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

**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

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection tour of Bagan-NyaungU, Kyaukpadaung

NAV PYI TAW, 3 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe, heads of departments and officials of the SPDC Office left the Guest House in Bagan-NyaungU on 1 June and arrived at Arimaddanapura Bagan Golden Palace construction project site.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, Director U Myo Nyunt of Archaeology Department briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in building of Bagan Golden Palace and future tasks. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project tasks meeting the set standards and measures to be taken for construction of the palace in accord with ancient artistic works.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected accomplishment of the construction tasks of the palace and attended to the needs. Work is under way for timely completion of the project tasks.

Upon arrival at Kyetmavtaung Dam near mile post No 540 on NyaungU-Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila road, Director U Myo Tun of Irrigation Department and staff officer U Khin Maung Tun briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint on cultivation of crops year by year and flow of water into the dam, utilization of dam water and annual rainfalls. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into flow of water from the main canal to the left and right canals from the main canal. Kyetmavtaung Dam had 45,640 acre-feet of water in 1995 and 82,087 acre-feet of water in 2006. The dam has had 57,860 acre-feet of water so far.

On arrival at Shanmange Dam Project site being implemented by Construction Group 3 of Irrigation Department, Director U Myo Tun briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint on accomplishment of the construction (See page 8)

Shanmange Dam is located on Shanmange Creek near Aungtha Village, Meiktila, Mandalay Division. It is the earth dam, 89 feet in height and 6,800 feet in length. Its annual inflow of water is 12,000 acre-feet. It can store 21,630 acre-feet of water and its area is 1,129 acres. The dam is a supporting dam of Monetaing Dam.

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

Monday, 4 June, 2007

Maintain Paingkyon Bridge for its durability

Paingkyon Bridge in Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, was opened on 1 June.

With the emergence of the bridge, local people from Paingkyon region have been able to travel easily from one place to another as well as visit Kawkareik and Myawady. Moreover, they can travel to other states and divisions through Hlaingbwe and Hpa-an.

Paingkyon Bridge links Upper Paingkyon and Lower Paingkyon. Access can be made to Nabu, Pata, Htokawko, Kawkareik and Myawady, and then to the border region through Upper Paingkyon.

The government is trying its utmost for bringing about equitable development across Kayin State and ensuring national reconsolidation, while striving together with local people for regional development.

Altogether six 180 feet above bridges including Than Lwin River Crossing Bridge (Hpa-an), Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge, Hlainbwe Bridge and Dawlan Bridge, 386 concrete bridges and 422 wooden bridges have been built in Kayin State since 1995.

Moreover, construction of new roads and upgrading the old ones were carried out. As a result, the length of road in Kayin State has increased from 399 miles in 1988 to 526 miles to date. The opening of village-to-village roads and village-to-town roads in Kayin State has led to better transport, thereby contributing to development of economic, social, health and education sectors.

Therefore, efforts are to be made to help maintain Paingkyon Bridge, which will contribute a lot to development of socio-economic life of local people in Hlaingbwe Township, for its durability.

Diploma conferred on trainees of ITBMU

YANGON, 3 June — The eighth diploma certificate presentation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University was held in conjunction with the fresher trainees welcoming ceremony for 2007-08 academic year at the university near Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township this morning.

On behalf of the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadabhvamsa gave an Ovadakatha.

The Rector of the university Agga Maha Pandita presented velvet fans to new trainee monks and shawls to new trainee nuns and layperson.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, diplomats and guests. — MNA

Merits shared for completion of Shwenyawah Pyinnya Beikman

YANGON, 3 June — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and donors share merits gained at donation ceremony of Shwenyawah Pyinnya Beikman three-storey building. — MNA

Senator Minister of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Tejaniya, the Secretary Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

In-charge of the Training Course and Yangon Buddha Tekkatho Shwenyawah Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasila gave Sammodaniya Pakara Katha. The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the minister and party shared merits gained for the donations.

The minister, officials and wellwishers offered rice worth over K 20 million to 1,500 trainee monks of the sixth teachership course. The Shwenyawah Pyinnya Beikman Building, 120 feet long and 60 feet wide, was built at a cost of over K 300 million. Later, wellwishers offered meals to 1,500 trainee monks. — MNA
Iraqi bombers thwart efforts to shield American soldiers

WASHINGTON, 3 June — American commanders are expressing frustration at the increasing death toll in Iraq caused by makeshift explosives, which have killed 80 per cent of the Americans who died in combat over the last three months, despite the billions of dollars being spent to fight the threat.

The proportion of American deaths caused by explosives has sharply increased, even as the Pentagon has made a major effort to defend the troops with armoured vehicles, to detect or disarm the weapons, and to attack the bomb-making cells and those who finance them, The New York Times reported on Saturday.

The bombs are known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and the Pentagon has formed a “Joint IED Defeat Organization” to combat the users. But the director of that group told the newspaper that he recognized the threat could not truly be defeated.

“It can be mitigated, minimized, made into a nuisance,” said the director, General Montgomery C. Meigs, a retired Army officer who took over the project in December 2005. “This is a very tough problem.” The total number of American deaths in April and May was the highest of any two-month period since the war began in March 2003, and the 80 per cent ratio caused by makeshift explosives is higher than it has ever been, up from 50 per cent in January.

Israeli troops kill two Gaza children

Gaza, 2 June — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian children in the northern Gaza Strip close to the border with Israel, Palestinian medical staff said on Friday.

An Israeli Army spokeswoman confirmed that troops had shot at suspicious figures trying to plant an object close to the border fence and that they reported hitting three people, two of whom were evacuated by Palestinian ambulance workers.

Medical staff at a Gaza hospital said the two, one reported to be aged eight and another about 12, were hit in the chest. They were reported to be scouring the area for scrap metal.

“We know that a number of Palestinians crawled towards the border fence. They know that it is a dangerous area but they did not heed repeated calls to stop and they planted a suspicious device close to the fence,” the spokeswoman said.

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“We know that a number of Palestinians crawled towards the border fence. They know that it is a dangerous area but they did not heed repeated calls to stop and they planted a suspicious device close to the fence,” the spokeswoman said.

“Joint IED Defeat Organization” to combat the threat could not truly be defeated.

US confirms missing of embassy staff in Baghdad

WASHINGTON, 2 June — Two Iraqis, who worked for American embassy in Baghdad, were confirmed missing by the State Department on Thursday.

“The embassy is working, along with Iraqi security forces and coalition forces as well, to be able to try and determine their whereabouts and be able to figure out exactly what’s happened,” State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said.

Casey declined to provide details or identify of the missing people.

US officials, who asked not to be identified, said that the two missing Iraqis, who are a couple, are very likely kidnapped.

Cold winter kills 34 in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 2 June — Sweeping polar cold wave has killed at least 34 people in Argentina last week.

According to Argentine media reports, some of the deaths were caused by the extreme cold and some were killed by inadequate heating or fires caused by heating.

Police in Cordova Province said two people had died of carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of sitting in a running car and using its air conditioning to keep warm. Elsewhere eight children were killed while trying to keep warm by a fire. The cold wave has caused natural gas supply shortages, resulting in the shutdown of dozens of schools.

Seven US troops killed in six separate incidents in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 June — Seven US troops have been killed in six separate incidents in Iraq, most of them roadside bomb attacks.

Two were killed in restive Diyala province, north of Baghdad, where US troops are fighting an al-Qaeda insurgency, the US military said.

All of the attacks happened on Saturday. The military said the incidents were under investigation.

In May, 127 US soldiers were killed in Iraq, the deadliest month for US forces since November 2004.

In Saturday’s attacks, one soldier died and two others were wounded in an explosion near a vehicle in Diyala, while another soldier was killed in a separate attack there.

Two Task Force Lightning soldiers were killed when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in northern Nineveh province.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed one soldier and wounded two others during clashes.
Russia accuses Britain of politicizing poison case

MOSCOW, 2 June — Russia accused Britain of politicizing the case of murdered Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko on Friday and said the affair was hurting the two countries’ relations.

“We see attempts from the British side to use the criminal case to build up some sort of political campaign,” said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. “We are against that. It is the business of the law enforcement agencies.”

Asked if the affair was having a negative impact on Russia’s relationship with Britain, Lavrov told a news briefing: “Such an effect is being felt.”

The remarks are likely to heighten a diplomatic feud over the Litvinenko affair that has already revived memories of Cold War spy scandals and soured relations between two countries now tied by huge sums in investment and trade.

British prosecutors have named Andrei Lugovoy, a business contact of Litvinenko’s, as their chief suspect in his murder and asked Russia to extradite him. But Moscow has refused, saying it cannot extradite its own citizens.

Britain’s Foreign Ministry was quick to counter Lavrov’s comments, saying the case was purely a criminal matter. — MNA/Reuters

Sixty persons drowned in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 June — Sixty Afghans were drowned when a boat carrying them capsized in the southern Helmand province, the Defence Ministry said Saturday. The incident occurred in Helmand River in Kajaki district on Friday, the ministry said in a statement.

Afghan and international forces have carried out an offensive in the district against Taliban militants since Thursday. The 60 drownings were fleeing the battlefield, Defence Ministry spokesman Zahir Azimi told Xinhua. Possibly there were some Taliban militants among them, he said, adding an investigation was underway to identify them.

Meanwhile, the Taliban said there were no Taliban fighters in the boat.

A NATO military helicopter crashed in Kajaki district on Wednesday night, killing all seven soldiers on board. NATO forces said it may have been shot down by Taliban insurgents.

Helmand has been a hotbed of Taliban insurgents, who clash with government and foreign troops frequently.

Participants demonstrate Jivamukti Yoga during the Asia Yoga Conference in Hong Kong on 2 June, 2007, “Evolution”, a large scale yoga event which invites 32 renowned yoga teachers from around the world, provides a platform for the general public to learn and deepen their practice through a variety of classes and discussion panels. — Internet

Car theft gang included former police recruit

LONDON, 2 June — A criminal gang which included a former woman police recruit has been found guilty of running one of the biggest car theft rings of the past decade. She and seven men stole nearly 200 high-value cars worth more than 4.5 million pounds from the London area. They would often threaten car owners at gunpoint or knifepoint to obtain the vehicles, or would target houses where residents were in, ensuring in most cases that the car keys were in the house.

The gang, based at a garage in New Cross, London, would reregister the stolen cars by using vehicle numbers from written-off vehicles sourced from salvage yards in Belgium and the US.

They would then use the vehicle identity details to claim to the DVLA that they were importing a car from Europe. They obtained 300 vehicle identities from the driving licence authority which they would link to the stolen cars in an attempt to legitimize their history.

A member of the gang who worked at the DVLA was paid 300 pounds per car to make sure the documentation went through smoothly.

The former Metropolitan Police trainee, a girlfriend of one of the ringleaders, signed documents made out in her name which were submitted to the DVLA to obtain false identities for six cars. She received 72 hours community service. — MNA/Reuters

Russian Minister says US shield “a booby trap”

MOSCOW, 3 June — Russia’s Defence Minister likened US plans for a missile defence shield in Eastern Europe to planting a booby-trap bomb under Russia’s front door, in an interview published on Friday.

Russia says the missile shield plan is a threat to its security. It has hit back by test-launching a new ballistic missile in a show of strength and accusing the United States of starting a new arms race.

“Figuratively speaking, the Americans are trying to lay a booby-trap bomb under the door to our apartment,” Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said in an interview with the Rossiskaya Gazeta daily. — MNA/Reuters
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Cambodia could become leading rice exporter by next year**

PASURUAN, 2 June — Cambodia could achieve its ambition to become one of the world’s leading milled rice exporters by 2008 if it has sufficient capital to buy unmilled rice from local farmers, media reported on Friday.

Cambodian local mills currently require 40 million US dollars in capital to purchase unmilled rice from farmers to raise stocks for production of milled rice, the Rasmei Kampuchea newspaper quoted Pu Puy, president of the Rice Milling Association of Cambodia, as saying.

Cambodian farmers annually export more than one million tons of unmilled rice, particularly to neighbouring Vietnam and Thailand, Pu Puy added. “We need around 40 million US dollars, but the capital we have collected is only 10 million US dollars,” he said, “if we have adequate capital, we can export milled rice to the world market by 2008 or 2009”.

He stressed that the country’s 280 mills, which have an average capital each of 30,000 US dollars to 100,000 US dollars, can currently buy and stock only enough unmilled rice for production to serve local markets and small exports, the Rasmei Kampuchea said.

More than 80 per cent of Cambodia’s population are farmers who enjoy a generally favourable climate, so they could produce a surplus of over million tons of unmilled rice annually, but until now they have not exported as much milled rice to the world markets as other producers due to a shortage of capital, he added.

Types of milled rice known to be exported from Cambodia include the Neang Minh, Phka K’heii and Phka Romduol varieties, the newspaper said.

**Vietnam imports more fertilizer in five months**

HANOI, 2 June — Vietnam imported nearly 1.4 million tons of fertilizers worth 308 million US dollars in the first five months of this year, posting respectively year-on-year rises of 16.5 per cent and 19.2 per cent.

Between January and May, Vietnam imported 262,000 tons of urea, mainly from China, Indonesia, Russia and the Middle East, totalling 69 million dollars, up 9.2 per cent in volume and 37.1 per cent in value, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

Vietnam’s total demand for fertilizers in 2007 is estimated at nearly 7.9 million tons, and domestic supplies are likely to stand at 4.7 million tons, according to the country’s Trade Ministry.

Vietnam imported over 3 million tons of fertilizers, including 708,000 tons of urea, totalling 673 million dollars last year, up 9.9 per cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively, against the year earlier, said the statistics office.

The country, home to over 150 fertilizer producers with each annual capacity ranging from 500 tons to one million tons, has planned to build four major fertilizer plants with a combined annual capacity of nearly 1.8 million tons in the 2005-2010 period, according to the Vietnam Fertilizer Association.

**China trains IT specialists for Russia, Central Asia**

Urumqi, 2 June — Twenty-seven people from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia have become the first to receive training in the application of information network technologies from China.

They included government information industry officials, academic researchers and entrepreneurs, said Nie Zhiquang, a senior official with the Science and Technology Intelligence Institute of Xinjiang Autonomous Regional Bureau of Science and Technology.

The course in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, and covers network engineering, database design and software development technology, applied computer science, operating systems with Russian versions, as well as applied technologies for servers.

Trainees will also have a chance to converse face to face with experts from Chinese IT companies, including Lenovo. “I think the training will help expand China’s cooperation with Russia and Central Asia in the field of information network technology, and advance China’s exports of IT and products and help Chinese computer network products find markets in Russia and Central Asia,” said Nie. — Internet

**Malaysia’s King Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin (L) salutes as he inspects guard of honour during a parade as part of his 64th birthday celebrations in Kuala Lumpur on 2 June, 2007. Sultan Mizan was elected the 13th King of Malaysia in 2005. Under the Federal Constitution, the King is elected among the Malay rulers to serve a five-year term. — XINHUA**
Tomato-killing virus spreads to California

LOS ANGELES, 1 June — California farmers have been alerted that a tomato-killing virus has spread to the state, agricultural officials said on Friday.

This was the first time in growing season to contain the spread of the disease. “Where this virus is present, it will absolutely kill the tomatoes,” said Ross Siragusa, president of the CTGA, which represents farmers who supply the state’s 2-billion-dollar a year processed tomato industry. “It’s a very difficult disease to fight.”

The virus causes tomato plants to become stunted and grow abnormally upright. Flowers usually fall off before the fruit sets. And leaves are small, crumpled with an upward curl and turn yellow.

Experts say advise that infected plants should be destroyed. Growers should also look for the flies. If bemesia flies are present, the disease is likely to be spreading fast, and the entire field may have to be destroyed and treated with insecticide. Nearby weeds also can carry the virus and may have to be sprayed.

Bird flu spreads among ducks in Vietnam

HANOI, 2 June — Bird flu has spread to another northern province in Vietnam, taking to 14 the number of areas infected with the H5N1 virus in the past month, the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday.

Tests confirmed all 300 ducklings at a farm in the northern province of Hung Yen had the virus. They were destroyed on 28 May, the ministry’s animal health department said in a report.

The report also said on 30 May about 200 ducks on a farm in another northern province, Ninh Binh, also tested positive and were subsequently destroyed. Ninh Binh reported its first bird flu outbreak in ducks on 28 May.

The birds at both places had not been vaccinated against the H5N1 bird flu virus, the department said.

Earlier on Friday, the ministry said the virus struck a second province, Quang Nam, in central Vietnam this week, killing 370 ducks. — MNA/Reuters

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People walk on a painted street in southwestern China’s Chongqing municipality on 2 June, 2007. A professor from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute suggested painting the buildings along the 1.25 kilometres (0.7 miles) street to modernize it, according to local media. — Internet

Fighting continues between Lebanese Army, Fatah militants

BEIRUT, 3 June — Fighting between the Lebanese Army and Fatah al-Islam militants resumed on Saturday morning in a Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon, after previous fighting left at least 19 dead, the Dubai-based al-Arabiya satellite TV reported.

At least 19 people, including three Lebanese soldiers, have been killed in Friday’s fighting, which is the fiercest in two weeks.

During Friday’s conflict, the Lebanese Army advanced with about 50 tanks and heavy artillery to positions surrounding the Palestinian refugee camp and carried out intense shelling against Fatah al-Islam fighters within the camp, according to al-Arabiya TV.

Artillery and machine-gun fire shook the Nahr al-Bared camp from early Friday morning to well into the night.

The Lebanese Army said the soldiers had overrun several positions held by militants and destroyed sniper nests on the northern and eastern edges of the camp.

The Army also urged the militants within the camp to surrender and called on Nahr al-Bared camp residents not to shelter them. — MNA/Xinhua

Foreigners arrested in western Nepal for smuggling hashish

KATHMANDU, 2 June — Nepali police have confiscated 4.5 kilos hashish from Lakeside in Pokhara in western Nepal, the national news agency RSS reported on Friday.

According to the RSS, four foreigners have also been arrested Thursday along with the confiscation of hashish, which was hidden in a room at a hotel in the famous tourism city, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu.

British, Israeli, Japanese and Russian nationals along with the hotel owner and one worker have been taken into custody for interrogation, a police officer said. — MNA/Xinhua

“AIDS cure” promoters face prosecution in Zambia

LUSAKA, 2 June — Zambian Health Ministry has summoned a Lusaka bus driver and his American associate to appear before a committee of experts to answer concerns on the controversial AIDS drug which the two claim can cure the deadly disease, according to Zambia Daily Mail.

The Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority under the ministry has summoned the duo in the wake of reports that they are administering the drug on people without subjecting it to scientific tests for approval.

Health director of clinical services of the ministry James Simpungwe told the parliamentary committee on health, community services and social welfare on Friday that Edgar Ngoma and his American associate Boyd Graves risk prosecution should they fail to submit a sample of the chemical of the drug.

Simpungwe told the committee that Tetrasil, whose basic chemical is silver, is known in the medical world as a disinfectant. — Xinhua

A saxophonist plays his instrument at Camps Bay during unseasonably warm weather in Cape Town, South Africa, on 2 June, 2007. — Internet

A Proton showroom in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia has said recently it will never give up control of Proton to a foreign firm, as it struggles to find a strategic partner for the loss-making national car company. — Internet

A sun conure sits on a hat of a girl to receive food at the Kachoen (bird and flower garden) in Kakegawa, central Japan, on 2 June, 2007. — Internet

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Vietnam to further enhance ties with Cuba

HAVANA, 3 June — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam’s Central Committee Nong Duc Manh on Friday began his three-day visit to Cuba to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Before departing from Hanoi in late May for a Latin America tour, Manh said Vietnam will make the utmost effort to develop and strengthen its relations with the Caribbean island in all fields. During Manh’s stay here, Cuba and Vietnam signed an agreement to enhance cooperation on oil exploration and drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and on shore. The two countries also inked accords covering sports, culture, rice production and telecommunications.

Manh’s four-nation Latin America tour, which began on 25 May, has taken him to Chile, Brazil and Venezuela.

World Council of News Agencies held in Russia

SOCHI, Russia, 3 June — The third session of the World Council of News Agencies was held in the Southern Russia city of Sochi from 1-2 June, discussing preparations for the Second World Congress of News Agencies to be held in the Spanish town of Estepona in October.

The forum brought together over 40 delegates from 21 countries, who proposed to put topics like “safety of journalists, the influences of new technologies on news agencies, and etc.” on the agenda of the second world congress.

The delegates also introduced experiences of their own news agencies. Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Xinhua news agency Ju Mengjun presented the function of his agency and the latest development of news writing.

Century-old-Austrian jewel recovered in Canada

OTTAWA, 3 June — A precious jewel pendant crafted more than a century ago for the then Austrian queen has been recovered in central Canada after being stolen nine years ago, local media reported Friday.

The jewel, named the Koczberi Diamond Pearl, was designed for Empress Elisabeth of Austria in 1864. It went missing from a palace in Vienna in 1998. The gem was discovered in Winnipeg in central Manitoba Province, when police were searching the home of the alleged ringleader of an organized crime outfit police say stretches across western Canada. Canadian Television reported.

The ringleader, 35-year-old Gerald Daniel Blanchard, was arrested in January. He now faces 41 charges.

Indonesia’s Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono meets with his Singapore counterpart Teo Chee Hean (R) on the sideline of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Summit in Singapore on 2 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Czech villages against US radar base

TENER, (Czech Republic), 3 June — Some 70 per cent of participants voiced a negative position on the planned US anti-missile base in a local referendum, Mayor of Tene, West Bohemia area, Julius Rusnak said on Saturday.

In the referendum, 139 out of 199 voters voiced agreement with the town hall taking all legal steps against the stationing of the US radar base in the Budy military area.

The voter turn-out was 71.3 per cent of the eligible voters, Rusnak said.

The village of Tene is situated about 10 kilometres from the area where the radar base is possibly located.

There have been a number of local referenda on the plan, with all of them having rejected it.

A girl checks the pile of notebooks sold in the Divisoria market in Manila on 2 June, 2007. An estimated 20 million children start to go schools when classes formally start on Monday.—INTERNET

Dutch mission discovers ancient tomb in Egypt

CAIRO, 3 June — An ancient tomb dates back some 3,500 years ago has been unearthed in Egypt by a Dutch mission, the official MENA news agency reported Friday.

The ancient tomb, located in Giza’s Saqqara area in southwest of Cairo, belongs to a priest called Meri Neet, who had become known as the chief superintendent of God Aton at the time, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 4 June, 2007 7
Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects Kyetmauktaung Dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection...

YANGON, 2 June — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, a ceremony to conclude the Web Content Management System Application Training (Web CMS) was held at the federation this afternoon, attended by MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay, CEC members, instructors and trainees of States and Divisions.

First, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay delivered a closing speech.

Next, the Vice-President presented certificates to the trainees. Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe give first, second and third prizes for news presentation to the outstanding

Web Content Management System Application Training concludes

YANGON, 3 June — A workshop on quality control management of ISP recipient Dr Tin Latt and group will be held on 10 June at 10 am at the training school of MAT Audit and Consultancy Services on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

In cooperation with URS Bangladesh Ltd, MAT Audit and Consultancy Services led by Dr Tin Latt gave necessary advice and technical assistance in implementing quality control tasks.

MAT is offering services such as laying down procedures on international level management affairs, accounts and effective management of human resources, conducting courses on management of quality control and giving assistance in getting ISO 9001:2000.

Workshop on quality control management to be held

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Workshop on quality control management in progress at MAT Audit and Consultancy Services in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. — MNA

Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice-President of MWAF, presents certificate to a trainee.

Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe gives first, second and third prizes for news presentation to the outstanding trainees.

Head of Discipline Enforcement Department Daw Mya Theingyi presents gifts to the instructors. On behalf of the trainees, Dr Daw Mi Mi Sein of Rakhine State spoke words of thanks.

Workshop on quality control management in progress at MAT Audit and Consultancy Services in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. — MNA
Extended growing of paddy and...

Next, they proceeded to Kamawle Village in Kamawle Township, Hlaingbwe Township where they paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wepulila and presented offerings. On arrival at Htwywe Village, Hlaingbwe Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected rubber plantations of Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Region National Race Group and left necessary instructions. Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Region has already grown 3,402 acres of rubber in 2006 and is making arrangements to grow 3,000 acres of rubber in 2007. Next, they went on to Gyogyuang Village and inspected the rubber plantation of farmer U Tun Ngwe. On arrival at Kyonpako Village, Li-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed 48 acres of teak plantation and 110 acres of rubber plantation of Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Region National Race Group. Li-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on meeting and exceeding the target of growing teak and rubber. Later, they proceeded to Htiphokalon Village in Hpa-an Township and inspected rubber plantations of Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Region National Race Group. Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Region National Race Group is making arrangements to grow 150,000 BPM-24 and PB-260 strain rubber. After that, they arrived at No 1 BEHS in Hpa-an and met with teachers, students and parents.

Victorious sports teams of Yangon Division honoured

YANGON, 3 June — A ceremony to honour victorious athletes of Yangon Command that had achieved success in the inter-state/division sports competitions for 2007 was held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters, here, yesterday evening. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win accepted championship trophies and shields in the mass sports activity, tennis, caneball, basketball, golf and U-13 soccer events handed over by responsible persons of the men’s sports teams. The commander presented cash rewards to them.

Awards. Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted championship shields in tennis, basketball and soccer events handed over by responsible persons of the women’s teams. The patron gave cash rewards to the women’s sports teams. Next, the commander delivered an address of honour. The athletes were served with dinner. At the ceremony, cash rewards K 1.21 million were presented to victorious athletes. — MNA

Mayor looks into proper flow of drainage

YANGON, 3 June — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win and officials arrived at Myittanyunt Ward, Tamway Township this morning.

The Mayor and party looked into clearing of rubbish and silt for proper flow of drainage in Myittanyunt and repair of box culverts under the Dagonwin and Annadagonyi streets. Afterwards, the Mayor and party inspected proper flow of drainage in Khuhnintpinlein creek near the junction of Laydautkan and Waizayanta streets in Thingangyun Township and repair of box culverts under Inggyinmyaing street and progress of the tasks and future tasks in Thingangyun Township. Upon arrival at Waizayanta street in Thingangyun Township, the Mayor and party oversaw clearing of rubbish and silt in Migyoungkan No 1 Ward and flow of water in Khuhnintpinlein creek.

Efficiency Course for Cooperative Officers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — The Efficiency Course for Cooperative Officers, organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives, concluded at the hall of the ministry on 31 May morning.

In his speech, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut stressed the need to strive for development of cooperative societies in line with the cooperative principles. The cooperative societies are to participate in undertaking five rural development tasks. Cooperative officers are to discharge duties as organizer, educator and supervisor in their tasks.

The Chairman of the Training Course Supervisory Committee Director-General of Cooperative Department presented completion certificates for the trainees.

On 2 June, the minister attended the Annual General Meeting of Thettanyuang Cooperative Ltd at the hall of the ministry and gave necessary instructions.

Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut speaks at efficiency course for cooperative officers. — COOPERATIVES

Talks on malaria disease organized in Padaung Township

YANGON, 3 June — Chairperson of Bago Division (West) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thein Paing and party together with specialists held the educative talks on prevention against bird flu and malaria, attended by 250 MCWA members and local people.

Chairperson Daw Thein Paing presented 4,300 tablets for soaking mosquito nets to the chairperson of the local MCWA.

A similar talk was given in Magyihton Village. — MNA
Education Minister meets faculty members of universities and college

YANGON, 3 June—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein this morning met with rector, pro-rector and professors/heads of department at Yangon East University and gave necessary instructions.

At the meeting, Rector Dr U Win reported to the minister on academic matters and practical work on science subjects.

After giving instructions on practical works, intensive courses, academic matters and research works, the minister looked into learning of students majoring in Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Physics.

On arrival at the National Management College, Minister Dr Chan Nyein met with the principal and faculty members, and heard a report presented by Principal Dr Myint Swe on courses being conducted.

After giving necessary instructions, the minister proceeded to Yangon University of Foreign Languages where he met with professors/heads of department.

At the meeting, Professor/Head of Philosophy Department Daw Tin Tin Yin reported on arrangements for extended opening of courses, researches, conducting of training courses for faculty members and activities on language development to the minister who fulfilled the requirements.

On arrival at Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut Campus), the minister met with rector, pro-rector and professors/heads of department, and heard a report presented by Rector Dr Kan Zaw on opening of MBA course through on-line and management tasks.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of doctorate courses, extended opening of MA courses, producing of economists and conducting of more researches.—MNA

CNG filling station opens in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 3 June—Ministry of Energy opened CNG filling station (027) Shwepyitha—2 on Highway No 4 in Shwepyitha Township today.

First, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun formally opened the station.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay unveiled the signboard of the station. The deputy minister, the deputy commander and officials inspected the station and the vehicles being filled with gas.

Also present at the opening of the gas station were officials of the ministry, chairmen of district and township councils, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townsenders.

CEC member accepts USDA membership applications from Sagaing Textile Factory

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint donated K 3 million to the fund for construction of the building and exercise books and sports gear for Shwethamar Monastic Education School in Sagaing yesterday.

At Sagaing Textile Factory in Sagaing Township, Factory Manager U Aye Tun and officials conducted the CEC member round the factory.

Next, the CEC member explained the aims, codes of conduct and future tasks of the association. He accepted USDA membership applications. Joint Secretary of the Division USDA Dr Win Myint Aung presented membership cards to the staff of the factory.

The CEC member presented sports equipment to workers of Sagaing Textile Factory and Sagaing Flour Factory. So far, all the workers of both factories have become members of USDA. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived here by air today after attending the 6th IISS Shangri-La Asia Security Dialogue held in Singapore from 1 to 3 June.

While in Singapore, the deputy minister met with Mr Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Secretary of Defence of Sri Lanka, and Mr Peter Ho, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on 1 June and 2 June respectively.

They discussed matters related to further strengthening of bilateral ties and exchanged views on regional and international affairs.

The delegation members Col Win Maung of Ministry of Defence and U Kyee Myint, Secretary of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA
Three Iraqi children killed in US tank fire

BAGHDAD, 3 June — Three Iraqi children were killed when a US tank fired on insurgents planting roadside bombs on Friday near the Sunni town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, the US military said.

The statement said one insurgent was wounded and three men fled the scene. It also quoted local people as saying the three dead children were 7, 9 and 11 years old. It said the incident was under investigation.

“Three children were killed and one insurgent was wounded when a Coalition Force tank fired on three men emplacing an improvised explosive device (IED) outside Fallujah,” it said.

“Due to dust and debris, the tank crew’s view of the blast was obscured immediately after they fired. It is not clear at this time if there were secondary explosions at either site from IED material,” it said.

Statements by US-led forces admitting causing civilian casualties are rare but many Iraqis insist such incidents are more common. — MNA/Reuters

Two die, 70 hurt as quake hits

China tea city

BEIJING, 3 June — A strong earthquake hit a tea-making city in southwest China on Sunday, killing at least two people, injuring 70 and causing houses to collapse, Xinhua news agency said, citing an official source.

The epicentre was in the historic centre of Pu’er, in Yunnan Province, and the magnitude was 6.4.

“Some houses collapsed and some people were injured in the stricken area,” Xinhua said. “Local residents rushed out of houses in panic.”

The Ministry of Civil Affairs had sent a rescue team and 5,000 tents to the city.

Pu’er, home of the tea of the same name, is near the border with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. The epicentre of the quake was 23.0 degrees north and 101.1 degrees east. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia suffers from shortage of skilled workers

JAKARTA, 3 June — Indonesia’s oil and gas companies have begun to suffer from a shortage of skilled workers due to their preference to work overseas, an oil drilling executive says.

“The shortage of professionals in the oil and gas industry is getting worse, as most of the existing companies need more skilled workers to support their expansion projects,” said Mohamad Zulkarnain, finance and administration director for state-owned PT Elnusa Drilling Services, quoted by the Jakarta Post on Saturday.

The director worried that the shortage of professionals would hinder the government’s plan to boost oil production to 1.3 million barrels per day by 2009, from the current level of one million barrels.

“In the past, we could easily recruit so many professionals,” Zulkarnain said. “Now, things are quite different because local professionals prefer to work overseas, either in the Middle East or Europe, largely because of better pay.”

Vietnam reports second bird flu patient

HANOI, 2 June — A local man from Vietnam’s northern Thai Nguyen Province has been tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, becoming the country’s second bird flu patient since November 2005, Vietnam News Agency reported on Saturday.

The man named Phung Minh Phuc, exhibiting bird flu symptoms on 10 May after having slaughtered chickens for a wedding party, is recovering well at the city-based Bach Mai Hospital.

The Bach Mai Hospital received two men with bird flu symptoms on 31 May and one of them died, and the other, a 29-year-old policeman named Phung Tien Dong, who worked at a poultry slaughterhouse in Hanoi on 14 May and developed bird flu symptoms five days later, was admitted to the city-based Tropical Disease Hospital and now has to use a respirator.

Late last month, the ministry confirmed that a 30-year-old man from Me Linh district, northern Vinh Phuc Province became the country’s latest bird flu patient after a 17-month absence of human infections.

A cofferdam of Dushan flood control works is breached to discharge water of Taihu lake in Wuxi, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 1 June, 2007. Breaches were made on some cofferdams of China’s third-largest Taihu lake to sluice water polluted by an blue-green algae bloom. Water authorities had also diverted the Yangtze River to dilute the lake water. — Xinhua

Canada introduces bill banning camcording in theatres

OTTAWA, 3 June — Ottawa introduced a new legislation Friday banning camcording in theatres amid Hollywood concerns that piracy in Canada is greatly undermining its businesses.

Heritage Minister Bevley Oda revealed the government plan to amend the Criminal Code, introducing two new offences.

“The recording of a movie in a movie theatre without the consent of the theatre’s manager would carry a sentence of two years, while “the recording of a movie in a movie theatre without the consent of the theatre’s manager for the purpose of selling, renting or other commercial distribution of a copy of the recording” would lead to a penalty of up to five years.

Currently under Canada’s Copyright Act, a person who commercially distributes a movie they filmed in a theatre can be prosecuted. But authorities have to show the recording is being made for commercial purpose, which is difficult to prove in court.

“This bill amends the Criminal Code to directly confront film piracy,” said Oda.— MNA/Xinhua

Russia’s Maria Sharapova celebrates winning her match against compatriot Alla Kudryavtseva during the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 2 June, 2007. — INTERNET

A homepage of Stardoll as seen on 1 June, 2007. Children have always enjoyed make-believe. Now, some new Web sites are letting them live out their fantasies in virtual worlds using self-designed avatars. — INTERNET
A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MY HUANG SHAN VOY NO (76)

Consignees of cargo carried on MY HUANG SHAN VOY NO (76) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.6.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSWS/SPW where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

TRADEMARK CAUTION

JM Collective Pvt Ltd., a company incorporated in Singapore at 25 Lorong Kilat, #01-02, Singapore 598116 is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks:

PERLUNI
Reg: No: 4/1566/2007
In respect of: Artificial travel bags, wallets, bags, satchels, purses, pocket wallets, pouches, tote bags, brief cases, key holders and cases, safety cases (not fitted), traveling bags, portfolio cases, made from leather and imitation in Class 18.
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.
U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LLB, DBL
Dip in Maritime Affairs(UK)
MY/ST Advocate/nnap@ymial.com
Ph: 271790 4 June 2007

Four US hostages released in S-E Nigeria

LAGOS, 2 June — Four American oil workers kidnapped by militants have been released in Warri, capital of Nigeria’s southeastern Delta State, an official said on Thursday.

Sheddy Ozoene, spokesman for the state government, said the four were released and handed over to the state governor Emmanuel Uduaghan.

According to Uduaghan, the released oil workers included Mike Russel, Larry Slake, Chris Gay and Kevin Saller.

The state governor said the militants had demanded ransom for their release but that because of government policy against hostage taking, “they were not given any ransom”.

The four were taken hostage by local militants on 9 May in Nigeria’s oil-rich restive Niger Delta area.

Since the beginning of this month, about 40 foreigners have been abducted in southeastern Nigeria.

Nigeria is Africa’s largest oil producer with a daily crude output of 2.6 million barrels.

However, the repeated occurrence of kidnaping has frightened thousands of foreign oil workers away since last year, forcing the oil production to reduce by nearly 25 per cent.

Norway named world’s most peaceful country

STOCKHOLM, 2 June — Norway is the most peaceful country of the world, according to the Global Peace Index, developed by The Vision of Humanity in conjunction with the Economist Intelligence Unit, said reports reaching here from Oslo on Thursday.

The Economist Intelligence Unit, in conjunction with an international team of academics and peace experts, has compiled an innovative new Global Peace Index (GPI), which ranks 120 nations according to their relative peacefulness.

According to the report, Norway leads the GPI, followed by Iceland, New Zealand and Sweden. Below them are Denmark, Ireland, Japan, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria and Australia.

“Peace does not just mean a lack of war, it means a reduction of the threats to human security,” the report said.

China says some imported baby goods unsafe

BEIJING, 2 June — A quarter of imported children’s milk bottles and tests failed a recent random quality test in southeast China, Xinhua news agency said on Friday, amid an overseas scare about Chinese food, drug and other products.

“To think foreign brands mean high quality?” the report asked, before detailing the findings of the survey in coastal Fujian Province.

The results “should attract the highest attention from children and their parents”, it added.

“These products are not up to standard for safety and hygiene reasons, and may harm children’s safety and health,” the report added.

The products came from Japan, Germany, Britain, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan and Hong Kong, Xinhua said, adding “most of them were brand-name goods”.

China blamed the media on Thursday for stoking fears about the safety of the nation’s food and drugs, but senior officials acknowledged that it was not realistic to expect a 100-per-cent quality guarantee.

They were reacting to a series of scandals that have plagued Chinese products, from poisonous cough syrup in Panama to tainted pet food in the United States, and shaken global confidence in the made-in-China label.

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World’s oldest twins celebrate 105th birthday

OTTAWA, 1 June — Twin sisters Ellen Robertson and Sarah Jeannomgin, who are recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living set of twins in the world, celebrated their 105th birthday Friday.

Robertson, who now lives in Winnipeg, Canada, recalled the happy childhood she shared with her sister, as she was surrounded by a large group of family members, reports reaching here said.

“We never had a camera. We never even had a car... We weren’t afraid to go out. We could walk at night. Now, I don’t know...”

Recounted Robertson, sporting a bright yellow flower on her blouse and looking comfortable in her wheelchair: Robertson’s sister, who now lives in Arizona, the United States, was unable to come back hometown for health reasons.

The two girls were born on 29 May, 1902 in what is now Saskatchewan Province. Their father died when they were four, leaving their mother alone to take care of the family. Although life was not easy, the twins had happy lives together. They were always dressed in identical clothing, although Robertson said her sister was always the shyer one. “She’s happy all the time, you can tell from her pictures,” Robertson said. “Shy, quiet, me, she laughed, pointing to herself.

Robertson credited her longevity to clean living and exercise. She has never smoked. She logged more than 160,000 km on her exercise bike and taught an hour-long aerobics class at a seniors’ complex until she turned 93. Her outlook on life helped too, her 74-year-old son said. “Every-body’s great, nobody’s bad. It’s just her attitude.” — Xinhua

Zimbabwe dehorns rhino to deter poachers

HARARE, 2 June — Zimbabwe has started dehorning all of its rhino in an effort to deter the poaching of one of the world’s endangered species, official media reported on Thursday.

The southern African country’s rhino population was about 2,000 in 1980, but rampant poaching in the 1980s saw the number dwindle to 370 before climbing to the current level of 789, according to conservation group Save the Rhino International.

The group said a programme undertaken by the government to put the rhino in protection zones in national parks and private conservation areas had helped save the animals from cross-border poaching.

Henry Madzikanda, chief ecologist for Zimbabwe’s Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, told the Herald newspaper that rangers and other officials would now spend the next two weeks dehorning rhinos.

There is a ready market, especially in the Far East, for rhino horns, which, like elephant tusks, are used mostly to manufacture jewellery, figurines and tourist trinkets.

“We want poachers to know that if they kill any rhino in Zimbabwe, they will not find any horns. We are keeping them all in highly secured places for our future generations,” Madzikanda was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Zimbabwe is home to some of Africa’s largest game reserves, but local conservation activists say rhino, elephants and other species are at risk from trophy hunters and rampant poaching by those who are struggling with poverty.

A health expert demonstrates a serious fact that an experimental mouse smoked to death on a street of Suzhou, a city in east China’s Jiangsu Province on the 20th World No-Tobacco Day, on 31 May, 2007. Many locals are attracted to see the experiment and astonished by the awful phenomenon. — INTERNET

Poll shows Mexicans support Calderon’s drug war strategy

MEXICO CITY, 2 June — President Felipe Calderon’s approval rating rose to a sturdy 65 per cent in a newspaper poll on Friday, and Mexicans resoundingly backed his use of the Army to fight violent drug gangs.

An opinion poll published by the Reforma daily gave conservative Calderon 65-per-cent approval, up from 58 per cent in its last poll in March, and in line with recent surveys elsewhere.

Asked to rate Calderon on a scale of one to 10, respondents gave him a score of 6.8, up from 6.6 in March, and 83 per cent of those surveyed said they supported his deployment of troops to crack down on drug cartels behind some 1,000 killings so far this year.

Opposition lawmakers have criticized Calderon for using troops to fight drug gangs, citing reports of rights abuses by soldiers.

MNA/Reuters

“Barbara” upgraded to tropical storm off Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 2 June — Cyclone Barbara strengthened in the Pacific Ocean on Friday and was upgraded to a tropical storm likely to hit Mexico or Guatemala, but there was no immediate indication it would become a hurricane.

Forecasters at the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami expected Barbara to pick up punch in coming days as it hovered 200 miles (320 kilometres) south of the small oil port of Salina Cruz.

Packaging sustained winds of 46 miles per hour (74 kilo per hour), and even higher gusts, the storm was located over warm water off the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas and also close to the southwestern coast of neighbouring Guatemala.

“The new official forecast shows landfall over eastern Mexico or Guatemala in about 36 hours,” the hurricane centre said, predicting the storm was more likely to reach Mexico.

Barbara had been downgraded to a tropical depression late on Thursday but became stronger overnight.

MNA/Reuters

Customers queue to be scanned by a body scanner at a jeans shop in Beijing on 31 May, 2007. The body scanner can tell precise body shape of people and recommend fit jeans for them. — INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 4 June, 2007 13
Spain continue revival with 2-0 win over Latvia

Riga, 3 June — Spain improved their chances of earning a place in Euro 2008 when they notched up their third qualifying win in a row with a 2-0 Group F victory in Latvia on Saturday.

The visitors dominated the opening 45 minutes but it took an own goal from defender Arturs Zakresvkis on the stroke of halftime to break the deadlock.

Latvia gave Spain several scares at the start of the second half but midfielder Xavi put the result beyond doubt when he beat Aleksands Kolinko with a deflected shot just after the hour.

The win left Spain in third place in the group with 12 points from six games and they will expect to make that 15 when they meet Liechtenstein in Vaduz on next Wednesday. Defeat for Latvia left them bottom of the group with 3 points.

Espanyol’s debutant striker Luis Garcia almost had a dream start when he got in front the Latvia defensive but fired at Kolinko. Spain proceeded to lay siege to the Latvia area for much of the first half but grew increasingly frustrated as the home side sat back and packed their defence. — MNA/Reuters

Germany hit six past San Marino

Brussels, 3 June — Germany hit six past San Marino succumbing to a Kevin Kuranyi header in the final minute of the first half.

Marek Jansen made it 2-0 early in the second and the sending-off of Davide Simoncin when he gave away a penalty opened the floodgates.

Torsten Frings converted from the spot, Mario Gomez scored two in quick succession and Clemens Frets rounded off the scoring in the 67th minute.

Golove gave Germany 16 points from six games and took them two clear of Czech Republic, who drew 0-0 in Wales earlier on Saturday.

Joachim Loew’s side play Slovakia in Hamburg on Wednesday when another victory would take them a long way towards their goal of reaching the finals in Austria and Switzerland next year.

After September’s demolition job, the talk before the return match was about the chances of a record victory to beat Germany’s 16-0 win over Russia in 1912. — MNA/Reuters

Inzaghi double gives Italy tight win in Faroes

Torshavn (Faroe Islands), 3 June — Filippo Inzaghi continued his recent good form with two goals in Italy’s nervous 2-1 win over the Faroe Islands in a Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday.

The world champions have 13 points from six matches in Group B, trail leaders France by two points.

Striker Inzaghi, who scored both goals in AC Milan’s 2-1 European Cup final win over Liverpool last week, brought down Andrea Pirlo’s long pass in the box and prodded home on 13 minutes.

The 33-year-old then netted his 25th international goal when he headed in Aimo Diana’s deep cross just after halftime.

The Faroe Islands produced some neat football to belie their world ranking of 185 and they gave Italy some late scares after Rogvi Jacobsen nodded home on 77 minutes.

The Italians, who were missing several players through injury and gave a debut to 32-year-old Roma left back Max Tonetto, laboured in the wind and driving rain but could still have scored several more. — MNA/Reuters

France outclass Ukraine to go top of Group B

Paris, 3 June — Second-half goals by Franck Ribery and Nicolas Anelka gave France a 2-0 victory over Ukraine on Saturday and top spot in Euro 2008 qualifying Group B.

Olymepique Marseille midfielder Ribery struck in the 57th minute after being set up by Claude Makelele.

Bolton Wanderers striker Anelka then added the second goal with a superb volley from inside the box.

Victory gave World Cup runners-up France 15 points and vir-
tually end the hosts’ qualification and vir-

Justine Henin of Belgium returns a shot to Mara

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

European Champions Greece go top of Group C

Irkakion (Greece), 3 June — Fanis Gekas and Youkass Seitaridis scored their first international goals to lead Greece to a 2-0 win over Hungary on Saturday which put the European champions top of Group C.

Greece have 15 points from six games, two more than Turkey who lost 3-2 in Bosnia. Hungary’s chances of advancing look slim on six points. The win marked a sharp turn in fortunes for Greece, who were beaten 4-1 at home by Turkey in March.

Coach Otto Rehhagel made his intentions clear by including three forwards in the Greece lineup.

Angelos Charisteas and Ioannis Armanadis brightened up but it was Gekas, top scorer in the Bundesliga this season with 20 goals for Bochum, who made the breakthrough when he turned in the area to fire past keeper Zoltan Vehg in the 16th minute.

Seitaridis, in his 49th international, added the second 13 minutes later with a surging run into the area and a low shot beyond Vehg. — MNA/Reuters

In the second half, Belgium remained on course to qualify from Group A, five behind leaders Poland.

Portugal was taeinted after their coach Luiz Felipe Scolari failed to appear for the post-match Press conference, suffering from illness.

Portugal — who had Hugo Almeida sent-off in injury time — have 14 points from seven matches in Group A, five behind leaders Poland. Serbia also have 14 after beating Finland, who have 11. Belgium remain on seven points. — MNA/Reuters

FRANCE

FRANCE

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

IMPASSABLE ADORE
MLAMEVS
ADULTBUFFETS
GNYARA
SELDERYBITTY
EDOLE
HORRIBLE
ARML
TULIPANNIENT
CURARU
ECHKERBAT
STILETON
EHYMERLENDER

PORTUGAL

BRUSSELS, 3 June — Second-half ball goal by Helder Postiga earned a 2-1 win over Belgium to maintain Portugal’s push for Euro 2008 qualification and virtually ended the hosts’ chances.

However, Portugal’s victory was tainted after their coach Luiz Felipe Scolari failed to appear for the post-match Press conference, suffering from illness.

Portugal — who had Hugo Almeida sent-off in injury time — have 14 points from seven matches in Group A, five behind leaders Poland. Serbia also have 14 after beating Finland, who have 11. Belgium remain on seven points. — MNA/Reuters

Germany’s Kevin Kuranyi scores his team’s first goal against San Marino’s Cristian Neri during their EURO 2008 qualification soccer match in Nuremberg, on 2 June, 2007. — INTERNET

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Germany’s Kevin Kuranyi scores his team’s first goal against San Marino’s Cristian Neri during their EURO 2008 qualification soccer match in Nuremberg, on 2 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Justine Henin of Belgium returns a shot to Mara
Violent crime up in US for second straight year

WASHINGTON, 3June — The number of violent crimes in the United States rose for a second straight year in 2006, marking the first sustained increase in homicides, robberies and other serious offences since the early 1990s, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

An FBI report, the Uniform Crime Report, to be released on Monday, will show an increase of about 1.3 per cent in violent offences last year, including a 6 per cent rise in robberies and a slight rise in homicides, the Post reported.

The upward trend follows an increase of 2.3 per cent in 2005, which was the first significant increase in violent crimes in 15 years. Much of the increase was concentrated in medium-size cities, including the District of Columbia, officials said.

Criminologists and law enforcement officials offer varying theories for the upswing, including an increase in the juvenile population, growing numbers of released prison inmates and the rise of serious gang problems in smaller jurisdictions.

Whatever the cause, the statistics are likely to create new political trouble for the Bush Administration. Crime fighting has long been a signature of Republican political issue, but this week Democratic lawmakers cited the new trend as evidence of weaknesses in federal assistance to local law enforcement, the newspaper report said.

"After years of driving crime rates down, we’re now in reverse," Senator Joseph R Biden Jr, Democrat from Delaware and chairman of a Senate crime subcommittee, was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

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Extended growing of paddy and cash crops for self-sufficiency in Kayin State stressed

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thakton Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, on 31 May attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants held in Phakat Model Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State.

Also present on the occasion were departmental officials, social organizations, local national races and others. After presenting physic nut plants to officials concerned, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min planted physic nut plants at the designated places.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party looked into the growing of physic nut plants by departmental personnel, social organizations and local people. Giving instructions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke of the need to meet the target of growing physic nut plants.

Altogether 87,530 acres of physic nuts have been cultivated in Kayin State. After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo proceeded to Myainggyingu Special Region, Hlaing Township where he paid homage to Bethizzamuni Buddha Image.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party paid homage to Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suita and presented offerings.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented gifts to Myainggyingu Special Region national race leader U Tha Htoo, and party. On arrival at Kamamaung, Papun Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local people at No 1 Basic Education Primary School.

At the meeting, the Kamamaung Town Administrator presented matters on administration, economic, agriculture, health, social and transport sectors and work being carried out.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo made a speech, stressing the need to equip Kamamaung with the characteristics of a town, to engage in extended growing of paddy and cash crops for self-sufficiency and to meet the target of growing rubber, pepper and physic nut plants.

At Kamamaung Basic Education High School, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard a report presented by Headmaster U Myint Oo on the number of teachers and academic matters and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, they presented exercise books, stationary and school uniforms to the headmaster.

Next, they proceeded to Kamamaung People’s Hospital where they inspected medical ward, medical store and operation theatre.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions to officials, stressing the need to collect medicines and to make the hospital and its environs clean and beautiful.

On arrival at Koe-nawin Pagoda, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party offered flowers, lights and water to the pagoda and presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala.

(See page 9)

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — An earthquake of moderate intensity 6.0 on the Richter Scale with its epicentre outside of Myanmar about 540 miles North East of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at 4:08:48 MST today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Weather Forecast for (4-6-2007)

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%).