “good” cholesterol, and healthier ratios of total to good cholesterol levels, Dr. C. Noel Bairey Merz of Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles and colleagues found.

The researchers note in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* that female monkeys fed a soy-rich diet show healthy changes in blood fat levels, the researchers note, but evidence of the effects of soy on cholesterol in humans has been mixed.

To investigate, the team checked blood levels of daidzein and genistein, another plant estrogen, in a group of 483 women at risk of heart disease who were participating in the Women’s Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation Study. About 80 percent of the women were postmenopausal.

The researchers found no association between genistein and blood fat levels. But higher blood levels of daidzein were tied to lower triglyceride levels and higher good cholesterol levels. —MNA/Reuters

**Alcohol users with hepatitis often untreated**

NEW YORK, 23 June — Individuals who are infected with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and who drink alcohol are often considered ineligible for anti-HCV drug treatment, researchers report. However, alcohol drinkers have responses that are comparable to non-drinkers, they have found.

“Our observations are clinically important because they indicate that alcohol use should not be considered an exclusion criterion when evaluating patients for anti-HCV treatment, especially in view of the fact that nearly one third of patients with HCV infection have a history of recent alcohol use,” note investigators in the journal *Gastroenterology*. Dr. Bhuipinder S. Anand, of the Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Centre in Los Angeles and colleagues examined the impact of alcohol use on HCV treatment outcomes. Their study involved 4,061 subjects, 726 of whom received treatment for HCV.

The investigators found that subjects who reported using alcohol were more likely to discontinue anti-HCV treatment. Drinkers also had lower response rates to anti-HCV treatment. —MNA/Reuters

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**100-million-year-old rare lamprey fossil discovered in China**

BEIJING, 23 June — Chinese scientists have found a rare fossil of a lamprey eel dating from the Cretaceous period more than 100 million years ago, in north China’s Inner Mongolia.

Lamprey fossil is a species which has lived on earth for more than 300 million years. This is the oldest lamprey fossil that has been discovered in China and the second oldest found worldwide, said Zhang Miman, a scientist with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The new finding was published in the latest issue of the academic journal *Nature* on Thursday.

Zhang, also an academician of CAS, said the fossilized lamprey came from the Jehol biota, an ancient fresh water lake where a numerous fossils such as birds, dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles, fish, insects and plants have been found.

This is the oldest vertebrate fossil discovered at Jehol biota, according to Zhou Zhonghe, a leading scientist on the research team at Jehol biota from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology.

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**Falling rocks kill 4, injure 16 others in S-W China**

CHENGDU, 24 June — Four people were confirmed dead and another 16 injured in a road accident that occurred Thursday morning in Wenchuan County, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, local traffic police said on Thursday afternoon.

At around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, a loaded tourist bus was hit suddenly by rocks falling from the roadside mountain at Yanmen town of Wenchuan County, Aba Tibet and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, when it parked at a hawker’s stand on its route from Chengdu, the provincial capital, to Juzhaigou, a UNESCO natural heritage site in Sichuan.

The accident killed four people, and injured 16 others. Of the wounded, four are in serious condition, the police said.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Police are seen removing several vehicles damaged in a clash with suspected Qaeda-linked militants in Riyadh, on 23 June, 2006. Six suspected al Qaeda-linked militants and a policeman were killed in a shootout in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Friday after police surrounded their house to prevent an imminent attack, Saudi officials and media said. Police cordoned off the upscale residential district where the shootout occurred. A seventh militant was wounded and arrested. —INTERNET**

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**Soy component linked to heart health benefits**

NEW YORK, 23 June — A specific estrogen-like compound, daidzein, appears to be responsible for the healthy effects of soy on cholesterol levels in women, a new study shows.

Women with high levels of daidzein in their blood had lower levels of triglycerides, higher levels of HDL-C or “good” cholesterol, and healthier ratios of total to good cholesterol levels, Dr. C. Noel Bairey Merz of Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles and colleagues found.

The researchers note in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* that female monkeys fed a soy-rich diet show healthy changes in blood fat levels, the researchers note, but evidence of the effects of soy on cholesterol in humans has been mixed.

To investigate, the team checked blood levels of daidzein and genistein, another plant estrogen, in a group of 483 women at risk of heart disease who were participating in the Women’s Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation Study. About 80 percent of the women were postmenopausal.

The researchers found no association between genistein and blood fat levels. But higher blood levels of daidzein were tied to lower triglyceride levels and higher good cholesterol levels. —MNA/Reuters

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**Alcohol users with hepatitis often untreated**

NEW YORK, 23 June — Individuals who are infected with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and who drink alcohol are often considered ineligible for anti-HCV drug treatment, researchers report. However, alcohol drinkers have responses that are comparable to non-drinkers, they have found.

“Our observations are clinically important because they indicate that alcohol use should not be considered an exclusion criterion when evaluating patients for anti-HCV treatment, especially in view of the fact that nearly one third of patients with HCV infection have a history of recent alcohol use,” note investigators in the journal *Gastroenterology*. Dr. Bhuipinder S. Anand, of the Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Centre in Los Angeles and colleagues examined the impact of alcohol use on HCV treatment outcomes. Their study involved 4,061 subjects, 726 of whom received treatment for HCV.

The investigators found that subjects who reported using alcohol were more likely to discontinue anti-HCV treatment. Drinkers also had lower response rates to anti-HCV treatment. —MNA/Reuters
France avoid early exit by beating Togo

Cologne, 24 June—France finally laid to rest the ghosts of 2002 with a 2-0 victory over Togo on Friday for a place in the last 16 of the World Cup.

Les Bleus needed to win by two clear goals to make sure of avoiding an early exit after leaving the previous finals without a win or a goal from the group stage. France finished second behind Switzerland in Group G and play Spain in the second round in Hanover on Tuesday.

Debutants Togo, who were already eliminated, resisted bravely in the first half before collapsing by conceding two goals in quick succession in the second in Group G.

Patrick Vieira celebrated his 30th birthday in style by curling the ball into the corner of the net with his right foot after a Frank Ribeiro pass 10 minutes into the second half. Vieira, who had been criticized for sluggish displays in France’s first two outings, was also involved in the second goal six minutes later with a downward header from which Thierry Henry doubled the advantage with his right foot from near the penalty spot.

Les Bleus’ first World Cup victory since they stunned Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 final means Zinedine Zidane, who missed the game through suspension, will play at least one more match.

The ageing maestro, who turned 34 on Friday, showed his second yellow card in the tournament in a 1-1 draw with South Korea that would have been the last of his illustrious career had France failed to qualify. It was a memorable evening also from Lilian Thuram. The seasoned defender, who is expected to retire from international football after the tournament, won his 117th cap, breaking the national record he shared with Marcel Desailly.

French forward Thierry Henry (C) is challenged by Togo’s forward Mustapha Sallouf (L) and defender Jean-Paul Abalo during their World Cup opening round last match in Cologne. France won 2-0 and qualifies for the tournament’s second round.—INTERNET

Spain ensure top spot with easy 1-0 win

Kaiserslautern, 24 June—Spain ensured they went through to the last 16 of the World Cup as winners of Group H when they eased their way to a 1-0 victory over a toothless Saudi Arabia in Kaiserslautern on Friday.

With the luxury of knowing they had already secured a place in the last 16, Spain fielded their second string side against the Saudis who needed to win to have any chance of making the knockout stages.

Centre back Juanito scored the winner nine minutes from halftime when he fired a bullet header past keeper Mabrouk Zaid after Jose Antonio Reyes whipped in a free kick from the left. The victory extended Spain’s unbeaten run to 25 games and meant they finished the group stage with a maximum nine points for the second World Cup in a row.

They will meet either Switzerland, South Korea or France in the last 16 in Hanover on Tuesday. It was a disappointing end to the tournament for Saudi Arabia who go home with just a point after surrendering the lead to draw 2-2 in their opening match against Tunisia and then imploding to a 4-0 defeat against Ukraine in their second. The Span substitutes quickly settled into their usual fluent passing routine and although they did little to trouble the Saudi defence in the first quarter of an hour, they warmed up as the task at the half wore on.—INTERNET

Newcastle complains of inadequate compensation for Owen’s injury

London, 24 June—Newcastle United chairman Freddy Shepherd complained that the compensation for the English Premier League club due to Michael Owen’s injury is inadequate. The English Football Association, which is responsible for insuring all England players while on national duty, will compensate the player’s club for as long as the recovery period takes.

Owen has returned to England from the World Cup finals after sustaining a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and is expected to be miss action for several months. But Shepherd said Newcastle should be entitled to compensation beyond the cost of meeting Owen’s salary. “When you lend somebody something and they return them injured or broken then you shouldn’t have to pay for the repair,” said Shepherd.

“That what’s happened at Newcastle and the level of compensation isn’t high enough in my opinion.”

Ukraine beat Tunisia to make last 16

Berlin, 24 June—An Andriy Shevchenko penalty gave Ukraine a 1-0 victory over 10-man Tunisia in World Cup Group H on Friday, assuring the East European side of a place in the last 16.

Shevchenko rifled home the spot kick in the 70th minute after referee Carlos Amarilla of Paraguay ruled the striker had been brought down by Tunisian defender Kamr Hagu. Replays showed the Ukraine striker had tripped over his own feet.

Needling a win to qualify, Tunisia suffered a major blow in first half injury time when striker Ziad Jaziri was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Anatoly Tymoshchuk.

But Ukraine, needing only a draw to be sure of joining group winners Spain in the second round, struggled to make the most of their advantage in a scrappy game at Berlin’s Olympiastadion.

Coach Oleg Blokhin’s side will play France, South Korea or Switzerland in the second round, depending on the outcome of matches played later on Friday.

Shevchenko of Ukraine celebrates after scoring his team’s first goal during the World Cup Group H football match at Olympic Stadium in Berlin, July 24, 2006. It was Shevchenko’s 17th World Cup goal. Shevchenko’s 18th goal will make him joint top scorer in the tournament so far. —MNA/Xinhua

Adel Chedli of Tunisia tangles with Oleh Gusev of Ukraine. —INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

3. Fall ill again 7. Metallic scum 11. Symbolic circle

**DOWN**


**S P O R T S**

**WORLD CUP FIXTURES**

Sunday, 25 June 2006

England v Ecuador 21:30 MST

Monday, 26 June 2006

Portugal v Holland 01:30 MST
Nigerian police rescue 78 victims of human trafficking

ABJEA, 24 June — The Nigerian police rescued 78 victims of human trafficking, mostly children during the first five months of this year, a top official said here on Thursday.

Dorothy Gimba, a police officer in charge of human trafficking at the police headquarters in the capital Abuja, said the victims were intercepted in various parts of the country.

Gimba, who spoke at a US Embassy briefing on the menace, said it had become much easier for the policemen to look out for the traffickers because of the 2003 law on human trafficking. “Now my men can identify and affect an arrest since there is a standing law that makes human trafficking a crime. Before it came into force, it was difficult to pin down the suspects,” she said.

The police boss said the force had continued to enlighten its officers and men on the operational tactics of the traffickers and reaffirmed the commitment of the police to rid the society of this “modern slavery.”

Gary Applegarth, a US political officer, at the briefing defined the menace as “another version of slavery that must be terminated at all costs.”

Zimbabwean President praises security forces

HARARE, 24 June — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has commended the country’s security forces for their role in producing adequate food this season through the national food security programme, Operation Maguta.

“On behalf of the government of Zimbabwe, I would like to express our gratitude as a nation for the role played by the forces in supporting the Maguta programme which has seen us grow enough food for ourselves,” he said when addressing a parade of 378 Zimbabwe Republic Police at Morris Depot.

The President also acknowledged the important role played by security officers in supporting various national programmes. He commended the police for standing firm in defence of the country’s peace and tranquillity.

Frogs are seen in a pond in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh on 24 June, 2006.

INTERNET

WEATHER

Saturday, 24 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Mon States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Kayah States, Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (4.96) inches, Homalai (3.26) inches, Kalawy (3.07) inches, Mawaal (2.64) inches, Lashio (2.33) inches and Dawei (1.61) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-6-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 24-6-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-6-2006 was (93%). Total sunshine hours on 23-6-2006 was (5.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-6-2006 were (0.24) inch at Mingaladon, (0.44) inch at Kaba-Aye and Nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (22.76) inches at Mingaladon, (30.91) inches at Kaba-Aye and (35.24) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:00) hours MST on 23-6-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-6-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan, Kayin States and Bago Division, widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the seas: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-6-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WMS

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Prime Minister felicitates Croatian counterpart

NAI PYI TAW, 25 June — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2006. — MNA

Kayan Creek Bridge, 220 feet long and 28 feet wide, is reinforced concrete type. The pedestrian way is three feet wide each.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Kayan Creek Bridge in Kayan

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence addresses opening ceremony of Kayan Creek Bridge in Kayan. — MNA

YANGON, 24 June — Kayan Creek Bridge built by Public Works was inaugurated in Kayan this morning, with an address by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that today is an auspicious day for Yangon Division as the ceremony was held to put Kayan Creek Bridge into service. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the plans are being implemented to enable Myanmar to keep abreast of the other nations, to strengthen national economy and to improve living standard of the entire people. At the outset, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established for ensuring development of national races and border areas. Furthermore, emphasis is being placed on undertaking five rural development tasks. At present, the Government has designated 24 special development regions and is carrying out development tasks for equitable development of all parts of the nation.

Kayan Creek Bridge is one of the development facilities. Kayan Creek Bridge will contribute to smooth flow of commodities such as paddy, pulses and beans and marine products of the region to the markets.

The Ministry of Construction is striving might and main for construction of bridges in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. As all states and divisions are making efforts for development of the nation, Yangon Division plays a key role in the economic sector. Yangon Division

(See page 9)

WORLD CUP 2006

Germany 2
Sweden 0

Newly-opened 220 feet long Kayan Creek Bridge. — MNA

INSIDE

Conspiracies of the infamous power are numerous. If one reads “Killing Hope” one will see clearly how it committed acts to install puppet governments in various countries. It has constantly resorted to the method of toppling the government saying that there was no alternative. In hatching such plots, the infamous power used the compatriots of the nation in question, and not any other foreigners.

PAGE 7

CHAN MYA THAW