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

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

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

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

Construction of Dagon Bridge in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township inspected

YANGON, 16 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of Public Works inspected construction of Dagon Bridge in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this afternoon.

The minister pressed the button of concrete pump truck to start laying of concrete on the bridge floor and looked into progress of work.

The reinforced concrete bridge is 4,540 feet long and 72 feet wide. It has six lanes and two walkways on both sides and it can withstand 75 tons of load. The minister and party also inspected construction of a road linking Dagon Bridge and Thilawa Industrial Zone. — MNA

You should bear in mind that people have to wait some time to enjoy the fruits born out of their labour. It takes at least four or five years to build a hydropower plant. Isn’t it possible that a newspaper is live with electric current when people have an easy access to e-books, e-newspapers and digital newspapers? I would say you should have a positive attitude towards it.

Ba Toe (Taunggya Kaladet)

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

To dollar earners

Pages 8+9
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 18 June, 2007

Myanmar to continue fight against human trafficking

The sixth annual “Trafficking in Persons Report” issued by the US Department of State this month is a compendium of situations in selected countries.

Although the aim of the US is to eradicate trafficking in persons internationally, the report lacks objectivity and does not reflect Myanmar’s concerted efforts against human trafficking.

Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding on prevention of trafficking in persons in Asian region in December 2003, the UN Convention on fighting against transnational crimes in 2004 and trafficking in persons and smuggling in persons transnational crimes in 2004 and trafficking in persons internationally, the report lacks objectivity and does not reflect Myanmar’s concerted efforts against human trafficking.

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The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was enacted in September 2005 in Myanmar and action is being taken against the traffickers in accord with the law. Pamphlets and publications of articles and news stories are published and television and radio plays on trafficking are on air.

The government has been tackling the menace of the trafficking in persons as a national duty and in cooperation with UN agencies, international organizations, local NGOs and all concerned stake holders and significant results have been achieved.

The government will continue to make endeavours for the better future of the people and national development. Despite turning a blind eye to the government’s achievements and the response to its persistent efforts with negative views, Myanmar government is determined to carry on the fight against human trafficking.

Cash donated for Dhammayon construction

YANGON, 17 June—Under the aegis of President Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandasara of Aungthukha Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery in Payagon No 4 Ward in Thanlyin, Aungthukha Dhammayon is under construction. A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for construction of the Dhammayon was held at the monastery this afternoon. To mark the 85th birthday of U Hton Goldsmith, sons U Kyaw Win and U Kyaw Myint (U Hton Goldsmith & Gold Shop) donated K 2 million to the fund of the Dhammayon.

Wellwisher U Hton Goldsmith also donated K 100,000 each to Shwegondaing Nursery, Jivitadana Sangha Hospital, Tiger Parahita School, Kyimyindine School for the Blind, Mary Chapman’s school for the deaf and dumb, the Little Sisters for the Poor and the Mental Health Care Hospital. —MNA

New syllabus of ACCA clarified

YANGON, 17 June—Talks on new syllabus to be applied for the examinations organized by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) based in Britain was held this afternoon at Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered an opening address. Head of Division Traditional Medicine Department U Kyaw Swe reported on the purpose of opening the course.

Daw Wai Wai Khaing, wife of the commander, presented K 50,000 as stipends to Ma Than Than Nu, who was permitted to attend the 18-month midwifery course.

Police Col Myint Wai handed over K 370,000 as cash assistance presented by Sagaing Division PDC to female trainees.

A total of 88 trainees — 70 from 37 townships of Sagaing Division and 18 from the North-West command headquarters — attended the five-day course.

Later, the commander viewed lecture halls of the Nurse Training School and attended to the needs.

MNA

Managing Director Dr Tin Latt clarifies new syllabus of ACCA.

MNA

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Basic traditional medicine course for housewives opens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — A ceremony to open the basic traditional medicine course for housewives, organized by Sagaing Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was held at Nurses Training School in Monywa on 10 June morning.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered an opening address. Head of Division Traditional Medicine Department U Kyaw Swe reported on the purpose of opening the course.

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MNA
US: 60 pct of Baghdad not controlled

BAGHDAD, 16 June — Security forces in Baghdad have full control in only 40 percent of the city five months into the pacification campaign, a top American general said Saturday as US troops began an offensive against two al-Qaida strongholds on the capital’s southern outskirts.

The military, meanwhile, reported that para-troopers had found the ID cards of two missing US soldiers at an al-Qaida safe house 75 miles north of where they were captured last month, but there was no sign of the men. The house contained computers, video equipment and weapons.

Lt Gen Raymond Odierno said American troops launched the offensive in Baghdad’s Arab Jabour and Salman Pac neighbourhoods Friday night. It was the first time in three years that US soldiers entered those areas, where al-Qaida militants build car bombs and launch Katyusha rockets at American bases and Shiite Muslim neighbourhoods.

The overall commander in Iraq, Gen David Petraeus, said during a news conference with visiting Defence Secretary Robert Gates that the operation would put troops into key al-Qaida-held areas surrounding Baghdad.

RapidPenang recruits 250 bus drivers

PENANG, 16 June — RapidPenang has recruited 250 bus drivers who will begin their training on Monday, said Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

He said RapidPenang, a subsidiary of Rangkaian Pengangkutan Integrasi Deras Sdn Bhd, would provide free bus service on the first two days of its operation beginning 1 August.

“Everything is ready and we will begin the service as promised on 1 August,” he told reporters after visiting the RapidPenang bus depot here today. He said the government hoped the public would use the service as it was convenient and could leave their vehicles behind to reduce traffic congestion.

Nor Mohamed said in developed countries, 50 per cent of the working population took public transport to work as their public transportation system was efficient.

Nor Mohamed said the government was striving to provide a convenient and efficient public transportation system to encourage more people to use the service to go to work. “By providing a convenient bus service, I hope the number of bus commu

ters in the country would increase as only 16 per cent of the people in major towns in the country commute by bus.” — Internet

Melbourne freeway lights go solar

AUSTRALIA, 17 June — In an Australian first, solar panels will soon provide lighting along a stretch of Melbourne’s Tullamarine and Calder freeways.

The 210 panels have been installed on noise walls along 500 metres of the interchange. It is expected the panels will start feeding into the electricity grid within weeks.

Victorian Roads Minister Tim Pallas says the move is a major step forward when it comes to reducing greenhouse gases.

“The panels will be able to generate enough electricity to power three houses and avoid half a million black balloons of greenhouse gases being generated every year,” he said. — Internet

Soldiers of the Kremlin regiment stand in formation as they wear an oath at the World War Two museum on Poklonnaya Hill in Victory Park Moscow, on 16 June, 2007. — Internet

Pureed food ‘isn’t natural for babies’

LONDON, 17 June — Feeding babies on pureed food is unnatural and unnecessary, according to one of Unicef’s leading child care experts, who says they should be fed exclusively with breast milk and formula milk for the first six months, then weaned immediately onto solids.

Gill Rapley, deputy director of Unicef’s Baby Friendly Initiative and a health visitor for 25 years, said spoon-feeding pureed food to children can cause health problems later in life. She blames the multimillion-pound baby food industry for persuading parents that they need to give their babies pureed food.

‘Sound scientific research and government advice now agree that there is no longer any window of a baby’s development in which they need something more than milk and less than solids,’ Rapley said.

The industry in Britain is worth more than £450m, compared with £191m in 1989. More than four out of five of Britain’s one million babies aged between four and 20 months eat and drink baby food worth more than £12bn a year.

Makers of baby food say they are taking Rapley’s study seriously. ‘This is very new research and we need to look at it very carefully,’ said Roger Clarke, director-general of the Infant and Dietetic Foods Associations, a group representing such manufacturers as Heinz, Nestle, Boots and Nutricia. — Internet

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The city of Dalian in Northeast China’s Liaoning Province is seen covered by heavy fog on 15 June, 2007. The fog has considerably reduced visibility and prompted the local government to issue a warning signal. — Internet

Australian actress Sharon Stone walks on the red carpet in Shanghai Grand Theater on Saturday night, on 16 June, 2007, before the opening ceremony of the 10th Shanghai International Film Festival. — Internet
**Putin, Peres discuss tensions in Palestine**

**MOSCOW, 16 June —** Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli President-elect Shimon Peres held a phone conversation Friday and discussed the escalating tensions in Palestine.

Putin and Peres “exchanged views on the flare-up of tensions in the Palestinian Territories,” which causes the most serious concern”, Interfax news agency quoted the Kremlin Press service as saying.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday dissolved the Hamas-Fatah coalition government and declared a state of emergency in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip due to the deadly fighting between the two political blocs.

Putin congratulated Peres on his election as President and they agreed to further develop bilateral cooperation.

Peres was elected the ninth President of Israel on Wednesday after winning a vote in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Sardinia train crash kills Briton, two Italians**

**CAGLIARI, 16 June —** Two trains collided on the island of Sardinia on Friday, killing a British tourist and two Italians, police said.

Police identified the British tourist as 28-year-old Elisabeth Ann Beever. Her Canadian boyfriend, identified as Mark Howard Hornby, was hurt in the accident and the 53-year-old driver of one of the trains, while the other driver was badly injured.

The fire brigade said the crash occurred at 7:35 a.m. (0535 GMT) between the towns of Bortigali and Birori, and the 53-year-old driver of one of the trains, while the other driver was badly injured.

The other two dead were a local commuter aged 45 and the 53-year-old driver of one of the trains, while the other driver was badly injured.

The fire brigade said the crash occurred at 7:35 a.m. (0535 GMT) between the towns of Bortigali and Birori, and the 53-year-old driver of one of the trains, while the other driver was badly injured.

**Experimental jet tested at 10 times speed of sound**

**CANBERRA, 16 June —** An experimental jet engine has been successfully tested at speeds of up to 11,000 kilometres (6,850 miles) per hour, or 10 times the speed of sound, during trials in Australia’s outback, defence scientists said on Friday.

**China warns US not to exert pressure on trade problem**

**BEIJING, 16 June —** China on Thursday urged the Congress of the United States not to press it to resolve trade-related problems.

“We hope US senators would not politicize economic and trade issues, and not resolve the issues by exerting pressure,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said at a regular Press conference.

Qin made the remarks in response to a bill introduced on Wednesday by four US senators that aims to press China to let the RMB rise more quickly.

“The two sides should resolve trade problems in the principle of equal consultation,” he added.

Qin also hoped the US Congress would view the importance of the healthy and stable development of China-US relations from a strategic height, and properly handle trade frictions.

China has adopted a managed floating RMB exchange rate, the spokesman said, and China has already begun reforms of the RMB exchange regime, and the reform is ongoing.

“The reform of Renminbi exchange rate aims at reflecting the market demand and supply in a better way, and we hope the US would realize this point with an objective view,” Qin said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Argentina starts voluntary civilian disarmament campaign**

**BUENOS AIRES, 16 June —** Argentine President Nestor Kirchner on Friday kicked off a disarmament campaign calling on civilians to voluntarily hand over all weapons they have in exchange for money.

In the campaign, or the Voluntary Firearm National Programme, all those who hand in their weapons voluntarily will also be anonymous in either fixed or mobile posts throughout this South American country, Kirchner told reporters.

Kirchner called on civilians to give up their weapons, legal or illegal, to reduce widespread violence since it had become more frequent in Argentina.

Officials will not prosecute people handing over their weapons even if they are illegally holding them, according to the programme.

Those who hand in their weapons will be compensated with a sum of money between 100 and 650 Argentine pesos (some 33 to 145 US dollars) under the Voluntary Firearm National Programme, Kirchner said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Experimental jet tested at 10 times speed of sound**

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The experimental scramjet engine is an air-breathing supersonic combustion engine being developed by Australian and US defence scientists that researchers hope will lead to super-high speed flight. Scientists from Australia’s Defence Science and Technology Organization and the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), used a conventional rocket to launch the scramjet high above the Woomera test site. The engine was then tested as it reached speeds of Mach 10.

Scientists need a rocket to propel the vehicle to high-speed before the engine can take over. They also need to operate in the thin atmosphere far above the altitude of commercial airliners. “All the indications are it was a success, and we have some very happy scientists,” an Australian defence spokesman told Reuters on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

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**Stephanie Florio (C) celebrates winning the WE tv network’s “Bridezillas—Ultimate Cake Eating Contest” in New York’s Times Square on 12 June, 2007. The cable channel gave away a 25,000 US dollars prize to kick off the fourth season of their “Bridezillas” series. — INTERNET**
ECONOMIC NEWS

Chinese State Councillor urges to expand trade with Russia

Beijing, 16 June — Chinese state councillor Tang Jiaxuan on Friday called for more efforts to expand trade and strengthen economic and scientific cooperation with Russia. The two neighbours should expand bilateral trade volume, improve trade structure and enhance economic and technological cooperation, Tang said in a keynote speech at the Russia Business Day held in Harbin, north-east China’s Heilongjiang Province.

In 2006, China became the fourth largest trading partner of Russia, while Russia became the eighth largest trading partner of China, he said. Tang expressed the hope that the two sides would increase dialogue and set up new platforms of cooperation to bring about a more favourable environment for two-way trade and investment. China will take effective measures to expand the cooperation between areas adjacent to Russia’s Far East and Siberia, the state councillor added.

Russia Business Day is part of the five-day 18th China Harbin Economic and Trade Fair that kicked off on Thursday.

Japan, Cambodia sign investment pact

Tokyo, 16 June — Japan and Cambodia on Thursday signed a bilateral investment pact to attract more capital from the world No 2 economy to the Southeast Asian country.

The pact was signed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and visiting Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who started his three-day journey on Wednesday.

According to the pact, Japanese firms will be treated equally with local firms in terms of regulations and taxation, and the Cambodian side will make efforts to build a favourable investment environment.

Japan hopes that the pact will contribute to Cambodia’s strategy to protect and promote direct investment by foreign firms as part of efforts to restore its economy, Kyodo News quoted Japanese officials as saying.

A bilateral joint statement released later in the day reads that “trade and investment are important for sustainable economic growth in Cambodia”.

According to Japanese officials, Japan will dispatch “a business mission composed of representatives from both the government and private sector” to Cambodia next month to discuss opportunities for economic cooperation.

US current account deficit up 2.5% in first quarter

WASHINGTON, 16 June — The US current account deficit hiked 2.5 percent to $192.6 billion in the first quarter of the year, the Commerce Department reported Friday. According to revised figures, The US current account deficit was at $187.9 billion in the final quarter of last year.

The first-quarter gain was more than accounted for by an increase in net unilateral current transfers abroad. In addition, the deficit on goods increased by a small amount. These increases were partly offset by small increases in the surpluses on services and on income.

For the first quarter, the deficit on goods and services decreased slightly to $176.8 billion in the first quarter from $176.9 billion in the previous quarter. The deficit on goods increased by 600 million dollars to 209.9 billion dollars from the previous quarter, while the surplus on services increased to 24.1 billion dollars from a surplus of 23.4 billion dollars in the previous quarter.

The surplus on income was up to 10.4 billion dollars from 9.7 billion dollars in the previous quarter.

Net unilateral transfers, which include foreign aid and pension payments to Americans living overseas, climbed to 26.1 billion dollars in the first quarter from the previous quarter’s 20.7 billion dollars.

Emirates Airline to invest $49m to enhance First Class product

ABU DHABI, 16 June — The Dubai-based Emirates Airline will invest $49 million US dollars to enhance First Class product on the new aircraft in the next 18 months, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Friday.

The carrier’s new product would first be seen on its Boeing 777-300ER ULR (ultra-long range) aircraft to be delivered this month and on 777-200LR aircraft in August, the report said.

Customers’ demand for more personal space has been the key driver in the development and refinement of its product, said the airline president Tim Clark.

The move to enhance its First Class product was part of a programme to reaffirm its “leadership in providing ‘best in the air’ travel experiences” in all three cabin classes, according to the report.

“We are also close to announcing another multi-million-dollar enhancement to our hugely popular ‘ice’ in-flight entertainment system,” Clark said.

The “ice” entertainment will be made available in all cabin classes, allowing passengers to tune in to over 600 channels of entertainment on-demand.

Emirates Airline, the second largest and most profitable Arab carrier, currently has a fleet of 103 aircraft flying to more than 80 cities in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Oceania and North America. The carrier also has a 30-billion-dollar order book for 110 more wide-bodied aircraft, including 51 Boeing 777s and 47 Airbus A380s.

Ellen DeGeneres holds her two awards for outstanding talk show host for her program “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” and for outstanding talk show at the 34th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 15 June, 2007. —INTERNET

Workers install pipes at a gas exploration site in Guang’an, Sichuan Province, on 15 June, 2007. China’s industrial output surged 18.1 percent in May from a year earlier, beating market forecasts and hardening the case for further policy tightening to tamp down the world’s fastest-growing major economy. —INTERNET

Indonesian construction workers put up scaffolding next to a building site on 15 June, 2007, in Jakarta, Indonesia. —INTERNET

Net unilateral transfers, which include foreign aid and pension payments to Americans living overseas, climbed to 26.1 billion dollars in the first quarter from the previous quarter’s 20.7 billion dollars.
“CAN” launches official trade talks with EU

LIMA, 16 June — The Community of Andean Nations (CAN) and the European Union (EU) officially began their talks on a free trade agreement, according to reports reaching here from the southern Bolivian city of Tarija on Thursday.

The decision was announced in a statement after the end of a CAN summit which drew presidents of the bloc’s four member states, namely, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia.

The four countries, who considered the negotiation very important and beneficial to both sides, vowed to overcome their differences and strengthen their unity in the process, said the statement. The talks would take into account the differences of economic development among CAN’s members, said Bolivian President Evo Morales. EU envoy Tomas Dupla, who also attended the summit, welcomed the CAN decision, saying the four Andean countries determination was stronger than their difficulties. “The negotiations between the two regions will be complicated and put our commitment to the test,” he said.

However, CAN reportedly remained split over the scope of the proposed pact. Colombia and Peru wanted an unrestricted deal, while Bolivia and Ecuador favoured some special conditions for their countries.

During the summit, the leaders agreed to boost regional integration in such fields as economy, culture, environment and trade. Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, whose country is a CAN associate member, also attended the meeting, the first time a Chilean leader has taken part since Chile left the group 30 years ago.

Venezuela expects Venezuela’s return to “CAN”

LIMA, 16 June — Colombian President Alvaro Uribe on Thursday urged to do everything possible for Venezuela to return to the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) during the bloc’s 17th summit.

“Venezuela’s return to CAN is important. Let’s seek it,” Uribe said.

Uribe also suggested that CAN’s subregional bloc general secretary Freddy Ehlers, of Ecuador, would talk with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to find out what is necessary for his country to return to CAN.

“We have to find out what CAN norms must be changed for Chavez to return according to his international trade views,” he said.

Chavez “should not feel he must go against his economic and political beliefs”, Uribe said during the closing of the 17th Andean Presidential Council’s Ordinary Meeting (CPA) held on Thursday in Tarija, south of Bolivia.

Congress approves bill to fight terrorism

BUENOS AIRES, 16 June — Argentina’s Congress on Thursday approved a bill to combat financing or conspiring with terrorists with lengthy prison sentences.

The bill, which was approved in a 102-35 vote, was considered by some analysts as a concession to the United States, which has been seeking to beef up laws against terrorism all over the world.

The bill foresees new penalties for illicit association with the intent to commit terrorist acts for any political, ethnic, racial or religious motivations.

It also outlines prison terms for those convicted of possessing military arms, explosives, bacterial agents or chemical weapons.

The bill calls for sentences of 10 years to life in prison for illicit association with terror groups. Those who give funds or material support to such groups may be imprisoned five to 15 years.

President Nestor Kirchner is expected to sign the bill to make it a law before the June 27 meeting of the US-backed International Financial Action Group in Paris that reviews the adoption of tougher anti-terrorism money laundering laws.

The group had warned that Argentina would be declared an “unsafe country” in the Paris meeting if it did not approve the bill.

Kidnapped Brazilian engineer in Iraq confirmed dead

BRASILIA, 16 June — A Brazilian engineer who was kidnapped in Iraq in 2005 while working on a reconstruction project has been confirmed dead, the government said on Thursday.

The remains of Joao Jose Vasconcellos were identified and the body has been sent home, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The ministry said the body had been identified through forensic tests but gave no further details.

“God wanted this way. It’s very painful,” Karla Vasconcellos, Joao Jose’s sister, told the Globo TV network. “It’s very sad but we will endure.”

More than 200 foreigners and thousands of Iraqis have been kidnapped since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. At least 60 foreign hostages have been killed.

The incident hit a nerve in Brazil, where many people were critical of the invasion of Iraq. The Latin American nation had been shocked earlier when Brazilian Sergio Vieira de Mello, the senior UN envoy in Iraq, was killed in a bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003.

People look at floodwaters in the southern Cox’s Bazar district town on 14 June, 2007. Severe monsoon weather which devastated Bangladesh extended its grip over South Asia on Wednesday, killing a dozen people and disrupting transport in eastern India, officials said.

MNA/Reuters

Argentina’s President Nestor Kirchner.

INTERNET
Commander views home-made crops and paddy dryer, physic nut seed miller

YANGON, 14 June — A ceremony to demonstrate the home-made crops and paddy dryer was held in Asugyi Village of Htantabin Township yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Managing Director U Thein Han of Poly Ice Co Ltd reported on the target for cultivation of monsoon paddy.

In his speech, the commander said that Yangon Division has so far put 12,000 acres of land under monsoon paddy against the target of 30,000 acres. After carrying out the harvesting task with the use of combined harvesters, it is necessary to place paddy under shelter as soon as possible.

The commander viewed cultivation of paddy and drying of paddy with the use of Poly Rice brand crops and paddy dryer.

In Industrial Zone-1 of Shwepyitha Town-ship, the commander viewed the showroom of physic nut and eugenia seed miller manufactured by Swan Ah Industry.

Later, the commander instructed officials to strive for development of the industrial zone, keeping the zone clean and pleasant, grow shade and flowery plants and cultivate physic nut. — MNA

Tanjinthayi Division WAO holds extempore talks

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — As a gesture of Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, Tanjinthayi Division Women’s Affairs Organization organized extempore talks at No-1 Basic Education High School in Myeik on 12 June.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Tanjinthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing Zaw Oo, military officers, division/ district/townships PDCs, departmental officials and members of Women’s Affairs Organization.

Chairperson of Tanjinthayi Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Than Htay made an opening address.

After the opening address, the members of Women’s Affairs Organization participated in the extempore talks and the outstanding persons were awarded. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects functions of hospitals in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected medical treatment, construction of extended buildings and public health care services at hospitals in Mandalay Division on 7 and 8 June.

On 7 June, the deputy minister met with District Health Committee members, health staff, social organizations and local people at NyaungU Township Hospital.

On 8 June, the deputy minister inspected NyaungU Hospital, Taungzin Station Hospital, Kyaukpadaung Hospital, Letpannya Station Hospital and Meiktila General Hospital.

In meeting with specialists, nurses, health staff and members of social organizations, the deputy minister gave instructions on combating HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria as national duty, placing emphasis on maternal and child health care, use of fly-proof latrines and supply of clean drinking water.

On his tour, the deputy minister inspected medical stores, patient wards, delivery rooms, intensive care units, X-ray unit and OPDs. — MNA

Commander attends growing of physic nut plants in Mongkhat Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met servicemen and family members of regiments and units at the hall of Mongkhat Station on 7 June afternoon.

The commander instructed them to join hands with departments concerned for undertaking agricultural tasks and regional development tasks, and fulfilled the requirements of the families.

On 8 June morning, the commander viewed thriving physic nut plantation in Mongkhat Station. Afterwards, the commander attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Wampie Village of Mongkhat Township.

Chairman of Township PDC U Nyen Htwe reported on growing of physic nut in the township.

The commander participated in the physic nut growing ceremony together with local people.

At Mongkhat Basic Education High School, the commander attended the ceremony to present sanitation equipment, and explained assistance being provided for education sector and regional development tasks.

The Patron of Shan State (East) Women’s Affairs Organization presented sanitation equipment to Township Education Officer U Myint Ko. Next, the commander and party inspected classrooms.

The commander also attended the physic nut cultivation ceremony in Wammaing Village beside Mongkhat-Mongyang Road. Afterwards, the commander viewed land preparations for growing of monsoon paddy with the use of power-tillers in the township. — MNA

Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force leaves for Singapore

U Aung Myint, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force, being seen off on his departure for Singapore. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force of the Union of Myanmar Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint left Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 15 June to attend the 3rd Infocomm Media Business Exchange Ministerial Forum to be held in Singapore on 18 and 19 June.

The Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force was accompanied by General Manager U Tint Lwin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
To dollar earners

Ba Toe (Taunggya Kaladet)

To listen to the broadcasts constantly aired by BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB is entertaining since the broadcasters are good orators.

Well, Mr Broadcasters, there is a Myanmar saying that a bamboo that grows in the mountains is slender at the top and a person not properly brought up is rhetoric. I wonder if that is the reason why you are good at this job. Words when spoken too much describe the true character of the speaker. The foul air of yours is polluting the environment. Our country is producing clean or purified water but I think we will have to produce clean air as well.

Since your profession involves the use of air you may have built houses or at least caves in the air with dollars you have earned every month. You are very lucky because you earn dollars with the movement of your lower jaw bones. But I warn you. Dollar consumption will cause you indigestion and your stomach will be in trouble as well.

Do not ape the monkey or you will have to act whenever dollars are thrown at you. I have not seen you in person but by listening to your voice I would say you are truly in support of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I wonder whether they are truly in support of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi or they are attempting to destroy the country citing her as an excuse. Or are they trying to put the government in trouble or difficulty? In fact, you are trying to take over the throne or the seat of power while pushing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi onto the stage.

What I would like to make the broadcasters of BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB plus the elements far and near known is I am not a pro-Tatmadaw fellow but a member of the public who loves the nation. I am an ordinary person leading a hard life for the wellbeing of my family. I am not a sycophant seeking favours after trying to please the government. I look ahead and also look back. Since the time of King Bagan during the Inwa Period and up to 1992, our motherland had not been stable or peaceful for long. Lasting peace came only after 1992 or there is permanent peace only in the present period.

After the reign of King Bagan there occurred the crisis of Miyiong-Myinkhondaiing followed by the reign of King Thibaw. There were in-fightings among the princes forming cliques and vying to seize the throne in which mass killings took place. After the crisis, the nation was enslaved by the aliens for more than 100 years. During the independence struggles, the imperialists set brother against brother. This led to the assassination of the independence architect and his colleagues. They did not know when the independence, which they had fought for, was regained or what it was like.

After regaining independence it was branded as a sham by some, and this caused splits among the freedom fighters; some went underground. Ten years after the party governments, the nation was confronted with the issue of secession from the Union. Well, in 1958, a caretaker government had to assume the State power. When the main party split into ‘Clean’ and ‘Stable’ in 1960, other splits followed throughout the country.

The public were hit hard during that period. Still, they were tough enough to survive the crisis. Otherwise, the race of Myanmar would have been extinct. They have suffered time and again. Once there was a certain fellow who said, “I was offered excrement wrapped with paper. I ate it and I was very clever because I found it out after eating half of it.” Don’t be a fool like him. One should find it out before and not after. When the man from the West with the long nose said “I love the people of Myanmar”, he do you believe him? If you do, you are completely under his control. They would not invest one kyat if they are not sure of a profit of one thousand kyats. If you truly possess the love for your own country, own race and own compatriots. The strength of the nation lies within. It is time one and all realized the truth and did their bit.

Once, there were numerous armed groups in Myanmar. I think the largest number and there is no country like us throughout the world. Determined to serve the interests of the nation and the people and based on goodwill, the government and the former armed groups have begun building the nation in unity and coordination. Today, only three or so armed groups remain in the jungle. They are just the splinter groups that have been under the outside influence. Actually, the Myanmar Tatmadaw deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with the armed groups large and small. But the prize was awarded to Daw Suu Kyi who had not done

We entire national people have to take pride in and preserve the achievement in restoring peace and stability and building a new nation through the strength of national solidarity. The government has managed to build a large number of infrastructures unprecedentedly for national development in a short period ranging from lakes, irrigation facilities, roads, bridges and pagodas to hospitals, educational institutions and electric power plants along with new towns and villages and oil fields. You cannot deny this.
anything for peace but stuck to the policy of confrontation and acted accordingly.

It was somewhat like the story of a thief turned Sadhu. It was about a thief. He earned his living by stealing from this house and that house. One night, he was chased by villagers. He had to run for his life. Reaching a wood he got an idea and sat on a tree stump. He took out the lime box he had brought to be used in chewing betel quid. He applied lime to his moustache and whiskers to make himself like a Sadhu or religious man. This way he pretended to be a Sadhu. When the villagers met him and he pretended very well they thought him to be a Sadhu and from then on they worshipped him. Now also there is another Sadhu. Since the Tatmadaw and the former armed groups have built peace together the country is now peaceful. It is the time of real peace if compared with the periods during which the people have to live in anxiety and fear.

We entire national people have to take pride in and preserve the achievement in restoring peace and stability and building a new nation through the strength of national solidarity. The government has managed to build a large number of infrastructures unprecedentedly for national development in a short period ranging from lakes, irrigation facilities, roads, bridges and pagodas to hospitals, educational institutions and electric power plants along with new towns and villages and oil fields. You cannot deny this.

I deeply believe that the Tatmadaw government is trying to the best of its ability for the well-being of the nation’s population of 55 million. In my view, for the past 19-year period, Myanmar has enjoyed fruitful result of significant development with a prosperous future.

Nevertheless, you said that it was not dangerous at all even if a person put his hand into a meter box, but he suffered electric shock when he touched a newspaper.

What an irritating joke!

But you should bear in mind that people have to wait some time to enjoy the fruits born out of their labour. It takes at least four or five years to build a hydropower plant. Isn’t it possible that a newspaper is live with electric current when people have easy access to e-books, e-newspapers and digital newspapers? I would say you should have a positive attitude towards it.

You criticized the government in that regard, but can you complete a large hydropower project in just three or four months?

Once, there were numerous armed groups in Myanmar. I think the largest number and there is no country like us throughout the world. Determined to serve the interests of the nation and the people and based on goodwill, the government and the former armed groups have begun building the nation in unity and coordination. Today, only three or so armed groups remain in the jungle. They are just the splinter groups that have been under the outside influence. Actually, the Myanma Tatmadaw deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with the armed groups large and small. But the prize was awarded to Daw Suu Kyi who had not done anything for peace but stuck to the policy of confrontation and acted accordingly.

You criticized the government in that regard, but can you complete a large hydropower project in just three or four months?

When Yeywa, Htanmanthi, Shweli, Shwesaray, Thanlwin and Paunglaung

hydropower projects are completed, all parts of the nation will surely have access to sufficient electricity. You just have a glance at the whole nation including border areas. The people are enjoying fruits of development in the economic, social, education, health, agriculture, livestock and transport sectors, and that reflects the efforts the government and the people have been exerting in concert. In other words, the government is paving the way towards democracy. Repeatedly, you create the public outrage, airing that the ruling government is not the elected one. I must admit that, but the Tatmadaw government has been able to show its brilliant performances in restoring peace and stability, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order and achieving national solidarity and all-round development at the unprecedented level. I wonder why you fail to recognize such rapid development.

Is it because you have received their dollars? The government, with tenacity, had to face and brave the evil consequences of your destructive acts and blockade in its drive for ensuring stability of the State, community peace, prevalence of law and order along with national progress.

I believe the nation would have enjoyed development two times the present rate, had the nation faced no destructive acts and gained cooperation of all forces with foreign assistance. And the nation is now on the path towards democracy. So, I would like all of you to notice and judge the present situations. It is illogical and rather ignoble that you are showing your total disregard for objective conditions and speaking ill of the ruling government. In my opinion, the most important points for a person in the world are:

(1) to be born of good parents
(2) to take refuge in good teachers
(3) to earn right livelihood
(4) to embrace no wrong belief
(5) to serve interests of others

(6) to practise self-criticism. I wish you would mend your ways by finding out the fact that how many of the above points you are exercising.

Here, I would like to present what the eminent hill missionary monk always pointed out in his sermon, “Some told me Myanmar was going to face a variety of miseries. I assure you our country will never face anything miserable, because Myanmar is home to a great number of virtuous persons.” He meant the people of Myanmar are doing things in accordance with the seven principles usually followed by virtuous persons, they are:

(1) having regular meetings,
(2) assembling in harmony and deciding in harmony,
(3) abiding by the established practices and customs,
(4) treating the elders with respect and veneration,
(5) showing respect and veneration towards the shrines, etc., and making traditional offerings without remiss,
(6) refraining from committing violence against women,
(7) taking proper care of bhikkhus endowed with morality, concentration and wisdom, and inviting such bhikkhus to one’s country.

I am sure Myanmar will be able to enjoy cumulative development all the more because they follow such reliable principles.

So, I would say it is high time you stopped shooting to the liking of neo-colonialists, resorting to various ways and means to instal a puppet government in Myanmar, and attempting to make Myanmar a neo-colony, and you participated in the nation-building tasks and the drive for democratic transition.

Translation: AK + MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 16-6-2007
**Commander supervises agricultural tasks in Yedashe Township**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 June** — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected the integrated agricultural farm of the command headquarters near Ayethaya Village in Yedashe Township on 10 June.

In charge of the farm Lt-Col Pyone Cho reported on thriving paddy, sugarcane and sesame plantations on 3,225 acres of farm. The commander viewed participation of workers from No 6 Sugar Mill (Yedashe) in weeding 135 acres of sugarcane. At the farm, the commander inspected thriving quality strain sugarcane and supply of water from Swachaung Dam to the farm. The commander instructed officials to choose suitable crops for the region and share agricultural technologies with the local farmers. MNA

**Minister looks into progress of Shwegyin Hydropower Project**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 June** — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min inspected Shwegyin Hydropower Project, six miles from Shwegyin, on 15 June. He heard reports on progress of task and future plan presented by Project Director U Shwe Khin. The minister and officials inspected progress in construction of the main embankment and flow of water in the inlet of the diversion tunnel. Furthermore, the minister viewed construction of the power intake building, steel pipeline and installation of concrete pipelines and left necessary instructions. On completion, the power station of Shwegyin Hydropower Project will generate 75 megawatts. MNA

**Minister inspects animal farms in Tatkon Township**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 June** — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein yesterday inspected the milch cow farm near Kangyi Village of Tatkon Township.

The minister instructed entrepreneurs to extend breeding tasks and take preventive measures of animals against infectious diseases.

In the afternoon, the minister visited Dairy Utsensil Factory of breeding entrepreneur U Maung Lwin at the breeding zone-2 near Shwemyo Village in Tatkon Township. — MNA

**Myanmar, Russian Foreign Ministries hold 3rd Regular Consultations Meeting**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June** — At the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander P Losyukov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation arrived Yangon on 15 June to attend the 3rd Regular Consultations Meeting held between the two ministries.

The 3rd Regular Consultations Meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 June. The Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu and the Russian delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Alexander P Losyukov.

At the meeting, the two delegations held cordial discussions on promotion of friendship, bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, enhancement of cooperation in regional and international organizations and also exchanged views on current international issues.

In the evening, the deputy foreign minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Russian deputy foreign minister and members at Thingaha Hotel.

The Russian delegation left Yangon International Airport by air on 17 June. MNA

**Boxing tournaments at Aung San stadium**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 June** — The fifth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Trophy and 38th States and Divisions men’s and women’s junior boxing tournaments were opened at Aung San stadium today attended by Chairman of MOC Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Present on the occasion were General Secretary of MOC Director General U Thaung Htuk of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials, the members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation (Boxing), President of Myanmar Boxing Federation U Win Myint and others.

After accepting the trophy presented by defending champion Mandalay Division, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech and opened the tournaments.

Next, the minister presented K 100,000 each provided by MBF to 14 teams, four referees and a coach. Afterwards members of the panel of patrons of MWSF (Boxing) Daw Khin Than Win, Daw Le Le Kyi, Daw Thet Thet Swe and Daw Khin Moe Nyunt presented cash for tentatively selected athletes to the minister.

The tournaments will be held up to 24 June. — NLM

**Minister inspects animal farms in Tatkon Township**

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China’s Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan is seen during an official welcoming ceremony in central Sofia. Cao is likely to visit Japan this autumn, in the latest sign of warming ties between the Asian neighbours, a defence ministry spokesman said on 13 June, 2007. —INTERNET

London, 17 June — The British officials dismissed reports on Saturday that Prime Minister Tony Blair could become the first full-time European Union president under a plan being put forward by French leader Nicolas Sarkozy.

London’s Financial Times newspaper said Sarkozy had discussed the possibility of Blair taking on the role with his EU counterparts ahead of a summit in Brussels on 21-22 June.

“The Prime Minister has said quite clearly he would not go back into frontline politics,” a spokesman at Blair’s office said. “This job doesn’t actually exist, there’s no clear evidence that it’s going to exist in the near future.”

Blair is stepping down as prime minister on 27 June and finance minister Gordon Brown will take over.

The spokesman added: “I’m sure Sarkozy has said if this job ever existed it should be you (Blair) that does it. But the short answer is this is a non-story.”

MNA/Reuters

Kabul police bus bomb ‘kills 35’

Kabul, 17 June—A bomb attack on an Afghan police bus in Kabul has killed up to 35 people and injured more than 30 others.

Police said a number of civilians are among those killed in the rush-hour attack close to police HQ in the city centre. Five foreigners were wounded.

It is thought to be the most devastating bomb attack in Kabul since the Taliban were ousted in 2001. Taliban rebels told the BBC that they had carried out the attack - the fifth bombing in three days.

MNA/Reuters

Hamas leader rules out declaring Gaza state

PARIS, 17 June — Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh has ruled out setting up a separate Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip after his Islamists routed forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas sacked the three-month-old unity government he formed with Hamas on Thursday but Haniyeh has refused to accept his dismissal as prime minister.

Asked if he intended to declare Gaza a state after taking control of the territory, Haniyeh said in an interview with France’s Le Figaro daily published on Saturday: “No Gaza belongs to all the Palestinian people and not just Hamas.”

Haniyeh, who became prime minister after Hamas won parliamentary elections in 2006, also said he wanted a “reciprocal, global and simultaneous” truce with Israel.

“Separation is not on the agenda and never will be,” he added.

MNA/Reuters

Rockets from Lebanon hit Israel

Tel Aviv, 17 June—Israel has been hit by a rocket attack from Lebanon, officials say.

Two Katyusha rockets exploded near the northern Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona. There were no casualties, but roads and vehicles were damaged.

Israeli and Lebanese security sources said they believed a Palestinian group had fired the rockets. Israel said it would not “succumb to provocation”.

The Lebanese group Hezbollah has denied any involvement in the attack. No-one has yet claimed responsibility for it.

It is the first time Israel has come under such an attack from Lebanon since last year’s conflict with Hezbollah.

Internet

Kabul police bus bomb ‘kills 35’

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Police said a number of civilians are among those killed in the rush-hour attack close to police HQ in the city centre. Five foreigners were wounded.

It is thought to be the most devastating bomb attack in Kabul since the Taleban were ousted in 2001. Taleban rebels told the BBC that they had carried out the attack - the fifth bombing in three days.

MNA/Reuters
Marriage

Parents from both sides are very happy to announce the marriage of

Ma Su Myat Oo
daughter of U Khin Maung Pun & Daw Yi Yi Oo of No. 31 (C), New University Ave, Yangon to

Win Min Aung
son of U Aung Myint & Daw Myint Myint Kyi (a) Daw Mar Mar of Pearl Condo, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel on the 12th June and the reception held at the Grand Ball Room, Sedona Hotel on the 17th June, 2007 (Sunday).

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Euro/JPY.

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<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/MR/Rail Bus(M)</td>
<td>LE-20 or LE-30 or NT-100</td>
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Closing Date/Time: 16-7-2007 (Monday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14-6-2007 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985 (201555 Ext 601,605,612)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

Bridge collapses after being hit by boat in S China

GUANGZHOU, 16 June — Rescuers are combing a south China river and the wreckage of a bridge that collapsed after being hit by a boat in a search for any vehicles or people who were on the structure at the time.

The bridge in Foshan, Guangdong Province, collapsed after being hit by a boat laden with sand at about 5:10am on Friday, sources with the Foshan traffic police said on Friday.

The boat was sailing under the bridge, which connects Juijiang Township in Nanhui District of Foshan to neighbouring Heshan City, when it hit a pier, and at least 150 metres of the bridge structure collapsed.

Two of the two boat’s crew members were injured and had been sent to hospital, an official with the local police said. “So far we don’t know whether any vehicles fell into the river, but as the accident occurred at an early hour, there should not have been too much traffic,” he said.

“I heard a loud noise and then I saw the cement structures of the bridge plunge into the river. It was kind of foggy and I don’t know if any vehicles fell into the water,” said a local worker surnamed Liu.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Big C Supercenter Public Company Limited, a Company incorporated in the kingdom of Thailand, at No.89/36 Univesit Building, 7th Floor, Rajdamri Road, Umporn Sub-district, Pathumwan District, Bangkok, Thailand is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:

Iran to privatize state telecoms firm

TEHRAN, 16 June — Iran will privatize the government-owned telecommunications companies by the end of the year, the country’s state television reported on Thursday, although past sales of state assets have drawn limited interest.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khameini, Iran’s highest authority, urged the government and officials in February to speed up moves to cut the state’s economic role in the latest bid to revive a struggling privatization programme.

Iran tried to shake up its lumbering economy in 2004 by overturning Article 44 of the Constitution which decreed core infrastructure should remain state-run. But since then private business has shown little appetite for investing in privatizations.

“The telecommunications company will be given to the private sector by the end of the year,” state television quoted the company’s managing director, identified only as Ghaffarian, as saying. Ghaffarian was talking about the Iranian year which runs until 19 March.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has in the past accused private businesses of seeking inflated profits, launched a plan last year to sell heavily discounted shares in state firms to the poor, part of his pledge to spread the Islamic Republic’s wealth more evenly. Economists said the so-called “shares of justice” may change the shareholders but do not lead to the required restructuring.

“Shares of the telecommunications company will be presented in the form of shares of justice, workers’ shares and shares in the bourse,” Ghaffarian said quoting the president.

UN talks help eels, elephants, slow extinctions

THE HAGUE, 16 June — Elephants and eels may find life slightly easier as a result of trade curbs imposed after UN talks that ended on Friday in a modest attempt to slow what may be the worst wave of extinctions since the dinosaurs.

The 3-15 June meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) also agreed to curb trade in commercial species including Brazzilwood timber, used in violin bows, and sawfish, which have long toothed snouts.

“We have listings of commercial fish species, commercial timber species and I think that should continue,” CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers told a news conference.

China urges Hong Kong to resume toothpaste sales

BEIJING, 16 June — China, criticized at home and abroad for a string of food and drug safety scandals, has urged Hong Kong to resume sales of toothpaste which Customs officials in the territory said were tainted.

China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said it was closely watching the recall of three brands of toothpaste which Hong Kong said this week tainted by diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent. It said the levels were safe.

"China’s quality control watchdog expressed the hope that Hong Kong would resume sales of three brands of home-made toothpaste which were allegedly tainted by diethylene glycol," Xinhua news agency said late on Thursday.

Panama says at least 100 people died after taking cough syrup which contained diethylene glycol rather than the glycine which was supposed to have been used.
WHO moves ahead with plans for H5N1 vaccine stockpile

Geneva, 16 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) is working with vaccine manufacturers to move ahead on plans to create a global stockpile of vaccine for the H5N1 avian influenza virus, the UN agency said on Thursday.

According to a WHO statement, several pharmaceutical companies, including GlaxoSmithKline, have expressed their willingness to contribute to the H5N1 global vaccine stockpile, which was requested by the World Health Assembly in May.

“This is another significant step toward creating a global resource to help the world and especially to help developing countries in case of a major outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza.”

said Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO director-general.

“WHO welcomes this contribution from the vaccines industry and is also working with countries to develop capacity for the production of influenza vaccines,” she said.

Further work is needed on detailed operational planning for the stockpile, including how and under which conditions it will be deployed, as well as regulatory aspects of the vaccine.

As well as developing a stockpile of H5N1 vaccine, WHO is taking other measures to prepare for a potential influenza pandemic, including rapid containment plans to stop a pandemic using public health measures, assistance to developing countries to increase vaccine production capacity, etc.

Russian “Dnepr” rocket launches German satellite into orbit

Moscow, 16 June — A Russian Dnepr rocket has delivered a German TerraSar-X radar satellite into its near Earth orbit on Friday, local news agencies reported.

The Dnepr rocket, which is converted from an intercontinental ballistic missile, blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 06:14 am Moscow Time (0214 GMT), ITAR-TASS and Interfax news agencies reported.

With its active antenna, the German satellite is expected to collect quality X-band radar data of the entire Earth it circles.

The Dnepr programme was initiated by Russia and Ukraine in the mid-1990s and aimed at using modified RS-20 inter-continental ballistic miss-les, known as SS-18 or Satan in the West, in satellite launches.

Kodak says camera sensor may eliminate flash

New York, 16 June — Eastman Kodak Co said on Thursday it has developed digital camera technology that nearly eliminates the need for flash photography, part of the company’s effort to make money from its deep patent portfolio.

The world’s biggest maker of photographic film says its proprietary sensor technology significantly increases sensitivity to light. Image sensors act as a digital camera’s eyes by converting light into an electric charge to begin the capture process.

Kodak, which is in the last year of a lengthy and expensive transformation into a digital photography company as its film business shrinks, intends to lean on its wealth of intellectual property to boost its bottom line, expecting up to 250 million US dollars this year alone in royalties and related revenues.

For example, Chief Executive Antonio Perez has previously said its new inkjet printer strategy grew out of the discovery of existing, unused patents for printer ink.

“Our strategy is to get it out of the lab and onto the street,” said Chris McNiffe, general manager, Kodak Image Sensor Solutions.

Chinese “IT” firms to focus on breakthroughs in key software

Beijing, 16 June — China’s software firms should focus on making breakthroughs in key products such as operating systems, database management systems, and intermediate software, a senior official with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said on Thursday.

Lou Qinjian, Vice-Minister of MII, said the nation’s software industry lags far behind its overseas peers in research and development and its combined sales accounts for only six percent of the world total.

Sales of China’s software industry totalled 480 billion yuan (62.9 billion US dollars) in 2006, and exports accounted for six billion US dollars, said Lou at the opening ceremony of a software exhibition.

He noted software industry sales have grown at more than 40 per cent annually in recent years. China has about 13,000 software developers, of which 35 have an annual sales of more than one billion yuan (131.1 million US dollars), according to official statistics.

Sales of the nation’s software industry are expected to reach almost 1.1 trillion yuan (144.2 billion US dollars) in 2010, according to the 11th Five-Year Plan for Software Industry Development (2006-2010) released by the ministry in May. China will by 2010 have 10 to 15 major software firms that each have annual sales of 10 billion yuan, according to the plan.
Sharapova plays catch-up to reach semis

London, 17 June — Maria Sharapova began her quest to play catch-up at the rain-hit Birmingham Classic by winning back-to-back matches on Saturday to reach the semifinals of the grass court championships.

After a battling 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 win over Austrian teenager Tamira Paszek the top seed defeated fellow Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-2, 6-3 to book her place in the last four. On a day when Sharapova should have been contesting only a semifinal, she found herself lagging two rounds behind after rain washed out her match against Paszek on Friday.

After a 56-minute disruption in the opening set against Paszek, Sharapova allowed a 4-3 lead in the second set through and was forced to play a decider.

The 2004 Wimbledon champion was back on court just hours later and was relieved to carve out a straight sets win against Likhovtseva.— MNA/Reuters

Russia’s Maria Sharapova returns a shot to compatriot Elena Likhovtseva during their match at the Birmingham Classic tennis tournament in Birmingham, central England, on 16 June, 2007.— INTERNET

Belgium clinch place in Euro U-21 semis

Amsterdam, 17 June — Belgium became the second team to reach the European Under-21 championship semifinals after drawing 2-2 with hosts Netherlands in their final Group A match in Heerenveen on Saturday.

Kevin Mirallas put Belgium in front after nine minutes. Kevin De Bruyne doubled the lead on 28 minutes as goal mouth kept evading with Katongo previously saved goal bound shots.

The visitors take an early lead in 12th minute through left winger Felix Katongo who had best chances of equalizing, but France-based Jacob Mulenga and winger Felix Essaya, who beat an offside trap much better but luck was not on their side as goal mouth kept evading with Katongo again coming close to scoring early in the second stanza.— MNA/Xinhua

Champions CSKA drop points again in Russian title race

Moscow, 17 June — Champions CSKA Moscow lost valuable points for a second consecutive week after being held to a 0-0 home draw by Russian Premier League strugglers Tom Tomsk on Saturday.

CSKA were hoping to redeem themselves following a 4-0 thrashing by Luch Vladivostok last Sunday but could not penetrate the Siberian side’s disciplined defence.

Big spenders Zenit St. Petersburg failed to capitalize on CSKA’s stumble as they drew 2-2 at FK Khimki.

After handing CSKA their biggest defeat in a decade, 10th-placed Luch recorded a 3-0 victory over Russian Cup winners Lokomotiv Moscow.

The club from the eastern port city of Vladivostok, seven time zones and more than 15,000 kilometres from Moscow, have scored seven goals in two games after finding the net only five times in 11 previous matches.— MNA/Reuters

Hamilton wins pole for US Grand Prix

Washington, 17 June — Lewis Hamilton continues his impressive rookie season in Formula One, by winning pole position for Sunday's US Grand Prix in Indianapolis.

The English sensation who recorded his first pole and his maiden victory in Montreal, recorded a fastest lap of one minute 12.331 seconds.

His McLaren teammate Fernando Alonso was second, a repeat of their Montreal qualifying efforts seven days ago.

The 22-year-old will have a great opportunity to extend his rookie record of six consecutive podium finishes.— MNA/Reuters

McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain stands on the wheel of his car as he celebrates setting the fastest time in qualifying to take pole position for the US F1 Grand Prix in Indianapolis, on 16 June, 2007, INTERNET

Indonesia set up Sudirman Cup final clash with China

Glasgow, 17 June — Indonesia set up the Sudirman Cup final clash with China after beating England 3-2 in the world mixed team badminton championships on Saturday. Hot favourites China, chasing their sixth trophy, whitewashed South Korea 3-0 in the other semifinal earlier.

Sudirman Cup semifinals newcomers England had a dream start as they won the opening two rubbers of the mixed doubles and women’s singles.

Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat clinched a crucial point in men’s singles, beating Andrew Smith 22-20, 21-15 to put Indonesia back in fight.

Indonesia then sweated to level 2-2 with England thanks to the efforts of women’s duo Gresia Polii and Vita Marrius, who overcame Giul Esmimi and Donna Kellogg 22-20, 21-15. Candra Wijaya and Kido Markis concluded the eye-catching semifinal with a 21-18, 21-16 win over Anthony Clark and Robert Blair in men’s doubles.— MNA/Xinhua

Woods moves into title hunt at Oakmont

Oakmont (Pennsylvania), 17 June — Twice champion Tiger Woods achieved his primary objective in the US Open third round on Saturday with an immaculate display from tee to green.

The world number one reached 17 of 18 greens in regulation on the way to a one-under-par 69 at Oakmont Country Club to climb ominously into contention for his 13th major title.

“I didn’t drop a shot until 18, and that’s ultimately what you want to have happen in the US Open,” Woods told reporters after finishing on four-over-par, two strokes behind leader Aaron Baddeley of Australia.

“You have to grind it out and I put myself into position to have a lot of pars today, which is good. Pars are never going to hurt you.

“If I feel like I controlled my ball all day, whether it was in the air or on the greens,” added the American, who has won two of the last three major championships.

“It could have been a really low round, but not on these greens! This golf course doesn’t lend itself to a lot of birdies.” — MNA/Reuters

Zambia defeated by Chad in African Cup of nations qualifier

Lusaka, 17 June — Zambia has suffered its slim chances of qualifying for the 2008 African Cup of Nations after a 1-1 draw with Chad in a qualifier at Chililabombwe’s Konkola Stadium on Saturday.

The visitors take an early lead in 12th minute through left winger Sikula Essaya, who beat an offside trap much closer to the surprise of the home crowd.

The Zambia stepped the tempo of the game as they repeatedly attacked in search of an equalizer, but France-based Jacob Mulenga and winger Felix Katongo who had best chances of equalizing in the first half, could not beat Chad goal keeper Kaulata Aramel who proved worth of his task as he continuously saved goal bound shots.

In the second half, Zambia played even better but luck was not on their side as goal mouth kept evading with Katongo again coming close to scoring early in the second stanza.— MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday’s crossword puzzle

Driving reign

Emmaneno

Topic impetus

Ellie
drimation

Reprimand rug

Cosset remedy

Hosvar

Decondiment

Pnrad

Pigment évade

Essence

Rural hotfoot
Study shows Mediterranean to get more deadly hot days

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Deadly heat waves around the Mediterranean, like those that killed some 18,000 people in 2003, could become the norm this century if current trends in greenhouse emissions continue, researchers reported on Friday.

The number of dangerously hot days in the Mediterranean region that includes parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East could increase by 200 per cent to 500 per cent, according to a study in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

France would have the biggest rise in extreme high temperature days, the study said. Paris would truly sizzle if simulations of the future come to pass, with temperatures that occurred in the French capital during the killer heat wave of 2003 exceeded dozens of times each year.

However, cutting greenhouse gas emissions could make the dangerously hot days as much as 20 per cent less intense, the authors said in their analysis of climate simulations extending to the year 2099.

About 15,000 people died in France due to the heat in 2003, and nearly 3,000 died in Italy that same summer.

The researchers found that global warming pushes summer temperatures “dramatically” over the range that correlated with these deaths.

“Rare events today, like the 2003 heat wave in Europe, become much more common as greenhouse gas concentrations increase,” researcher Noah Diffenbaugh of Purdue University in Indiana said in a statement. He added that these temperatures “become the norm and the extreme events of the future are unprecedented in their severity.”

Today’s hottest summer days will be the same temperature as the coolest days of future summers, the analysis by Diffenbaugh and colleagues in California, Italy and China found.

MNA/Reuters

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Coral eggs lay in a tank at the laboratory of Fisheries Infrastructure Development Center on Okinawa’s Akashima island, southern Japan, Saturday, on 9 June, 2007.—INTERNET

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Weather Map of summer and Neighbouring areas

Sunday, 17 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.08) inch, Shweyghin (2.99) inches, Hkamti (2.79) inches, Machanaw (2.36) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.93) inches, Bago and Mawlamyine (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-6-2007 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 17-6-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-6-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 16-6-2007 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-6-2007 was (1.93) inches at Mingaladon, (0.27) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.27) inch a Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (40.28) inches at Mingaladon, (43.42) inches at Kaba-Aye and (41.73) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 16-6-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-6-2007: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, Mandalay Division 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 18-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-6-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Installation of Thakayta-Thanlyin 230 kv power line in progress

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects installation of power line across Bago River.— MNA

YANGON, 17 June — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected installation of 230 kv power line across Bago River from Thakayta Power Station to Phayagon Sub-Power Station in Thanlyin yesterday. Officials reported on construction of towers for the power line, waterway and sandbanks in the river and participation of Marine Administration Department in the installation of power line. Project Director U Thein Hlaing of Power Supply Project (South) submitted reports on the plan to be implemented for construction of 36 towers for the power line.

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 June — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and directors-general, inspected the intensive care unit, the operation theatre and the dental unit of Toungoo General Hospital in Toungoo this morning.

At Nurse and Midwifery Training School in Toungoo, the minister met the principal, staff and trainees. After giving necessary instructions, the minister attended to the needs. After giving necessary instructions, the minister inspected preparations for laying foundation of the bored pile for tower No 10 on Thakayta bank and sites for towers in Thanlyin.

NLD leaders seeking self-interest, relying on western big nations, undermining national interest

Nine members of Ayadaw Township NLD resign

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint meeting with principal, staff and trainees of Nurse and Midwifery Training School.— MNA

NLD leaders seeking self-interest, relying on western big nations, undermining national interest

Yangon, 17 June — Members of the Ayadaw Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division U Nyein Maung of Wetpyit Village, Magyikan Village-tract, U Thein Aung, U Kan Myint and U San Tin on 31 May, and U Nyunt of Ayadaw, U Chit Tae, U Ohn Pe, Daw Mann Hlaing and Daw Ohn Kyin altogether nine on 3 June resigned from the party of their own accord, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the letters of resignation sent to the Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-committees, they said that they no longer wished to be members of the party as the NLD leaders were seeking self-interest and relying on western big nations as well as undermining national interest, following the directives of foreign embassies.

That was why they resigned from the party of their own volition, they said.

MNA