848 members of Shan State Army-South (Ywet Sit) group return to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 7 July — Realizing the national development endeavours and sincerity of the government, the entire people and the Tatmadaw, 848 members of Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) group led by Mein Sin with the rank of deputy chief of staff and brigade 758 commander, returned to the legal fold yesterday after making contacts with Eastern Command.

The SSA-S members brought with them 24 various kinds of heavy weapons, 834 assorted small arms, 1,990 magazines, 157,971 rounds of ammunition, 53 hand grenades, 63 mines, 15 communication sets and 120 walkie talkies.

(See page 16)

Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye welcomes members of (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) group led by Mein Sin with the rank of deputy chief of staff and brigade 758 commander, who return to the legal fold. — MNA

Members of (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) group who return to the legal fold. — MNA

Members of (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) group who return to the legal fold seen together with their arms and ammunition. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Preserve and promote eco-tourism

Being rich in national resources, Myanmar has prospects for the development of tourism industry. Eco-tourism plays an indispensable role in the drive for the development of the tourism industry.

Along the Myanmar coastlines are a number of islands and coral reefs alongside a wide range of rare species of aquatic fauna. The regions with scenic beauties of sea beaches such as Ngapali, Ngwe Hsang, Chaungtha, Myek and Dawei are fascinating the tourists who wish to ride a yacht to study the natural scenery for rest and recreation.

Taking measures for the development of eco-tourism can be expedited at such places as Alamuagt Kathapa National Park, Mt. Popa Garden, Ahlet Shweettaw Chatthin Wildlife Park, Inlay Sanctuary, Hawgwa Wildlife Park and Khakaborazi National Gardens.

In the northern part of Myanmar are snow-capped mountain ranges, mountains of scenic beauty, and green and lush forests. The confluence of the Maykha River and the Malikha River in Myitkyina Township, and Mulashedi Village, Mulashedi Suspension Bridge and Khakaborazi National Gardens are endowed with captivating natural beauties. So, it is required to preserve and protect the rare habitats, flora and mountain ranges in these regions.

Nowadays, the number of tourists to Myanmar is on the increase thanks to peace and stability of the State and people’s warm welcome.

The Myanmar Travels Association, the Myanmar Hotels Association and the departments concerned are thus urged to take systematic approaches to the tasks in cooperation with local people for promotion of eco-tourism to further develop the Myanmar tourism industry.

Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 7 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received President Mrs Fang Fang and party of China National Building Material & Equipment I&E Corporation, the People’s Republic of China at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 July. Also present were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Industry-1. — MNA

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds first Waso robes offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 7 July — The first Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Rail Transportation took place at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vinayadharra Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujaata of Pyinmana Township, and members of the Sangha. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, departmental heads and officials.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujaata invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Later, the minister and wife and the deputy ministers offered Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. — MNA

NPE holds Waso robes offering ceremony

Managing Director U Soe Win of NPE and wife and congregation receive Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda. — MNA

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Putin urges Iran to accept nuclear proposals

Moscow, 6 July—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday urged Iran to accept the international proposals to shape the future of its nuclear programme, but said he did not expect Teheran’s answer before the G-8 summit later this month.

“We would like very much the Iranian partners to accept the proposals of the six nations, and we would like to start dialogue on these proposals as soon as possible so that this would take place before the St Petersburg summit,” Putin was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

The issue of Iran’s nuclear activities will be one of the chief topics at the Group of Eight summit, which is scheduled to take place in St Petersburg on 15-17 July.

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and Germany, offered Iran in mid-June a package of incentives aimed at persuading it to halt nuclear enrichment.

But Iran, which has repeatedly said its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, has snubbed calls for a speedy response to the proposals, insisting on giving a reply in August.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana is scheduled to meet Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on Wednesday.

Perodua plans to triple exports

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 July—Perodua, which has displaced Proton as the country’s top seller of passenger cars, is forging ahead with plans to triple exports to 10,000 units annually by 2010.

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua) managing director, Hafiz Syed Abu Bakar, said the bulk of the new exports were bound for Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. The 10-year-old carmaker, which now sells about 3,000 units a year to West Asia and Britain, said new export sales to Indonesia would start next May.

“Before that, we will sell around 500 units of Myvi a month to the UK from September,” he told the New Straits Times yesterday. Perodua, partly owned by Japan’s Daihatsu Motor Co Ltd, has been making waves with its popular Myvi compact car.

Industry sources said Perodua is poised to report a monthly sales record of about 15,300 units in June, thanks mainly to the Myvi.

The previous peak of about 15,200 units set in May by Perodua had enabled it to overtake Proton as the country’s top car seller.

Perodua controlled 42 per cent of the passenger car market in May, and sources said it should retain the pole position for June with a bigger share.

The company foresees total car sales growing 12 per cent to 155,000 vehicles this year, with the Myvi making up about half of the volume.

It has sold 70,000 Myvis since May 2005, and expects the number to rise to 120,000 units by the end of the year. Perodua also sees potential to sell 600 units of the Myvi monthly, in Indonesia in 2007.

US panel orders Abu Ghraib documents from Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 6 July —A US congressional panel has ordered Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to turn over documents on the probe into abuse at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison after the Pentagon failed to respond to an earlier request.

The House Government Reform Committee issued a subpoena to Rumsfeld last week and said the Pentagon must produce a raft of documents, including all drafts of the report on the Abu Ghraib investigation, by the end of business on 14 July. The subpoena follows Rumsfeld’s failure to respond to a 7 March letter from the congressional panel requesting the same documents.

The Pentagon said it had already provided many of the requested documents to its oversight committee — the House Armed Services Committee — and has now also delivered documents to the Government Reform Committee.

Images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, including naked detainees stacked in a pyramid and others cowering before snarling dogs, first became public in April 2004, triggering international condemnation of the United States.

The country’s image has been further tarnished by a string of accusations that US servicemen have murdered Iraqi civilians, including the massacre of 24 civilians in Haditha.

“But if the department won’t even return a call, after three months, and begin that dialogue, we really have no choice but to subpoena the material and compel their attention to our request.”

The panel called for all drafts of the investigation report on the prisoner abuse and all communications related to information provided to the European Union about Abu Ghraib.

Angry father buys 20 Barbie dolls to subdue willful daughter

BEIJING, 6 July —An angry father who bought two dozen Barbie dolls to stop his eight-year-old daughter’s hysterical demands for toys almost ended getting divorced, the Beijing Morning Post has reported.

The man, surnamed Sun, was so desperate to please his whining daughter he spent 5,000 yuan (about 750 US dollars) on ten school bags and 20 Barbie dolls.

The father’s shopping spree ended up frightening his daughter who stopped making gift demands but the wasted money angered his wife who threatened to divorce him.

Finally, the man’s mother-in-law settled the dispute by contacting the shop attendants who took back the goods and refunded all the money. — MNA/Xinhua

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Kyrgyzstan urges US to reach agreement on payment rise for airbase

ALMATY, 6 July — Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Alikbek Jekshenkovul on Tuesday said his country hopes to quickly reach an agreement with the United States on raising the lease terms on the US airbase in Kyrgyzstan, reports reaching here from Bishkek said.

When meeting with Marie Yovanovitch, the US Ambassador in Bishkek, Jekshenkovul said the rent and usage fees for the airbase as set in the initial agreement is too low, which is not in line with the national development interests of the Central Asian country.

A quick settlement of the issue will help solidify bilateral relations and facilitate the airbase to play an active role in safeguarding peace and security in the Central Asian region, Jekshenkovul said.

Kyrgyzstan has sought to increase revenues from the US-led base set up in December 2001 at Kyrgyzstan’s Manas International Airport near the capital Bishkek. Now some 1,500 soldiers from the United States and its NATO allies are stationed in the facility, which is used as a transit point for troops going to or coming from Afghanistan.

In April, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev threatened to expel US troops if Washington does not agree by 1 June to pay more for stationing forces in the military base. The two countries negotiated in early June, but Washington refused Kyrgyz demand for raising the rent to 200 million US dollars per year.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish police arrest 42 for selling child pornography

MADRID, 6 July — Spain’s Civil Guard said on Wednesday it had arrested 42 people and charged them with selling child pornography through the Internet.

Police raided 54 houses and seized several computers, which contained illegal minor pictures, as well as further investigated 120 others for possession of child pornography.

The detainees included businessmen, doctors, public officials and computer experts across 21 Spanish provinces, the civil guard said.

The operation was carried out in 40 Spanish provinces and the neighbouring state of Andorra. It began seven months ago, when a 17-year-old girl went to the police, saying that the nude photos of her taken when she was 13 were circulating online.

The police traced the real identity of users who logged in onto the images of the adolescent girl, whose identity they did not reveal. The operation remains open, as images of the girl have spread to 16 nations outside Spain. — MNA/Xinhua

Report says jobless on rise in Asia-Pacific economies

JAKARTA, 6 July — Asia-Pacific has nearly doubled its share in global trade in the last 15 years, but many of its economies are creating far fewer jobs and experiencing higher unemployment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said Wednesday.

Job creation across the region has plummeted by nearly half, from more than 330 million in the booming 1980s to some 170 million by the start of the 21st century, UNDP said in its report released here.

“This worrisome trend of “jobless growth” has profound implications for human development in Asia-Pacific because employment represents the main channel for the effects of trade on the non-income aspects of poverty,” it said.

Young women and men aged 15 to 24 bore the brunt of the rising unemployment, while youth made up one-fifth of Asia-Pacific’s labour force in 2004, or nearly half of the region’s total jobless population, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Indonesia conduct bilateral air exercise

SINGAPORE, 6 July — Air Forces of Singapore and Indonesia are conducting a regular bilateral air exercise from 3 to 22 July, Singapore’s Ministry of Defence said in a statement Wednesday.

The biennial exercise, code-named Exercise Elang Indopura, involves some 300 personnel and 17 aircraft from the two air forces this year.

The drill, the 14th in its series, consists of two phases, namely a Command Post Exercise at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore and an air manoeuvre Exercise at Iswahyudi Air Force Base in Indonesia’s Eastern Java.

“Exercise Elang Indopura helps strengthen the ties between the two air forces and enhances their interoperability,” the statement said. Personnel from the two air forces will also carry out a joint socio-civic programme to distribute food packages and offer medical and dental services to the people of Medan, Indonesia, on 15 July. — MNA/Xinhua

Using hair dye may increase the risk of a type of cancer known as lymphoma, a European study shows recently. — Internet

This photo taken on 5 July, 2006 shows an outer view of the “Water Cube” aquatics centre in Beijing, capital of China. — Internet

Takeru Kobayashi of Japan poses for pictures after winning Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Competition in New York, on 4 July, 2006. — Internet

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Takeru Kobayashi of Japan poses for pictures after winning Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Competition in New York, on 4 July, 2006. — Internet
Singapore, Brunei to strengthen environmental cooperation

SINGAPORE, 6 July—Senior officials from Singapore and Brunei agreed here Wednesday that the two countries will strengthen their cooperation in environmental protection and water management.

Potential cooperation areas include waste management and recycling, control and management of hazardous substances, and toxic waste, control of movement of ozone-depleting substances, air quality monitoring, air pollution control, water resource management and water conservation.

These were discussed during a meeting between Singapore’s Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Yaacob Ibrahim and visiting Brunei’s Minister of Development Pebin Dato Abdullah Bakar, according to a statement jointly issued by the two ministries Wednesday.

Under the framework of the Brunei-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment and the Brunei-Singapore Working Group on the Environment, officials from the two ministries also met to identify areas and projects for bilateral collaboration.

Cuban officials charge US planning regime change

Havana, 6 July—Two senior Cuban officials charged on Wednesday that a report on the Communist nation delivered to the Bush Administration’s National Security Council amounted to a blueprint for an Iraq-style regime change in the Caribbean.

“We are facing a real threat of aggression,” National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon said of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba’s report, flashing a draft he said had appeared briefly on the US State Department’s web page, to a national television and radio audience.

The report, ordered by President George W. Bush and delivered but not made public on Wednesday, focuses on insuring communism ends when President Fidel Castro, who turns 80 in August, can no longer govern the Caribbean island nation, according to draft seen by Reuters. The new report supports the earlier one discounting a US military threat, pointing out the country is bogged down in the Middle East and the large number of Cubans living in the United States who would oppose a military venture because of family and friends on the Caribbean Island.

Malaysia, Indonesia stage joint military exercises

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 July—Malaysia and Indonesia are staging their joint military exercises in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, involving 5,000 servicemen from sea, land and air forces of both countries, local newspapers reported Wednesday.

Malaysia has sent more than 1,100 soldiers, ten aircraft and two warships to participate in the six joint exercises between the two countries, which started last Saturday in Singkawang area in West Kalimantan. Indonesia has dispatched more than 3,800 soldiers, some armoured vehicles as well as seven warships and 20 aircraft, including nine C-130s, to join in the seven-day manoeuvres.

Malaysia and Indonesia have been holding their joint sea, land and air military exercises every five years since 1981 in a bid to strengthen their military cooperation on border and defence affairs.

Local newspapers said that the joint exercises this time were also aimed to show the international community that the two countries are able to handle affairs in the region with their own military forces, including the maritime security.

Heavy rains, winds in eastern India leave 12 dead

NEW DELHI, 6 July—At least 12 people have died in Orissa in eastern India due to drowning and landslides triggered by heavy rains and high-speed winds lashing the state for the past three days, local officials said Tuesday.

The monsoon rains caused by a depression over the Bay of Bengal hit the state on Saturday. At least 13 people were reported missing after the boats they were travelling in were drowned, according to Indo-Asian News Service Tuesday.

JN Sahu, officer on special duty in the state revenue control room, said one person was drowned in Nayagarh district, 10 were killed in a landslip in the southern district of Gajapati and another rain-related death has been reported from Jagatsinghpur.

Truck rams tractor-trolley killing six in eastern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 July—A tractor-trolley Wednesday was hit into a river by a truck near Middiya at Sheikhupura, 37 kilometres in the west of Lahore in Pakistan Punjab Province, killing six labouers and injuring 15 on board, local private Geo reported.

Police said that the tractor-trolley loaded with iron bars, other domestic goods and carrying labourers was hit from behind by a truck at Nala Dek channel near Middiya, which lost control, went crashing the bridge’s parapet into the Nala Dek, killing six labourers and wounding 15.

Seven killed, 31 injured as minibus collides with truck in India

NEW DELHI, 6 July—At least seven people were killed and 31 others injured when a minibus collided with a truck on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in the early hours of Wednesday.

The accident happened at Chaan Rorian on the highway, about 55 kilometres south of Jammu, the winter capital of India-controlled Kashmir, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

At least two killed in suicide car bombing in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 July—A suicide car bomb went off near an Iraqi police patrol on Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least two people and wounding four others, police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-packed car near a passing police patrol in the city, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, a police source said. He said a police officer and a civilian were killed in the attack.

A restoration expert works on a mural painting at the 10th century AD Boyana church, near the capital Sofia, on 6 July, 2006. This is the first time the church is opened to be photographed from the inside after years of restoration. —INTERNET

A member of Venezuelan reserve troops marches during a military parade to celebrate the 195th anniversary of Venezuelan Independence in Caracas on 5 July, 2006. —INTERNET

A Siberian tiger yawns as another tiger looks on from their cage at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. A Siberian tiger yawns as another tiger looks on from their cage at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. —INTERNET

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BAGHDAD, 6 July—A suicide car bomb went off near an Iraqi police patrol on Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least two people and wounding four others, police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-packed car near a passing police patrol in the city, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, a police source said. He said a police officer and a civilian were killed in the attack. — MNA/Xinhua

A Siberian tiger yawns as another tiger looks on from their cage at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. A Siberian tiger yawns as another tiger looks on from their cage at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Heavy rains, winds in eastern India leave 12 dead

NEW DELHI, 6 July—At least 12 people have died in Orissa in eastern India due to drowning and landslides triggered by heavy rains and high-speed winds lashing the state for the past three days, local officials said Tuesday.

The monsoon rains caused by a depression over the Bay of Bengal hit the state on Saturday. At least 13 people were reported missing after the boats they were travelling in were drowned, according to Indo-Asian News Service Tuesday.

JN Sahu, officer on special duty in the state revenue control room, said one person was drowned in Nayagarh district, 10 were killed in a landslip in the southern district of Gajapati and another rain-related death has been reported from Jagatsinghpur.

Truck rams tractor-trolley killing six in eastern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 July—A tractor-trolley Wednesday was hit into a river by a truck near Middiya at Sheikhupura, 37 kilometres in the west of Lahore in Pakistan Punjab Province, killing six labourers and injuring 15 on board, local private Geo reported.

Police said that the tractor-trolley loaded with iron bars, other domestic goods and carrying labourers was hit from behind by a truck at Nala Dek channel near Middiya, which lost control, went crashing the bridge’s parapet into the Nala Dek, killing six labourers and wounding 15.

Seven killed, 31 injured as minibus collides with truck in India

NEW DELHI, 6 July—At least seven people were killed and 31 others injured when a minibus collided with a truck on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in the early hours of Wednesday.

The accident happened at Chaan Rorian on the highway, about 55 kilometres south of Jammu, the winter capital of India-controlled Kashmir, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

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Pakistan’s geographic location
key for India, China, Iran

ISLAMABAD, 6 July — The geographical location of Pakistan made it an important link for trade among countries like India, China and Iran, President Pervez Musharraf said.

“India, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asian Republics cannot interact and access each other without Pakistan,” Musharraf said at the inaugural ceremony of a dry port at Sust near the Chinese border in Pakistan-controlled Northern Areas.

Also, Pakistan’s association with the SAARC, SCO and ECO regional blocks offered it a key role because of its geographic location.

“It is Pakistan’s geo-strategic strength — it would play a vital role in promoting trade between members of major regional groupings including SAARC, ECO and SCO. Trade between the regional countries has to take place through Pakistan,” he said.

The dry port which was established at the height of 10,000 feet on the Pakistan-China border with state-of-the-art facility, would provide Beijing with the shortest access to the Middle East and other world markets through Pakistani deep sea ports, including Gwadar in southwest Baluchistan.

“We are talking of Pakistan-China inter-connectivity in terms of energy and trade," he added.

Survey says majority of Singaporeans lack retirement plan

SINGAPORE, 6 July — The majority of Singaporeans lack a formal financial plan for retirement, Channel NewsAsia report quoted a survey as saying Wednesday.

Though about half of the people polled expressed their worries about not having sufficient funds to lead a comfortable retirement life, only one-third of them have a structured retirement plan. The survey also found that instead of asking professional investment advisers for retirement advice, 68 per cent of the respondents would consult their friends and 57 per cent would turn to the Internet.

As most of the people surveyed just put their money in deposits to save for their retirement, experts suggest allocating more to equity-type investments which will offer longer-term growth, the report said.

Commissioned by the Singapore branches of the American financial services company Citigroup and the investment management firm Franklin Templeton Investments, the survey involved 400 interviews.

Chinese college students desire jobs in IT Internet businesses

BEIJING, 6 July — The favoured work-place destinations for Chinese college graduates are companies specializing in IT, Internet, electronics, finance consulting and petrochemicals, according to a recent survey.

A total of 30,537 college students responded to the survey, conducted by China HR.com, on “the best employers for Chinese college students in 2006”.

The survey shows the popularity of Internet companies rising fast, with seven entering the list of “the 50 best employers for Chinese college students in 2006”. Only one was on the list last year.

The survey also indicates domestic enterprises are winning college students’ favour, while the popularity of foreign-funded enterprises dip.

There are 24 domestic enterprises on the 2006 list, compared with 19 last year. The number of listed foreign-funded enterprises fell from 31 to 26.

It also shows competition in foreign-funded enterprises has become too fierce, said Zhang Jianguo, Chief Executive Officer of ChinaHR.com, a leading online employment agency.

“Feeling the pinch for domestic enterprises the recruiting system, working environment, welfare, remuneration and training opportunities in such enterprises have improved,” said Zhang. A girl cools off in a public fountain in downtown Bucharest on 6 July, 2006. The Primetime Emmy awards will be given out at the inaugural ceremony of a dry port at Sust near the Chinese border in Pakistan-controlled Northern Areas.

Also, Pakistan’s association with the SAARC, SCO and ECO regional blocks offered it a key role because of its geographic location.

Such is Pakistan’s geo-strategic strength — it would play a vital role in promoting trade between members of major regional groupings including SAARC, ECO and SCO. Trade between the regional countries has to take place through Pakistan,” he said.

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MNA/PTI

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus reacts, as actor Brad Garrett looks on, to receiving a nomination at the 58th annual Primetime Emmy award nominations announcement at the Leonard H Goldenson theatre in North Hollywood on 6 July, 2006. The Primetime Emmy awards will be given out in Los Angeles on 27 August. —INTERNET

A girl cools off in a public fountain in downtown Bucharest on 6 July, 2006, as temperatures reached 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in Romania’s capital. —INTERNET
Smooth transportation, regional stability lead Kayin State to economic development

Myanmar Women’s Day marked in Kayin State

YANGON, 7 July—Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization organized the celebration of the Myanmar Women’s Day on 3 July at the Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an.

Chairperson of Kayin State WAO Daw Tin Sein made a speech, saying that before 1988 there was no rice sufficiency in Kayin State. But now, the state produces 35.7 million baskets of paddy for 1.64 million people residing in the state. Rice sufficiency of the state is over 132 per cent.

In 1988, paddy was sown on only 380,000 acres of land but now 6.05 million acres of land were put under paddy.

As there was an increase in sown acreage, dams and reservoirs have to be built to irrigate these land. Before 1988, there was only 51 dams in the state but now the number of the irrigation facilities stood at 97 and thus benefited acres have increased up to over 50,000 acres. Moreover, six water pumping stations have benefited 7,800 acres of summer paddy. Thanks to regional stability, land which could not be put under crops are now changed into arable land.

Hpa-an region is one of the 24 Special Development Regions and thus universities and colleges, basic education schools, hospitals and dispensaries have been opened and 180 feet and above and bridges have been built in the region.

After 1988, altogether 195 bridges large and small including five 180 feet and above major bridges were built in the state and thus locals and all national people are now enjoying the fruits of smooth transportation.

Smooth transportation and regional stability led the state to economic development with per capita income of the state reaching over K 120,000 in 2005-2006 from K 40,000 in 2001.

To uplift the health standard of locals living in Kayin State, hospitals have been upgraded, new hospitals opened and health care services provided to the people. Similarly new schools have been opened to produce human resource with high caliber.

All-round development of Kayin State is due to efforts for regional stability. Over the span of 50 years, KNU members who have followed the armed struggle line since 1949 have not brought prosperity to the state. Therefore, five groups — DKBA led by U Tha Htoo Kyaw, a group led by Phado Aung San, a group led by U Saw Tha Mu He, a group led by U Ko Gyi and a group led by U Saw Phe Re Mo—split from the KNU have joined hands with the government after exchanging arms for peace.

The warm welcome to the groups who exchanged arms for peace and efforts made for regional development by the government was witnessed during the tour of Thabyenyunt village, Thandawng Township, Myainggyingu region and Phayagon Peace village in Hpa-an Township by diplomats and journalists led by the Minister for Information.

Despite achievements in regional development tasks, those who want to grab power through short cut are trying to hinder the development of the State. They try to use UN Security Council as they have no chance to stir up trouble in the affairs of the country as they wish.

They made accusations that there were ethnic cleansing; villages were destroyed and families displaced by force and refugees flocked to the other country; narcotic drugs and HIV/AIDS; government was not serious about matters of trafficking in persons; and limitations in religious and social affairs. They exaggerated these matters through media.

With the population of 1.6 million, Kayin State is home to such national races as Kachin, Kayin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Pa-O and it is like a mini-union in the Union. Fifty-nine per cent of the residents are Kayin nationals and Mon and Bamar constitute 12 per cent. Kayin State WAO is formed in different levels right down to ward and village levels. Members of WAO are residing in various parts of the state and thus if there is a case of ethnic cleansing and forced displacement of villages, WAO members living there will surely know the incidents but there was no report on these matters. Therefore, these accusations are baseless and just a political trick.

(See page 15)
My happiness grew beyond expression on 17 April 2006—the day the Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway was put into commission. And since then, I had a wish to write an article about the highway.

I am a Rakhine and a native of Kyaukpyu. Despite having settled in Yangon I visit my native town once or twice a year. But the journey to Kyaukpyu was mainly by boat off the coast. The journey on the coastal waters took more time than travelling by road and heavy rains or storms were other setbacks. It was a journey I had to travel for certain reasons, but with much anxiety.

It was in 2000 that we began to hear the news on the construction of Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway. I knew that the terrain of Taungup and Maei, through which the highway passes, is formed with marshlands and tidal areas. Building of a road and bridges in the area seemed almost impossible then. Many people were doubtful about the highway project. As for me, I thought that it was beyond my dreams.

To the amazement of all, Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway did emerge. I didn’t know how to express my happiness for the commissioning into service of the highway of which I never dreamt. Rakhines have to thank Senior General Than Shwe a lot for the highway. The Senior General’s idea was beyond others’ imagination, and he managed to materialize it. Thanks to his vision, plans and sincerity, the entire nation is witnessing development in all sectors as never before.

What I am writing about in this article comes from the bottom of my heart.

The highway is ready to serve not only the Rakhines, but also the entire nation at any time of the year and under any weather condition. Nowadays, my journey to Kyaukpyu is along the highway that has a lot of bridges spanning many natural watercourses on it.

Over 20 miles of the 40-mile Maei-Sane section of the highway were mangrove forests, marshes and swamps. Various methods were applied to harden the foundation of the ground. It was the most difficult part of the project where geotextile method was used. The method covered groundwork, bamboo laying and formation of a two feet thick layer of a mixture of earth and rocks to harden the ground layer by layer. The method prevents land and road subsidence.

A map showing the route of Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway.

What did the highway emerge? How was it built? What difficulties were faced? Who were the builders? All were interesting questions for me. So I approached some of the persons who took part in building the highway to know the facts about the project. I also studied about the facility in the news report on its opening in the dailies.

The first highway that was launched in Rakhine State is the 535-mile long Yangon-An-Sittway highway. Not long after the opening of the facility, the construction of Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway began. The 20-mile long stretch of land between Kyaukpyu and Maei of the highway is a tidal area. But thanks to the geotextile technology the road could be built through the difficult terrain normally impossible for road and bridge construction.

The project started in 2000 with the survey to decide the axis for the Taungup-Maei section covered by phase I that was completed in 2005. Phase II covered the Maei-Kyaukpyu section.

Engineers of Public Works, Tatmadawmen and local people of Rakhine State had to make greater efforts for over four years to complete the 120-mile long Taungup-Kyaukpyu section of the highway. The work was tough for both the road builders and the bridge builders.
Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union highway and Minkyaung bridge on it were put into service on the same day.

The highway is also connected with Nay Pyi Taw-Magway-Kyaukpyu road, Taungoo-Pyay-Kyaukpyu road, and Pathein-Kyaukpyu road. For over 300,000 people of 400 villages in Kyaukpyu and Yanbye townships on Yanbye Island, the highway serves as the main gateway.

The nation now has 19,020 miles of roads, up 5,386 miles from 13,635 miles in 1988. In addition, the Tatmadaw government has built 216 over 180-foot long bridges including seven on Ayeyawady River, two on Chindwin River, five on Thanlwin River, and one on Sittoung River.

The facilities including the one like the Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway are the fruits of the unprecedented progress. Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union highway have emerged for the socio-economic development of all the nationalities including Rakhine people.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin & Kyemon: (7-7-2006)
Magway Division enjoys fruits of govt efforts for regional development

Magway Division WAO observes Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 7 July — Magway Division Women’s Affairs Organization held Myanmar Women’s Day ceremony on 3 July at the city hall in Magway.

In her opening address, Chairperson of Magway Division WAO Daw Mya Myint Thu criticized the accusations made by US and exiled groups that Myanmar could not control the human trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country.

It is regrettable that US and exiled groups made false accusations pushing the UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar.

She continued to say that as economic sanctions could raise the jobless rate that as economic sanctions against Myanmar.

Council to take action pushing the UN Security made false accusations US and exiled groups

In 2005, ILO demanded that sanctions be imposed on Myanmar. As a result, 160 garment factories were closed down and 401 factories had to reduce the labour force. The closure left over 80,000 workers jobless including 70,000 women. Therefore, some women fell victim to human trafficking while struggling for their living.

ILO allowed terrorist groups to participate in its meetings and managed to place economic sanctions on Myanmar at its 95th meeting.

Hence, MWAF had to strongly object ILO’s decisions to impose economic sanction which could lead to human trafficking, she said.

Magway Division has constructed in Magway Division to supply water to 421,521 acres of farmland. Thanks to the building of these facilities, Magway Division’s rice sufficiency has stood at 94.61 per cent in 2005-06.

Having 429 per cent of edible oil sufficiency, the division has contributed its surplus oil to 42 per cent of the State’s demand.

In the afforestation sector, 192,922 acres of forest plantation, 1,500 acres Thitseint plantation, 51,790 acres firewood plantation have been set up in the division apart from its 3,880 acres of forest reserve. In addition, Magway Division WAO also participated in the cultivation of physic nut plants on 236,858 acres joining hands with other social organizations.

Regarding the division’s transportation sector, 12 bridges above 180 feet have been built in the division and Magway Division is now enjoying the fruits of development.

Chaung-U-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad has emerged, and from Kalay passengers can travel to Tamu at the border with India.

Promising oil fields have been discovered and Ayadaw, Chauk, Lanywa, Yenangyoung, Mann, Yenanma, Htaukschabin, Kanni, Patpe, Kyaukkwet, Letpando, Thagyitaung and Sabe oil fields are contributing much to the national economic development.

The government has built 14 universities, colleges and institutes including one Community Health Care University, two government computer colleges and two government technological colleges in the division, and over 57,000 are attending the classes at the institutions of higher learning.

Over 460,000 boys and girls are attending classes at the 72 high schools, 188 middle schools and 3,612 primary schools in the division, right track to progress. Hence, the MWAF totally opposed outside economic sanctions that will create layoffs in the nation.

The Magway University of Medicine.

Magway, Kyaukhtu and Pakokku airports can now handle passenger jet flights and many more airfields have been built in the division. Industries in Magway region were relocated at Yenangyoung and Pakokku industrial zones to generate more job opportunities for the local people.

Cars and motorcycles assembled by the zones are in high demand. Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam is now generating 75 megawatts to supply power to homes and industries in the division.

Regional economic development.

The division reached 70.98 per cent. Thanks to the efforts of the MWAF and other social organizations school enrollment rate of the division reached 70.98 per cent.

Magway now has sound economic foundations and on the
Government implementing policy on anti-trafficking in persons as national duty

Chin State WAO marks Myanmar Women’s Day 2006

Yangon, 7 July — Chin State Women’s Affairs Organization observed the Myanmar Women’s Day at the City Hall in Haka, Chin State, on 3 July morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of Chin State WAO Daw Rwai Ja said that tasks are being carried out for protecting the national races who live in Chin State and for preserving traditional cultures. In addition, the plans are being implemented for ensuring uplift of living standard of the local people and environmental conservation.

In the agriculture sector, 5,533 acres of tea plantations are thriving in Chin State to create job opportunities for local women. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State and for preserving traditional cultures, in 2006 to produce 8,663 viss of coffee seeds yielded from 1,175 acres of coffee plantation, and local women have been manufacturing coffee products at the cottage industries. A total of 45,331 domesticated wild oxen are being bred in Chin State.

With regard to the education sector, 382 basic education schools were built after 1988. Among these schools, 22 basic education schools where 153 teachers are nurturing pupils in 22 rural dispensaries and transmission stations, 25 TV re-transmission stations, 25 telephone stations and 16 rural dispensaries and 22 basic education schools. In addition, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department has built 25 TV re-transmission stations, 25 telephone stations and 16 rural dispensaries and 22 basic education schools where 153 teachers are nurturing pupils in 22 rural dispensaries and transmission stations, 25 TV re-transmission stations, 25 telephone stations and 16 rural dispensaries.

The Government has spent K 57 million on tarmacking of 120-mile Kalay-Falam-Haka Road, and construction of the retaining walls and conduits in 2005-06. Therefore, local people can use the road safely and smoothly even in rainy season. Likewise, the Government maintained 173-mile Haka-Matupi Road by spending K 55 million and the 86-mile Haka-Gangaw Road, the 35-mile Haka-Thanlang Road, and the 43-mile Haka-Falam Road in Haka Township by spending K 52.5 million. Furthermore, the 102-mile Mindat-Paokkku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Kanpetlet-Matupi Road is being maintained in Mindat District with the use of the Government budget. Similarly, the 22 miles long road section of the 45-mile Falam-Reed Lake Road was maintained, spending K 7.5 million. Afterwards, Manhsaung Bridge crossing Manipur River was put into service in 2005. Therefore, local people in Chin State have easy access to every region in the country through the roads at any time. Indeed, the Government has spent K 218 million on the tasks of transport sector in Chin State.

Our Myanmar Women
Our Myanmar Women
Tho’ small in stature
but big in spirit
Tho’ slim and fragile
but strong and sturdy
Proven through the ages
Come out shining bright
as Queens and Princesses
as poets and composers
as law-givers and judges
And as warriors and fighters
never fail or flop in duty
Always ready at clarion call
Let’s unite with might and main
in building our nation.

Aung Than Tun (Monywa)
A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (74206)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (74206) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2006 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.

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MV VASCO DAGAMA VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DAGAMA VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2006 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.

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BEIJING, 6 July—China’s State Council has ordered 48 government departments to explain the misuse of 55.1 billion yuan (689 million US dollars) of government funds last year.

The State Council, China’s Cabinet, would then report to the legislature by the end of the year on efforts to correct the budget problems according to a decision made at an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing on Wednesday.

Abductors of Iraqi lawmaker demand timetable for US withdrawal

BAGHDAD, 6 July—Militants who took an Iraqi female lawmaker hostage demanded a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, Iraq’s Vice-President Tareq al-Hashimi said on Wednesday.

The kidnappers also demanded a guarantee of safety for the Shi’ite mosques in return for the abducted lawmaker, Hashimi added.

In addition, the Vice-President said that Taiseen Najal al-Mashhadani, a female Sunni Arab lawmaker who was kidnapped last week, was still alive.

Hashimi, also a Sunni, said that the group which claimed holding Mashhadani had contacted his Iraqi Islamic Party and declared the demands, without revealing further details.

On 1 July, unidentified gunmen kidnapped Mashhadani along with seven of her bodyguards in a Shi’ite neighbourhood in northeastern Baghdad.

The incident prompted the Sunni Arab bloc in the Iraqi Parliament to boycott sessions until Mashhadani is released. — MNA/IXinhua

China’s State Council orders Govt reports on misused billions

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A source at the meeting said the State Council would stand by the annual audit report delivered by the National Audit Office in June on misused central funds last year and the rectification orders of the legislature.

State Councillors agreed the closure of loopholes in the budget management system was a high priority and required central government departments to improve budgeting transparency and to make their revenue forecasts more scientific and accurate. — MNA/IXinhua

Defying US, Chavez shows off new Russian jets

CARACAS (Venezuela), 6 July—President Hugo Chavez marked Venezuela’s Independence on Wednesday, showing off Russian fighter jets his government is planning to buy as well as attack helicopters and rifles it has already purchased after Washington blocked US arms sales to Caracas.

Two Sukhoi SU-30MK fighters sent from Russia roared overhead as troops, tanks and vehicles filed past Chavez and his counterparts from Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay who were visiting for a summit of the Mercosur trade bloc.

Relations between Washington and Caracas are tense after the United States banned arms sales, citing Chavez’s close ties to Iran and Cuba. US officials say the populist Chavez is destabilizing the region, a charge he rejects as propaganda.

Chavez, a former Army officer, is seeking to buy 24 of the high-performance fighters to replace his government’s F-16 jets in a deal analysts estimate would cost nearly one billion US dollars. He has already bought Kalashnikov rifles and attack helicopters from Russia.

“The US Government has negotiated us, failing to meet contracts and agreements, delaying or not sending parts for US-made aircraft,” Chavez said. “See now how our Air Force is recovering operations, especially with these Sukhoi, the most powerful combat jets in the world.”

Joining Chavez at the ceremony was Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Russian who designed the original weapon to bear his name, the AK-47. Venezuela has purchased 100,000 new AK-103 rifles to replace its aging FAL weapons.

Perú’s García denies alliance against Chavez

BOGOTA (Colombia), 6 July—Peruvian President-elect Alan García denied on Wednesday he is seeking a regional strategic alliance with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Garcia, who will assume the presidency on 28 July, arrived in Bogota to meet for the first time Colombia’s President Alvaro Uribe. Garcia has already visited Chile and Brazil and heads to Ecuador on Thursday.

Some analysts say Garcia is pushing for a regional bloc with Brazil, Chile and Colombia to balance Chavez’ influence in the region with allies Cuba and Bolivia.

“In no way I am planning an axis or group of countries to offset the interventionist influence of this country. I am convinced that only with our democracy Peru has been able to stop any pressure or intervention, and doesn’t need to go beyond that,” Garcia told reporters in Bogota.

Garcia did not comment directly about Chavez.

Chavez recently called Garcia “a lap dog” of Washington after a series of verbal exchanges during the presidential campaign in Peru. Chavez openly endorsed former Peruvian presidential candidate Ollanta Humala which ignited a diplomatic crisis that led the recall of their respective ambassadors. — MNA/Reuters

CHINA’S STATE COUNCIL ORDERS GOVT REPORTS ON MISUSED BILLIONS

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China approves first 30 national heritage sites

BEIJING, 6 July — The Chinese Government has approved the first batch of 30 national heritage sites, including 17 natural heritage and 13 natural and cultural heritage sites, the Ministry of Construction said Wednesday.

Among the 30 sites are Qinghai Lake in northwest China’s Qinghai Province, Wutai Mountain known for its many ancient Buddhist temples in north China’s Shanxi Province, and Juhua Shan Mountain in east China’s Anhui Province.

Chen Xiaoli, the ministry’s chief planner, said the establishment of the national heritage system was an important development in China’s national heritage protection system. Sites on the national heritage list would have priority for candidacy for world heritage sites, she said. Candidates for national heritage sites would receive guidance and assistance from the ministry regarding the protection of resources, establishing an administration, and the World Heritage Committee rules, to pave the way for their inclusion on the World Heritage List.

China has 31 world heritage sites, second only to Spain and Italy.

Chen warned that all national heritage sites must strictly observe the rules for their management, or risk removal from the list.

A bolt of lightning strikes Qianfo Mountain in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 5 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Indian, S Korean Coast Guards test marine pollution control measures

NEW DELHI, 6 July — Indian and South Korean Coast Guards are testing out marine pollution control measures off the Chennai Port during their five-day joint exercises that ends Friday, according to Indo-Asian News Service Wednesday.

Coast Guard vessels of the two countries will examine the measures to be taken to protect marine flora and fauna in case of oil spillage from tankers, the report said.

Certain measures are being contemplated to arrest spillages and these will figure in the joint exercises, an Indian Defence Ministry news release said.

The use of pollution control equipment like boom will be demonstrated. Spillages can be encircled by a boom and contained into a localized area so that the oil can be extracted by the use of skimmers, the release said.

Any oil that remains can be dispersed off by using biodegradable processes.

Another type of boom is laid out at river mouths to prevent the pollutants from carrying from being dumped into the sea, the release said.

Seven Indian Coast Guard vessels will participate in the joint exercises with the Korean Coast Guard Ship Teapungyang No. 6 that has a compliment of 79 personnel and also embarks a helicopter.

Superintendent Ju Mum-Seok commands the visiting vessel.

This is the second exercise being undertaken between the two countries, and is in continuation of their initiatives for strengthening regional co-operation in the field of maritime safety and security. —MNA/Xinhua

Researchers discover why mosquitoes hate about humans

LONDON, 6 July — Researchers have identified smelly chemicals from the sweat of some lucky people that drive away mosquitoes.

British researchers identified the chemicals, but refused to divulge the names of the chemicals until they are patented, according to New Scientist Tuesday on its website.

These helpful chemicals occur naturally in everybody’s sweat but some people have a much higher ratio than others, James Logan at Rothamstead Research in Harpenden, who carried out the research in collaboration with researchers at the University of Aberdeen, was quoted as saying.

Everybody produces a mixture of odorous chemicals in their sweat, some of which attract biting insects, such as lactic acid, but people who do not get bitten also produce smellly chemicals that appear to mask the scent of the attractive chemicals. —MNA/Xinhua

The International Space Station is seen in the cross-hairs of the space shuttle Discovery’s specialized mating adapter mechanism as the shuttle approaches the ISS for docking in this view from NASA TV on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET

A 59-year-old American is believed to have become the oldest woman in the world to give birth to twins, it has been reported recently. Lauren Cohen, who turns 60 on 21 August, and husband Frank Garcia’s babies, a boy and a girl, named Gregory and Giselle, were successfully delivered by Caesarean section on 22 May despite life-threatening complications, according to the New York Post.—INTERNET
**S P O R T S**

**WORLD CUP FIXTURES**

**Sunday, 9 July 2006**

- Germany v Portugal | 01:30 MST
- Germany v Portugal | 16:00 MST
- Russia v Italy | 19:30 MST

**Monday, 10 July 2006**

- Italy v France | 00:30 MST
- Brazil v France | 03:00 MST

**Germany’s Kahn in goal for third place match**

**Berlin, 7 July**— Germany’s number two goalkeeper Oliver Kahn will play in the host nation’s third-place match against Portugal on Saturday, Bild newspaper reported.

In an article on the paper’s website, Bild said coach Jurgen Klinsmann had opted for Kahn over favoured keeper Jens Lehmann who has played all Germany’s other matches so far.

“I don’t see this as just a gesture at all,” Kahn told the newspaper. “I am looking forward to it. For me even third place in the World Cup has a value.”

Bild said Klinsmann had informed Kahn who, at 37 is the oldest player in the German squad, of the decision on Thursday.

Earlier Lehmann said he would be prepared to sit out the third-place match in order to give Kahn a final taste of the World Cup.

The Arsenal goalkeeper has fought a long battle with Bayern Munich’s Kahn to be named as first choice for the finals.

**Cristiano Ronaldo on Young Player Award shortlist**

**Berlin, 7 July**— Six players including Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo were shortlisted on Thursday for FIFA’s inaugural Gillette Best Young Player Award at the World Cup.

Ronaldo received a barrage of media and fan criticism for his part in the sending-off of England’s Wayne Rooney in Portugal’s penalty shootout quarter-final victory. He complained to the referee vociferously about a foul by his Manchester United teammate before Rooney’s red card in the hot tempered match in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday.

“Thirty-two teams started the World Cup and four got to the semis. To be among the four is an achievement for us, it’s historic,” he told reporters.

“We want to thank everyone in Portugal for all the displays of affection towards our players and to tell them our players did their best from the start. "I want the world to know that we’re proud of our players,” added the man known as Big Phil, who led his native Brazil to their fifth world title in 2002.

“We’re not going to drop our heads or feel bad because of yesterday’s defeat,” he added, after leading Portugal to the last four.

**Zidane short-listed for Golden Ball award**

**Berlin, 7 July**— France playmaker Zinedine Zidane, who will end his glorious career in the World Cup final against Italy on Sunday, has been short-listed for the prestigious FIFA Golden Ball award.

The winner of the prize, which is given to the most valuable player in the 32-team tournament, will be announced on Monday. The nominations were dominated by Italy and France with hosts Germany earning two spots and Portugal one.

Four Indians were nominated by FIFA’s Technical Study Group — keeper Gianluigi Buffon, central defender Fabio Cannavaro, midfielder Andrea Pirlo and fullback Gianluca Zambrotta.

France, who face Italy at the Olympiastadion, had three players short-listed — Zinedine Zidane, striker Thierry Henry and midfielder Patrick Vieira.

Germany’s playmaker Michael Ballack and striker Miroslav Klose were also selected along with midfielder Maniche of Portugal, who play the hosts in Saturday’s third-place match.

“It’s going to be difficult to pick a winner this time,” Franz Beckenbauer, Germany’s organizing committee president, said after the nominations were announced.

“The one thing that can be said is this is the first time there are not any new names. I’d say one of the older players... will take it — I liked Henry and Zidane and Figo, even though he isn’t on the list.”

The winner will be picked by FIFA accredited journalists and announced the day after the final at the end of the month-long tournament that began with 32 teams on 9 June. In 2002, Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn won the Golden Ball, an honour presented six times since 1982.

Italy’s Paolo Rossi won the first award before it went to Argentina’s Diego Maradona (1986), Italy’s Salvatore Schillaci (1990) and Brazilians Romario (1994) and Ronaldo (1998).

The nominations for this year’s award are: Fabio Cannavaro (Italy), Maniche (Portugal), Michael Ballack (Germany), Andrea Pirlo (Italy), Gianluca Zambrotta (Italy), Thiery Henry (France), Gianluigi Buffon (Italy), Patrick Vieira (France), Miroslav Klose (Germany), Zinedine Zidane (France).—MNA/Reuters

**Capello aims to rediscover Real’s lost spirit**

**Madrid, 7 July**— New coach Fabio Capello said he wanted to restore a lost spirit to Real Madrid after signing a three-year contract on Thursday.

“I’m really looking forward to working with this club,” the 60-year-old Italian told reporters. “I’m convinced this is the most important club in the world.

“We have to win trophies and to do that we have to work hard, be humble and rediscover the spirit of Real Madrid. I think we have lost that spirit in recent years.”

Club president Ramon Calderon said the nine-times European champions had signed the former Juventus coach because of the way he revived Real during his first spell a decade ago.

“Contracting Fabio Capello was an obsession of mine because he is a born winner,” said Calderon.

“The 1998-97 season when he took over a team in crisis is fixed in my memory. He took over a team that came sixth in the league and led it to the championship.

“He also laid the foundations for the team that won the European Cup in 1998.”

Calderon said he would not involve himself in Capello’s work with the players.

“Capello and (sporting director Predrag) Mijatovic will work together without any interference from me, the rest of the board,” he said.

“His is here to restore the self-esteem of the players, to instil order and discipline and give them necessary affection too. It is a difficult task but he is a master of this art.”

Capello said one of his first tasks would be to deal more closely with the squad of players that includes high-profile figures such as Ronaldo, David Beckham, Robinho and Raul.—MNA/Reuters

**Big Phil salutes Portugal’s achievement**

**Munich, 7 July**— Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari paid an emotional tribute to his team on Thursday, saying he was proud of his players despite a 1-0 loss to France in Wednesday’s semifinal.

“Thirty-two teams started the World Cup and four got to the semifinals. To be among the four is an achievement for us, it’s historic,” he told reporters.

“We want to thank everyone in Portugal for all the displays of affection towards our players and to tell them our players did their best from the start. "I want the world to know that we’re proud of our players,” added the man known as Big Phil, who led his native Brazil to their fifth world title in 2002.

“We’re not going to drop our heads or feel bad because of yesterday’s defeat,” he added, after leading Portugal to the last four for the first time since 1966.

“We lost to an outstanding team, we want to thank immensely everyone who supported us yesterday, not just in Portugal but in other parts of the world.”

Scolari avoided any criticism of Spanish referee Jorge Larrionda, who gave France a controversial penalty from which Zinedine Zidane scored the only goal of the game.

“We will play a third place match with Germany, although we would rather be playing for first and second place against Germany,” he said. “For us, third place would be marvellous.”

**Russia’s Maria Sharapova waves to the crowd after being defeated in her semi-final match against France’s Amelie Mauresmo at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 6 July, 2006.**—INTERNET

**France’s Amelie Mauresmo celebrates winning her semi-final match against Russia’s Maria Sharapova at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 6 July, 2006.**—INTERNET

**France’s Zinedine Zidane shoots from the penalty spot to score past Portugal’s Ricardo Pereira (L) during their World Cup 2006 quarter-final match in Munich on 5 July, 2006.**—INTERNET

**Kyeong Bae of South Korea tees off on the second hole during first round play of the LPGA Women’s World Match Play Championships in Gladstone, New Jersey on 6 July, 2006.**—INTERNET

**Ecuador’s Luis Valencia, Lionel Messi and Brazilian player Ronaldo were shortlisted on Thursday for FIFA’s inaugural Gillette Best Young Player Award at the World Cup.**—INTERNET
Service for the Department of Home Affairs was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs. — MNA

Government implementing policy

(from page 11) Organizations on matters related to prevention against infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS in Myanmar were only one-sided accusations.

 Nowadays, it is difficult to collect victims of human trafficking in the world. However, it can be studied that more than 27 million victims fell into human trafficking cases. Furthermore, from one to two million persons were victimized in human trafficking cases throughout the world yearly, especially in Mekong Valley Region. Among the victims, the largest number of victims and girls were included in the cases. In Asia, UNODC reported that human trafficking cases occurred in China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam, and a large number of victims were sent to the United States, the UK and Japan. Myanmar initially paid attention to the problem of trafficking in persons around 1995. The preventive measures of trafficking women and children in the field of trafficking was one of the future tasks included in the Beijing Declaration from the Women’s World Conference held in 1995. For carrying out uplift of the living standard of the women and security of their lives, the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs was formed in 1996, and the committee is making efforts to carry out tasks of anti-trafficking in persons.

With the concept that the commitments of trafficking in persons undermine the desirable traditional culture and national prestige of the State, the Government had laid down and is implementing the policy on anti-trafficking in persons as the national duty. In October 2004, Myanmar hosted the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT-2004) where ministers of six countries from Greater Mekong Sub-Region attended, and they signed the MoU on Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking in Mekong Region. Since 1992, Myanmar has been cooperating with NGOs, UN agencies and INGOs to fight against human trafficking. The Work Committee for Anti-trafficking in Persons of Myanmar was formed by the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs was constituted under the MNCWA in 1997. From 2003 to 2005, educational talks were given to 788,396 persons at the border areas, and 19,535 persons were handed over to their families systematically. Actions were taken against 127 persons in 82 cases of trafficking in persons.

Accommodation camp for trafficked persons was opened in Myawady on 18 February 2002 and in cooperation with UNIAP, Safe the Children (UK) and World Vision, measures are being taken to accept trafficked persons, hand them over to the respective families and conduct rehabilitation work.

MWAIF, in cooperation with Social Welfare Department, accepted Myanmar women who had been in Kredtrakam Women Centre in Bangkok starting from 22 June, 2005. Altogether 20 women were accepted three times. The entire people including the mass of women are concerned that some big nations who want to install a puppet government are imposing sanctions on the nation, supporting anti-government groups who are committing terrorist acts and inventing fabricated news. The total number of those persons who commit such misdeeds will not be even a third of Kayin State WAO members. In conclusion, she, on behalf of the women mass of Kayin State, urged the UN to correctly carry out this matter after thoroughly asssessing the objective condition. Afterwards, the chairperson and members of WAO presented prizes to 23 outstanding women and a man in Kayin State. — MNA

Weather outlook for second weekend of July 2006

During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

WEATHER

Weather outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in Northern Rakhine and Chin States.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-7-2006:

Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States scattered in lower Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and upper Sagain Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 to 40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Forcast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-7-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-7-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Smoooth transportation, ...

Although the 17 national race armed groups have been participating in regional development undertaking hand in hand with the government, there exist a handful of insurgency in the country. Taking refuge in remote border areas, they dance to the tune of big nations. They try to jeopardize the country and the worst is that sending terrorists into the country to cause internal instability. It is known to all that innocent students were killed in the explosion that occurred at Monkey King sports gear shop in Hpa-an committed by KNLF insurgents. The Tatmadaw had to take action against a handful of KNLF for regional stability but the insurgents carried out in Kayin State. — MNA

Contest of Military Code of Conduct held

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 July - A contest of military code of conduct for the first four months of 2006 took place at Kyunsu hall of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein of Camp Commandant’s Office of Ministry of Defence and officials encouraged the participants. A total of 175 participants including 32 officers took part in the contest. — MNA

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848 members of Shan State Army-South (Ywet Sit)...

(from page 1)

Officials led by Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye warmly welcomed them. The commander allocated a region for them to live, earn their living and carry out regional development undertakings. Moreover, he made arrangements to provide food, clothing and shelter for their convenience.

The entire national people including all the national races in southern, northern and eastern Shan State and the Tatmadaw, who wish to see peaceful progress of the nation, have warmly welcomed the SSA-S members with great pleasure as they returned to the legal fold in a large group with correct outlook and realization. — MNA

The entire national people including all the national races in southern, northern and eastern Shan State and the Tatmadaw, who wish to see peaceful progress of the nation, have warmly welcomed the SSA-S members with great pleasure.