**True patriotism**

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

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**Cash, books, furniture donated to self-reliant libraries for third time in Yangon Division**

**Yangon,** 15 June  
The third donation ceremony of cash, books, furniture and mass communication equipment for self-reliant libraries in Yangon Division, organized by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, was held at Sabei Hall of No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win stressed the need to flourish the libraries for human resource development of the nation and for ensuring uplift of education sector. As a total of 55,717 village libraries have so far been opened across the nation, all the people are to be proud of a country where all the villages have libraries. It is necessary to provide various kinds of books, mass communication equipment and furniture to the libraries in Yangon Division, and arrangements are being made to equip wards and villages with more libraries.

The commander and officials accepted K 4.97 million donated for the self-reliant libraries by wellwishers including K 1 million by Yangon Command; and mass communication equipment, a 21-inch TV, two radio-cassettes, four radios and 14,163 books and journals worth K 361,000 by Yangon Division PDC, departments and wellwishers. Cash, mass communication equipment and books have been donated to self-reliant libraries in Yangon Division for three times. The donations for the libraries totalled 51 TVs, 23 cassettes, 164 radios, 40 pieces of furniture and 74,470 books and journals worth K 55,867,045.

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**A true politician that’s me**

A politician must give priority to the public interest in the face of a situation to decide to give priority either to the public interest or to his own. And he has to give priority to the national interest when the need arises to choose national interest or public interest. That is the code of politics every politician has to observe.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Guard against recurrence of polio

The national oral polio vaccination was carried out eight times across the nation since 15 January 1996 and region-wise national oral polio vaccination four times to ensure that new generation youths are healthy and free from polio.

At present, a domiciliary oral polio vaccination is being launched in the nation from 14 to 18 May as the first time and from 9 to 13 June as the second time. The third time will be from 4 to 8 July.

A similar programme will be carried out in townships of Magway Division, Ayeyawady Division and Bago Division (West), Paletwa Township of Chin State and townships of Rakhine State totalling 83 townships.

The government is taking systematic measures with national outlooks for elimination of polio. At such a time, parents are to grasp the opportunity of being fed oral polio vaccine to their children under 5 without fail.

As a domiciliary oral polio vaccination will continue to guard against recurrence of polio the entire national people are to do their bit along with members of health staff and social organizations for successful realization of the campaign.

Commander attends physic nut growing ceremony in Yangon West District

YANGON, 14 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the physic nut growing ceremony in front of the Thazin Hostel on Hline Campus, Yangon University yesterday.

The commander heard reports on progress of cultivation of physic nut plants and work to be done presented by the chairman of Yangon West District PDC and gave instructions to exceed the target of growing of trees and physic nut plants.

Next, the commander and party presented physic nut saplings to members of social organizations in the district and planted trees.

Later, they viewed the growing of trees and physic nut plants on the campus and along the Mindhamma Road.

Mayor opens Phyio Free Clinic in Twantay

YANGON, 13 June — Phyio Free Clinic founded by Twantay Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened in the township today.

Central Executive Committee Member of USDA Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint formally opened the free clinic which was established at the office of Twantay Township USDA. USDA CEC Member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected the site chosen in the compound of the office to build a lecture hall for free education programme, and visited the clinic where patients are receiving medical treatment.

The opening ceremony of the clinic was held at Twantay Township USDA Office and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin delivered an address.

At the ceremony, he accepted 1,550 applications for membership of USDA from local people and 241 applications from teachers and students of a basic education high school in the township.

Wellwishers contributed cash to the fund of the clinic at the ceremony through Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Factories of Indagaw Industrial Region supervised


They also inspected production of the radiator factory.

In inspecting the factories, the minister instructed officials to manufacture products to meet the target with set standards, minimize production cost, power and fuel, and turn the machines at full capacity. — MNA
Malaysia dismisses US list on human trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 June — Malaysia, ranked by the United States as among the worst human trafficking offenders, on Wednesday dismissed the listing which carries the threat of sanctions as unjustified.

“We can’t react to something that does not take into account of what we have done,” Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar was quoted as saying by the online version of the Star newspaper.

He said Kuala Lumpur had taken adequate steps to protect migrant workers.

“No single country can act as investigator, prosecutor and judge against another,” he said. But he added Malaysia, a US ally and home to more than one million foreign workers, would not lodge a formal protest with Washington.

In its annual report on human trafficking published on Tuesday, the US State Department added Malaysia to its list of 16 countries subjected to possible sanctions, including the loss of US aid and US support for World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans.

Oman, Qatar, Algeria and Equatorial Guinea were also added to the bottom — Tier 3 — ranking of countries that failed to meet minimum US standards on combating human trafficking or of making significant efforts to improve their record.

MNA/Reuters

UAE aid security team member missing in Afghanistan

DUBAI, 14 June — A member of a team providing security for United Arab Emirates’ aid mission has gone missing in Afghanistan, a UAE official said on Wednesday.

“We can confirm that a UAE citizen is involved in providing security for UAE humanitarian aid in Afghanistan is currently unaccounted for,” the official told Reuters.

No other details on the disappearance were immediately available.

The UAE has been providing aid — including setting up a field hospital, schools and mosques — under an agreement with Afghanistan’s government since 2003.

MNA/Reuters

57 more killed as Pakistan braces another sizzling day

ISLAMABAD, 15 June — At least 57 people were killed on Wednesday as the sweltering heat in Pakistan, as frequent load-shedding further worsened the situation for the people, according to a report of The News newspaper on Thursday.

Most of the deaths occurred in east province Punjab where temperatures in many places were recorded at 40 plus degrees Celsius on the seventh consecutive day on Tuesday.

Power cuts in some cities due to increasing electricity shortage also worsened the suffering of the people, sparking protests parts of the country.

No official figures on the heatwave-generated deaths is available now, but the local media reports suggested the toll from 9-13 June might have been over 190. The heatwave claimed more than 80 lives across the country in 2006, while the sizzling summer in 2003 killed over 230 people.

MNA/Xinhua

Soldiers defuse car bomb in southern Philippines

MANILA, 14 June — Soldiers defused improvised bombs from a car parked near a town hall in the southern Philippines, a police chief said on Wednesday, raising worries that Islamic militants in the country had learned to assemble car bombs.

Senior Superintendent Robert Kiumisala, police chief of South Cotabato Province, said soldiers found a car laden with ten 60mm mortar rounds on a busy road near the town hall of Surallah on the day it was celebrating its 44th founding anniversary.

“We’re still investigating whether the car bomb was meant to disrupt the town’s festivities,” Kiumisala told reporters after bomb experts removed the crude bombs and destroyed them in a controlled explosion away from the crowd.

The Philippines has no reported attacks using car bombs.

MNA/Reuters
**Philippine Govt rejects US report on human trafficking**

**MANILA, 14 June**—The Philippine Government said on Thursday that it is doing everything within its powers to prevent human trafficking and sex exploitation of minors.

The statement came after a United States State Department report released on Wednesday said the Philippines remains a “source, transit, and destination” for men, women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Philippine Government is willing to provide the US with figures on the steps taken by various law enforcement agencies against human trafficking.

Ermita said on Thursday that it is doing everything within its powers to prevent human trafficking and sex exploitation of minors.

The State Department report said the Philippines remains on “Tier 2” in the US State Department’s 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report.

“The Philippine Government should make greater efforts to combat internal trafficking by increasing public awareness activities and vigorously prosecuting those exploiting victims as well as making greater efforts to prosecute and convict public officials who profit from or are involved in trafficking,” the report said.

The “Tier 2” list includes countries whose governments do not fully comply with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts do so.

**Pentagon says Iraq attacks, civilian deaths up**

**WASHINGTON, 14 June** — Suicide and other bombings have climbed throughout Iraq since the start of the US-led security crackdown in Baghdad, driving civilian casualties to their highest mark since 2004, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

The number of attacks usually conducted by (al-Qaeda in Iraq), are now causing more casualties in Baghdad than do murders by militia, criminals or other armed groups,” the report said.

The report was released just hours after suspected al-Qaeda militants blew up the minarets of a revered Shiite mosque in Baghdad than do murders by militia, criminals or other armed groups,” the report said.

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**Gaza, 14 June** — Two Palestinian employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were shot dead in the Gaza Strip and the agency said on Wednesday it was suspending most of its operations due to the internal fighting.

UNRWA spokesman Christopher Gunness said they are the first UN employees killed in Gaza since internal fighting erupted between Hamas Islamist and President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah faction last year.

Gunness said they appeared to have been caught in the crossfire and not targeted because of their work for the UN agency, which provides services to Palestinian refugees.

“Recent reports have caused the death toll, including non-governmental organisations, to rise to 52,” Gunness said.

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**Two more soldiers die in fighting at Lebanon camp**

**Nahr al-Bared** (Lebanon), 14 June — Two Lebanese soldiers were killed in fresh fighting on Wednesday between Army units and Islamist militants at a Palestinian refugee camp, security sources said.

Al-Qaeda-inspired Fatah al-Islam militants attacked Lebanese Army posts set up in newly seized territory in the outskirts of Nahr al-Bared camp overnight and in early morning, they said.

One of the dead was an officer shot by a sniper, they said.

Army units, which had seized two militant positions in heavy fighting on Tuesday, responded by firing dozens of 155 mm artillery rounds at the camp.

The battle for the camp Lebanon’s bloodiest internal violence since the 1975-1990 civil war, has killed 144 people, including 62 soldiers, more than 50 militants and 12 civilians, since it erupted on 20 May.

The Lebanese authorities have demanded the unconditional surrender of the gunmen, who have vowed to fight to the death.

Fatah al-Islam was officially formed late last year. Its leader, veteran Palestinian guerrilla Shaker al-Abssi, says he shares the same ideology as al-Qaeda but has no organizational links with that group.

Many of his men are foreign Arab fighters, some of whom have fought in Iraq.
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Eurozone industrial production down 0.8% in April**

**BRUSSELS, 14 June—** The eurozone reported a seasonally-adjusted 0.8 per cent drop in industrial production in April, compared to the previous month, according to figures released Tuesday by Eurostat, the EU’s statistics office.

Industrial production of the 27-member European Union (EU) was down 0.4 per cent in April after registering increases of 0.5 per cent and 0.4 per cent in March and February respectively. However, April’s industrial production for the eurozone and the EU was up 2.8 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively compared to that of a year ago.

In April, among the EU member states for which data is available, industrial production rose in six countries, but fell in 14 others. The highest increases were reported in Lithuania with 3.5 per cent, followed by Bulgaria with 1.6 per cent. The largest decreases were registered in Romania with 4.9 per cent and Portugal with 4.6 per cent.

**Indian industrial output up 13.6% in April**

**NEW DELHI, 14 June —** Belying predictions of a slow-down in the wake of successive interest rate hikes, India’s industrial output soared by a blistering 13.6 per cent in April over the same period last year, on robust growth in the manufacturing sector, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported here Tuesday.

The Index of Industrial Production grew by 13.6 per cent as against 9.9 per cent in April 2006 as manufacturing rose at 15.1 per cent in the month, one of the fastest growth rates in a decade, PTI said.

Manufacturing sector had grown by 11 per cent in the same month last year, indicating that even the base was high, the news agency reported.

Electricity generation went up by 8.7 per cent against 5.9 per cent, but overall core sector growth stood at 7.4 per cent. Mining remained a drag on the index, rising only 3.4 per cent, the same as in the corresponding period last year. — MNA/Xinhua

**Toyota retains lead in Indonesia**

**JAKARTA, 14 June—** Japanese car-maker Toyota Motor Corp remains at the top of Indonesia’s growing auto market this year despite a relatively small gain compared with the main rivals, local Press said Wednesday.

Toyota sales rose 4.9 per cent to 55,775 units in five months ending May from 53,159 in the same period of last year.

Indonesia’s biggest truck seller Mitsubishi trailed second with 21,869 units with a mighty 28.9-per-cent surge from last year’s 17,682 units to surpass Honda — which reported an 16.9-per-cent rise to 15,700 units in fourth.

Daitsu sales soared 96.8 per cent to 20,818 units from last year’s 10,579 units to surpass Honda — which reported a 16.9-per-cent rise to 15,700 units in fourth. Isuzu, at sixth, was the only Japanese producer that suffered a loss of 2.4 per cent to 15,000 units from 15,310 units.

Suzuki closely followed at third with 21,746 units with a surprise 47.4-per-cent rise from 14,735 units in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Nissan was the biggest gainer with a 224.9-per-cent surge from 1,301 units to 4,227 units, running through the ranks from ninth last year to seventh.

**Customs Union of East Africa boosts Uganda, Kenya trade**

**KAMPALA, 14 June —** The establishment of the East African Customs Union has led to rapid increase in trade between Uganda and Kenya, Ugandan First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for East African Affairs Eriya Kategaya has said.

Kategaya was quoted by state-owned New Vision on Wednesday saying that Ugandan imports from Kenya increased from 67 million US dollars in 2004 to 78 million dollars last year and goods worth 423 million dollars were exported to Kenya last year, compared to 348 million dollars in 2004.

The figures excluded informal trade such as smuggling, Kategaya clarified.

Opening a meeting for the East African Community (EAC) defence ministers at Hotel Africana in Kampala on Tuesday, Kategaya said, “All indicators show increased volumes of trade within and amongst the partner states.” With the (formal) admission of Rwanda and Burundi effective on 18 June, 2007, the EAC will become a bigger economy with a combined GDP of over 43 billion dollars and a total population of about 120 million, said Kategaya.

Kategaya noted that when the two countries join the bloc, the EAC would become a more attractive investment destination.

According to Kategaya, member-states are scheduled to begin negotiations on the Common Market Protocol later this year. He said work on the monetary union was also underway, adding that the EAC leaders are expected to meet next month to discuss reports on the political fast tracking.

**Archaeologists unearth two human skeletal remains from a tomb dated before the Qin Dynasty (221BC – 206BC) in Fenyang, East China’s Anhui Province, on 12 June, 2007. Nine people who were believed to be buried alive with the dead were excavated along with bronze cooking vessels and chimes. —XINHUA**

**An image of the future tourism plane-rocket made by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company Astrium branch. Getting a closer look at the stars may soon stop being the privilege of a few select billionaires, with the space arm of EADS saying on 13 June, 2007, it plans to have a space tourist plane in operation by 2012. —XINHUA**

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Hamas on offensive as Palestinians battle in Gaza

GAZA, 14 June — Hamas Islamist gunmen pressed on with their Gaza offensive on Wednesday, killing eight fighters loyal to Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas in a Palestinian supremacy struggle escalating steadily into civil war.

“What is happening in Gaza is madness,” Abbas, the Fatah leader, told reporters in the occupied West Bank after meeting a foreign diplomat.

Chanting “stop the killing”, some 1,000 Palestinians marched through Gaza City, only to draw gunfire that killed a 16-year-old demonstrator and wounded four people. It was not immediately clear who shot at them. At least 60 Palestinians have been killed since Saturday in the fiercest internal violence in months between Hamas and Fatah, hospital officials said, with no end in sight after a series of failed Egyptian-brokered truces.

Hamas’s armed wing, which has tightened its hold on the northern Gaza Strip by seizing a major Fatah security base, said it was giving “the seekers of a coup” — a reference to Fatah — in that area until Friday evening to hand over their weapons.

There was no immediate response from Fatah to the statement. The bloodshed has prompted Fatah, which appears to be losing ground to Hamas in Gaza, to say it was suspending participation in the unity government with Hamas without an immediate ceasefire. The government was formed in March under Saudi mediation to try to end infighting and ease Western sanctions.

Abbas’s group stopped short of withdrawing outright, a move that could lead to presidential rule by decree and wade a divide between the occupied West Bank, where Fatah is dominant and factional fighting is rare, and Gaza, the Hamas powerbase. Twelve people were killed in fresh violence. — MNA/Reuters

Astronauts wrap up second spacewalk

WASHINGTON, 14 June— Two astronauts who are members of the Atlantis crew completed the second spacewalk outside the International Space Station on Wednesday, successfully accomplishing their scheduled tasks, according to mission updates released by NASA.

Mission specialists Patrick Forrester and Steve Swanson kicked off their excursion at 2:28 pm EDT (1728 GMT). The first major task of the spacewalk was to assist with the retraction of the starboard array on the Port 6 truss. The crew retracted half of the array bays and will send commands on Thursday to retract the remaining bays.

The orbital duo then continued to activate the newly installed truss segment. They prepared the Solar Alpha Rotary Joint (SARJ) on the new truss for operation by removing the remaining launch restraints. The SARJ will allow the arrays to track the sun.

They returned into the Quest airlock at 9:44 pm EDT, according to the Mission Control Centre located in the Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

Back on the ground, NASA managers on Wednesday decided to repair the thermal blanket gap on the third spacewalk, scheduled for Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

Three killed by lightning in east India

NEW DELHI, 14 June— At least three people were killed when lightning struck them in a market in East Indian city of Kolkata even as heavy pre-monsoon showers flooded most parts of the city, disrupting bus and train services, Indi-Asian News Service (IANS) reported here Wednesday.

Heavy rains lashing Bengal in East India since Wednesday morning have crippled normal life in Kolkata with railway tracks submerged and roads under knee-deep waters in most areas.

“Water logging is there but our pumps are working to drain out the water. We are trying our best to pump out the water,” IANS quoted Kolkata Mayor Bikash Bhattacharya as saying. Most schools and colleges remained closed for the day.

Water gates of the Three Gorges dam in Yichang, Central China’s Hubei Province, open to flush away silt and sand on the riverbed on 13 June, 2007, prior to the rain season. — INTERNET

US returns stolen pre-Columbian artifacts to Peru

MIAMI, 14 June— The United States returned hundreds of other pre-Columbian artifacts to Peru on Wednesday after they were seized in a Florida smuggling investigation.

Among the 412 historic treasures were a clay vessel believed to be 3,500 years old and a statue thought to be 1,800 years old, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. The seizure, made during an investigation in south Florida two years ago, is believed to be one of the largest of pre-Columbian artifacts smuggled into the United States from Peru. “These artifacts are not souvenirs,” Julie Myers, an assistant secretary for Homeland Security, said in a written statement. “The items being returned today are a thread of a nation rich in cultural heritage.”

A 66-year-old Italian national, Ugo Bagnato, was arrested and charged in connection with the seizure, US officials said. He pleaded guilty to the sale and receipt of stolen goods and served 17 months in a federal prison.

A man holds hailstones that fell from a storm in Yili, Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 14 June, 2007. The hailstorm greatly damaged crops in this region. — Xinhua

Air crash kills two Georgian military pilots

TBILISI, 14 June— A Georgian Air Force instructor and a cadet died on Wednesday when their plane crashed during a training flight outside the capital, Imedi TV channel reported. Imedi ran images of the wrecked light, single-engine plane, saying that an engine failure could have caused the accident near the Natakhtari airfield, some 25 kilometres (16 miles) west of Tbilisi. Officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Eleven dead in road collision in east China

HENG, 14 June— Eleven people are dead and five are injured after a collision between a bus and a truck in east China’s Anhui Province, local authorities said on Wednesday. The collision occurred at about 2:20 pm on Tuesday on a highway in Zhonghan Township, Juchao District, Chaohu City, a spokesman with the Chaohu municipal government said.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Billboards hailing Myanmar Women’s Day set up

YANGON, 15 June — Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day, which falls on 3rd July 2007, a ceremony to set up billboard was organized in front of Yangon City Development Committee Hall in Kyauktada Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. Head of Administration Department of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai cut the ribbon to open the billboard.

Later, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay unveiled the billboard. Likewise, a billboard was erected near U Haung Bor roundabout in Bahan Township. In addition, billboards were set up at Sanyang Township 8th-mile Junction in Mayangon Township, Yangon International Airport Junction in Mingaladon Township, Nawade Junction in North Okkalapa Township and in front of Tamway Township Development Affairs Committee Office.

MNA

One killed, two wounded in mine blasts in Shwegyin, Kyaukkyi Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — The insurgents are committing destructive acts through various ways with the intention of disrupting stability of the nation and community peace and tranquillity and killing the innocent people and making them panic.

Min Kyaw Htay, 20, son of U Aung Tin of Maheeley Village of Shwegyin Township, together with Maung Yi, went to the forest at 5 pm on 6 June to pick up djenkol bean. On his way, Min Kyaw Htay stepped on a mine planted by insurgents, and the blast blew off his right leg. Although officials rushed Min Kyaw Htay to Shwegyin Township Hospital, he died at Inni Village on the way to the hospital.

At 7.30 am on 9 June, U Hla Aung, 50, son of U Maung Ko of MyaungU Village of Kyaukkyi Township together U Dae Wah and U Tha Li Kar went to the forest to pick out vegetables. On their way to Mone Creek, U Hla Aung lost his left ankle in stepping on a mine planted by insurgents, suffering injury at right thigh. U Dae Wah was also wounded at his right eye.

Officials rushed U Hla Aung and U Dae Wah to Mone Station Hospital and are providing health care services and necessary assistance to the patients.

Authorities and local people are exposing the insurgents. — MNA

Some areas of Pyigyidagun, Amarapura townships flooded

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — Due to torrential rains, Pyigyidagun and Amarapura townships were inundated on 13 June.

In Pyigyidagun Township, some wards were flooded in the rain. Local authorities and members of social organization accommodated flood victims from the inundated wards at Dhammayons and health centres and necessary assistance was provided to them. In some villages of Amarapura Township, some summer paddy plantations were flooded. Hence, township officials are supervising tasks for prevention against the flood. — MNA

Final year students of DSINPS visit MMCWA

YANGON, 15 June — A 58-trainee group of the final year of No 5 Nursing and Paramedical Science course, Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science led by five instructors visited Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association yesterday.

MMCWA CEC member Dr Daw Khin Mya Win explained the set-up and activities of the association and the executive director clarified the relation of the tasks of the association to the UN millennium goals.

Next, trainees observed diagnostic clinic and preprimary schools in the compound of the association. — MNA

Contestants taking part in AIDS quiz at studio-c of Myanmar Radio and Television on 4 June.— RM

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2007

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2007

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2007
A true politician that’s me

Yebaw Tin Shwe

“Grandpa, you have become a defector, haven’t you?”

My middle-age granddaughter Khin Wah Wah Shwe said so when she met me on her visit to my home.

She made a comment on me because she had read my articles featured in the newspapers and heard about the press conference held at my house on 26 May 2007.

What she said to me was music to my ears because her comment gave me an opportunity to express my feelings of why I had to enter into the politics again.

“I don’t think you are right. I am not an opportunist.

“I don’t want to explain short and to the point, but very thoroughly. So, you have to be patient with my long explanation.”

“Yes, Grandpa, I would love to.”

“That’s so, my dear. Supposing I am a member of an organization and I defect from the organization to another one, then you can accuse me of being an opportunist defector.

“But, I have never joined any organization since 1990 election. And I did not get involved in the activities of the group of my fellow experienced politicians, either, because I disliked their objective of supporting the NLD (National League for Democracy), let alone joining the NLD. So, I remained an observer.”

“Oh, why, Grandpa?”

“I took some time to keep a watchful eye on the situation to find out how much the activities of the NLD and the politicians supporting the NLD contributed towards the democratic transition and which group worked harder in the process.

“Don’t forget I am a politician. Since I was 16, I have entered into politics, engaging in the anti-colonialist struggles. In the Japanese Fascist period, I passed through the hell of Japanese Kempeitai once for my getting involved in the anti-Fascist movement. Again I was jailed in Pakokku prison under the unlawful associations act in the British colonialist period. Moreover, I had to serve a term of more than one year under Section (5) at Pakokku prison in the time of AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League) government. In the time of the Caretaker Government in 1958, the authorities came to my house to arrest me. But fortunately, I was away from home at that time. So, I had to live as an outlaw till the Pa-Hta-Sa government came to power. That was beside the point. What I am explaining to you is intended just to win your trust in the fact that I am a true politician.”

“Go on, please, Grandpa, I am all ears.”

“I assume that a politician must give priority to the public interest in the face of a situation to decide to give priority either to the public interest or to his own. And he has to give priority to the national interest when the need arises to choose national interest or public interest. That is the code of politics every politician has to observe.

“And a political principle is that there is no permanent friend or permanent foe in politics. Combine into a group for common objectives and work separately or in different groups for different objectives. This method is practised by politicians.

“Here I will explain why I am in support of successful completion of the National Convention the Tatmadaw government is convening. I am in favour of accomplishment of the National Convention because I have to observe the principle “A politician must give priority to the public interest in the face of a situation to decide to give priority either to the public interest or to his own”.

“I made a sharp decision because it was more proper to support the side taking responsibilities for emergence of a new nation in the interests of the people than doing nothing about politics fearing in case some dishonest persons might accuse me of defection to tarnish my political image.”

“During the seventeen-year period, how much success did the NLD and so-called politicians supporting the NLD achieve in their drive for transition to democracy?”

“I am sure you know that. They are just empty boastlers. They are shouting loudly, but are incapable of making any progress in their work. They achieved no success, let alone making contribution towards the democratic transition.”

“Right, I notice that the activities of local politicians and expatriates talking big do not work at all.”

“Of course! Expatriates are indeed the ones staying abroad, receiving what the neo-colonialists provide them, leading an easy life and shouting loudly. Frankly saying, they are making use of their position for personal gains.”

“Regarding democratic process in our nation, apparently the people cannot rely on so-called politicians, political parties and politicians.”

(See page 9)

“NLD leader Daw Suu Kyi once said that only the State constitution she would draw had to be used, and a democratic nation could be built only if she took a leadership role. And she accepted none of the work the Tatmadaw would do in that regard. It meant she violated the principle — a genuine politician must give priority to the public interest in the face of a situation to decide to give priority either to the public interest or to his or her own.”
“Expatriates are indeed the ones staying abroad, receiving what the neo-colonialists provide them, leading an easy life and shouting loudly. Frankly saying, they are making use of their position for personal gains.”

“Regarding democratic process in our nation, apparently the people cannot rely on so-called politicians, political parties and politicians.”

“You said a politician must give priority to the public interest in the face of a situation to decide to give priority either to the public interest or to his own. You used to be a politician at that time you gave priority to the public interest.”

“During the seventeen-year period, how much success did the NLD and so-called politicians supporting the NLD achieve in their drive for transition to democracy?”

“I am sure you know that. They are just empty boasters. They are shouting loudly, but are incapable of making any progress in their work. They achieved no success, let alone making contribution towards the democratic transition.”

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“Right, I notice that the activities of local politicians and expatriates talking big do not work at all.”
MMCWA provides stationery, cash for monastic education school in Thanlyin


Treasurer of MMCWA Daw Khin Than Win and CEC members Daw Khin Nwe Nwe and Dr Daw Khin Mya Win handed over stationery and K 100,000 donated by MMCWA to Nun Daw Khemacari.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the monastic education school at Shwegyin Monastery in Thanlyin Township and also donated stationery and cash to the school.

The presiding Sayadaw of the monastery accepted the donation. MNA

Complaints invited so that service personnel cannot commit any misbehaviors and misconduct over people

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—The government is in perpetual service of the nation and the people. In addition, respective superiors give directives to their subordinates to enable government employees to discharge their duties and the ministries serve the interests of the people sector-wise in a proper way.

The government has invited the people to make complaints so that service personnel cannot commit any misbehaviors and misconduct over the people and those with grievances can make complaints in a fair and proper way. Enquiry is set up into the cases of complaints and punitive action is taken against the offenders if the complaint is found correct.

Action was taken against a forester and a timber extraction supervisor of the Ministry of Forestry for taking bribes in Amarapura, Mandalay Division, on 1 June. They are demoted during the trial period.

Coord meeting held to host HAPUA-XXIII Meeting, 6th HAPUA Working Committee Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address at the coordination meeting to host the HAPUA-XXIII Meeting and the 6th HAPUA Working Committee Meeting, here, on 13 June morning.

Also present at the coordination meeting were Director-General Dr Tin Tun of Electric Power Department, Police Brig-Gen Soe Win Myint of the office of Director-General of Myanmar Police Force, Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department, Director-General U Than Myint of the Ministry of Mines, Director Dr Tun Naing of Electric Power Department and officials.

After an address by the minister, departmental officials took part in the discussions.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister. —MNA

Gold Umbrella consecrated

YANGON, 14 June — The consecration of the Gold Umbrella that will be hoisted atop a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda on Barasaki hill in Bidan, Indonesia was held at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall in the precinct of the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Paññinda Bhivamsa preached a sermon to the congregation.

After that, the umbrella was handed over to a responsible person of Indonesia. In cash donation for the umbrella, U Win Pe-Daw Khin Hay Kyi (Myintta Centre) donated K 1 million to a responsible person.

The congregation offered provisions to the members of Sangha and shared merits gained.

Anyone can pay homage to the Gold Umbrella at the Shwedagon Pagoda and donate cash to the funds of the umbrella. —MNA

Construction of Leinle bridge inspected

YANGON, 14 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Hun and officials of Public Works inspected construction of Leinle bridge on Pyinmana-Pinlaung road in Pinlaung Township yesterday.

The minister heard reports on progress of work by project engineer U Tin Oo. The minister called upon the officials to expedite work for completion of the bridge and attended to the needs.

Leinle Bridge will be a suspension one with reinforced concrete floor. The total length of the bridge is 1760 feet and the width of motorway is 28 feet flanked by three-foot footpaths. It will withstand 75 tons load. It is under construction. —MNA

Premier Coffee Co Ltd awards prizes to winners

YANGON, 15 June — A prize presentation ceremony for 2007 English Premier League football matches of Premier Coffee Co Ltd was held at M3 Food Centre this morning, attended by Director U Hun Kyaw, managers and staff of the company, sales representatives and lucky draw winners in Yangon.

Firstly, Marketing Manager U Hay Kyaw extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Sales Manager U Aye Kyaw and vocalist Ye Lay presented prizes to the winners.

Later, a winner spoke words of thanks. Those winners from other towns can draw cash awards from company’s office (branch) and sales representatives. —MNA

Do drugs control YOUR LIFE?

Your life, Your community.

No place for drugs.

Marketing Manager U Hay Kyaw speaking at lucky draw programme of Premier Coffee Co Ltd. —MNA
FBI finds abuse in getting terrorism, spy records

WASHINGTON, 15 June — The FBI possibly violated the law or its rules more than 1,000 times since 2002 in collecting data about phone calls, e-mails and financial records while investigating terrorism or espionage suspects, FBI officials said on Thursday.

The potential violations found by an FBI audit were far greater than the approximately two dozen previously documented violations in a US Justice Department report released in March that was based on a much smaller sampling, they said.

The vast majority of newly discovered violations were instances in which companies, such as telephone and Internet providers, gave more information than the FBI sought, the officials said.

They said the FBI has drafted new guidelines in an effort to prevent future abuses, but civil liberties groups and Democrats in Congress expressed doubt that they would be sufficient to protect the privacy of Americans.

MNA/Reuters

Kurt Waldheim passes away

VIENNA, 15 June — Kurt Waldheim, former United Nations secretary-general and Austrian president, died on Thursday aged 88 after a short but severe illness, the Austrian presidency and a family spokesman said.

Austria’s APA news agency said Waldheim had died of heart failure, citing Waldheim’s son-in-law.

Waldheim was tainted by revelations that he hid his past in Nazi Germany’s officer corps. He admitted concealing his service with Hitler’s Wehrmacht in the Balkans but always denied knowing of Nazi war crimes committed there at the time, including deportations of thousands of Greek Jews.

Most Austrians did not believe Waldheim was linked to Nazi atrocities.

In fact, the accusations boosted his poll ratings as president. But they also made him persona non grata in many countries and he made almost no state visits during his tenure.— MNA/Reuters

Abbas declares state of emergency, dissolves unity gov't

GAZA, 15 June — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday issued a presidential decree, dissolved the Hamas-Fatah coalition government and declared a state of emergency in West Bank and Gaza Strip, because of the deadly fighting between his Fatah Party and rival Hamas.

The decree was read by Tayeb Abdel Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian presidency, in a news conference held in West Bank city of Ramallah.

According to the decree, Prime Minister Ismail Haneya of Hamas is fired. Abbas is to install an emergency government in the place of the dissolved unity government and name an independent prime minister.

Abbas’ statement also indicated that he could call for early elections once the situation in the Palestinian territories stabilizes.— MNA/Xinhua

Pop singer Britney Spears, is shown accompanied by her sister, Jamie Lynn Spears, centre, and mother Lynne Spears, right, on 7 July, 2000, at Chicago’s Shriners Hospital for Children. Spears says in an interview, that her daughter Britney, whose public meltdown included shearing off her own locks, is ‘just figuring things out.’ —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
China holds business seminar in Tanzania

Dar-es-Salaam, 14 June—Some 900 people on Tuesday attended a large-scale business seminar held in Dar-es-Salaam by the government of China’s Guangdong Province. It was the largest single business seminar ever held in the country by a foreign state, according to officials from the Tanzania Board of External Trade which co-organized the event.

Over 400 Guangdong business people representing 192 Guangdong enterprises were present at the seminar for investment and cooperation consultations and negotiations.

Thirteen contracts were signed within the frame-work of the one-day seminar, with a total signed contracting amount of 71.41 million US dollars in such cooperation fields of exports-imports of light industrial products, building material, raw material of contractual projects and tourism.

Business people from other African countries also attended the seminar and signed contracts with their Guangdong counterparts. Tanzanian Vice-President Ali Mohamed Shein told the seminar that his country has been improving its investment environment and investors will get fair and favourable treatment in Tanzania. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese film awarded gold prize of Environment Film Festival

Cairo, 14 June—A Chinese film has been awarded a gold prize in the first Nile International Film Festival for Environment Films in Cairo, Egypt’s newspaper Al-Albom reported on Tuesday.

The Chinese film “Brother Tree”, a story about a teenager in northern China who tries his best to protect and take care of a tree planted by his late elder brother, got the gold award of “Hebat El Nile” for long feature films, said the report.

The gold prize for long documentary films went to the Kuwaiti film “Last Brother”, got the gold award for socially excluded groups like lower castes, ethnic minorities and poor countries. —MNA/Reuters

World seen missing goal of halving maternal deaths

Geneva, 14 June—A United Nations target to halve maternal mortality will be missed unless more women in poor countries get access to safe blood transfusions, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Thursday.

In a statement marking World Blood Donor Day, the UN agency called for more blood donations, better tests of donated blood, and close monitoring of severe bleeding risks during and after childbirth to save women’s lives in the developing world.

Without closer attention to blood transfusion needs, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said it would be impossible to reduce maternal deaths by half by 2015, as pledged by the United Nations in 2000.

“If current trends continue, the world will fail to meet target 5 of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce maternal mortality,” Chan said.

“We must do everything we can to improve the chances of women during and after childbirth.”

Some 99 per cent of the 500,000 women who die in pregnancy, childbirth or immediately after birth each year are in the developing world, the agency said. Severe bleeding, which accounts for a quarter of such deaths, is often unpredictable and can kill even a healthy woman in two hours if untreated.

“Timely, appropriate and safe blood transfusion during and after labour and delivery can make the difference between life and death for many women and their newborns,” the WHO said. Pregnant women, one of the main groups of patients requiring transfusions in poorer countries, are highly vulnerable to blood shortages and infections spread through unsafe transfusions.

As many as 28 per cent of countries cannot test all donated blood for one or more of HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and syphilis, according to a WHO study of 172 nations worldwide. Many developing countries lack the staff, test kits and basic laboratory facilities to screen for such diseases, while even the advanced technology used in richer nations cannot always detect recently-acquired infections. —MNA/Reuters

Britain gives $490m to curb Indian child deaths

New Delhi, 15 June—Britain will give 20 billion rupees (490 million US dollars) in aid to India to help reduce the number of children dying before their fifth birthday, a British statement said on Wednesday.

About 136,000 women and 2.4 million children die every year in India as a result of preventable causes, according to the World Bank.

“India has gained a reputation as a major economic superpower. But we should not forget that one in three Indians survives on less than 50 pence (one dollar) a day,” Britain’s Minister for International Development, Gareth Thomas, said in a statement.

“Only one in four children from India’s poorest families are immunized against killer diseases compared to three in four in the richest.”

The statement said the aid would go to three of India’s 29 states — Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — and would be used to improve healthcare for socially excluded groups like lower castes, ethnic groups and minorities such as Muslims.

The funds would also be used to ensure that when mothers give birth, a doctor or nurse is available to provide medical back-up — giving them and their babies a much better chance of survival, the statement said.

Groups with a high risk of contracting AIDS such as commercial sex workers and injecting drug users would also benefit from expanding education programmes that teach them how to protect themselves.

Gareth Thomas, UK’s aid minister, said on Wednesday that the £2 billion (US$490 million) contribution made by the British government to help India. —MNA/Reuters

Man freed from collapsed building in London

London, 14 June—A man, trapped after the top two floors of an office building under refurbishment collapsed in central London, has been freed and taken to hospital, the emergency services said on Wednesday.

Rescuers released the man trapped in the rubble of the building, close to the Metropolitan Police headquarters, in the early hours after a crane and specialist equipment was brought in.

Mark Bloomfield, of London Fire Brigade, said the operation had been difficult and dangerous.

“The latest state-of-the-art rescue equipment has been used to make safe areas for teams to work in and contact was made with the man at a very early stage,” he said. “A crane was brought in to assist with access to the man and I am pleased to say that he has now been released.”

The man is in hospital where his condition is described as stable. —MNA/Reuters
Scientists in Costa Rica set plasma engine record

SAN JOSE (Costa Rica), 14 June — Scientists in Costa Rica have run a plasma rocket engine continuously for a record of more than four hours, the latest achievement in a mission to cut costs and travel time for spacecraft.

“The first objective is to move small spacecraft in low orbit by 2010,” Ad Astra executive director Ronald Chang-Diaz, the astronaut’s brother, told Reuters. In December, the scientists ran the engine for two minutes but had to turn it off because it was overheating. They have spent much of the past six months designing cooling systems. Scientists believe propulsion engines that run on plasma, a material composed of atoms stripped of electrons and found in high-pressure and temperature environments like stars and lightning bolts, will be faster and cheaper than rockets currently used in space travel. Considered the fourth state of matter because it is neither a solid, liquid or gas, plasma can reach millions of degrees, making it a potentially light but powerful fuel.

It is hoped that the engine, which uses Variable Specific-Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket technology conceived in the 1970s, could eventually cut travel time to Mars by about a third, to around three months.

Scientists warn rare turtle may become extinct in 10 years

HEFEI, 14 June — A species of rare turtle unique to southern mountains of east China’s Anhui Province, which has not been seen by local villagers for five years, may disappear from the wild in 10 years, say scientists.

It is estimated there are only 100 golden-headed box turtles left in the wild, Lu Guobin, a wildlife protection official in Yixian County, quoted scientists from Anhui Normal University as saying. The turtle was discovered as a new species in Anhui in 1988. It was put under provincial protection but missed the chance to be listed under state protection because of its late discovery, Lu said. The turtle lives exclusively in the mountainous counties of Yixian and Jingxian.

Villagers of Hongxing Township, Yixian County, said they have not seen any of the turtles for the past five years.

Experts from the School of Life Science of Anhui Normal University, who have studied the golden-headed box turtle in Yixian County since 2000, want a 3,000-hectare natural reserve in Hongxing township to be built to protect the rare species.

India to appeal to world to keep tiger trade ban

NEW DELHI, 14 June — India will appeal to a UN wildlife forum to retain a ban on trading in tiger parts, despite Chinese lobbying to legalize trade in organs of the endangered big cats, the government said on Tuesday. China has been pressing countries to support lifting the ban, imposed in 1993, and last week said it would allow trade in parts from captive-bred tigers if a review proved it would reduce poaching and help tigers worldwide. The support of neighbouring India — which has the largest number of tigers in the world — is crucial to China. Although India is fighting its own battle to save its dwindling big cat population, New Delhi had remained silent on the issue, raising concerns from conservationists.

A government statement said India’s junior Environment Minister, Namo Narayana Meena, would attend the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in The Hague on Wednesday. The minister will appeal to the international community to support the ban on trade of organs of tigers,” said the statement from the Environment Ministry.

China has about 30 tigers in the wild but has several tiger breeding centres or farms which collectively house about 5,000 tigers. Conservationists say pressure to lift the ban on the Chinese Government is coming from powerful investors in these farms, who stand to make enormous profits if the trade becomes legal.

Over 16,000 pyramid selling suspects arrested in China

BEIJING, 14 June — China arrested more than 16,000 people suspected of involvement in pyramid selling in 2006, according to the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) here Tuesday. The MPS said funds of 663 million yuan (87.3 million US dollars) relating to 1,915 pyramid selling cases — had been frozen. In 2006, China investigated a total of 2,081 pyramid selling cases with over 10 billion yuan involved. MPS officials urged local public security departments to differentiate ringleaders from victims when investigating pyramid selling cases.

In a high-profile case, police last week arrested two women — Liu Liping and Zhao Yuting — involved in Beijing’s largest pyramid selling scheme. The company cheated investors by promising high returns on sales of forest land. It used a pyramid selling model, in which one salesperson recruits other salespeople who then recruit others to do the same, said police. Pyramid selling, though legal in some countries, has been banned in China since 1998. Authorities said such schemes had become synonymous with cheating and fraud.

Water spouts sighted off Singapore’s east coast

SINGAPORE, 14 June — More water spouts were seen off the east coast of Singapore on Tuesday, about a month after the last big one was sighted, local media reported.

Hotline callers to the local television MediaCorp News reported seeing at least three or four around 10:15 am to 10:30 am local time (0215 to 0230 GMT) off the east coast.

Each lasted about five to 15 minutes and the water spouts were followed by heavy storm. The witnesses also said the water spouts were closer to shore and appeared bigger than the last one spotted off the east coast on 25 May.

Health officials in protective suits slaughter poultry suspected of being infected with bird flu in Medan, Indonesia, recently.—INTERNET
Dutch reach Under-21 semifinals

AMSTERDAM, 15 June — The Netherlands became the first side to reach the semifinals of the European Under-21 championship when they beat Portugal 2-1 in their Group A tie in Groningen on Wednesday.

The Dutch took the lead in the 33rd minute through Ryan Babel’s penalty, awarded after goalkeeper Ribeiro had brought down Maceo Rigters.

Portugal upped the pressure in the second half only for Rigters to add a second goal in the 75th minute. Two minutes later Miquel Veloso scored for Portugal from a free kick but the Dutch held on.

Earlier, Belgium overcame Israel 1-0 in another Group A tie in Heerenveen.

Despite being reduced to 10 men after 18 minutes when Marouane Fellaini was sent off for a second yellow card, Belgium defended well and scored the only goal when Kevin Mirallas outran Israeli defender Dekel Keinan to slot home in the 82nd minute.

Belgium have six points from their opening two games, Belgium have four points and Portugal one. Israel prop up the group. — MNA/Reuters

Belgium beat Israel 1-0 to eye Under-21 semifinals

AMSTERDAM, 15 June — Belgium took a step towards the semifinals of the European Under-21 championship when they beat Israel 1-0 in their Group A tie in Heerenveen on Wednesday.

Despite being reduced to 10 men after 18 minutes when Marouane Fellaini was sent off for a second yellow card, Belgium defended well and scored the only goal when Kevin Mirallas outran Israeli defender Dekel Keinan to slot home in the 82nd minute.

Belgium have four points from their opening two games, Belgium have four points and Portugal one. Israel prop up the group. — MNA/Reuters

Pavon shines in Honduras win, Mexico edge Panama

HOUSTON, 15 June — Carlos Pavon struck four goals to lift Honduras to a 5-0 win over Cuba on Wednesday and secure their place in the Gold Cup quarterfinals.

In the late game, Group C rivals Mexico joined the Hondurans in the last eight after Carlos Salcido’s 58th-minute strike was enough to see off Panama, who also advance as one of the best third-placed teams.

Honduras utterly outclassed Cuba with Pavon completing a hat-trick inside the opening 40 minutes.

The burly forward scored with his team’s first attack of the game in the third minute, converting a low cross from Carlos Costly.

Pavon then produced a fine solo goal to double the lead, heading down a long free kick before beating two defenders and nodding past advancing Cuban keeper Odelín Molina.

A header from a corner completed the hat-trick and the striker then added a fourth in the 51st minute with a smart finish before Amado Guevara made it 5-0 with a penalty.

Mexico and Panama struggled to force a breakthrough and after both sides had struck the post, Salcido slid in at the back post to slot home a flicked-on corner and ensure victory for Hugo Sanchez’ side.

Mexico piled on the pressure in the latter stages but were foiled by an inspired display from Mexico keeper Oswaldo Sanchez. — MNA/Reuters

Roddick struggles on way to Queen’s quarterfinals

LONDON, 15 June — Three-times former champion Andy Roddick had a bumpy ride into the quarterfinals at Queen’s on Thursday, pushed at all the way on his favoured grass surface by British wildcard Alex Bogdanovic. The world number five looked the lesser player for much of the contest that he eventually won 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

“I was lucky to get out of it today,” he said.

Bogdanovic, ranked 117 in the world, rattled Roddick by finding the lines on both sides of the court and wrong-footing the American with a powerful backhand. Roddick was clearly exasperated at his own game, shaking his head, hands on hips between points after sending groundstrokes long or wide.

Bogdanovic broke the famous Roddick serve in the third game and hung on to his lead to take the first set with two big serves of his own.

The pair looked evenly matched throughout the second set with Bogdanovic, 23, saving a set point in the 10th game.

He took the 24-year-old American to the brink in the tiebreak, finally succumbing 7-5 to a Roddick forehand on the line and big serve that he could only return long.

Second-seeded Roddick expected to feel more in command on grass after his humiliating first-round exit at the French Open on clay earlier this month, but it was not until the seventh game of the third set that he broke the British number three’s serve. — MNA/Reuters

Shanghai clinch China’s first East Asian title

BEIJING, 15 June — Shanghai Shenhua became the first Chinese club to win the East Asian Champions Cup by beating Japanese champions Urawa Reds 3-1 in their final-round robin match in Jinan.

First-half goals from player of the tournament Li Gang, former Colombia striker Hamilton Ricard and defender Chang Lin helped the Shanghai clinch the title on goal difference.

Hosts Shandong Luneng took the toppling standings going into the final round of matches but lost 2-1 to South Korean champions Seongnam Chunma on Wednesday.

Shanghai, runners-up in China last season, were invited to make up the numbers for the fifth edition of the annual event for the club champions of China, Japan and South Korea. — MNA/Reuters

Davydenko upset by Mayer in Halle

HALLE, (Germany), 15 June — Russian second seed Nikolay Davydenko fell to Germany’s Florian Mayer 6-4, 6-4 in the second round of the Halle Open on Thursday.

On a bad day for Russians at the grasscourt tournament, sixth seed Mikhail Youzhny was forced to pull out with a back injury 24 hours before his scheduled quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych.

Berdych, the fourth seed from the Czech Republic, goes straight through to the semifinals.

Jarkko Nieminen of Finland and eighth seed Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus joined Mayer in the quarter-finals by winning close matches on Stadium Court.

Nieminen overcame Andrei Pavel of Romania 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, while Baghdatis, a semifinalist at Wimbledon last year, recovered to beat Sweden’s Robin Soderling 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

After losing the first set, Baghdatis, seeded eighth, quickly went a break down in the second and it needed a great comeback to see him through to the last eight.

“I tried to play like a goalkeeper -- just choosing one corner to go for -- and it worked out,” he said.

Davydenko’s defeat by Mayer was no real surprise given how much the Russian has struggled on grass over the years. — MNA/Reuters

Nick Dougherty of England waves to the gallery after sinking a birdie putt on the 13th hole during first round play at the 2007 U.S. Open Championship golf tournament at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, on 14 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Germany’s Benjamin Becker returns to France’s Marc Gicquel during his round 16 match of the ATP International Series tennis tournament in Halle, western Germany, on Thursday, 14 June, 2007. — INTERNET

First-half goals from player of the tournament Li Gang, former Colombia striker Hamilton Ricard and defender Chang Lin helped the Shanghai clinch the title on goal difference.

Hosts Shandong Luneng took the toppling standings going into the final round of matches but lost 2-1 to South Korean champions Seongnam Chunma on Wednesday.

Shanghai, runners-up in China last season, were invited to make up the numbers for the fifth edition of the annual event for the club champions of China, Japan and South Korea. — MNA/Reuters
Moon to eclipse Venus on 18 June

MUMBAI, 15 June — The planet Venus will be eclipsed by a thin crescent moon on June 18, Nehru Planetarium director Piyush Pandey has said.

Countries in West Asia and Europe will have a better view of the event, called Occultation of Venus by the moon, while most places in India will see only the disappearance phase of the event when Venus will suddenly vanish behind the bright limb of the moon, he said.

Following the new moon on 15 June, the moon will be just a thin crescent on 18 June and will eclipse Jupiter in the evening hours on that day, he said.

Pandey said Wednesday. Venus is the most brilliant object in the sky after sunset these days and lies in front of stars of the Cancer constellation that does not have any prominently bright stars but contains an open cluster of stars known as the beerock cluster.

By the time the re-appearance takes place on the dark limb, the Moon and Venus will have set below the horizon. In Mumbai, the disappearance phase will begin at 9.37 pm (local time).

But it will be difficult to view the phenomenon as rain clouds may play spoilsport, he said.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Friday, 15 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Megway Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan, Chin States and lower Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy fall in Rakine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.67) inch, Gwa (3.07) inches, Ye (2.80) inches, Hpa-an (2.60) inches, Thanlon (2.13) inches, Maungtaw (2.09) inches, Hmaesaw (2.01) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.57) inches, Katha, Pyinnma and Kyauktaw (1.45) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 14-6-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 15-6-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-6-2007 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 14-6-2007 was (5.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-6-2007 was (1.57) inches at Mingaladon, (1.30) inches at Kaba Aye, (1.34) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (9.29) inches at Mingaladon, (4.03) inches at Kaba Aye and (41.46) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 14-6-2007.

Bereaved family

Mrs Rosalind Manuel Nee Nathan
Age 78 years

Mrs Rosalind Manuel, beloved daughter of Mr and Mrs A.S. Nathan (deceased), sister of Lily (deceased), Susan (deceased), Esther and L.B. Nathan, aunt of Rev. Fr. Edwin David and nephews and nieces passed away peacefully at her residence No.335, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Room No.(10) Yangon, on 15 June, 2007 at 6:15 AM.

The funeral service was held at St Mary’s Cathedral No.372, Bo Aung Kyaw St, at 3:00 PM, the same day and thence to the Yay Way Christan cemetery for entombment.

Relatives and friends, please accept this as the only intimation.

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**Membership applications presented, cash donated, educative talks held**

YANGON, 15 June — As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3rd July 2007, the Discipline Enforcement Department and the Legal Affairs Studies and Counseling Working Group of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation jointly organized the presentation of membership applications, the cash donation and the talks on legal affairs at the Head Office of Myanma Five Star Line on Theinbyu Street, here, this afternoon.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay of MWAF gave talks on facts about the federation. Deputy Head of Administration Department Director Daw Kyn San of Attorney-General’s Office gave lectures on legal rights of women and Deputy Leader of Legal Affairs Studies and Counseling Working Group Law Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe on the law for the children.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted membership applications of families of the Ministry of Transport and K 500,000 handed over by Head of the Discipline Enforcement Department Daw Mya Theingi, wife of the Minister for Transport, and presented a certificate of honour to her. Also present on the occasion were responsible persons of the MWAF, departmental heads and staff of the Ministry of Transport. — MNA

**Crochet Training Course ends**

YANGON, 15 June — The Crochet Training Course, organized by Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, concluded at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Latha Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai gave a speech and accepted 1,000 membership applications from Latha Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Kyi Kyi Lwin. Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presented certificates to trainees and gift to the instructors.

The Chairperson also accepted K 50,000 for the training course donated by Highway Manage-ment Co and K 250,000 by wellwishers of Latha Township. After the ceremony, the chairperson and party viewed the crochet works of the trainees. Altogether 25 female trainees attended the training course that lasted one and a half months. — MNA

**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

**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

**There have been personal attacks, dissension, sectarianism among NLD members**

YANGON, 15 June—Ten members of the Wakema Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division including Ma Aye, Ma Su Su, Ma Khaing Lay, Ma Khin Nyo Than and Ma Khin Than Oo on 7 June, and 21 member of the Mawlamyinegyun Township NLD including U Ko Ko Gyi, U Hla Thein, U Phadi Tha, U Mya Soe and U Aung Thein Ngwe and Einme Township NLD member U Tun Aung Kyaw of Kyakhakway Village on 8 June resigned from the party of their own volition, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters sent to Wakema and Mawlamyinegyun Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Subcommissions, they said that they resigned from the party of their own volition as the political stand of the NLD has deviated from its way of belief and there have been personal attacks, dissension and sectarianism among the NLD members. — MNA

**Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai views crochet works course of trainees. — MNA**