Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Increase cooperation in the fight against drugs

Myanmar is carrying out the work of drug elimination as a national duty and at the same time it is cooperating with her neighbours, countries in the region and international organizations to wipe out the danger of narcotics.

To increase the cooperation with Laos, a liaison office is about to be opened soon in Wankyn, Tachilek District, near Myanmar-LPD border. The current Myanmar-LPD liaison office is in Wanpon in Tachilek District. The Myanmar-China liaison offices are based in Lwejel in Kachin State and Chinswehaw in Shan State (North). The Myanmar-Thailand liaison offices are situated in Myawady, Tachilek and Kawthoung.

In cooperation with China, Myanmar has extradited 61 drug traffickers to China since the year 2001. In the same way, China has extradited two drug offenders to Myanmar.

In cooperation with Thailand, Myanmar extradited three drug traffickers to Thailand, two in 2004 and one in 2005. Similarly, Thailand handed over an offender to Myanmar authorities in 2005.

In accordance with the Indo-Myanmar agreement to control drugs, bilateral meetings are regularly held at different levels and there have been more exchange of information between the nations.

As a result of cooperation with the neighbouring countries, production and distribution of drugs are on the decrease in the border areas.

Religious Affairs Ministry offers Waso robes to Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — Ministry of Religious Affairs held a Waso robes offering ceremony at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The ceremony was graced under the presence of Sayadaws led by Pyinmana Maha Wuthathayama Zaygon Monastery President Nayaka Sayadaw Bhanddanta Kavisara. It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and heads of departments, families of the ministry and wellwishers.

Sayadaw and members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha images. The sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Later, the ministers, deputy minister and those present offered waso robes and provisions to the sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Those present shared the merits gained and offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to French Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic which falls on 14 July 2006. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to India

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, for the loss of lives caused by bomb attacks in Mumbai on 11th July 2006. — MNA

Transport Minister meets exporters, importers

YANGON, 13 July — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, who is also Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Speedy and Regular Freight-Handling and Operating Full Capacity, met exporters and importers at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. On the occasion, the minister explained export and import rules and regulations of the State to be followed by entrepreneurs. Next, member of the committee Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Myanma Port Authority Managing Director U Thein Hlay and Customs Department Deputy Director General Tha Tha Thura Thein Tun Tin reported functions of their respective departments.

In response to the reports the minister stressed the need for ensuring speedy freight handling, safety of cargo sites and efforts to be made for the interest of the entrepreneurs as well as that of the State. — MNA

Myanmar Gazette

U Tin Oo accredited to Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Minister receives guest of IGV Co

Minister U Aung Thaung receives guests at his office. — INDUSTRY-1

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — Professor Dr Otto Pulz and Dr G. Follmann of Institute Fur Geteideverarbeitung (IGV) Co called on U Aung Thaung, Minister for Industry-1 at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises of the ministry. — MNA
Kyrgyzstan to expel two US diplomats

BISHKEK, 12 July — Kyrgyzstan, home to a US military airbase, plans to expel two American diplomats, a human rights official said on Tuesday.

The US Embassy declined to confirm whether the diplomats would be expelled, but said in a statement on its Web site: “The Embassy of the United States is disturbed by reports of the expulsion of two US diplomats.”

Kyrgyzstan’s Foreign Ministry and the President’s Office could also not confirm the expulsion.

The mountainous Central Asian state has been in protracted negotiations with Washington over raising the rent of a military airbase that the United States uses to support operations in nearby Afghanistan.

A fresh round of talks is expected to start this week.

Kyrgyzstan wants a 100-fold increase in annual rent to 200 million US dollars.

Tursunbek Akun, chairman of Kyrgyzstan’s state-sponsored Human Rights Commission, said: “There has been an official decision by the Foreign Ministry (to expel the diplomats).”

Our commission does not support the expulsion of American diplomats, ... they represent no kind of threat.” The embassy statement on the Web site kyrgyz.usembassy.gov added: “US diplomats have been accused of having inap-propriate contact with the leaders of non-governmental organiza-

Typhoon “Ewiniar” kills at least five in South Korea

SEOUL, 12 July — The Typhoon Ewiniar has already killed at least five people and left three others missing by Monday afternoon, the South Korean Government announced on Monday.

The Ewiniar, which means “storm god” in one of the tribal lan-

guages of Micronesia, means “storm god” in one of the tribal lan-

guages of Micronesia, caused heavy rains throughout the southern part of the Korean Peninsula on Monday.

According to the Administration. The Ewiniar, which

Bolivia launches large-scale anti-drug operation

LIMA, 12 July — Bolivian special forces launched 133 anti-drug operations last week, seizing near one ton of drugs and 90 suspected drug traffickers, the Bolivian military said on Monday.

The drugs contain about 346 kilograms of cocaine and 631 kilograms of marijuana and the suspects include 80 Bolivian citizens and 10 foreigners, the military said in a statement. The special forces have also smashed 53 drug factories and 82 drug pools, it added.

Bolivia is one of the three largest drug planting and producing bases in Latin America, with 30,000 hectares of land planting coca.

Last year alone, the South American country captured 45 tons of drugs and over 4,000 suspected drug traffickers. — MNA/Xinhua

British family cleans up with long-lost Chinese vase

LONDON, 12 July — An 18th Century Chinese vase given as a retirement gift to a cleaning lady 60 years ago netted a small fortune for her family on Monday when it was snapped up after being proved to be a missing Imperial treasure.

The eight-inch high Qianlong vase, which has stood unrecognized next to the family’s television for years, fetched 92,000 pounds (169,700 US dollars) at London’s auction house Bonham’s sale.

This is a lost treasure of the Qing dynasty,” expert Julian King of Bonham’s Asian art department said. “It is a truly remarkable leg of the 20th Century that this rare vase, commissioned for the Qianlong emperor in the 18th Century, ended up being given to a cleaner in the 1940s and is now going back to China,” he added.

Bonham’s said the vase had been bought by a Chinese collector.

The owner decided to contact the auction house after seeing a newspaper report about a long-lost Chinese Imperial vase being sold for 240,000 pounds— and the rest is history. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
ASEAN countries to sign pact on visa exemption

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 July — ASEAN countries are expected to sign a framework agreement on visa exemption among them at the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) later this month, a senior official said here on Tuesday.

The ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption will be one of the four key documents to be signed at the AMM gathering, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told a Press conference here.

The signing of the agreement will enable free movement of people among the member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), he told the Press conference held after chairing a preparatory meeting for the 39th AMM.

It also is in line with ASEAN’s desire to build the ASEAN Community which encourages free movements of people among them, said Syed Hamid, the current chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee.

The 39th AMM will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here on 24-28 July, during which the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the 7th ASEAN Plas Three Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and other side events also will take place.

The ARF currently comprises the ten ASEAN member countries and ten ASEAN dialogue partners — Australia, Canada, China, the European Union (EU), India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States.

The forum also embraces two ASEAN observers — Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste — as well as North Korea, Mongolia and Pakistan. Malaysian officials earlier said that Bangladesh would be invited into the forum at the gathering later this month.

ASEAN and Canada will sign a joint declaration for cooperation to combat international terrorism during the gathering, while ASEAN and the United States also will sign a framework document for the plan of action to implement the ASEAN-US enhanced partnership, Syed Hamid said.

In addition, ASEAN is also to sign a document on extension of amity and cooperation with France, which is believed to be a prelude to the pay the way for ASEAN to take in France as its partner or a participating country of the ARF. — MNA/Reuters

Pet crocodile attacks boy in Philippines

MANILA, 12 July — A 12-year-old boy survived an attack by a crocodile that was being kept as a pet near an elementary school on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, officials said on Tuesday.

The seven-foot (2.1-metre) reptile bit Ramon Palmares on the arm after he poked it and threw pebbles, said Basilio Rosal, a local official in Cotabato City.

“We weren’t aware that a crocodile exists in that house,” Rosal told reporters. “It poses real danger to many curious schoolchildren.”

Romeo Manzan, a wildlife officer, said it was illegal to keep wildlife as pets, citing a Philippine law and an international convention on endangered species. Manzan said he had seized the crocodile along with a python also found at the house.

Rosal said a man would be charged with violating the wildlife law and endangering children, adding that he might also be sued by the injured boy’s parents. — MNA/Reuters

Three escape as uprooted tree falls on cars

GEORGE TOWN, 13 July — Three Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) librarians had a miraculous escape when a huge jejawi tree was uprooted and fell onto their car.

Though the vehicles were badly damaged, the trio walked out shaken but unscathed.

A fourth car was also damaged but the owner had just left the vehicle when the tree fell on it.

The 1.40pm incident yesterday at a parking lot in front of the Burin-putera Commerce Bank USM branch happened during strong winds and heavy rain.

Mehd Zaki Shuah, the owner of one of the damaged vehicles, said she heard a loud bang before realising that a tree had fallen on her car.

“I was walking away from my car when it happened,” she said.

USM maintenance workers later cleared the debris. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore Zoo opens online souvenir store

SINGAPORE, 12 July — The Singapore Zoo and Night Safari have opened an online souvenir shop www.safarizooshop.com, according to a statement issued by the Wildlife Reserves Singapore on Tuesday.

Named SafariZoo Shop, the electronic store offers a variety of animal-themed items such as accessories, apparel, art pieces, books, figurines, jewellery and stationery, the statement said.

The parks hope that the facility will help visitors shop with greater ease and convenience by leveraging on technological advances.

The 28-hectare Singapore Zoo is home to over 3,000 specimens from 290 species, 21 per cent of which are threatened species, while the 40-hectare Night Safari has almost 1,000 animals from 130 species, of which 30 per cent are threatened. — MNA/Reuters

Burundi grenade kills three among World Cup revellers

BUJUMBURA, 12 July — Three people were killed and 25 injured in Bujumbura when a grenade exploded in a crowd celebrating Italy’s victory against France in the World Cup soccer final, Burundi police said.

It was not immediately clear who threw the grenade into the crowd late on Sunday. A police spokesman denied accusations that police were responsible.

“We were celebrating Italy’s victory and we saw police coming to disperse us,” Jean-Paul Ndayisaba, who was injured in the attack, told Reuters.

“They began shooting at us and one threw a grenade onto our group,” Police spokesperson, Colonel Pierre Claver Gahungu, denied this.— MNA/Reuters

Models show clothes designed by Patricia Vieira, summer collection during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 12 July, 2006. — INTERNET

The cars damaged by a huge tree on Monday.—INTERNET

Tourists to Malaysia set for post-quake revival

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 July — Tourism Malaysia has begun a campaign to entice tourists to visit the country following the recent Tsunami disaster, a tourism official said on Tuesday.

Tourism Malaysia has started an aggressive marketing campaign to boost the number of tourists over the festive season, Director-General Ahmad Fairus Hamid said.

Tourism Malaysia has been taking the campaign to targeted destinations around Asia, he said. The campaign is aimed at persuading tourists to visit Malaysia despite the disaster, he said.

Tourism Malaysia is targeting major holiday destinations around Asia, he said. — MNA/Reuters
Malaysia tightens ban on sawn rubberwood exports

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 July — The Government has tightened the ban on sawn rubberwood exports to include roughly-sawn finger-joined planks, effective 11 August.

The move is in response to concern from the Malaysian furniture manufacturers that there is still a shortage of rubberwood in the country.

One of the main reasons for rubberwood supply inconsistency is the continued exports of sawn rubberwood, disguised as roughly-sawn finger-joined planks,” Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Peter Chin said.

He said there have been exporters trying to mislead the Government by declaring that their consignments are furniture components.

“But upon inspection, the consignments turn out to include sawn rubberwood which we prohibit from being exported,” he said.

Chin said he has instructed the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to take action against those who attempt to smuggle out sawn rubberwood.

Speaking to reporters at the Parliament’s lobby yesterday, Chin said this additional condition will make it difficult for the exporters to make any wrongful declarations while trying to avoid the ban,” he said at a Press conference in the Parliament lobby yesterday.— Internet

Study shows soybean biodiesel better than corn grain ethanol

LOS ANGELES, 12 July — A comprehensive analysis of the full life cycles of two biofuels, the bio-diesel and the ethanol, has showed that corn grain ethanol is much less beneficial than soybean biodiesel, US scientists reported on Monday.

However, neither fuel has the potential to replace petroleum as a primary fuel of a society, a research team at the University of Minnesota noted in the 10 July edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers studied the costs and benefits associated with using American croplands for biofuel production, finding both corn grain ethanol and soybean biodiesel produce more energy than was invested in it, while biodiesel from soybeans produces 93 per cent more.

Biodiesel also has significantly less environmental impact in terms of nitrogen, phosphorus and pesticide pollution, the researchers said. Compared with fossil fuels, ethanol produces 12 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions, while biodiesel produces 41 per cent less.

Chinese women win int’l prize for renewable energy scheme

XI’AN, 13 July — A Chinese women’s organization has won an international environmental protection prize for promoting the use of clean energy resources in rural northwest China.

The Shaanxi Mothers Environmental Protection Volunteers Association, a non-profit non-governmental organization, won second prize at the 2006 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy for its efforts to promote the use of methane in rural areas, said Wang Mingying, president of organization.

The organization, founded in 1997, conducted a series of activities such as tree planting, environmental protection campaigns, and training rural women in the use of methane, in order to raise environmental awareness while improving rural living standards, Wang said.

In 1999, the organization started a programme under which rural women were taught how to raise pigs, then use pig dung to produce methane and use the byproducts as fertilizer for fruit trees.— MNA/Xinhua

Michelle Wie, pictured on 8 July 2006, likes blending PGA and LPGA events and says she is not sure which professional golf tour she will end up playing full-time in the future.

INTERNET

32 killed as train runs into passenger bus in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 12 July — At least 32 people were killed and 20 others wounded on Tuesday when an intercity express train ran into a passenger bus at a rail crossing in Bangladesh’s northwestern Joypurhat District, a local official said. The official said on condition of anonymity that the bus carrying about 50 passengers were bound for Joypurhat and the accident occurred when the bus was passing through the rail crossing. So far 27 bodies have been recovered from the bus wreckage, he said.— MNA/Xinhua

One dead, nine injured in road mishap in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 12 July — At least one person has been killed and nine others have been injured in a road mishap in western Nepal, said the police on Tuesday.

“At least one person died on the spot and nine others injured when a passenger jeep met an accident at Binhu area of Baglung District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu,” Baglung District Police Office said in a Press statement. All injured have been admitted to the Baglung District Hospital, the statement said, adding, “A total of five of them are in serious condition.”— MNA/Xinhua

Fighting flares in Mogadishu, at least 60 dead

MOGADISHU, 12 July — New fighting erupted on Monday between Somali fighters loyal to defeated faction leader and the country’s Islamists militias, and the death toll tripped to at least 60 since on Sunday, a hospital official said. “I am sure that more than 60 have died so far,” Abdikadir Sheikh, a medical official at Mogadishu’s Madina Hospital, told Reuters by phone as artillery and gunfire cracked behind him.

Residents of Mogadishu’s Kilometre Five area said the death toll had risen by at least 40 and nearly 100 had been wounded since Sunday’s heavy street battles broke out at dawn in the neighbouring Kilometre Four area.— MNA/Reuters

At least five killed in suicide bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 July — At least five people were killed and ten others wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a restaurant close to the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A suicide bomber, wearing an explosive belt, parked his explosive-packed car near the Seirwan restaurant close to the Green Zone government compound, and detonated himself simultaneously with the car bomb,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.— MNA/Xinhua
A dancer from Chile’s folkloric ballet company ‘Bafochi’ performs during the Festival of ‘Ciudad de Burgos’ in Burgos, northern Spain on 12 July, 2006. INTERNET

Parasitic disease kills tiger, leopard at India zoo
RANCHI (India), 12 July — A royal Bengal tiger and a leopard have died at a zoo in eastern India after being infected by a malaria-like disease, sparking fears that other endangered big cats could be at risk, officials said on Tuesday. Authorities at Ranchi’s Birsa Zoological Park, in Ranchi, said both the cats had stopped eating days before the tiger died on Monday and the leopard on Tuesday.

“The blood tests of the dead cats have tested positive for babesiosis,” said AK Singh, a state forest official. Babesiosis is an infectious disease caused by a parasitic single-celled microorganism. The disease is transmitted by the bites of ticks that have picked up the parasite from infected animals such as rodents and horses.

In 2000, it claimed the lives of 10 royal Bengal tigers in a zoo in the neighbouring state of Orissa. — MNA/Reuters

A man cooks bread on the burning cow dung cake on a street in New Delhi on 12 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Study says socializing helped Ebola wipe out gorillas
WASHINGTON, 12 July — Social contact helped the Ebola virus virtually wipe out a population of gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, French researchers reported on Monday.

A 2004 outbreak of the virus, which also kills people, killed 97 per cent of gorillas who lived in groups and 77 per cent of solitary males, Damien Caillaud and colleagues from the University of Montpellier and the University of Rennes in France reported.

Overall, it wiped out 95 per cent of the gorilla population within a year, they reported in the journal Current Biology.

“Thousands of gorillas have probably disappear-ed,” they wrote.

The study shows that the deadly virus spreads directly from gorilla to gorilla and does not necessarily depend on a still-identified third species of animal, perhaps a bat, that can transmit the virus without getting ill from it.

It also may shed light on how early humans evolved, they suggested. The findings may show how, they wrote, that pre-humans were slow to live in large social groups because disease outbreaks could wipe out those who did.

Ebola hemorrhagic fever is one of the most virulent viruses ever seen, killing between 50 per cent and 90 per cent of victims.

The World Health Organization says about 1,850 people have been infected and 1,200 have died since the Ebola virus was discovered in 1976. WHO and other experts say people probably start outbreaks when they hunt and butcher chimpanzees. The virus is transmitted in blood, tissue and other fluids.

Caillaud’s team said Ebola is a serious threat to the survival of endangered gorillas and chimpanzees, along with hunting and the destruction of the forests they live in.

INTERNET

Brazil says pollution from vehicles sharply decreases
RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 July — Brazil’s Minister of Environment announced on Tuesday that vehicles currently produced in Brazil gave off an average of 98 per cent less polluting emissions, compared with the levels of twenty years ago.

The carbon monoxide emissions from vehicles have fallen by 99 per cent from 54 grammes per kilometre in 1986, when the Air Pollution from Automotive Vehicles Control Programme (Proconve) was launched, to just 0.3 grammes per kilometre in 2006.

INTERNET

In this artist rendering released by Bigelow Aerospace, a model of the Genesis I spacecraft is shown. Hotel tycoon Robert Bigelow’s dream of building an inflatable commercial space station takes a step toward reality with the launch of the experimental spacecraft in Russia on 12 July, 2006. — INTERNET

20 Filipino fishermen rescued from turbulent sea
MANILA, 12 July — All 20 Filipino fishermen were rescued, after reported missing as their vessel sank on early Tuesday amid turbulent waters off the coast of Albay Province in southern Luzon, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

A passenger ferry nearby rescued 13 crew members of the fishing boat and a Coast Guard vessel picked up the remaining seven from the rough sea, chief of the Coast Guard station of Legazpi City in Albay Province Nelson Torre told reporters.

The fishermen were rushed to the hospital for first aid, he said.

The fishing vessel was sailing near Sto. Domingo Town in Albay, about 300 kilometres southeast of Manila on Tuesday morning when it was hit by huge waves brought by Tropical Storm “Bilis” (also called “Florita” in the Philippines), according to another report reaching the Coast Guard operations centre in Manila.

The fresh tropical storm was spotted about 900 kilometres northeast of Manila early Tuesday, approaching northwest toward Taiwan, the national weather bureau said.

Small fishing vessels were earlier warned by the Philippine authority from travelling into the sea, while bigger vessels were alerted against moderate to high waves.

MNA/Reuters

Pinocchio’s son files slander suit over drug trafficking allegation
SANCTIAGO, 12 July — Former Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet’s son on Tuesday filed a defamation suit in a Santiago courthouse, denying accusations that the Pinocchio family gained money from production and sales of cocaine.

“My whole family has been affected by those insults and calumnies,” Pinocchio’s son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, told the court, adding the accusation published in a newspaper was especially distressing to his elderly parents.

The local newspaper La Nacion reported on Sunday that former intelligence chief Manuel Contreras claimed the Pinocchio family benefited from selling cocaine produced at a military facility on the outskirts of Santiago in the 1980s. — MNA/Reuters

UNICEF to construct schools for Pakistan’s quake affected people
ISLAMABAD, 12 July — The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) here Tuesday announced to construct 500 permanent schools and around 70 permanent rural health centres in the areas devastated by last October’s earthquake as part of its 150 million US dollars contribution to recovery plan for affected areas of Pakistan.

“The rebuilding of schools and health care centres is a highlight of UNICEF’s roadmap to recovery in what many people have called the children’s catastrophe,” said head of UNICEF Emergency Programme for Pakistan Terje Thodesen while addressing a Press conference.

He said that the earthquake damaged and destroyed almost 10,000 schools and three-quarters of the area’s health facilities. “Underscoring UNICEF’s recovery plan is the commitment to build back better — a commitment, that is why we are planning to build earthquake-resistant schools and health facilities,” Thodesen added.

He said that the UNICEF has extensive plans to build back better by boosting the quality and extent of education, health care, hygiene awareness, clean water and sanitation and protection of children.

MNA/Xinhua
Kyaukpyutaing Dam in Salingyi Township, Monywa District inaugurated...

(from page 1) have been implemented. So far, the Government has built 12 irrigation facilities in Monywa District, and one dam project is being implemented. The commander thanked USDA members who contributed to construction of the dam.

USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also said that the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are joining hands in building the peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The Government after taking responsibility of the State in 1988 has built almost all the infrastructures of education, health, transport and agriculture sectors for uplift of living standard of the nation and the people.

He added that the western region of Chindwin River relied on monsoon in the agricultural sector and local people residing in the scarce region faced many difficulties in their agricultural tasks. At present, Salingyi, Pale and Yinnabian Townships have been supplied with irrigation facilities such as dams and river water pumping stations. To respond gratitude of the Government, the local people are to join hands with the USDA in realizing the seven-step Road Map and convening the National Convention. Furthermore, they need to guard against dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements that disturb peace and stability of the State and development tasks.

Next, a local people spoke words of thanks for construction of the dam.

The commander and the minister formally cut the ribbon to open the dam and inspected it. Kyaukpyutaing Dam stores water by blocking Kyaukpyutaing Creek that has five square miles of watershed area. The dam can store 300 acre-feet of water and it will irrigate 80 acres of farmland.

USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents stationery for Thamadaw village school in Salingyi Township. — MNA

Local wellwishers are to cooperate with the Government to construct new school buildings for development of the education sector.

The Secretariat Member added that efforts are to be made for supply of power to the people through paddy husk-fired power stations and bio-gas power stations. In addition, USDA members are to carry out rural development tasks as the national duty. All the villagers are to harmoniously strive for establishment of the model village. In conclusion, the minister urged the local people to extend agricultural tasks with the use of modern technologies.

Next, the Secretariat Member accepted 350 membership applications from Thamadaw Village.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated K 200,000, 100 dozens of exercise books, school stationery, blankets and clothes, VCDs and books to officials.

At BEHS in Kyadat Model Village, the minister inspected construction of new building at the school.

Kyaukpyutaing Dam stores water by blocking Kyaukpyutaing Creek that has five square miles of watershed area. The dam can store 300 acre-feet of water and it will irrigate 80 acres of farmland.

A local expresses words of thanks at the opening of Kyaukpyutaing Dam. — MNA

POEM:

Myanmar, the Stand-up Guy

Born of our own land
Not any kind of parasite
Taking a firm foothold
We’ve established with
Our citizens and our masses
In the long history
We were rudely awakened
Will settle face to face
The issues that crop up
Myanmar, the Stand-up Guy

Stand-up guy unfettered
One with mien of half a smile
The blokes who don’t like it at all
Sulk and scratch head.
This figure and appearance
Can’t bear to see, so entangles it
Desperately works to mess up.
With an unfazed style
Maintains smiling face

Byan Hlwar (Trs)
I watched on TV and read in the newspapers the story about the clarification made by local national race leaders to diplomats and local and foreign journalists during their tour of the South-East Command in Kayin State on 11 June 2006. At the ceremony, U Tha Hoo Kyaw of Myaingyingu Special Region, Phado U Aung San of Phayagon in Nyeingyangu Myothit, and U Saw Tha Mu He of Haunghayaw Region peace group thoroughly explained why they broke away from the KNU, their peace-building endeavours, encouragement and assistance provided by the government for the development of their groups, and their cooperation with local national race people in the regional development tasks.

Chairman of DKBA U Tha Hoo Kyaw said, “The KNU launched its armed insurgency in 1949. According to the KNU, its major objectives include to serve the interests of Kayin nationals, secession of Kayin State from the Union, and the rights Kayin nationals have to enjoy in handling the affairs of Kayin. I served for the KNU for more than 30 years. But, we KNU members had done nothing for the well-being of Kayin nationals. In the past, we KNU members were active in the delta region. I noticed that at the time, Kayin national people did not enjoy any progress. I have learnt that Kayin people in the delta region are now enjoying the development a lot because KNU members are no more there. So, we realized our conception was wrong that local Kayin nationals in the region were facing hardships and adversities. That was why we made a decision to form the DKBA to carry out tasks for restoration of peace and regional development in cooperation with the government, and to seek advice and suggestions of the Sayadaw to carry out religious services for the flourishing of the Sasana in our region. The DKBA made peace with the government on 21 December 1994.

Local national race leader Phado U Aung San of Phayagon in Nyeingyangu Myothit in Kayin State said, “In April 1992, the Tatmadaw unilaterally ceased its attacks in Kayin State for national reconsolidation. In this regard, I would like to recount the conditions that took place in 1992. Beginning 1988, the KNU’s major military camps including Methawaw, Methayti, Mawphokuy, Mela, Yogyaw, Wah Kha (old), Phahly and Wa Waw lay fell one after another. And the Tatmadaw continued its attacks to occupy the remaining camps such as KNU headquarters in Marnepalaw, Wah Kha (new) and Kawn Mu Ra. But, to my surprise, the Tatmadaw suddenly suspended its attacks in Kayin State in such a situation. Moreover, at the ceremony held in November 1993 and attended by local people of Mon State and Kayin State, the government officially invited all the armed groups including the KNU to peace negotiations. The people of Kayin State thought it was an initiative for peace, and they had a strong desire to enjoy the taste of peace. But, our hope for peace did not come true.

In my opinion, if the battle continued, local Kayin nationals and local people would have to suffer evil consequences of the battles. And the battle made Kayin State lag further behind in development. While I was in the KNU headquarters, I noticed on TV the development of the states that had made peace with the government and the Ayeyawady delta area. So, I was not satisfied with the KNU’s failure to make peace. Then, I broke away from the KNU and made peace with the government and took refuge in the KNU headquarters in Haungthayaw Region, Phado Aung San, formerly a member of KNU Central Committee, together with 213 members and 51 weapons of various kinds, exchanged arms for peace on 17-4-1998.

The government made arrangements for DKBA to be able to settle in Myaingyingu Special Region, U Saw Tha Mu He in Haunghayaw Region and Phado Aung San in Phayagon Region and have always rendered social and economic assistance to them for the development of their respective regions. Moreover, the government invited them to the National Convention as representatives of national races and enabled them to take part in the discussions on the affairs of the future state. After watching and listening to news on TV and the radio, I took some time to review our achievements, our achievements in its endeavour for national solidarity.

The head of State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services gave guidance on national reconsolidation to the students of Course No 26 of University of Development for National Races at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Yangon on 23-2-95. Excerpts:

“Although the inner regions in the country gained considerable development as situations were permitted, the border areas lagged behind in all aspects including knowledge and therefore it is necessary to make efforts so that the border areas will catch up quickly with inner regions of the country in development.

“With this conviction, when the Tatmadaw Government assumed the responsibilities of the government, it took six steps to bring peace and tranquillity to these regions. If there is no peace, nothing can be done. Phado Aung San, who broke away from the KNU and made peace for 24-2-1997 and they brought with them 283 weapons of various kinds, was changed and we had to make a lot of concessions to gain peace. As steps were taken thus, there are today 13 groups which have reached complete understanding with the government and are working together with us. There are only a few groups left.

“It is now in a position that if they return to the legal fold willingly with the correct attitude and goodwill we will always welcome them. Only when all the national races live in amity and unity and in friendly and harmonious relations, will our Union become a developed country.”

Some followers of KNU were pleased with the speech of the Senior General. Some heard it by Myanma Radio. After listening to the broadcast, they voiced objections to their leaders.

After one month, 7,790 members of Kayin National People’s Progress (KNPP) re-took to the legal fold on 21 March 1995 with 8,936 assorted arms. After four months, it was on 29th June 1995 that New Mon State Party (NMSP) returned to the legal fold. Members of Battalion-16 under Brigade-6 of KNU also took this decision after listening to the broadcast. They also witnessed the development of the regions which have been at peace. After taking every-thing into consideration, members of the Battalion-16 of the NMSP returned to the legal fold. Members of Battalion U Saw Tha Mu He exchanged arms for peace on 24 February 1997.

Since 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw Government has been striving for the national reconsolidation, a top priority of it.

The Tatmadaw Government held peace talks with armed groups which have broken away from the KNU and its allied groups, and won their confidence within a short time.

(See page 9)
Kokant national race armed group returned to the legal fold on 31st March 1989 by the name of Myanmar National Democracy Alliance-MNDA and Wa national race armed group on 9 March 1989 by the name of Myanmar National Solidarity party.

Shan and Akha national races armed groups that broke away from BCP returned to the legal fold under the titles, NDAA and Eastern Shan State Liberation Army, Regional Administration Committee, on 30 June 1989. SSA also came back to the legal fold on 24 September 1989. The 10 armed-nationality region that split from the BCP returned to the legal fold as New Democratic Army-Kachin on 15 December 1989. The BCP met its end as all its armed organizations returned to the legal fold.

There are additional armed groups, that split from the KNU like the group led by U Saw Tha Mu He and the group led by Phyo Aung San that split from KNU, which exchanged arms for peace. One group was KNU and it gave up the command of U Saw Ferry Moe that exchanged arms for peace on 8-11-1999; the other was U Ko-laiy-group that exchanged arms for peace on 10-11-1999 after splitting from KNU brigade 2.

During the period of ten years from March 1989 to November 1999, 17 nationalities armed groups came back to the fold, and many of the armed groups exchanged arms for peace. The total number members of the armed organizations that made peace with the government is 67,382, who laid down a total of 53,838 assorted weapons. There will be progress of the region in future only when national prestige and national strength are firm and developed.

The peace process of national solidarity and national reconciliation resulting from the loving-kindness and goodwill has made much progress. Realizing and appreciating the collective endeavours of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw, 848 members of SSA/S (Ywet Sit Group) led by U Mein Sin with the rank of vice-chief of staff returned to the legal fold on 6 July 2006 bringing along with them 24 assorted heavy weapons, 834 assorted small arms, 1990 magazines, 157,971 rounds of ammunition, 55 hand grenades, 63 rifles, 15 communication sets and 120 walkie-talkies.

We have heard the good news saying that as the national races armed groups have returned to the legal fold out of their correct stand after realizing Myanmar’s changes and developments through the objective vision, the entire national people including the nationalities of Northern, Southern and Eastern Shan State and the Tatmadawmen, who wish peace and development, have warmly welcomed them with great pleasure as a family reunion.

The Tatmadaw members welcomed the group led by U Mein Sin, that returned to the legal fold, and fixed a region for the members of the group to earn their living and strive for regional development. In addition, the Tatmadaw has been providing food, clothing and shelter for them. The people are happy to picture in mind the rapid progress of the region together with the prevalence of peace and stability. We are happy as the local nationalities of Shan State are looking after the children, the Government has been taking care of the well-being and development of the region.

During the peace process, the nationalities of Shan State for whom the local nationalities of Shan State provided food, clothing and shelter for them. The people are happy to picture in mind the rapid progress of the region together with the prevalence of peace and stability. We are happy as the local nationalities of Shan State are looking after the children, the Government has been taking care of the well-being and development of the region.
**General U Htay Aung of Myint Kyu, Director—the Sangha, Deputy buddhi and members of thavaçaka Pandita Saya-mittee Maha Gansangha Nayaka Com- of Pyinmana Township occasion were Chairman Sayadaws.**

provisions to the offered Waso robes and Tin Tin Latt. They Soe Naing and wife Daw by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Ministry of Hotels and July — Staff families of July — Resident Ministry offers Waso robes to Sayadaws. — H&T Tin Latt offer Waso robes and provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

**Minister receives UNFPA Resident Representative**

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 July — Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Daniel B Baker accompanied by Assistant Resident Representative Daw Khin Ma Ma Aye called on Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe at the office of the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. — MNA

**Remnant SSA-S Ywet Sit opium bandits committing violence against local people**

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 July — A total of 848 members led by Min Sin with the rank of vice-chief of staff from SSA-S (Ywet Sit Group) returned to the legal fold on 6 July and they are joining hands with the Government to build peace after realizing the prevailing peace and stability in the entire nation and development of the country thanks to concerted efforts of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

However, SSA-S opium bandits led by Ywet Sit are committing killing, torching villages, extortion of money, forced recruitment of new members against the local national races and production and trafficking of narcotic drugs. At 8.30 pm on 8 July, 10 terrorist members of SSA-S (Ywet Sit Group) arrived at Kali Village of Kunhung Township, Shan State (South), and forcefully took eight villagers for their new recruitment. Likewise, 15 members of SSA-S (Ywet Sit Group) entered Wanmap Village of Kunhung Township and forcefully took 18 villagers including Sai Kan, 15 years of age, who were participating in charity at the monastery. Local Tatmadaw columns are in hot pursuit of the insurgents. — MNA

**C-in-C (Air)’s shield football C’ship concludes**

YANGON, 13 July — A final match of Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s shield football championship for 2006 was held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony in the sports grounds of Air Base in Meiktila on 10 July.

Among the spectators were Ground Training Base Commander Col Thura Khin Maung Win, Flying Training Base Commander Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, squadron leaders and other ranks, guests and their families. Flying Training Base team clinched the title after routing Mingaladon Air Base with 4-1 in the final match.

After the match, responsible personnel presented first and second prizes to the winning teams.

Ground Training Base Commander Col Thura Khin Maung Win presented a championship shield to Flying training Base team on behalf of Commander-in-Chief (Air). — MNA

**Yogis invited to meditation courses in Thongwa**

YANGON, 13 July — Mogok Meditation Branch No 84 of Ward 2, Thongwa, was to organize the meditation courses from 12 July to 29 September.

In line with the Upanissaya of Agga Maha Pandita Mogok Sayadaw, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala will lecture on Patiçça Samuppada and meditation works to the congregation at the meditation course from 12 to 18 July; Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammanasara from 25 to 31 July; Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candavamsa from 9 to 15 August; Bhaddanta Aggāna from 23 to 29 August; Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara from 7 to 13 September; and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandavamsa from 22 to 29 September.

The Yogis wishing to join the meditation courses may contact the Mogok Meditation Branch No 84 of Thongwa, Tel: 390422 with extension 2334 and 01-244622. — MNA

**Third Conference of MLA**

YANGON, 13 July — The Third Conference of Myanmar Library Association will be held at National Museum on 20 July.

The invitation letters have already been sent to all members. All members are to attend the conference without fail. — MNA

**Relief provided to flood victims**

YANGON, 13 July — There had been floods in some parts of the states and divisions in the country due to continuous heavy rains in the past few days. Authorities concerned distributed relief to flood victims.

The flood victims were moved to the relief camps and some schools were temporarily closed. They also repaired the damaged bridges, motor roads and railroads. The repaired facilities have now been serviceable.

As the water reached to the danger level in Shwegyin, Bago Division, 59 households were moved to the relief camps.

The relief goods were provided for the flood victims by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Similarly, a total of 34 households were moved to the relief camps because there had been heavy rains in Ye Village, Taungup, Rakhine State. The authorities concerned provided relief for the flood victims. — MNA
National Seminar on Doha Negotiations of WTO held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — Organized by Ministry of Commerce and Geneva based World Trade Organization, National Seminar on Doha Development Agence Negotiations and Special & Differential Treatment for Developing Countries was held at the ministry here yesterday.

It was attended by Coordinator for Asia and Pacific Economics of WTO.

At the ceremony, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Dr Raymond Krommenacker made speeches. The meeting will be held from 11 to 14 July.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein addresses the opening of WTO National Seminar. — COMMERCE

Scholarship awards presented to Myanmar students

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — Petronas Oil Co of Malaysia which is undertaking joint venture tasks with the Ministry of Energy held the ceremony to present scholarship awards to five Myanmar students to be able to pursue education at Petronas Technological University of Malaysia, at Yadana Hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Minister for Energy and Industry Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Country Representative of Myanmar Petronas Trading Co Ltd Mr Abu Baker Bin Salleh gave speeches.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads of the Ministry of Energy, responsible persons of Myanmar Petronas Trading Co Ltd, scholarship award winners and parents.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented scholarship awards to four students who have the opportunities to join the six-year mechanical engineering course and one student who has the opportunity to attend the 5.5-year information technology course at the Petronas Technological University of Malaysia.

The academic costs of the students will be born by the scholarship sponsor. On completion of the courses, the students must discharge duties at the Ministry of Energy.

Petronas Oil Co had presented scholarship awards to the Myanmar students third. MNA

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on Sports Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint yesterday received Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr. Mohammed Khairuzzaman at his office.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on cooperation between the two countries in developing the hockey sports.

They also discussed construction of a hockey field here by Bangladesh government as a contribution to the developing the hockey sports in Myanmar.

Tasks of Ywahtaung Diesel Locomotive Shed inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin inspected major repairs of locomotives at Ywahtaung Diesel Locomotive Shed on 11 July morning. Accompanied by officials of Myanmar Railways, the deputy minister inspected major repairing of locomotives and upgrading of RBE carriages. He left instructions on enhancement of self sufficiency of the employees and upgrading of the machinery.

On 12 July morning, the deputy minister met with staff of Division 3 of Myanma Railways at Mandalay Station and gave necessary instructions.

Opening of Hepatitis B Pharmaceutical Factory discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe met with Country Representative of Samsung Cooperation U Shwe Tun Hlaing and General Manager Mr B S Bang of CJ Cooperation of the Republic of Korea at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July.

They discussed arrangements for opening the Hepatitis B Pharmaceutical Factory.

Also present at the call were officials of the Medical Research Department of the Ministry of Health.

Under the arrangements of Korea-Myanmar EDCF programme, Hepatitis B Pharmaceutical Factory has been built in April 2003.

The test-running of two kinds of Hepatitis B medicine could be produced successfully in 2004. In 2005-06, the tests for the vaccines were conducted in line with the disciplines and norms of the WHO.

The factory plans to manufacture from 5 million to 7 million tablets yearly. MNA
**WAIST states agree to ease approval of regional pacts**

GENEVA, 12 July — The World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Tuesday member countries have agreed to ease approval of the rapidly growing number of regional trade pacts — often seen as a threat to the WTO's multilateral trading system.

The decision, reached in a group negotiating on Tuesday strongly condemned the brutal and callous bombing of trains in India. UN Chief Kofi Annan said he is appalled by the brutal and callous bombing of trains in India.

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**WTO states agree to ease approval of regional pacts**

**THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

**Ministry of Construction**

**Public Works**

**Extension of Invitation for Quotation**

The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for Extension of Invitation for Quotation.

On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Extension of Invitation for Quotation:

**LEINLI SUSPENSION BRIDGE.**

**Ministry of Construction**

**The Project Management Unit, Public Works,**

**MNA/Reuters**

**Vietnam may face power shortage in next three years**

HANOI, 13 July — Vietnam is likely to encounter electricity shortage of 4.3-10.3 billion kilowatt hours between 2007 and 2009, local newspaper Labor reported Wednesday.

To cope with the partly fuelled by increasing electricity demand, Vietnam is upgrading and facilitating construction of power plants, buying more electricity from China, and calling for individuals and organizations to save power, said the Electricity of Vietnam (EVN), the country's biggest power producer and sole distributor.

Vietnam plans to annually buy 0.7-1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity from China between 2007 and 2016, said the state-owned corporation EVN.

**Vietnam may face power shortage in next three years**

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SINGAPORE, 12 July—The first Asia Expo of the International Council of Shopping Centres (ICSC) opened at Singapore’s Suntec City International Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday.

Over 1,200 developers, retailers and other industry professionals from more than 30 countries and regions are participating in the two-day event.

Apart from an exhibition of retail products, services and shopping centre leasing opportunities, the Expo also includes conference sessions focusing on issues like retailing across borders and Asia’s retail real estate investment revolution.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore’s Minister of State for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran said there is tremendous growth potential for the retail industry in Asia.

He attributed the growth to the sheer size and rapid growth of China and India, as well as the increase in personal wealth and higher disposable incomes in the region. “To remain competitive, retailers in Asia will have to keep raising the bar in terms of quality, service standards, and product range and diversity,” he said.

Singapore has been chosen to host the ICSC Asia Expo for the next three years.

EU calls on G-8 leaders to agree on energy security principles

BRUSSELS, 12 July—European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso on Tuesday called on leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) to agree on energy security principles to lay the foundation for a stable energy future.

“There are two key messages I will take to the G-8 table in St Petersburg,” Barroso told a Press conference.

“One on energy, we need to create the right climate for both investment and supplies to flow freely. The G-8 must agree on a set of principles which will lay the foundation for a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy system.”

Britain Govt proposes to build six nuclear power stations

LONDON, 12 July—The British Government announced on Tuesday afternoon that nuclear power should be at the heart of the country’s future energy production.

The Energy Review published on Tuesday said a new generation of up to six nuclear power stations will be built. Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling said nuclear power is economically viable, and will help deal with climate change and provide secure cleaner energy at an affordable process.

“There in the UK there are specific challenges. As our North Sea oil and gas production declines, our dependence on imports from the global energy market will increase. Our forecasts suggest that, over the next twenty years, up to a third of our existing generating capacity will reach the end of its life,” he was quoted as saying in a Press release.

According to Darling, the proposals will set out a framework within which the energy market will operate for the coming 30 to 40 years.

China buys Kim Hee Seon’s new TV drama

BEIJING, 12 July— South Korean actress Kim Hee Seon’s new TV drama “Smile Again” has been snapped by China recently up for 200 thousand dollars.

A representative from the production team said on Monday, “The contract was signed at the Shanghai Film Festival several days ago. Since China has restriction on import of South Korean TV drama and film, the success of this series is quite impressive”.

The Korean starlet teamed up with the well-known Lee Dong-Gun for “Smile Again”, her new production last year’s hit series “Sad Love Story”. While SBS TV series “The Myth” was a blockbuster smash, “The Myth”.

American museum returns important antiquities to Greece

ATHENS, 12 July—The JP Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California, was planning to return two important Greek antiquities to Athens, Greek Culture Minister George Voulgarakis said in a statement on Monday.

The antiquities in question are a 6th Century BC bas-relief sculpture from the northern Aegean island of Thasos and a 4th Century BC inscribed stele from Viotia, central Greece, currently on display in the Getty Museum.

Meanwhile, negotiations will continue between the two sides until the end of August over the return of a further two Greek antiquities, a marble statue of a Kore—a sculpture representing a standing young woman produced in Greece before the 5th Century BC and a golden Macedonian wreath.

UNICEF urges to take action on HIV/AIDS

ABUJA, 11 July—The world must take urgent action to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on children to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has urged.

In a report titled “A Call to Action: Children, the Missing Face of AIDS” issued here on Monday, UNICEF said failure to meet the MDG on HIV/AIDS, which is “to halt and begin to reverse the spread of the disease” would adversely affect the world’s chances of progress on other MDGs.

According to the report, the pandemic has continued to frustrate efforts to reduce extreme poverty, hunger, provision of universal primary education and reduction of child mortality and maternal health improvement.

UNICEF noted that HIV/AIDS was threatening children like never before, stating that over 1,800 children were being infected daily, while 1,400 others under 15 years old died of the pandemic also daily.

UNICEF said world leaders from both industrialized and developing countries had repeatedly made commitments to step up efforts to fight the spread of the pandemic.

It said significant progress has been made in chartering the past and future course of the pandemic through the provision of free anti retro viral treatment to those infected, but lamented that children were being left out.

According to UNICEF, the world must act now by taking urgent and decisive steps to ensure that the next generation of children were HIV/AIDS free.

Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong and actor Ben Stiller thumb wrestle as he holds a miniature folding chair in his hand on stage as Armstrong hosts the 2006 ESPY Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California on 12 July, 2006. —INTERNET

A tourist was attracted by Uygur gourd craftworks in a bazaar in Urumchi, Xinjiang Province on 11 July, 2006. The gourd with Uygur paintings show Xinjiang’s ancient Uygur history and culture. —INTERNET


WWW.MNA/Xinhua
Blatter hints Zidane could lose best player award

ROME, 13 July — Zinedine Zidane’s head-butt on Italy’s Marco Materazzi in the World Cup final might cost him the tournament’s Golden Ball award, FIFA president Sepp Blatter hinted in an interview published on Wednesday.

World soccer’s ruling body opened a disciplinary investigation on Tuesday into the circumstances surrounding the incident in Sunday’s final.

“FIFA’s executive committee has the right and duty to intervene when it sees behaviour that is contrary to sports ethics,” he was quoted as saying in an interview in Rome’s La Repubblica newspaper.

Asked if Zidane risked being stripped of the award for the World Cup’s best player, Blatter said: “Before we make any decision we have to await the outcome of the investigation.

“But I will add: ‘Seeing him behave this way really, really hurt me.’

Playing the last match of a great career, the French midfielder drove his head into Materazzi’s chest in the second period of extra time in Berlin after exchanging comments with Materazzi. He was shown a straight red card by the referee.

FIFA’s Golden Ball award was decided by media voting at the World Cup. MNA/Reuters

Congo appoint Tosi as National Coach

BRAZZA VILLE, 13 July — Frenchman Noel Tosi has been named coach of Congo in time for the 2008 African Nations Cup qualifiers, French newspaper L’Equipe reported.

The 46-year-old former coach of Mauritania and French clubs Dijon, Gueugnon, Creteil and Martigues, signed a two-year contract.

Congo begin their campaign away against 2010 World Cup hosts South Africa on September 2. Chad and Zambia are the other two teams in their group.

MNA/Reuters

A pack of riders cycles past a man dressed in a costume at the start of the 10th stage of the 93rd Tour de France cycling race between Cambo-Les-Bains and Pau, on 12 July, 2006. Internet

CHOGM football tournament gets official name

KAMPALA, 13 July — The inaugural CHOGM football 2007 Uganda Challenge Cup has been re-named Commonwealth Nations Challenge Cup.

Ben Missaga, Chief Executive Officer of Ball International Group (BIG), the co-organizers in conjunction with the Uganda Government, confirmed the changes.

“Our Foreign Minister Okello Oryem also... advised on the change of name and was among those who agreed that we call it Commonwealth Nations Challenge Cup,” said Missaga.

MNA/Xinhua

Champions League quest under way

LONDON, 13 July — Just two days after Italy beat France in the World Cup final, the quest began on Tuesday for soccer’s Champions League title.

Seven first-leg matches were played in the first round of Champions League qualification to be followed by four more on Wednesday.

The best result in Tuesday’s games came from B36 Torshavn of the Faroe Islands who won 3-0 away to Birkirkara of Malta. Second legs are on July 18 and 19.

After two more qualifying rounds, the group stage starts on September 12, leading eventually to the final on May 23 next year. Barcelona are the holders.

MNA/Reuters

World champions Italy rise to 2nd in FIFA rankings

LONDON, 13 July — World Cup winners Italy have soared 11 places to second in the latest FIFA rankings although 2002 champions Brazil held on to top spot despite losing in the quarterfinals in Germany.

France, beaten on penalties by Italy in Sunday’s final, rose four places to fourth while Argentina, knocked out in the quarterfinals, are up six places in third.

Germany were also big movers, rising 10 places to ninth — their first top 10 placing for more than two years — after reaching the semifinals.

The first post-World Cup rankings were based on new criteria with more consideration taken of the importance of the match and the strength of opponents.

The previous ranking system had long been criticized and was not helped by the first-round exits of the then second-ranked Czech Republic and fifth- rated United States in Germany.

FIFA Top 10 Ranking (change of position in bracket)

1. Brazil (+)
2. Italy (+11)
3. Argentina (+6)
4. France (+4)
5. England (+5)
6. Netherlands (-3)
7. Spain (-2)
8. Portugal (-1)
9. Germany (+10)
10. Czech Republic (-8). — MNA/Reuters

Man Utd says Cristiano Ronaldo not for sale

LONDON, 13 July — Portugal’s World Cup winger Cristiano Ronaldo is not for sale, his English club Manchester United said on Wednesday.

The club can confirm there is no possibility of Cristiano being sold,” United said in a statement.

“Cristiano recently signed a new contract until 2010 and the club fully expects him to honour that contract,” the statement posted on United’s official website said.

“Cristiano’s future is at Manchester United.”

British newspapers have speculated that Ronaldo might want a move away after at least partially blaming the 21-year-old for the sending-off of his club teammate Wayne Rooney in Portugal’s World Cup quarterfinal against England.

Newspapers have also linked Ronaldo with a move to Real Madrid, quoting the Spanish giants’ new coach Fabio Capello as being interested in the 21-year-old.

“Manchester United has noted the increasing media speculation over the future of Cristiano Ronaldo,” the statement continued.

“Cristiano is one of the brightest young stars in world football as demonstrated by his performances at the World Cup and Manchester United is not in the business of selling their best young players.” — MNA/Reuters

Man Utd’s new signing Cristiano Ronaldo arrives at Old Trafford on 12 July, 2006. MNA/Reuters

Connecticut Sun Detroit Shock guard Katie Smith (L) and fellow East player Indiana Fever forward Tamika Whitmore (91) battle West player Houston Comets centre Michelle Snow (2) in the fourth period of the WNBA All-Star game in New York’s Madison Square Garden, on 12 July, 2006. Internet

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“Cristiano is one of the brightest young stars in world football as demonstrated by his performances at the World Cup and Manchester United is not in the business of selling their best young players.” — MNA/Reuters
China to develop coal gas as diesel alternative

BEIJING, 13 July — The Chinese Government is to support the development of dimethyl ether (DME), a gas derived from coal, as a possible alternative to diesel.

A circular from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said standards for the use of DME as a civil fuel were being drawn up.

A gas under normal pressure and temperature, DME could be compressed into a liquid and used as an alternative to diesel. Its low emissions made it relatively environmentally friendly.

Domestic and overseas research showed it was expected to become a major fuel and was suitable for China’s energy structure, said the circular.

DME-fuelled vehicles have been developed by Shanghai Jiaotong University and Xi’an Jiaotong University as well as in Japan and the European Union.

The Xinhua-run China Securities Journal reported on Wednesday that Shanghai Municipal government planned to open the first DME-fuelled bus line this year and operate 1,000 such vehicles before the World Expo in 2010.

With little likelihood of world oil prices dropping significantly, alternative energy solutions were becoming more effective, said Zhang Guobao, vice-chairman of the NDRC.

The China Securities Journal said China’s estimated annual DME output from planned refineries was 500,000 tons.

Mar 2006 - Myanmar Times
**Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to India**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, for the loss of lives caused by bomb attacks in Mumbai on 11th July 2006. — MNA

**Prime Minister sends felicitations to French Republic**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Dominiques De Villepin, Prime Minister of the French Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic which falls on 14 July 2006. — MNA

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**Factories in Meiktila and Yamethin Districts, Meiktila Industrial Zone inspected**

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 July — Ministry of Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung of Myanmar Textile Industries and officials, inspected construction of the main building of Textile Factory (Myittha) in Myittha on 10 July afternoon.

On arrival at Wundwin Textile Factory, the minister heard reports on production of the factory by the factory manager. The managing director gave a supplementary report.

At the hall of Meiktila Industrial Zone, Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Zone Development Committee Minister U Aung Thaung attended the ceremony to donate a 1,100-gallon water tanker from Meiktila Industrial Zone to Thazi Township Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Lu Tin handed over the documents related to the water tanker to Thazi Township USDA Secretary U Moe Myint Thein. Next, the minister met the chairman of the Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and members, and industrial entrepreneurs.

At Soap Factory (Yamethin) near Shweda Village of Yamethin Township, the Secretariat Member of USDA met with executives and organizers of Yamethin District, Yamethin Township and Pyawbwe Township USDAs. The minister also inspected tasks of Soap Factory (Yamethin).

The minister proceeded to Textile and Dyeing Factory (Yamethin). The minister inspected products of the factory and stockpiling of raw materials and left necessary instructions. — MNA

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**35 members of KhinU Township NLD quit**

YANGON, 13 July — A total of 35 members including U Aung Htwe, U Hla Myint, U Pho Tu, U Khin Maung Aye, U Aung Lay, U Tin, U Than Myint, U Aung Myint, U Tin Aung and U Khin Aung of KhinU Township National League for Democracy of Ywatha Village in Sagaing Division resigned from the party of their own accord and sent the letters to NLD Headquarters and local authorities on 19 June.

They said in their letters that they had wished to serve in the interests of the State and the local community, and the reason why they had resigned from the party was that they no longer put their trust in the NLD. — MNA

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**Weather Forecast for (14-7-2006)**

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).