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

* 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
* 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 Khin Maung Than tours Ayeyawady Division

Development of agriculture and livestock breeding in Ayeyawady Division will contribute to national economic growth

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects growing of physic nuts of Yekyi Township Police Force.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials, attended the monsoon paddy cultivation ceremony of Kyaunggon Township for 2007-08 on 3.44 acres of plot of farmer U Hla Htay in Zayatkwin Village in the township on 6 June morning.

Township Manager U Kyi Thein of Myanma Agriculture Service reported on the target for cultivation of monsoon paddy in the township, land preparations, nurturing of paddy and arrangement for double cropping.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed officials to extend cultivation of paddy in vacant and virgin lands, strive for meeting the target per-acre yield, use high yield paddy strains and grow double and triple cropping.

They viewed cultivation of paddy and presented cash rewards to female paddy transplanter.

At the office of Kyaunggon Township PDC, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials. After hearing the reports of Chairman of the Township PDC U Nyan Hlaing, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave a speech. He said that agriculture and livestock breeding are main business of Ayeyawady Division.

As development of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in Ayeyawady Division will contribute to economic growth of the State, all are to make efforts for progress of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. Service personnel are to work hard in discharging their duties.

(See page 6)

We Myanmar people are not in favour of war, but if the motherland comes under alien invasion, we will do to the best of our ability to repulse the intruders with unyielding spirit. Myanmar is a people that can engage in a battle having dried cooked rice and whatever tubers and bulbs it gets in the forests, but not a people that can do so only when it can have the dish of turkey. Myanmar people can withstand wear and tear well and the more they are suppressed, the more they will harden their heart to the suppression. So, the economic sanctions the US and its allies have imposed against Myanmar will never be effective.

NGAR MIN SWE
Collectively maintain Salin Creek Bridge for its durability

The government is giving priority to development of regions on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. Salin Bridge across Salin Creek in Salin Township, Minbu District, Magway Division, was opened on 6 June.

With the emergence of the bridge people from western regions of Ayeyawady River will be able to travel from the regions to Chin State, Rakhine State and eastern regions of Ayeyawady River.

Moreover, the opening of the bridge will contribute much to secure and smooth transport of commodities, thereby bringing about economic development and frequent contacts among national races of different regions.

Pathein-Monywa Road was built to bring better transport to western regions of Ayeyawady River. The 452 miles long road covers Pathein-Kwinkauk-Betye-Okshitpin, Okshitpin-Mindon-Padan, Padan-Kazunma, Kazunma-Myaing and Myaing-Monywa road sections that are under construction.

Thanks to the facility, people can save time in traveling from the north to the south of the nation through Pathein-Monywa road section, and to Rakhine State through Padan-An Road.

Salin Creek Bridge helps enhance socio-economic life of the people in Magway Division and brings about better transport in the region. Therefore, they are to collectively maintain the bridge for its durability.

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 June — Proficiency Course No 2/2007 for officers of Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information was concluded today here.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a concluding address at the concluding ceremony held at the Ministry of Information.

A total of 56 trainees attended the course which started on 14 May.

The concluding ceremony was also attended by heads of department and enterprises under the ministry, deputy directors-general, general managers and directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials concerned, course instructors and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said it was an auspicious occasion for the ministry and IPRD because trainees who received skills to serve the interests of the State as well as the ministry successfully completed the course.

He continued to say that the course was organized with three objectives. The first objective of organizing the course is to promote the proficiency skills of employees of IPRD. He urged the trainees to keep track of developments in information technology to modernize the tasks of IPRD.

Staff of the IPRD have to contact closely with people, and it is required that they should be well-qualified to organize the people correctly.

Employees of IPRD are to organize the people to participate in the development tasks and to ward off the danger of destructionists through media.

The course also aimed at uplifting the moral and morality of the employees of the department. Employees of the department are to organize residents in the respective regions to become the people with the patriotic spirit and the Union Spirit.

He also called on the trainees to strive for the success of the tasks of the ministry and the department. IPRD laid down nine objectives for 2007-2008 fiscal year including maintenance of self-reliant libraries across the country, so that they can continue their functions normally and to maintain the libraries.

Therefore, the ministry laid down five tasks for continued existence of over 77,700 libraries. The minister urged the trainees to implement the five tasks for long-lasting existence of self-reliant libraries across the country joining hands with local authority, non-governmental organizations, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the people.

In his conclusion remarks, he also called on the trainees to participate in implementing the seven-point Road Map joining hands with the people.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan awarded the outstanding trainees, and presented cash assistance to the trainees through a leader of the trainees.

Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing presented completion certificates to trainees and presented gifts to course instructors.

After the concluding ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party cordially greeted the trainees and viewed the pamphlets and posters designed by the trainees. — MNA

IPRD officials receive proficiency skills
Putin offers joint missile shield

WASHINGTON, 7 June—President George W Bush has described as “interesting” a proposal by Russia’s president for resolving the row over the planned US missile defence shield.

Vladimir Putin said their two countries could use a radar system in Azerbaijan to develop a shield covering all of Europe, during talks at the G8 summit. Mr Putin said the two countries could use a radars system in Azerbaijan, two countries could use a defence shield.

But after the meeting on the fringes of the summit in Germany, the Russian leader said the threat to re-target Russian missiles could be withdrawn if Washington agreed to use the former Soviet radar base at Gabala in Azerbaijan.

“This will make it possible for us not to change our stance on the targeting of our missiles,” Mr Putin said. “On the contrary, this will create the necessary grounds for common work.”—INTERNET

Expert warns terrorists looking for new ways to hit airlines

TORONTO, 8 June — Terrorists are looking for new ways to hit the airlines and are unlikely to adopt the same tactics used by Kanishka bombers by al-Qaeda in September 11 attack, an airline security expert said.

They are looking for new and unique ways to hit airplanes while authorities and airliners are “fighting the last war” by screening luggages and passengers for terrorist threat.

However, these airlines are completely ignoring the cargo shipments in aircraft holds, PTI quoted Kathleen Sweet, a University of Connecticut academic and security consultant, as saying here.

“Terrorists aren’t stupid,” Sweet told the an inquiry commission, headed by former Supreme Court justice John Major, focusing on the bombing of Air India Flight 182 in June 1985 and also examining the evolution of terrorist tactics and the security reforms needed to avert future tragedies.

“Future attackers are unlikely to adopt the same tactics used by Sikh extremists or by al-Qaeda in 9/11 attack. Many of them are well-educated, well-financed. They sit around all day thinking about how they’re going to kill us in unique and new ways,” she said.

Pointing towards air-cargo operations as one of the most vulnerable points in the current security system and one of the most likely avenues of attack in future, she said: “We have focused so much on passengers and baggage but we have failed to recognise that a large part of aircraft is loaded with pallets of cargo.

“How, where and when the cargo is screened is a huge gap,” she added. Internet

US troops detain four for smuggling Iranian weapons in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 June — US troops detained four suspected guerrillas, including a guerillas cell leader, during raids in northeast Baghdad on Tuesday morning, the US military said.

The detainees are believed to be members of a “secret cell terrorist network known for facilitating the transport of weapons and explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, from Iran to Iraq, as well as bringing militants from Iraq to Iran for terrorist training,” a military statement said.

Based on intelligence reports, the suspected guerrillas cell leader who was detained in the raids is “associated with the operational and logistic elements of the secret cell terrorist network,” the statement said.

“He is also believed to be involved in the procurement and distribution of small arms,” it added.

WHO sees no singh H5N1 infecting humans more easily

JAKARTA, 8 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) has seen no sign that the H5N1 bird flu virus is infecting humans more easily, despite concerns expressed by a senior Indonesian official, a WHO spokesman said on Wednesday.

“We have not seen any evidence that the virus is becoming more easily transmissible,” he said.

He was commenting on remarks in Jakarta by the head of Indonesia’s commission on bird flu control that the virus may have undergone a mutation in the country that allows it to jump more easily from poultry to humans.

Indonesia has recorded 79 human deaths from bird flu, the highest in the world, and the country has been struggling to contain the disease because millions of backyard chickens live in close proximity to humans across the archipelago.

“In the past it took exposure of high intensity and density to the virus to get infected. There are now suspicions, early indications that this has become easier.” Bayu Krisnamurthi told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Megan Denise Fox (born May 16, 1986) is an American actress and model, best known for performances in the film Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen. — Internet

INTERNATIONAL NEWS
US foreign service feels strain from Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 7 June—The US foreign service, stretched by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, suffers from morale problems and has about 200 unfilled posts abroad due to staffing shortages, said a study released on Tuesday.

The report by the Foreign Affairs Council, an umbrella group of 11 foreign policy organizations consisting largely of ex-diplomats, took aim at Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s management skills since she took over in January 2005 and said she should devote more time to staffing issues.

“Morale is strongly impacted by the fact that we don’t have enough people,” said Tom Boyatt, a former US ambassador and president of the council.

Boyatt said Rice’s priority should be filling about 200 empty posts abroad as well as an additional 900 training slots needed to provide language and other skills necessary to carry out US diplomacy.

“I don’t think we can go on for much longer like this,” Boyatt told a news conference to release the report, which assesses Rice’s management role but not her foreign policy.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack agreed that getting more people was key but rejected criticism of Rice.

“This is armchair quarterbacking,” McCormack said. “I think she’s been a bold leader and a bold manager in trying to reorient the State Department to the tasks of the 21st century, as opposed to the 20th century.”

McCormack said Rice was proud of the work US diplomats were doing in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, which have been a drain on the foreign service.

Indian troops kill old Palestinian man in Hebron

RAMALLAH, 7 June—Israeli troops killed an old Palestinian man and injured six of his family, when the soldiers stormed his house in the West Bank city of Hebron early on Wednesday, paramedics said.

Hospital sources said that the 67-year-old Yahia Ja’bari was killed and his 65-year-old wife was seriously wounded with gunshot wounds. Three of Ja’bari’s sons were also moderately wounded and two others suffered from shock.

The soldiers have fired randomly inside the house and wounded most of the inhabitants, added the sources. Meanwhile, a Palestinian militant was killed and another wounded in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza Strip town of Jabalia.

Security sources said that the two militants were hit as they were apparently trying to confront an Israeli Army ground force incurred into the area to prevent militants from launching homemade rockets at Israel.

The two are members in Hamas’ armed wing al-Qassam Brigades, said the sources, adding that Palestinian ambulances had hardly managed to get them out from the area. Medics at Kamal Odwan Hospital in Jabalia said that Kamal Sa’ed, 24, was killed and his colleague was critically injured as an Israeli air-to-ground rocket struck them.

The security sources said that a number of tanks and armoured vehicles rolled into a Palestinian-controlled territory aiming at preventing militants from launching more homemade rockets at Israel.

Poor Chinese cataract patients to be given free operations

BEIJING, 7 June—The China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped plans to perform free cataract operations on 800,000 impoverished blind people by 2010 but the government will only be able to perform around three million operations over the five-year period.

“About 800,000 of the remaining two million patients are too poor to afford the operation,” said Jiang.

If performing a cataract operation costs 1,000 yuan (about $128. dollars), a total of 800 million yuan will be needed to help the 800,000 poor people who became blind because of the disease, Jiang said.

India optimistic about wiping out polio by 2008

NEW DELHI, 8 June—India is very optimistic it will have eliminated polio by 2008, its Health Minister said on Wednesday.

Anbumani Ramadoss said only 60 Indians were reported to have developed the paralyzing and sometimes deadly disease so far this year. An epidemic infected 676 Indians in 2006, a tenfold rise on 2005.

“We are very optimistic that this year we will be having the least number of cases, and by next year we will have zero cases,” he told reporters after a meeting with state health ministers.

It was a rosier outlook than in December, when Ramadoss said it would take three years to do away with the disease.

David Heymann, a senior epidemiologist from the World Health Organization (WHO) elimination programme, who attended the meeting, said Ramadoss’ tighter target was possible.
US productivity growth slows in first quarter

WASHINGTON, 7 June—Productivity in the US non-farm business sector rose at an annual rate of 1.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2007, down from a 2.1 pace in the final quarter of last year, the Labour Department reported on Wednesday. The revised 1.0-per-cent pace was below the 1.7-per-cent growth rate estimated one month ago and the slowest advance since the third quarter of last year. Compared with that in the same period of last year, productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, grew at 1.0 per cent in the January-March period of this year.

The gain was small comparatively. Non-farm business productivity has increased at an average annual rate of 3.1 per cent from 2000 through 2005. Unit labour costs, or costs of wages and benefits for each unit of output, grew at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the first quarter.

Kenya’s mobile phone operator expands to central Africa

NAIROBI, 7 June—Africa’s third-biggest mobile firm Celtel on Wednesday announced the expansion of its “One Network” service into three central African countries in a move to expand its subscriber base in the continent.

Celtel, which operates in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania among other African countries, said it would now offer services in Gabon, the Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The company’s CEO David Murray said the extension of the borderless service that allows subscribers to move and call freely across geographical borders, will bring about 160 million people closer and increasingly boost intra-African trade.

“By better linking of markets across regions, by improving connectivity and lowering costs of cross-border trade, we are giving domestic businesses new opportunities to grow and are encouraging larger multi-national producers to serve better-connected African markets from within the region,” he emphasized.

Last year, Celtel launched the “One Network” service allowing all its subscribers travelling in the East Africa region to make cross-border calls at local rates and receive incoming calls free of charge. Murray said subscribers in the six countries will not be required to pay a deposit, a sign up fee or pre-register to use the service.

Cyclone Gonu sweeps Oman, disrupts oil exports

DUBAI, 7 June—Cyclone Gonu pounded Oman on Wednesday, halting oil and gas exports for a second day and forcing thousands to flee the coast, but weakened as it moved through the Gulf of Oman, a major route for oil shipments.

The storm, which peaked to a maximum-force Category Five hurricane on Tuesday, has been downgraded to a Category One hurricane, with a maximum sustained wind speed of about 75 miles per hour, the US military’s Joint Typhoon Warning Center said. Oman’s meteorology department said the storm’s centre made landfall in Oman around midnight and was moving northwest to Muscat, bringing torrential rains, strong winds and high waves. “The eastern region has absorbed most of the impact but we expect the rain to continue tonight and early tomorrow as the cyclone moves northwest over Oman,” director Ahmed al-Harthi told Reuters.

“There could be local rainfall on Friday but it should have finally dissipated by then.” The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre said it would reach Iran in the next two to three days but would continue to weaken.

Drive safely

Airbus to produce 13 “A350” long-range aircraft per month by 2016

PARIS, 7 June—Airbus will produce 13 A350 XWB long-range aircrafts per month by the end of 2016, the highest rate of production ever achieved by the European aircraft manufacturer for long-range planes, according to an Airbus official in charge of the A350 programme.

About three years after commissioning the A350 aircraft, production will reach the optimum output rate of 13 A350 Extra Wide Body (XWB) aircrafts per month by the end of 2016, Gordon McConnell, chief engineer in charge of the A350 programme said Monday.

According to information obtained from Airbus, the company has already received 104 firm orders and 164 purchase undertakings for the A350 aircraft.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours...

Ayeyawady Division is the main region to produce paddy for the nation. Hence, officials are to supervise cultivation of monsoon paddy against the target of 3.75 million acres. Emphasis is to be placed on growing of triple cropping and boosting production. High yield paddy strains are to be chosen and vacant and virgin lands are to be reclaimed as much as possible. It is necessary to cultivate 10 major crops, perennial and new item crops. In addition, efforts are to be made for breeding domestic chicken on a commercial scale.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the cultivation ceremony of the collective monsoon paddy. They instructed officials to strive for cultivation of paddy meeting the target of 74.85 per-acre yield. At Amyotha Hall in Ngathaingyaung, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental personnel of Yekyi and Ngathaingyaung township.

At Bayintnaung Hall of the local battalion, they viewed the progress of development of the local battalion. He instructed officials to strive for cultivation of paddy meeting the target of 100 acres.

At Yekyi Township for 2007-08 at Kaingehaung Village in the township. He instructed officials to strive for cultivation of paddy meeting the target of 74.85 per-acre yield. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed development of Kyonpyaw on a motorcade.

At Bayintaung Hall of the local battalion, they viewed tarmacking of the local battalion. They inspected physic nut plantation of the local battalion.

The battalion has put 35 acres of plot under physic nut against the target of 100 acres.

At Amyotha Hall in Ngathaingyaung, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental personnel of Yekyi and Ngathaingyaung townships.

Way and means are to be sought to grow new strains of paddy suitable for flooded areas such as Yadana win paddy strain in the wetlands and low-lying areas, he said, calling for extensive growing of physic nut and organizing local people to ensure that each household breeds 10 domestic species chickens. They attended the physic nut growing ceremony of Yekyi Township Police Force at the farm of Pathein District Police Force.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party planted physic nut saplings at the designated places and viewed participation of departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people in the growing ceremony.

Activities of township USDAs supervised in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 8 June — Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association visited the nursery of Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Yekyi on 5 June.

In Yangon, the secretary-general met departmental personnel, local people and members of social organizations.

Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Basic Education Primary School of Ledigon Village in Kyonpyaw Township reported on providing exercise books and stationery to students and activities of school enrolment week. Secretaries of Yekyi, Kyunngong, Kyonpyaw and Ngathaingyaung township USDAs submitted reports on progress of their townships.

After hearing the reports, the secretary-general said the region is making efforts to ensure peace and stability and development. Pursuing lofty aims, the members are working together with local people through effective means to fulfill the requirements of the region. Our Three Main National Causes is the national duty to be upheld forever. Local people are responsible for development of their regions. Similarly, nation-building tasks can be accomplished only through the strength of internal forces — the government, the Tatmadaw and the people. Respective regions are helping fulfill the requirements for national development. The association is contributing towards the drive for enabling school-age children to pursue education, he said, calling for working in harmony for achieving the aim.

The secretary-general presented school textbooks to students of Kyonpyaw BEHS. He also presented cash for needy students of Yekyi, Kyunngong, Kyonpyaw and Ngathainggyaung Townships.

They visited Kyonpyaw BEHS No 1 and attended to the needs.

The secretary-general viewed tarmacking of the road linking Mingala Road to Pyinchaung Village.

Three wounded in mine explosions

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Terrorists are undermining stability of the nation and prevalence of law and order, and committing destructive acts through various ways and means with the intention of killing innocent people and making them panic.

Two residents, a man and a girl of Kyaunghyi Pauk village in Kyaunghyi Township were wounded in insurgent-planted land mine explosion on 2 June. Together with his five companions, the man, U Aung Thant, 48, son of U Pauk, stepped on the mine and lost his right leg while on his way to work at the farm. Shrapnels ripped through his left calf. The girl who accompanied the villagers stepped on the mine and lost her left foot while on her way back to the village to seek help for the mine victim. Her left palm was injured. Likewise, Kyaw Zin Oo, 26, son of U Kyaw Ngwe of Kyaunghyi Pauk village stepped on an insurgent-planted land mine and lost his left foot while on his way to cut bamboo in the forest on the same day. Shrapnels ripped through his right leg.

The mine victims were rushed to the People’s Hospital of Taungoo Township and treatment is being given to them. Officials and local residents are trying to expose the insurgents.
**Lt-Gen Maung Bo views collective ploughing...**

(from page 16)

mechanization, apply the developing agricultural methods and choose quality paddy strains. Using tractors will have more convenience in agricultural tasks. If the farmers are difficult in purchasing power-tillers individually, they should practice the collective buying and ploughing system. Everybody knows fulfillment of the government not only in the agriculture sector but also in all sectors throughout the nation. Hence, the farmers are to join hands with departmental personnel, social organizations and townsenders for extending paddy cultivation.

They viewed collective ploughing of farmers in the model plot. At Chaungzon Township Hospital, they inspected patient wards, medical store, operation theatre and X-ray room. Lt-Gen Maung Bo donated K 500,000 to the fund of the hospital through officials. At Chaungzon Communications Centre of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on progress of installation of 500 auto-telephone lines in the town and arrangements for linkage of 500 cables presented by Mon State Manager U Thein Win. The commander gave a supplementary report, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officials to strive for completion of the project on time. They also visited Chaungzon Basic Education High School. Lt-Gen Maung Bo fulfilled the requirements of construction of the extended building. Next, he presented K 1 million for purchasing desks to Headmistress Daw Aye Aye Mu.

At Kyunthaya Hall of the township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met local authorities. The Chairman of Township PDC reported on development of the township and chairman of Ward and Village-tract PDCs on requirements in the tasks. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed officials to cooperate with the local people for development of villages, uphold Our Three Main National Causes, perform their tasks with patriotic spirit, realize political, economic and social objectives of the State and carry out regional development tasks.

Next, they left Chaungzon for Mawlamyine by watercraft.

**First ASEAN+3 Consultative Meeting on Cooperation in Minerals commences**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — An opening ceremony of the 1st ASEAN + 3 Consultative Meeting on Cooperation in Minerals hosted by Myanmar was held at the Tawwin Kumuda Hotel, here, this morning with an address by Director-General U Than Myint of Mining Department.

Present also were Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department, Senior Officer Mr Lee Yoong Yoong of ASEAN Secretariat, senior officers of ASEAN member countries, delegates of ASEAN plus Three nations and guests. After the opening ceremony, those present posed for a documentary photo.

Director-General U Than Myint of Myanmar presided over the meeting. Mr Edwin G Domingo of the Philippines, Dr Wu Jun of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Takamori Tomura of Japan and Mr Jo Yung-Tae of the Republic of Korea acted as co-chairmen. Those present discussed the Proposal TOR of the ASOMM+3 Cooperation on Mineral Resource Development at the meeting and fixed on host nation and date for 2nd ASEAN + 3 Consultative Meeting on Cooperation in Minerals.

Chairman of organizing committee for the meeting Director-General U Than Myint hosted a dinner in honour of delegates of ASEAN and ASEAN+3 countries at the hotel. — MNA

**Construction, maintenance tasks supervised along Minbu-An Road**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on 3 June morning left Pyinmana through Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwin-gyi Road and inspected maintenance of the road and bridges along it. On 4 June, the minister proceeded to An-Along Minbu-An Road, the minister oversaw maintenance tasks. At mile post No 61 between Magway Division and Rakhine State, he gave instructions related to construction to engineers.

At the briefing hall in Kyettaya, Senior Engineer U Ba Saw reported on construction of the road section, conduits, drains and other maintenance tasks. The minister attended to the needs. On 5 June, the minister together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein inspected Pepadon Bridge across Thara Creek on Minbu-An Road. Chief Engineer (Bridge) U Myint Lwin conducted them round the maintenance site. The commander and the minister gave necessary instructions.

**Communications equipment repaired**

YANGON, 8 June — Floods occurred in Yangon at the beginning of May causing damage to some communications equipment in auto-exchanges. However, authorities concerned had the devices repaired urgently. And after their repairs, S-12 RSU (500 Lines) in Shweponenayat housing complex of Hanthawady Auto Exchange Area reopened on 5 May, S-12 RSU 500 Lines at the compound of South Okkalapa Township Post Office on 7 June and DC-5902 in Dagon Myothit (South) Auto Exchange Area on 13 May, it is learnt. — MNA
That’s enough! Please leave us alone!

Ngar Min Swe

Once an official asked me to let him read my manuscript “Before we die”. I had submitted a copy of the manuscript to the personnel concerned in 2003, but failed to get publishing permission. I took out the manuscript from the shelf and read it again. At one point I found myself as a coward holding a wrong opinion. I read it throughly.

In the late 1991, Kyaiakhami faced a situation in need of a change of the chairman of the Ward Law and Order Restoration Council of my ward. An opportunity came to me to take over the post as I was like a family member of the regional battalion. Kyaiakhami was a district capital then. Business was good in Kyaiakhami, which was a sea port and had the famous Kyaiakhami Pagoda. In the eyes of some people the WLORC chairman post was a prestigious job as well as a privilege. Anyhow, I declined the offer because Kyaiakhami region was plagued by various forms of widespread gambling then. I was not a gambler, nor did I have knowledge about any kind of gambling. But when three-digit gambling spread to Kyaiakhami in 1985, I played the game. I was even a bookie in 1988. Later, I came to know that three-digit gambling brought sufferings to people. I had witnessed the game had ruined the lives and businesses of many gamblers. So, I quit playing three-digit game in 1989. In my view, the game created a situation in which the winner took away the money from the loser. It was a dog eat dog situation. What I hate most is the playing of cards noisily at funerals. It was a dog eat dog situation. What I hate most is the playing of cards noisily at funerals.

Some of the members of the NGOs were enjoying special privileges in social affairs including power supply to their homes. But I was different. I would not accept those privileges. Moreover, I would strip those people of all their special privileges and crush the illegal gambling business once and for all. But if I did so, people from the grassroots to the elite of the town would hate and loath me. Only my school buddies and relatives who knew my innate nature would understand me. Even those persons would ask favours from me to get land plots when the government set up new residential wards. And if I gave priority to people with low income instead of them, those persons would turn their back on me.

During the time, I was listening to BBC and VOA almost daily. According to their broadcasts I came to understand democracy as a system which governs the nation in accord with the public wish. So, I had no wish to accept the administrative job if the townpeople hated me and were against me and if I was not an elected person. I gave more priority to democracy than the interest of the townpeople. But later, I came to realize that I was wrong as I failed to cooperate with the Tatmadaw government to serve the interest of the people of Kyaiakhami.

In my view, I was just a stupid coward who was undutiful to my native place. A lesson I have learned from my mistake is that I should give more priority to national interest than democracy. It is the reason behind my suggestion I have presented in the dailies urging opponents of the Tatmadaw government, that is endeavouring to serve the national interest, to join hands with it.

Dear readers, I trust that you all know that US extended its economic sanctions on Myanmar for one more year. Ko Ko Gyi, a so-called ‘88 generation student thanked the US, saying that that country was sacrificing its own interest for Myanmar democracy cause as sanctions also hurt its interest. When I heard his words, I was thinking that he might be so poor in general knowledge or he might be under the influence of foreign instigation.

The US gives priority mainly to its own interest. The US launched an aggressive war against Vietnam just for its own national interest. It invaded Iraq only to protect its interest. The US constitution has prohibited itself from doing anything that does not serve its interest. Today, the US is imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar for its own interest. Economic sanctions also hurt the US, but so insignificantly. Its financial loss in this matter is nothing when compared with its expense for the war in Iraq. The amount of dollars the US has been providing to opponents in Myanmar is less than the value of a downed helicopter in Iraq.

The imposition of economic sanctions in reality is a war the US is launching against Myanmar, but at an extremely low cost. The US does not need to sacrifice any life of its soldiers it values so much. The US is launching the war with the help of national traitors. The US can halt all the operations of garment factories in Myanmar without dropping a single bomb from its war planes.

We Myanmar people are not in favour of war, but if the motherland comes under alien invasion, we will do to the best of our ability to repulse the intruders with unyielding spirit. Myanmar is a people that can engage in a battle having dried cooked rice and whatever tubers and bulbs it gets in the forests, but not a people that can do so only when it can have the dish of turkey. Myanmar people can withstand wear and tear well and the more they are suppressed, the more (See page 9)
they will harden their heart to the suppression. So, the economic sanctions the US and its allies have imposed against Myanmar will never be effective.

Daw Suu Kyi and NLD persuaded the US and its associates to impose economic sanctions against Myanmar to cause the downfall of the Tatmadaw government. However, the economic sanction failed to meet its target and is having adverse effects on the people. Bogyoke (Major General) Aung San brought Fascist troops into the nation to drive out the British. However, when the people faced a variety of sufferings due to the Fascists, Bogyoke Aung San corrected his mistake by launching Anti-Fascist Resistance.

The Tatmadaw government is not an alien one. And Tatmadaw members are Myanmar nationals. They have taken an oath “We vow to sacrifice our lives for our country, people, and Armed Forces”. Today’s Tatmadaw government is a Myanmar national government that puts national interests in the fore. Daw Suu Kyi and NLD demanded that the US and its associates attack Myanmar by imposing economic sanctions against the nation for ensuring the downfall of the Myanmar national government. Daw Suu Kyi and NLD know well that the attack is making the people get into trouble. So, correcting the mistakes like Bogyoke Aung San, they should demand the US and its associates for immediate lifting of the sanction against Myanmar. If Daw Suu Kyi and NLD come to protect the interests of Myanmar people, that will put an end to the attack of economic sanction against Myanmar.

Myanmar earned 460 million US dollars from export of fish and prawn in 2006-2007 financial year. If the US and EU countries do impose economic sanction against Myanmar, it will earn about 1000 million US dollars from sales of fish and prawn a year. It means that without any economic sanction against it, Myanmar will be able to earn 200 million US dollars more through the export of fish and prawn. It is calculated at the minimum rate according to the prevailing situation. It will not be difficult for Myanmar to earn 2000 million US dollars yearly from the export of fish and prawn in coming few years if the economic sanction against her is no more.

A Corolla Van (of the year 2000 or later model) costs only about 1400 US dollars to be imported to Myanmar by Freight On Board. Thus, spending 200 million US dollars, 150,000 units of Corolla Van can be imported. If so, national people can buy such automobiles with less price. Due to the economic sanctions the US and EU countries are imposing against Myanmar, the government has to practise thrifty and give priority to the sectors that are more important than the import of automobiles. In consequence, now a Corolla van worth about three million kyats is priced about 100 million kyats in Myanmar. If the US and EU countries lift the sanction, Myanmar will be able to earn more foreign exchange through its export items and import sufficient number of automobiles as needed by the people. Then, Myanmar people will be able to take automobiles of latest models at fair prices.

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Aide to Iraqi Shiite cleric Sistani killed
NAJAF (Iraq), 7 June— A local representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the reclusive spiritual leader of Iraq’s Shiite majority, was gunned down outside his home, Sistani’s office and police said on Wednesday.

Raheem al-Hasnawi, who represented Sistani in the town of al-Mishkhab, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the holy Shiite city of Najaf, was killed late on Tuesday, they said.

A spokesman for Sistani’s office said three gunmen riding in a car shot Hasnawi outside his home in al-Mishkhab. “He was killed immediately,” the spokesman said. An Iraqi security source said Hasnawi was shot in the head and chest. There was no immediate indication about who was responsible for the killing.

Sistani is the sponsor of the ruling United Alliance bloc to which Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and other Shiite political leaders belong.— MNA/Reuters

New York, 7 June— Six human rights groups urged the US Government on Thursday to name and explain the whereabouts of 39 people they said were believed to have been held in US custody and “disappeared”.

The groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, said they filed a US federal lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act seeking information about the 39 people it terms “ghost prisoners” in the US “war on terror”.

“Since the end of Latin America’s dirty wars, the world has rejected the use of disappearances as a fundamental violation of international law,” professor Meg Satterthwaite of the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University’s School of Law said in a statement.

The report said suspects’ relatives, including children as young as seven, had been held in secret detention on occasion.

CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano dismissed the report, saying the CIA acts in “strict accord with American law” and its counter-terrorist initiatives are “subject to careful review and oversight”.

“The United States does not conduct or condone torture,” he said.

Tens of thousands of people “disappeared” during Latin America’s so-called dirty wars in Chile, Argentina and several other countries where right-wing dictators used extra-judicial detentions to crush armed Marxist opposition.

The list of 39 people said to have been held in US custody at some point was compiled using information from six rights groups, including London-based groups Cageprisoners and Reprieve and the Centre for Constitutional Rights in New York.

ASEAN’s cooperation with Interpol gets boost
SINGAPORE, 7 June — Cooperation between Southeast Asian police chiefs and the Interpol, an international police organization, got a boost with the signing of a declaration of cooperation on Wednesday.

The agreement was signed at the closing of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) chief of police conference.

It will allow ASEAN to link up its criminal database with the Interpol system. While a working group meeting among ASEAN police chiefs will be convened next year to develop a protocol covering communication and coordination during crisis management.

ASEAN’s police chiefs identified terrorism, cyber-crime and transnational organized crime as three priority areas for attention, according to the declaration.

They believed that two important factors would help to tackle the problem. One factor is to know and trust each other in order to link up organizations when information needs to be shared.

The second is to tap into the resources of international police organizations, like Interpol, and to share best practices among member countries.— MNA/Xinhua

Large explosives stockpile discovered in western Nepal
KATHMANDU, 8 June— The police on Wednesday discovered a large stockpile of explosives abandoned by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) at a remote hilly village in Nawalparasi District in western Nepal.

According to a leading website, eKantipur.com report, a police patrol took custody of 80 socket bombs and a grenade discovered at a village in the district that were left behind by the CPN-M some years ago.

According to the website, a patrol team had been dispatched to the remote hilly village following reports of increasing incidences of robberies there, whereupon the team was informed about the explosives left behind by the CPN-M. Nawalparasi police chief informed that the bombs were being kept at Area Police Station where attempts were underway to defuse them.— MNA/Xinhua

Rights groups list 39 “disappeared” in war on terror

MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits off PNG’s north coast
CAMBODIA, 7 June— A magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck off the north coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Thursday morning, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake took place at 10:40 Thursday morning local time (0040 GMT), with the epicentre locating 675 kilometres north of PNG’s capital of Port Moresby in the Bismarck Sea. The quake was 10 kilometres deep.

Reports reaching here said residents in towns on PNG’s north coast said they had not felt the quake.

Meanwhile, residents on the mainland also said there were no signs of a change in sea level.— MNA/Xinhua

Iranian passers by look at a tree damaged by Cyclone Gona that hit the city on Wednesday in Bandar Abbas. 800 miles (1330 kilometres) southeast of the capital Tehran, Iran, on 7 June, 2007.— INRENET

Passengers are ferried in a river taxi service which was launched along a polluted stretch of Ciliwung River to ease traffic woes in Jakarta on 5 June, 2007.— INTERNET
Disco signs deal with Spider-Man, X-Men creator

BEIJING, 7 June — Walt Disney Studios announced on Thursday it has signed an exclusive, multiyear agreement with the creator of comic-book superheroes such as Spider-Man and X-Men. The pact was designed to create characters and projects that can become franchises for Disney. “I’ve got millions of them,” Lee said. “I have file cabinets filled with ideas for movies and television shows and all sorts of things, and I’ve been waiting to be associated with someone like Disney so I can start tearing into these things.”

Lee’s characters have made hundreds of millions of dollars for other studios. Sony Pictures produced the Spider-Man series and saw “Spider-Man 3” open in early May with a record 151.1 million US dollar weekend domestically. Twentieth Century Fox made the highly profitable X-Men films. Also in production at various studios are movies about The Incredible Hulk and Iron Man.

Lee is no longer associated with Marvel Entertainment Inc., which produces comic books and feature films based on characters he created while employed there. At Disney Studios, part of The Walt Disney Co, Lee will work on developing characters for action films that might also be featured in direct-to-DVD productions, video games, comic books or other formats.

Three Finns released in Persian Gulf

Helsinki, 6 June — Finnish Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva said on Wednesday evening that Iran freed the three Finns detained in the Persian Gulf near Abu Musa Island on 2 June. The three Finns were released late Wednesday afternoon and in contact with their families. They are in good condition and will return to Dubai, where they work.

Kanerva said that the issue has been brought to a swift conclusion in smooth cooperation with the Iranian authorities and Nokia Siemens Networks. The three Finnish men, all employees of Nokia Siemens Networks based in Dubai, were on a fishing trip and stranded in Iranian waters on 2 June, when they were arrested near the island of Abu Musa.

Toyota hybrid sales top 1 mln worldwide

BEIJING, 7 June — Toyota Motor Corp announced on Thursday it has sold 345,000 of its hybrid vehicles in Japan and another 702,000 worldwide as of the end of May to top 1 million, a landmark for the Japanese automaker.

The Prius is Toyota’s No 1 hybrid model with a total of 757,600 units sold since its introduction in Japan in 1997. Toyota began selling the Prius in North America, Europe and other places in 2000. Last year, the model made up more than 40 percent of hybrid sales in the US.

Demand for hybrids, which deliver superior mileage by switching between a gasoline engine and electric motor, has soared amid higher oil prices and greater consumer concern about pollution and global warming. Toyota offers several other hybrid models, including the hybrid Camry and hybrid Lexus models.

Toyota also began selling its most expensive hybrid, the $124,000 Lexus LS 600h, recently in Japan. It will be exported over the summer, according to the company.
Indonesia plane makes emergency landing after cabin leak

JAKARTA, 7 June — An Indonesian plane with 85 people onboard made an emergency landing in South Sumatra Province Wednesday after pilots detected a cabin pressure loss.

“The rubber seal at the cargo room door was leaking, causing the plane to lose cabin pressure,” Garuda spokesman Singgih Handoyo was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

During the incident, oxygen masks dropped automatically and pilots made a descent and landed safely on the Sultan Machmud Badaruddin in the provincial capital of Palembang.

None of the passengers was hurt, said Singgih.

Garuda Flight GA 056 left the Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta at 07:20 local time for Batam Island, the provincial capital of Riau, the provincial capital of the province.

The flight was supposed to arrive at Batam Island at 08:25 but was forced to land at Palembang due to the leak.

No human cases of bird flu so far in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 June — No human cases of avian influenza or bird flu were detected among the residents at the village where bird flu was made known on Wednesday, the Malaysian Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry checked 71 houses comprising 300 to 400 residents within a 300-metre radius of the location, where chickens tested positive for bird flu virus, finding no suspected human cases of bird flu as of 9 pm on Wednesday, it said in a statement.

Not yet any human fatalities in bird flu outbreak.

Bangkok, 7 June — Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health announced on Thursday that the number of dengue fever patients nationwide has risen to over 10,000 and 14 people have been killed by the dangerous disease this year.

Until July 6, a total of 11,574 dengue fever patients, most of them between 10-24, have been found across the country, especially in the central, northeastern and southern provinces, a public health official said.

The high-danger season of dengue fever is July but earlier-than-usual rains has meant that dengue is a greater concern this year than before, the official was quoted by local radio FM 100 as saying, adding that the insurgency in the far South means that anti-mosquito measures are more difficult to apply.

More breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes emerge during the rainy season, he explained, especially in the three southernmost provinces where heavier rainfall contributes to a higher population of mosquitoes than in the country’s other regions.

The Ministry of Public Health has ordered health officials to work with local authorities to prevent the further spread on any outbreak.

Two NATO soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 June — Two NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers were killed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, an ISAF statement said.

The two soldiers were killed in two separate engagements with enemy fighters, the brief statement, which did not tell which provinces suffered the incidents, said. In accordance with NATO policy, ISAF does not release a casualty’s nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

About 5,000 British soldiers are operating in the southern Helmand Province, while some 2,500 Canadian soldiers are being deployed in the southern Kandahar Province.

An ISAF soldier was killed by militants in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are operating in Afghanistan to hunt down militants and keep security.

Chinese police kill man who took toddler hostage

SHANGHAI, 7 June — Chinese police shot dead a man who had taken a four-year-old girl hostage at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in northwestern Shanghai, after he tried to injure the toddler, official media reported on Wednesday.

Police negotiated with the unidentified middle-aged man for over six hours after he seized the child at 3.10 pm (0710 hours) at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant earlier.

But his mood got worse the evening drew on, and at 9.40 pm he attacked the girl with a knife, forcing the police to shoot, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

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Report says Spain Navy to seize US treasure ships

BEIJING, 7 June — Spain may send its navy to capture and search two US exploration ships suspected of carrying sunken treasure from Spanish waters, media reported on Wednesday.

A judge in Cadiz has issued search warrants for the Odyssey Explorer and Ocean Alert, two boats belonging to the company Odyssey Marine Exploration.

Spanish Culture Minister Carmen Calvo said she had received the backing of Defense Minister Jose Antonio Alonso to use Spanish troops to intercept the boats if necessary.

"Put in very simple terms, Spanish and international laws protect us and if anything against the law has occurred, we will respond and what was ours will be returned to Spain," she said.

The order came after Spain lodged a claim in a US federal court for ownership, or partial ownership, of the treasure that Odyssey Marine Exploration recovered from a sunken treasure ship it has codenamed Black Swan.

Last month, Odyssey announced it had recovered half a million silver coins and hundreds of gold coins from the Atlantic in the biggest colonial-era shipwreck recovery of its kind.

Odyssey insists the shipwreck is outside any country’s territorial waters. It refused to give the exact location.

Since Spanish authorities cannot intercept the US boats while they remain in the military port in British-controlled Gibraltar, the Civil Guard is waiting for them to enter Spanish waters.

Bird flu hits one more Vietnamese province

HANOI, 7 June — Bird flu has hit Vietnam’s northern Phu Tho Province, raising the total number of affected locals nationwide to 16, according to a local veterinary agency on Thursday.

The disease, from 1-4 June, killed 240 out of a flock of 370 ducks raised by a household in the province’s Viet Tri city, the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said.

The provincial veterinary bureau has culled all fowls in the affected flock, disinfected affected areas, and established quarantine checkpoints around the areas.

Bird flu, starting to strike Vietnam in December 2003, has hit 83 communes in 16 Vietnamese cities and provinces nationwide since early May, said the department.

A girl looks from behind the glass window of a bus bound for Syria, at Al-Salhiyah bus station in Baghdad, on 7 June, 2007.

Some of the thousands of gold coins discovered on the SS Republic shipwreck site are pictured in this November 2003 handout photo released on 18 May, 2007.

CT scan: Otzi the “Iceman” mummy bled to death

BZ Educação, 7 June — Scientists know when Otzi the “Iceman” mummy died (5,000 years ago), they know his age (45), his last meal (venison and ibex meat) but they didn’t know why he died after trekking up the Schnalstal glacier in Italy. Now they know.

Otzi bled to death after being shot with an arrow. Frank Rühli of the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and his colleagues scanned the mummy’s body using computed tomography (CT) and found a lesion of an artery near the shoulder, underneath the clavicle bone.

The scientists also found a large hematoma (bruise) in the surrounding tissue signifying blood loss. By combining historic and modern data on how well one survives such a severe lesion, the scientists concluded that the Iceman died within a short time as a result of this lesion.

“It basically means [the Iceman] would bleed to death,” Rühli said.

The case is more than just a medical curiosity.

“We want to have more knowledge of life and death in ancient times to learn more about the evolution of diseases,” he explained, referring to the study of ancient diseases as the fourth dimension of medicine.

Internet penetrates remote villages of Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 June — Although villages of Parbat District, some 170 kilometres west of Kathmandu lacks electricity, locals can now receive news flashes through Internet, reported the local website ekantipur.com Wednesday.

Locals habituated to reading seven-day-old "stale" newspapers until recently, are now up-to-date with online news every hour because of the internet connection made possible through solar energy.

Mahabir Pun, 55, a PhD from the United States, recently opened a cyber cafe using solar panels to access the Internet in the village, allowing villagers to view online news on his laptop. Besides providing news updates to locals deprived of daily newspapers, tourists passing their way to Annapurnna trekking route are also benefiting from the services.

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A model poses with a wax figure of Mao Zedong, the late leader of China, at Madame Tussauds in Hong Kong on 7 June, 2007. The figure was unveiled for the media in the run-up to the 100th anniversary of the 1 July, 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China.

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**LA Galaxy back Beckham ambitions**

**Ferguson reveals secret of Ronaldo's success**

**Hinon sets up French Open final with Ivanovic**

**Reina commits to Reds**

**Ivanovic crushes Sharapova to reach Paris final**

**England's head coach Steve McClaren reacts during their Euro 2008 group E soccer match against Estonia in Tallinn, Estonia on June 6, 2007.**

**Late Cardozo goal gives Paraguay 1-0 win over Mexico**

**“We play an international game here and our fans understand that and the bigger picture is important,” said Lalas.**

**“The fact we have players that are good enough to be called up to some of the best national teams in the world that is a wonderful statement on where we are. Next year is a long way away, a lot of things can happen.”**

**“You can only look at what has happened in the last couple of months with regard to David to know things change pretty quickly in the world of football.”**

**The 32-year-old Beckham has helped rejuvenate England and has said he is eager to play for the national side as long as he is “allowed” to.**

**Lalas told BBC Radio Five Live: “We adhere to Fifa’s rules and regulations regarding the release of players.”**

**“If David continues to be called up we’ll drive him to the airport.”**

**Beckham’s England career was deemed to be over after he was left out of McClaren’s first squad last August.**

**But the midfielder, who is set to move to LA Galaxy in two week’s time, has been in sparkling form for Real Madrid since the turn of the year.**

**That, coupled with England’s indifferent displays in their last four qualifiers, saw England coach McClaren bring the player back into the squads for the games against Brazil and Estonia.**

**Lalas added: “It’s not only an honour for him but also for the Galaxy.”**

**“And the fact we can say one of our players is named in the England squad, I think it’s a wonderful statement on the quality that exists at the Galaxy.”**

**Lalas also insisted LA Galaxy would be happy to release Beckham for the Euro 2008 finals - should England qualify - even though the competition next June clashes with the MLS season.”**

**“What I said to Cristiano was exactly what I said to David and his thoughts for the future really excited me. He has ambitions for the team which I want to be part of and I’m sure the other players feel the same.”**

**Reina saved two spot kicks as Liverpool progressed to the UEFA Champions League final at the expense of Chelsea, but after suffering disappointment in Athens the former Barcelona man believes the league will be the club’s priority next season.**

**“The idea now for all of us is to keep winning football.”**

**Henin sets up French Open final with Ivanovic**

**Paris, 6 June — World number one Justine Henin stayed on course for a rare French Open hat-trick when she outplayed Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic 6-2, 6-2 on Thursday to reach the final.**

**Top seed Henin, trying to become the first woman to win three successive crowns at Roland Garros since Monica Seles in 1992, will face another player from Serbia in Ana Ivanovic in Saturday’s title match.**

**Appearing in the semi-final of a Grand Slam tournament for the second time after last year’s US Open, fourth-seeded Jankovic, 22, lacked composure when it mattered.**

**Hampered by a weak serve, she was never really in contention and bowed out by sending a forehand wide on the first match point after 80 minutes of play.**

**The 25-year-old Henin, who also won here in 2003, will still top the rankings when it mattered.**

**Hampered by a weak serve, she was never really in contention and bowed out by sending a forehand wide on the first match point after 80 minutes of play.**

**The 25-year-old Henin, who also won here in 2003, will still top the rankings.**

**Henin broke her opponent in the fourth game courtesy of an unforced error from Jankovic and again in the eighth game, a double fault from the Serbian giving her the set after just 37 minutes.**

**“The details of the contract were very straightforward. Rick Parry and the American owners made everything easy and in the end it was a good solution for the club and a good solution for me.”**

**Reina said: “I am very happy with this contract. It was always my wish to sign a new deal because this is a good club which is looking forward to a very ambitious and attractive project,” said Reina.**

**“The former world champion to a very ambitious and attractive project,” said Reina.**

**“That’s what we’ll be looking for from the start of next season.”**

**“Our fans deserve the league title and that’s what we’ll be looking for. Seventeen years without winning it is far too long for this club and that’s why our biggest target next year has to be the Premiership.”**

**Reina saved two spot kicks as Liverpool progressed to the UEFA Champions League final at the expense of Chelsea, but after suffering disappointment in Athens the former Barcelona man believes the league will be the club’s priority next season.**

**“The idea now for all of us is to keep winning football.”**

**“The details of the contract were very straightforward. Rick Parry and the American owners made everything easy and in the end it was a good solution for the club and a good solution for me.”**

**Ivanovic said: “I am very happy with this contract. It was always my wish to sign a new deal because this is a good club which is looking forward to a very ambitious and attractive project,” said Reina.**

**Belgium’s Justine Henin hits a return to Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic in their semi-final match at the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, on 7 June, 2007. — Internet**

**Paris, 8 June — Serbia’s Ana Ivanovic reached the final of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time with a 6-2, 6-1 demolition of world number two Maria Sharapova at the French Open on Thursday.**

**The 19-year-old Ivanovic, seeded seventh, outplayed former Wimbledon champion Sharapova in just 65 minutes, sealing victory with an ace on the first match point to become the first player representing Serbia to make the final of a Grand Slam event.**

**Russia’s Sharapova, 20, feels more at ease on faster surfaces and has never gone beyond the quarterfinals on the Paris clay court before this year.**

**The former world number one, who said last week she felt like a “cow on ice” on clay, accumulated unforced errors and looked helpless at times against an opponent playing close to perfection.**

**Ivanovic broke Sharapova with a forehand pass in the second game and did it again in the sixth courtesy of a double fault from the Russian.**

**The Serbian then served for the set, leading 5-1, but dropped her service game by hitting a forehand wide. Ivanovic was soon back in control, however, managing a further break in the next game thanks to another double fault from Sharapova to wrap up the set after 32 minutes.**

**MNA/Reuters**

**MNA/Reuters**

**MNA/Reuters**

**MNA/Reuters**

**MNA/Reuters**
California lawmakers push for vote on Iraq war

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 June — California lawmakers took their second step in as many days on Wednesday into the foreign policy arena by backing a bill that would allow the state’s voters to call for withdrawing US troops from Iraq.

The Democratic-led state Senate passed a bill that would put a measure on the most populous US state’s February presidential primary ballot urging President George W Bush to “end the US occupation of Iraq and immediately begin the safe and orderly withdrawal of United States forces”.

The measure would also urge Bush and the US Congress to “provide the necessary diplomatic and non-military assistance to promote peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East”.

The bill authorizing the measure for the ballot still requires a majority of votes in California’s Democratic-led Assembly and Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s signature.

Schwarzenegger’s spokesman Aaron McLear said the governor has not taken a position on the bill.

McLear said Schwarzenegger supports a timeline for withdrawing US troops from Iraq while at the same time believes the United States must be victorious.

On Tuesday, California’s Assembly backed a bill by a Republican member calling for the state to divest investments in the California Public Employees’ Retirement System and the California State Teachers’ Retirement System — the biggest and third biggest US pension funds respectively — in foreign companies doing business in Iran.

“California’s tax-payers should not be investing in a country which funds terrorism,” said Assemblyman Joel Anderson, the bill’s author.

The bill still needs a majority vote by state Senate and Schwarzenegger’s signature. He has not taken a position on it, McLear said.

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System opposes the divestment bill, which would force the fund to divest an estimated eight billion US dollars in holdings.

Board members of the fund have said they “are gravely concerned” about terrorism but have a fiduciary duty to fund members to post returns.

Weather outlook for second weekend of June 2007:

Friday, 8 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has been advanced into the whole country. Weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division, fairly widespread in Shan, Rakhine States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mawgyaw Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.31) inch, Sittwe (4.69) inches, Kyakkyaw (3.46) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.85) inches, Patao (1.69) inches, Katha and Hmawbi (1.58) inches each, Hkamti (1.26) inches and Magway (0.95) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-6-2007 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 8-6-2007 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-6-2007 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 7-6-2007 was (1.2) hour approx.

Rainfall on 8-6-2007 was (1.85) inches at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.90) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (32.44) inches at Mingaladon, (37.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (34.21) inches at Central Yangon.

Max/min wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 7-6-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-6-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 9-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-6-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (15%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-6-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of June 2007: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Division and widespread in Yangon Division.
Lt-Gen Maung Bo views collective ploughing and cultivation of monsoon paddy in Chaungzon

Balukyun region, reliable area of Mon State for paddy cultivation and production

293 pearl lots sold in three-day pearl auction

YANGON, 8 June — The Myanma Pearl Auction 2007 of the Myanma Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines continued for the last day at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in Mayangon Township here this morning. Altogether 523 pearl lots of 104,867 pieces of pearl weighing 61,034.7 mommes of Myanma Pearl Enterprise and three joint-venture companies were on sale through tender system at the auction attended by more than 40 merchants of foreign pearl companies.

During the three-day period, the merchants bought 293 lots of pearl through tender system. Chairman of the Central Committee for the Myanma Pearl Auction 2007 Managing Director of MPE U Maung Toe presented a gift to the merchant from a foreign company who purchased pearls most in the auction, that concluded in the afternoon.—MNA

NLD leaders seeking self-interest, relying on some western powers and following their instruction through foreign embassies attempting to harm State, people

YANGON, 8 June — Members of Ayadaw Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division U Kyaw Thein, U Tin Myint, U Kan Win, U Nay Win, U Win Oo, U Kyaw Lin, Ma Tint (a) Ma Khin Mar Tint and Ma Win Sein resigned from the party of their own accord on 28 May sending their resignations to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned. Likewise, member of YeU Township NLD U Sat Shwin quit the party of his own accord on 8 March.

The resignation letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission says they lost interest in being NLD members due to its leaders seeking self-interest, relying on some western powers and following their instructions through foreign embassies and attempting to harm the State and the people. Another reason is that, the letter says, they quit the party as they want to participate in nation-building tasks side by side with the government. — MNA