Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends physic nut growing ceremony, cash donation ceremony for construction of Bawditahtaung Laygyunsakkya Standing Buddha Image

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Bawditahtaung Dam.—MNA

Bawditahtaung Dam will be 670 feet long and 75 feet high. It can store 683 acre feet of water and irrigate 100 acres of farmlands.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Preserve and promote national prestige and integrity

Preservation of own traditions is of great importance for a nation and its people. The failure to do so will harm national prestige and integrity, and the nation concerned and its people may become extinct.

Now, the globalization process has great impact on the world nations. Alien culture is penetrating constantly into many countries through cultural and economic relationships due to advanced information technology and media.

In particular, the youth now come under the influence of alien music, arts, songs, dances, costumes, ideas and lifestyles.

Improvement in the fields of science, technology, ideas and knowledge is a positive sign. So, innovative measures should be taken according to the changes. However, it is unwise to directly copy or imitate alien music, songs and costumes.

All are to dissuade the youth from wearing scanty dresses, indulging in decadent activities and copying the lifestyle that is against Myanmar culture.

Every citizen is duty-bound to value, preserve and promote national culture. The entire people especially new generation youths should not consider alien culture, lifestyle and costumes to be the swim line and should not imitate them in a wrong way. Therefore, the people should value and cherish Myanmar traditions and wear decent costumes in order to preserve and promote national prestige and integrity.
China wants to be active contributor to Asia-Pacific security

SINGAPORE, 2 June — China would strive for a peaceful international environment to develop, and try to better contribute to world peace, a senior Chinese military official said here Saturday.

Zhang Qinsheng, Deputy Chief of General Staff of People’s Liberation Army of China, made the remarks while speaking at the plenary session of an annual Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, after the name of the Singapore hotel at which the event takes place.

China tries to be an active contributor to Asia-Pacific security and stability, he said. He noted that the fundamentals of the Chinese Asia-Pacific security policy are maintaining peace and security, facilitating dialogue and cooperation, as well as advocating harmony and common prosperity.

“In my view, a harmonious Asia-Pacific is a region in which countries live side by side peacefully, on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual confidence,” he said, adding that “they promote economic growth and social progress in a coordinated manner, make efforts to narrow the North-South gap to achieve common prosperity.”

May death toll for US soldiers in Iraq climbs to 122

BAGHDAD, 1 June — The US military reported three more deaths in Iraq on Thursday, taking the death toll to 122 for May, already the worst month for US forces there in more than two years.

May is the third-worst month overall in the campaign for US soldiers, behind November 2004, when 137 soldiers died, and April 2004, when 135 were killed.

A total of 3,473 US soldiers have been killed since the start of the invasion in March 2003.

In the latest deaths, two soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb on Wednesday in southwestern Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Two more were wounded.

Another soldier wounded by a roadside bomb in Baghdad’s northwest on Monday died of his wounds on Tuesday.

The US military said another eight soldiers were wounded in a suicide car bomb attack at a checkpoint in the Sunni Arab enclave of Adamiya in northern Baghdad on Wednesday.

Three Iraqi civilians, including a child, were also wounded.

The US military has said it expects to suffer greater casualties while it pours thousands of extra troops into Baghdad and other areas as part of a major security crackdown aimed at averting all-out sectarian civil war.

South China province to ban keeping of mistresses

BEIJING, 1 June — South China’s booming province of Guangdong is drafting a law to ban the resurgent trend of keeping of mistresses, in a bid to preserve social harmony, local media reported on Wednesday.

Many Chinese businessmen keep mistresses in second homes, a tradition banished after the Communists swept to power in 1949 but which has made a comeback with nearly 30 years of market reforms.

The law, attached to legislation guaranteeing women’s rights, would ban married people from setting up “love nests” to engage in extra-marital affairs, the Beijing News said.

“Adding this provision is aimed at preserving and enhancing marital stability,” the paper quoted a Guangdong lawmaker, Cheng Jingchu, as saying.

China has repeatedly urged its officials to honour the sanctity of marriage after a string of high-profile corruption cases involving mistresses led to the sacking and punishment of senior cadres.

Railway track blown up in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 1 June — Unidentified men Thursday blew up a railway bridge in Pakistan’s southwestern province of Balochistan, suspending train service between Quetta, the provincial capital and rest of the country, police and railway officials said.

Railways officials said that explosives were used to blow up the bridge at the Spaziind area, some 16 kilometres from Quetta.

Malaysian singer Michael Wong poses when shooting a commercial for Yamaha, on 30 May, 2007.

A man takes a picture in front of an Eastern China airplane which is sprayed with children’s paintings at Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai, on 1 June, 2007.
Chinese scientists develop material for spacewalk suits

Beijing, 2 June — Chinese scientists have developed a material that the country’s astronauts can wear for the first planned spacewalks on the Shenzhou VII mission next year, according to a Beijing newspaper.

The first batch of 300 square metres of the material was being manufactured, the Beijing Science and Technology Daily said.

“The surface material, made up of advanced synthetic fabric, boasts characteristics such as fire and radiation resistance that meet spacewalk requirements,” the newspaper quoted Pang Zhihao, a Chinese space expert, as saying.

The surface material should protect astronauts from extreme heat on the side exposed to the sun at temperatures more than 200 degrees Celsius, and extreme cold on the shaded side, said Pang.

The material can also protect astronauts from injury from floating micro-meteoroids in space, Pang added.

“There will be great differences between Shenzhou VII spacesuits and previous ones,” Pang said.

China’s next manned space flight, Shenzhou VII, the third in its space programme, is scheduled to take place in 2008, and three astronauts are expected to undertake spacewalks.

Pang said the Shenzhou VII spacewalk suit was designed to be like a small aircraft with a propeller, allowing astronauts to move freely in space, the newspaper report said.

-- MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombing kills NATO soldier in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 June — A roadside bombing killed one soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and injured three others in Laghman Province of eastern Afghanistan on Friday morning, a witness told Xinhua.

Rahmanullah, an Afghan working for ISAF, said the incident occurred near Mihtarlam, the provincial capital.

Meanwhile, an ISAF press officer confirmed with Xinhua that there was an explosion near Mihtarlam, and it did involve some ISAF casualties. — Xinhua

Videotape shows abducted BBC reporter alive in Gaza

Gaza, 1 June — For the first time since he had been abducted in Gaza by Palestinian militants on 12 March, a group called the Army of Islam issued on Friday a videotape showing the abducted BBC reporter Alan Johnston alive and sound.

The videotape sent to the Gaza-based local news agency Ramattan showed the BBC reporter Johnston was speaking in English about his experience in Gaza and the suffering of the Palestinian people he witnessed over the past several years while several masked militants in black are standing around him.

Chips of the videotape were also e-mail to several journalists, including Xinhua, showed also a photocopy of Alan Johnston’s British passport, as well as a message saying the BBC refused to take this message to his family.”

Another message said “My captors treated me very well; they fed me and haven’t used violence against me at all and I’m in a good health.”

Johnston, the BBC reporter in the Gaza Strip for four years, was wearing a red cotton T-shirt against black background in the video. Born in 1962 and from Argyllshire, Johnston has been held captive longer than any other journalist kidnapped in the Middle East. — MNA/Xinhua

-- MNA/Xinhua

An artist creates her sand sculpture on a beach of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg, on 30 May, 2007. Artists from 20 countries take part in the VI Annual International Festival of Sand Sculpture. -- INTERNET

Monitored China panda born to be wild, found dead

Beijing, 1 June — A five-year-old captive-bred panda fell to his death less than a year after he was released into the wild, possibly after a fight with other pandas, Xinhua news agency said on Thursday.

Xiang Xiang, the world’s only artificially bred panda living in the wild, was released at the Wolong Nature Reserve for Giant Pandas in the mountainous southwestern province of Sichuan in April last year.

“Experts found the body of Xiang Xiang on 19 February and the panda might have fallen from a high place in a fight with wild pandas,” Xinhua said, citing the China Giant Pandas Protection and Research Centre in Wolong. The release of Xiang Xiang came after nearly three years of training to toughen him up at the research centre.

“Through surveillance we found out that Xiang Xiang had gradually adapted to the wild environment,” said Zhang Hemin, director of the centre, said in July.

“We have also detected other wild pandas in the area, which means Xiang Xiang is being integrated into a wild population.”

Researchers fitted a global positioning system device around the animal’s neck to monitor his activities, CCTV said. — MNA/Reuters

Number of failing schools up 5% in England

London, 1 June — The number of schools judged to be failing rose 5 per cent during the first quarter of the year, education inspectors said on Thursday.

The number of primary and secondary schools in England subject to special orders rose to 256 for the period between January and March this year from the previous quarter, Ofsted said.

Eight more primary schools were placed in special measures, bringing the total to 179, while four more secondary schools were branded as failing, resulting in a total of 52.

Schools in special measures, which also include special schools and pupil referral units, can be closed if they do not improve fast enough.

The number of schools requiring significant improvement, one step down from a special order, fell to 352 from 366.

One school was closed while subject to a notice to improve. — MNA/Reuters

-- MNA/Reuters

-- The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 3 June, 2007
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Sino-Egyptian joint oil rigs plant set up in Egypt**

Al-Ein Al-Sokhna (Egypt), 1 June — A Sino-Egyptian joint oil rigs plant was set up Wednesday in Suez' northeastern industrial zone, about 120 kilometres east of Cairo. This is the first land oil rigs plant in the Middle East region. Officials from China and Egypt laid foundation stone for the joint venture.

The Chinese side of the joint venture was Sichuan Honghua Petroleum Equipment Co Ltd while the Egyptian side was three companies, which included an engineering company of oil and oil processing, an oil consultation company and a petroleum company.

According to their contract, the two sides each invested 15 million US dollars and the joint venture will manufacture three oil drills by 2007 and 53 in the coming four years (2008-2011).

Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Amin Sameh Samir Fahnzi told Xinhua that the joint project is a successful story. He expected more Chinese investments in the oil sector as bilateral cooperation is practical and mutual benefit.

Nestor Aguila.

**Philippine market shares soar to record high**

Beijing, 1 June — Philippine shares rose to a record high Friday on heavy buying in blue chips after the government reported the country’s highest first-quarter growth in 17 years.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 72.68 points, or 2.1 percent, to 3,547.35, breaking resistance at 3,500 and beating the previous record of 3,505.03 hit 22 May.

“As far as the Philippines is concerned, they (investors) can see that the fiscal and economic platform has been developed and economic progress. In the meantime, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wu Sike praised the progress that the joint venture has made, reviewing that the memorandum of understanding was signed last October, the contract signed in last December and only half a year later, the venture can begin to produce drills,” MNA/Xinhua

**China launches communications satellite “SinoSat-3”**

Xi’an (Sichuan Province), 1 June — China on early Friday morning launched “SinoSat-3”, a communications satellite for radio and television broadcasting, aboard a Long March-3A carrier rocket, marking the 100th flight of its Long March series. The satellite, launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwest Sichuan province at 0:08 am (Beijing Time), separated from the rocket about 24 minutes after liftoff, before entering the geosynchronous orbit.

Its predecessor SinoSat-2, China’s first direct-to-home satellite, was launched on 29 Oct 2006. It was revealed a month later that it failed to deploy its solar panels and communication antennae and was deemed inoperable, the Sino Satellite Communications Co Ltd (SinoSat), a Chinese satellite operator and the user of the SinoSat series, has said. Internet

**A multibillion dollar industry built on the most dangerous jobs in the world**

London, 1 June — Since March 2004, when the charred bodies of four American security guards were dragged through the streets of Falluja, private security in Iraq has become a multibillion dollar business for a handful of US and UK companies.

For the hired ex-soldier earning up to $1,000 (£500) a day, it is also the most dangerous job in the world. More than 900 have been killed in the past three years, the majority of them American.

The Pentagon estimates there are about 20,000 armed security guards in the country although some observers have put the figure much higher.

Some of the kidnapped men worked for one of the major firms operating in Iraq, GardaWorld, which is based in Montreal but has an office in Hereford, the military base of the SAS.

Last year the company acquired the London-based Kroll Security International, which had its own personal security units in Iraq. GardaWorld claims more than 20 years of experience in high-risk countries and an elite team of local and expatriate security specialists in Baghdad trained in both executive protection and kidnap and ransom services.

It says it has “on-the-ground protection units made up of expatriated special operations officers with intimate knowledge of Iraqi culture, language, religion and geography.” — Internet

Crowd look the Jin Mao Tower as France’s daredevil climber Alain Robert climbs the tower in Shanghai on 31 May, 2007. — Xinhua

**The carrier rocket Long March 3-A blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 1 June, 2007. — Xinhua**
Australia, Philippines sign security pact

Canberra, 1 June — Australia and the Philippines on Thursday signed a landmark security agreement under which Australia will provide the Southeast Asian country with gunboats and military training to help fight terrorists in its south.

The pact was signed here by Australian Prime Minister John Howard and visiting Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrived from New Zealand Wednesday. Australia will also take part in large-scale joint military exercises with the Philippines.

Arroyo said the pact would help in the battle against terrorism. “We’re making great strides to wipe out this scourge,” she told reporters.

“This is an agreement that will help us to modernize and professionalize our Armed Forces, it will help us to have interoperability of all our forces in the fight against terrorism,” she said.

Howard said the agreement would pave the way for very important counter-terrorism exercises.

It was reported that the 28 high-speed gunboats, which Australia will provide with to the Philippines under the pact, can each carry six soldiers and three crewmen and navigate with a global positioning system.

Roadside bombing kills three Afghan guards of US security company

KABUL, 1 June — A roadside bombing killed three Afghan guards working for a US security company in Helmand Province of southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, an official from the company Rahmatullah told Xinhua.

The incident took place in Geresk District at noon, killing three guards of the private US Protection and Investigation (USPI), Rahmatullah said.

No one has claimed responsibility, and an investigation was underway.

The USPI, a well-established security company in Afghanistan, has been attacked by bombings from time to time in this volatile country.

Cambodian force raids illegal overseas phone call businesses

PHNOM PENH, 1 June — The government carried out a joint raid here on Tuesday on two houses allegedly operating illegal overseas phone gateways and detained around 10 suspects, local media said.

Two-time Academy Award winning actress Hilary Swank, left, poses for a photo with Jill Browning, of Katy, Texas, taken by Karen Snow, right, of Missoula, Mont, after her appearance on the NBC ‘Today’ television programme, on Friday 1 June, 2007. In her segment, Swank spoke on behalf of the first-ever Blue Planet Run, in which a global team of 20 runners representing 13 nationalities will participate in an around-the-world relay to call attention to the global human crisis caused by the lack of safe drinking water.

Six killed as shell hits gas station in Yemen

SANAA, 1 June — At least six people were killed and 10 wounded when an artillery shell hit a petrol station in the north of Yemen where government forces have been battling Shiite rebels since January, residents said on Thursday.

A source close to the government said the shell might have been fired by the rebels.

“The blast is believed to be the result of a shell like the type used by the rebels. It fell on a petrol station leading to an explosion on Wednesday,” said a local source close to the government. He said all those killed and wounded were civilians.

But a tribal source said the Army could have fired the shell at the petrol station in the town of Sehar “by mistake”.

A source close to the rebels said he had no information on the incident. The rebels oppose Yemen’s close alliance with the United States.

Israeli Vice-Premier announces candidacy for presidency

JERUSALEM, 1 June — Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres Wednesday officially announced his candidacy for the state presidency, Israeli daily Haaretz reported on its website.

According to the report, Peres, from Israel’s centrist party Kadima, made the announcement during a special session of the party earlier in the day. “After much thought, I have decided to acquiesce to the requests that I be a candidate for the state presidency,” Peres was quoted as saying.

Previously, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Monday that he would support Peres to run for the presidency as the candidate of the ruling Kadima Party.

“I have no doubt that Peres will restore the honour and prestige to the presidential position, which is what the people of Israel deserve,” Olmert said at a Kadima meeting. Peres will be running together with Knesset (Parliament) member Reuven Rivlin of Likud and Labour Party’s Colette Avital for the presidency.

The most likely three-way presidential race will be held on 23 June.

Six killed as shell hits gas station in Yemen.
Taunghtan palm thatch and mat, village products of Mon State

ONE VILLAGE, ONE PRODUCT

Taunghtan palm (palmyra species) grows naturally in Mon State. Growing Taunghtan palm on a commercial scale, Kazai Village in Bilin Township, Mon State, has enjoyed all-round development and has been upgraded to a model village. Taunghtan palm thatch produced in Kazai Village is distributed on a large scale not only across Mon State but also to Bago Division and other arid regions.

We members of Myanma Alin editorial staff group conducted an interview with U Kyuu Li, a Taunghtan palm farm owner in Kazai Village.

Lin: Well, uncle, how long have you run this farm?
Li: I would say, more than one hundred years because this is our family business. These young palms are the ones I grew when I was inherited this farm.

Li: How many palms are grown in an acre of land?
Lin: About 800 palms.

Taunghtan palm leaves are split into four parts. Then, the thatches are exposed to the sun, and when they are dry, we get finished thatches.

Li: What species of bamboo do you use to make a thatch?
Lin: We can use any species of bamboo, but here Myeticksy species of bamboo is common.
Li: What is the price of a thatch?
Lin: The price of one hundred units of thatch is about 1000 kyats.
Li: How many thatches can a worker make a day?
Lin: On average, a worker can make about 500 thatches a day.
Li: Is there any other use of a Taunghtan palm?
Lin: The sticks of palm leaves can be used to make mats. And Taunghtan palm fruit can be consumed. The stems of the palms are used as firewood.

Then, we visited Alulay Village that gains reputation for its product of Taunghtan mats. In an interview, owner of the mats making family business U Chit Po explained the production process, saying that firstly the thorns around the Taunghtan palm thatch work site.

Taunghtan palms.

Young women making Taunghtan mats.

Taunghtan palm thatches.

Taunghtan mat is in high demand in arid regions as it is cool and suitable to be used especially in the hot season.

We have grown Taunghtan (palmyra) palm as a family business.
(U KYUU LI)

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 2-6-2007
Commander looks into paddy harvesting, thriving sugarcane plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended the harvesting of summer paddy plantation of farmer U Hla Maung in Thitlalyon Village of Pyinmana Township.

On the occasion, Assistant Director U Thein Htay of Pyinmana District Agricultural Mechanization Department handed over 15 paddy harvesters to Chairman of Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Zaw and local farmers.

The commander and party viewed paddy harvesting of workers of AMD with the use of harvesters and presented cash rewards to those workers. Next, the commander and party viewed threshing of paddy.

After the harvesting, 135 baskets of paddy per acre yield were produced.

The commander and party inspected thriving 27 acres of sugarcane plantation in Kyee Yin Village.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin inspects harvest of summer paddy in Thitlalyon village. — MNA

YANGON Div organizes physic nut, monsoon tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 2 June — Physic nuts and monsoon tree planting ceremony was held at the junction of Pyidaungsu road and Ayeayawun road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the physic nut growing ceremony and made a speech.

The commander presented physic nut seedlings, grafts and seeds to departments in the district.

Daw Mar Mar Wai, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization gave physic nut saplings, grafts and seeds to social organizations.

The commander, wife and party sowed physic nut seeds and grafts into the bags. They later viewed growing of physic nuts.

The commander and party attended the monsoon tree planting ceremony. Director U Khin Win of Yangon Division Forest Department reported on the tree planting ceremony for 2007.

The commander and wife presented trees to townships in the district and social organizations, and planted trees there.

After that, the commander and party viewed physic nut plantations of industrial zones in the district.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary U Hla Soe of Yangon Division PDC and authorities concerned, departmental officials and social organizations.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends...

YANGON, 2 June — The coordination meeting of Myanmar Women’s Sport Federation for 2006-2007 fiscal year was held at Olympic Hotel (Thuwanna) here yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairperson Daw Aye Aye of MWSF Central Work Committee and executives, members of the panel of patrons, wellwishers and guests.

First, Chairperson Daw Aye Aye delivered an address.

Next, Secretary Daw L Khan Yi reported on work done in 2006-2007 and future tasks.

Chairperson Daw Aye Aye accepted K 3.9 million from the donors and presented certificates of honour to them. — MNA

MWSF organizes coordination meeting for 2006-07 fiscal year

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Stipends presented to schoolchildren in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 2 June— Under the arrangements of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, stipends were presented to Basic Education Primary Schoolchildren in Mayangon Township at Kyaikwaing Youth Training School of Social Welfare Department in the township today as part of the activity of School Enrollment Week.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented stationery and bags to the schoolchildren.

After that, wellwishers presented cash assistance to 323 schoolchildren in the township and No 25 Basic Education Primary School and inspected sanitation tasks being carried out by the staff of YCDC in the compound of the institute. — MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presents stationery to a schoolchild. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

MNA
At a time when the people in the whole country enjoy fruits of development and prevailing peace and stability, Kayin State lacked development due to inability to restore peace and stability.

Therefore, the local people are to organize the remnant armed groups to make peace with the government and to join hands with the government, the Tatmadaw and the people in undertaking all-round development of Kayin State. If eternal peace prevails in the region, Kayin State will be able to engage in development tasks with momentum.

Paingkyon Bridge, 1,170 feet long, is linking Upper Paingkyon and Lower Paingkyon. Local people can travel to Nabu, Pata, Htau Tkaw Koe, Kawkareik, Myawady and border areas through Upper Paingkyon. Furthermore, they can also go to other parts of the nation through Kawkareik and Hpa-an at any time.

In the construction sector, Kayin State has up to 526 miles and one furlong of roads from 1988. In addition, village-to-village roads and village-to-town roads have been constructed in the state. Moreover, two bridges across Thanlwin River — 2,255 feet long Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) and 1,200 feet long Gyaing Bridge (Kawkareik)—have been built. So far, a total of 1,070 large and small bridges have been built including Hlaingwa Bridge in Kawkareik Township and Dawlan Bridge in Hpa-an District. In conclusion, the commander urged the local people to maintain the bridge for its durability.

Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min delivered a speech. He said that the local people enjoy fruits of transport sector through village-to-village roads and village-to-town roads constructed in 2,089 villages of seven townships in Kayin State. As a result, Paingkyon region will have the speedy flow of commodity. In conclusion, Brig-Gen Zaw Min thanked the government for construction of the bridge and urged the local people to safeguard and maintain the bridge for its durability.

Kayin State Superintendenting Engineer U Ohn Han of Public Works reported on construction of the bridge. A local spoke words of thanks.

Next, Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Brig-Gen Zaw Min and Superintendenting Engineer U Ohn Han formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the plaque of the bridge.

Also present on the occasion were departmental officials, members of social organizations, students and local people.
Chartered Flight arrives

YANGON, 2 June — Supervised by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and under the arrangements of Exotissimo Travel of Myanmar and Captain’s Choice Tour of Australia, a B747-338 chartered flight of Qantas Airline carrying 247 passengers mostly Australians arrived at Mandalay International Airport from Phnom Penh of Cambodia this afternoon.

Those tourists will arrange package tours on the Mandalay-Mingun-Mandalay trip, the Mandalay-PyinUlayTaw-Mandalay trip and the Mandalay-Amarapura-Mandalay trip, and they will leave Mandalay International Airport for Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 5 June.— MNA

Health Minister inspects construction of buildings, health care services in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Mr Aung Naing Soe and officials went to construction site of building (A) in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNS

Secretary of SSMNC Ponnamayama Zaykaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadabhivamsa honoured

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and congregation receive the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung offers alms donated by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and family to a Sayadaw.— MNA

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A 6-year-old girl performs a traditional Chinese exercise "Tai Chi" at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 31 May, 2007. — Internet

JAKARTA, 2 June — An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale shook Gunung Sitoli area in North Sumatra Province, Indonesia, before dawn on Friday but there was no immediate report of casualties or material damage.

The quake’s epicentre was in the sea, 393 kilometres southwest of Gunung Sitoli at a depth of 102 kilometres, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) said on its website.

The agency said an earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale also struck the waters 292 kilometres northeast of Bitung Town in North Sulawesi Province early Friday at a depth of 518 kilometres.

An undersea earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale jolted the waters 43 kilometres southeast of Kendari, capital of Southeast Sulawesi Province, at a depth of 33 kilometres also early Friday, it said.

Damascus, 2 June — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Thursday accused the United States and Israel of being responsible for the tension in Lebanon, which was aimed at preventing political unity among the Lebanese people.

Mottaki made the remarks during a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Muallem, a source at the Iranian embassy here told reporters.

According to the source, Mottaki also held that the current military tension in Lebanon is a continuation of ongoing political tension in that country.

Mottaki arrived here earlier in the day on a visit to Syria at the invitation of Muallem to discuss expansion of bilateral ties and regional developments, said the source. — MNA/Xinhua

Ten wounded in southern Thailand’s bombings

BANGKOK, 2 June — Violence continued in Thailand’s insurgency-plagued far south as 10 persons were wounded in bombings late Friday, the Thai News Agency reported Saturday.

A remote-controlled bomb, hidden under a sofa, exploded at a restaurant in Sai Buri district of Pattani Province on Friday night, wounding seven customers, all local residents, who were rushed to hospital.

In Narathiwat Province’s Cho Ai Rong district, a roadside bomb exploded in front of a school as a patrol of six soldiers were passing by on Friday night. Three soldiers were wounded and taken to hospital.

Also on Friday night, in Yala Province, Bantalosumae school was burnt on.

Two classrooms were completely destroyed. Police believed that the arson is linked to the southern unrest.

Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala have been hit by insurgents on an almost daily basis and nearly 2,200 persons have died in over three years of violence. — Internet

Iranian FM says US, Isreal responsible for tension in Lebanon

DAMASCUS, 2 June — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Thursday accused the United States and Israel of being responsible for the tension in Lebanon, which was aimed at preventing political unity among the Lebanese people.

Mottaki made the remarks during a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Muallem, a source at the Iranian embassy here told reporters.

According to the source, Mottaki also held that the current military tension in Lebanon is a continuation of ongoing political tension in that country.

The two foreign ministers also discussed the Iraqi issue.

Mottaki said the neighbouring states should collectively help restore security in the war-shattered country, where the existing problems are
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (737)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (737) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

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Ministry of Transport

Department of Civil Aviation

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply, installation and Commissioning of the following equipments and systems for Department of Civil Aviation in the Union of Myanmar.

(a) Network Cables, Hub & Accessories
(b) Pentium (4) Computer
(c) Pentium (4) Computer
(d) Sealed Type Battery

2. Tender will be closed at 16:00 Hrs on 15th June 2007.

3. Tender will be opened at 17:00 Hrs on 15th June 2007 in the presence of Tenderers or their representatives.

4. Available at
Sarcy’s Belmont Book Shop, 599-631, Merchant Street, Yangon
01-3183468, 249023
Sarcy’s Belmont Book Shop, No-53, Thadyenyaing Market, Hta Pyl Taung
New and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, 317, Theikkyu Street, Yangon
294305
Hotels, Supermarkets and Shopping Malls in Yangon.

Laura Bush announces $1.3m in grants to school libraries

New York, 1 June — US First Lady Laura Bush announced Wednesday that her foundation is awarding some 1.3 million US dollars to help 263 school libraries update their book collections this year.

“Great books provide students with knowledge and encourage creativity,” said Mrs. Bush. “These grants will help stock libraries with new and exciting books that will challenge and inspire young people.”

More than 129,800 students will benefit from new books in their school libraries as a result of this year’s grants from the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries.

The 2007 award winners include 234 public schools, 11 charter schools, 14 private schools and four alternative schools. Grants were made in 48 states plus the District of Columbia.

In addition, an award was made to Spangdahlem Elementary School, a school serving 463 children of military personnel at Spangdahlem Air Force Base in Germany, for books for their school library.

World Bank approves $20m loan to Macedonia

WASHINGTON, 1 June — The World Bank has approved a 20-million-US- dollar loan for the Second Trade and Transport Facilitation in South East Europe project (TTFSE2) for Macedonia, according to a statement released by the Bank on Wednesday. The TTFSE2 project will facilitate the movement of trade between Macedonia and neighbouring countries in SouthEast Europe by enhancing access to regional and global markets and supporting regional cohesion, which are priorities for moving closer towards European Union accession, said the statement. Southeast Europe is an important transit area for the EU and its transport infrastructure is included in the Pan-European network of transport corridors.

The EU has identified Corridor 10 as one of the five most important European strategic transport routes, and prioritizes investment and development of this corridor.

Play, sleep rare commodity for children in Chinese cities

BEIJING, 1 June — Sparse time and sleep are rare commodities for kids in China with a survey finding that half the children aged four to 12 years old in major cities have to attend extra-curricular courses outside of school and have little time to go off, play and sleep.

In a fiercely competitive society, most urban children are catapulted into a busy “course-going” life from the age of four. On average, they spend 3.7 hours a week in extracurricular courses, not counting the time they need to travel to classes and back, according to a survey conducted in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan and four other cities by Horizon Research Consultancy Group.

The courses cost their parents an average of 200 yuan (about 26 US dollars) a month.

The research said almost 64 per cent of the 246 children surveyed attend English training courses; 29 per cent study dancing, piano and violin and another 25 per cent learn how to paint. Some parents send their children to martial arts and tae kwon do courses.

Many of the parents surveyed said school education does not prepare their offspring sufficiently for future competition while others said they were more concerned with cultivating their children and making them more sociable.

A humback baby whale (Megaptera novaengliae) jumps above water in the Abrolhos National Marine Park, Brazil, on 4 Oct, 2003. A majority of nations voted on Wednesday 30 May, 2007 to create a whale sanctuary in the southern Atlantic Ocean, but failed to get 25 percent of the vote needed to pass the proposal raised by Brazil and Argentina.

Don’t smoke

Kijivu (R), a 15 years-old gorilla, holds her newly born baby gorilla next to another gorilla at Prague’s zoo on 30 May, 2007. — INTERNET
Harry Potter theme park to open in 2009

BEIJING, 1 June — A Harry Potter theme park is set to open in Universal’s Islands of Adventure Theme Park in late 2009, complete with the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the Forbidden Forest and Hogsmeade village, announced Tom Williams, chairman and CEO of Universal Parks and Resorts on Thursday.

Williams said the Harry Potter attraction would be like “a theme park within a theme park” spanning about 20 acres of Islands of Adventures’ 85 total acres.

“Warner Bros, J.K. Rowling, Universal: We’re all completely committed,” he said. “We’re committed financially: we’re committed intellectually to deliver a product that exceeds expectations.”

Stuart Craig, the Academy-Award winning production designer for the Harry Potter movies, is leading creative design on the park to make sure it remains true to the look and feel of the films. “Our primary goal is to make sure this experience is an authentic extension of Harry Potter’s world as it is portrayed in the books and films,” Craig said in a press release.

The Wizarding World will feature rides, shops and restaurants all based on the fictional world of Harry Potter. The Harry Potter book writer J.K. Rowling herself will be collaborating with Universal on the park, and she said she “is very excited about the project.”

“The plans I’ve seen look incredibly exciting, and I don’t think fans of the books or films will be disappointed,” Rowling said in a press release.

Williams said Rowling has been collaborating on the park from the beginning and will continue to do so through the opening.

Witherspoon to star in remake of “Midnight”

BEIJING, 1 June — Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon will star in a remake of the 1939 romantic comedy “Midnight,” media reported Friday.

Oscar-winning screenwriter Michael Arndt, who won an Academy Award this year for his script of “Little Miss Sunshine,” also has signed on to the project.

Ardnt revealed that “Midnight” has “long been one of my favorite films and it is easily one of the best comedies of the ‘30s. Being given the chance to update the film with Reese in the lead is simply a dream come true.”

In the original film, Claudette Colbert played a poor young woman in Paris who becomes a pawn when a wealthy man tries to get rid of the gigolo wooing his wife. The film was directed by Mitchell Leisen and written by Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder and also co-starred Don Ameche, Mary Astor and John Barrymore.

Future projects which will see Reese Witherspoon on the big screen include “Our Family Trouble,” a supporting role in “Pencelo,” and she will also be seen in “Rendition” later in 2007. Witherspoon rose to fame for her turn in the “Legally Blonde” series of Hollywood comedy films.

Japan sees first birth-rate rise in 6 years

TOKYO, 1 June — Japan, burdened with a shrinking and ageing population, saw its birth-rate rise for the first time in six years in 2006 partly because of an economic upturn, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Japan’s birth-rate is among the lowest in the world, raising concerns about the economy’s growth potential and the government’s ability to fund ballooning pension requirements.

The fertility rate, or the average number of children a woman bears in her lifetime, appears to have risen to 1.31 in 2006 from a record low of 1.26 in 2005, the Nikkei said. The fertility rate of 2.07 is needed to keep a population from falling but Japan’s rate has steadily remained below that level since 1974.

The number of babies born in the country in 2006 increased by 2.9 per cent from a year earlier to 1,122,278, in part due to an economic recovery, the Nikkei said. The number of marriages in 2006 also rose by 2.4 per cent from a year earlier to 748,017.

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, a research arm of the Health Ministry, said in December Japan’s fertility rate was expected to have increased to 1.29 in 2006. But it also said the rate was expected to start dropping again from 2007.

Visitors look at ‘Death Explained’ — a tiger shark cut in half — a new exhibition by British artist Damien Hirst in central London on 1 June, 2007. Twelve new pieces at the exhibition include ‘For the Love of God’ — a diamond encrusted platinum skull priced at 50 million pounds (99 million dollars). — Internet

“... not the Marriott”: man found living in bunker

BUFFALO, New York, 2 June — A city fire investigator in Buffalo, New York, recently discovered a 47-year-old man living in an underground bunker he dug with his own hands.

James O’Neill said the man, a veteran, uses car batteries to light the 16-by-20-foot space which is six feet underground. He cooks food in a hot pot. The man said he dug with his own hands.

O’Neill said the walls are covered with insulation and plastic tarps and the ceiling is made of wood and roofing material.

He found the home during the weekend while investigating a nearby fire. The man sleeps on a foam bed, O’Neill said.

“Some people would call him homeless, but he’s a clean, well-spoken guy. When I spoke to him, he was reading a novel by Joseph Wambaugh,” O’Neill told The Buffalo News.

The fire investigator declined to give the man’s name or say where the bunker is located to protect the man’s privacy. He said the man earns money doing occasional odd jobs.

“It’s not the Marriott hotel by any means, but this man has made it comfortable down there,” O’Neill said.

The man said he has been living in the bunker for about six years.

“ITold me it’s a peaceful and tranquil place to live,” O’Neill said. — Internet

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MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
Japan outclass Montenegro in Asian Cup warm-up

FUKUROI (Japan), 2 June — Japan spoiled Montenegro’s first game as a member of FIFA with a 2-0 home victory in an Asian Cup warm-up on Friday.

Japan went ahead in 23rd minute when defender Yuji Nakazawa headed in at the back post for his 19th goal in 46 Japan appearances.

Montenegro captain Igor Burzanovic had the opportunity to give the visitors a life-line from the penalty spot in the 67th minute but pulled his shot badly wide.

Japan coach Ivica Osim was far from impressed despite the comparative ease of his side’s victory.

Japan take on Colombia in their second game of the three-nation Kirin Cup in Saitama on Tuesday.

Colombia and Montenegro meet in Nagano on Sunday.— MNA/Reuters

Jankovic increases American woe at Roland Garros

PARIS, 2 June — The Stars and Stripes still fluttered in Friday’s sunshine but only one American player remained in the French Open singles after Venus Williams fell in the third round to Serbian fourth seed Jelena Jankovic.

University student Jankovic, the hottest player on the woman’s tour this year, probably cringed when she saw Venus on her horizon so early in the draw. Her tennis during a 6-4, 6-1 victory justified her pre-tournament billing, however.

As the temperatures in the French capital nudged upwards after a cool, rainy start to the championships, world number one Roger Federer also warmed to the task of bagging the only major to elude him with another majestic display.— MNA/Reuters

Impressive Canas marches into fourth round

PARIS, 2 June — Guillermo Canas, thriving on his return to Grand Slam action, silenced an army of Belgian fans by defeating Kristof Vliegen 6-2, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 to reach the French Open fourth round.

The Argentine, playing at a Slam for the first time since returning from a 15-month ban for doping, will now face compatriot Juan Monaco for a place in the last eight.

He has surrendered just one set so far and his form puts him on course to repeat his runs of 2002 and 2005 when he reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros.

MNA/Reuters

Four Sarawak players test positive for drugs

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — Four players from troubled Malaysian Super League team Sarawak have tested positive for drugs, local media reported on Thursday.

Three of the players have been remanded in custody by police for further investigation, days after club officials admitted they had no money to send the team to play in away matches.

The Star said one of players who tested positive was involved in a drugs controversy six years ago.

Team manager Razali Dolhan was quoted as saying: “I have never dealt with such a situation before. All four are key first-team players. Whether we field them again will depend very much on what happens next.”

MNA/Reuters

O’Hair grabs early lead in memorial event

DUBLIN (Ohio), 2 June — American Sean O’Hair birdied eight of the first 13 holes before taking the early clubhouse lead on seven-under-par 65 in the first round of the Memorial Tournament on Thursday.

On six-under in ideal if humid conditions at Muirfield Village, South African Ernie Els, Australian Aaron Baddeley and Americans Tim Herron and Bubba Watson. O’Hair is making his first appearance since battling with Phil Mickelson in the final round at the Players Championship three weeks ago before blowing his chances with a quadruple bogey at the 71st hole.

MNA/Reuters

Bartoli claims Dementieva scalp

PARIS, 2 June — Former finalist Elena Dementieva’s French Open campaign ended in the third round for the second successive year after she was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by local hope Marion Bartoli on Friday.

The Russian 13th seed, runner up to fellow Russian Anastasia Myskina in 2004, never looked comfortable during the 68-minute contest and slid out after scooping a forehand into the net.

Enjoying her best run at a Grand Slam, Bartoli will next face fourth seed Jelena Jankovic for a place in the quarterfinals.— MNA/Reuters

England’s David Beckham faces the Brazil soccer team before their friendly international soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 1 June, 2007.— INTERNET

ACROSS
1 Deadlock
5 Worship
8 Mature
9 Sideboards
10 Past middle age
11 Scratchy
12 Very nasty
14 Forerunner
17 Flowering bulb
19 Very old
22 He interrupts meetings
23 Restrained
24 Herb
25 Slight

DOWN
1 Likeness
2 Loot
3 Greek wood-god
4 My robe (anag.)
5 Friendly
6 Not concealed
7 Tried
12 Small axe
13 Sudden wish to act
15 Roused to danger
16 In Outer Hebrides
18 Fortunate
20 Ship’s anchor chain
21 1485-1603 period
Iran says dead rebels carrying US made arms

TEHERAN, 2 June — Rebels killed in clashes with Iraqi forces this week had recently infiltrated border areas of the Islamic Republic carrying US-made arms, an Iranian commander was quoted as saying on Thursday.

Ten rebels and seven Iranian border guards were killed in clashes in a northwestern area close to Turkey, according to Iranian media reports on Wednesday and Thursday. The report referred to “American-made weaponry and arms”.

Iranian daily Hamshahr said the seven border guards were killed in fighting with “armed terrorists” on Monday.

The intelligence Ministry said last Saturday it had uncovered spy networks, mostly near its western borders, working for US and British intelligence services.

General Rastegar-Panah, identified only with his last name, told state radio. “The weapons included M16 weapons which are being provided through channels linked to forces present in the region,”

The report referred to “American-made weaponry and arms”.

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A bulldozer clears mud and debris from the riverbed of a river in San Salvador, on 30 May, 2007. Heavy rains triggered flooding and mud landslides in El Salvador, killing at least 1 person in the eastern part of the country.

INTERNET


NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — A ceremony to inaugurate Paingkyon Bridge was held in Paingkyon of Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

On the occasion, Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win delivered an address. He said that the State Peace and Development Council had laid down 12 objectives for the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation with a view to enabling the nation to keep abreast of other nations, strengthening the national economy and ensuring uplift of living standard of the people. Seventy per cent population of the nation are living in rural regions. Therefore, the government is giving priority to undertaking of five rural development tasks so the rural people enjoy development fruits. In addition, the government had designated 24 special development regions and is striving for equitable development of all parts of the nation with added momentum. Kayin State is one of the 24 special development regions. Therefore, the government had set the plan to develop Kayin State in harmony with that of other States and Divisions.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Paingkyon Bridge was put into service. The bridge is the 225th facilities of its kind in the entire nation after 1988 and the 8th in Kayin State. Thanks to completion of the bridge, local people will have easy access to surrounding villages in addition to Kawkareik and Myawady in all seasons. The people in Paingkyon region can travel to other states and divisions through Hlaingbwe and Hpa-an. As the State Peace and Development Council had set the plans and is making utmost efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in a short time, remarkable progress can be witnessed in the whole Union including Kayin State.

The persons with negative views are turning a blind eye to development of all states and divisions. Especially, it is known to all that those who relying on external elements, acting as stooges, are making slanderous accusations against the government through foreign broadcasting media.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends inauguration of Paingkyon Bridge in Hlaingbwe Township

Local people to organize remnant armed groups to make peace with government and to join hands with government, Tatmadaw and people in undertaking all-round development of Kayin State

**Taunghtan mat is in high demand in arid regions as it is cool and suitable to be used especially in the hot season. So, the majority of the products are distributed to arid regions. Alulay Village has been well-known for its local product for many years.**

**Weather Forecast for (3-6-2007)**

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas

One or two rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

 Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).