IN NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—A collective growing of physic nut took place at Madain Village, Waingmaw Township on 11 June morning, attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Patron of Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Nu Nu Swe, wife of the commander and members, senior military officers, chairman of the District and Township PDCs, departmental officials, social organizations, auxiliary fire brigade and Red Cross Society, War Veterans Organization and others. (See page 7)

Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspects fish pond in Waingmaw.—MNA

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Shake off the shackles as soon as possible

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

It is the largest dam in Myanmar whose construction started in September 1996 and was completed in April 2001. The State had to spend K 8960 million to build it. The dam irrigates 500,000 acres of farmland and can generate 30 megawatts of electricity. The dry and arid Shwebo region is greening with golden paddy plantations even in summer. Due to Thaphanseik Dam, the towns and villages in Shwebo region have access to sufficient supply of electric power.

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

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

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

Commander donates alms to Mahawun (North) monastery in Muse, attends ceremonies to present stationery and school uniforms to students in Muse


Next, the commander attended a ceremony to present stationery, school uniforms and cash assistance for the students held at the town hall of Muse and made a speech on the occasion. (See page 7)
PERSPECTIVES

Grow shade trees, landscaping plants extensively for regional greening

Today, many of the world nations are suffering from climate changes in the face of deforestation and desertification. The greenhouse effect is one of the causes leading to global warming. Myanmar is now growing trees extensively and conserving the environment to contribute towards the prevention against global warming.

For many periods, Myanmar has preserved a fine tradition of conserving the environment. The nation’s scenic natural beauties with lush and green forests and vegetation across urban and rural areas reflect the people’s conserving and valuing the environment.

The government maintains the nation’s territorial and aquatic resources in its drive for environmental conservation and prevention of environmental degradation. In this regard, it is setting up more and more watershed forests, while conserving forest reserves and protecting natural forests.

Moreover, local organizations and people are holding tree planting ceremonies for the greening of the region concerned. Similar ceremonies are being organized in the states and divisions including Nay Pyi Taw.

Now, the people are enjoying the fruits of the existence of the forests grown by the ancestors throughout successive periods. So, respective towns and villages should constantly extend growing trees and establish forests for ensuring the greening of the regions and temperate climates.

Ministry of Construction holds its coord meeting

YANGON, 19 June — The Ministry of Construction held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, heads of departments, superintending engineers of the states and divisions, superintending engineers from bridge, building and airport projects, deputy superintending engineers, senior engineers, district senior engineers, and engineers in-charge.

At the outset, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that the ministry is carrying out the tasks approved by the Special Projects Implementation Committee, projects undertaken by the ministry and those being implemented by the State. The ministry had to spend a large sum of money on some gigantic projects. It is necessary to supervise spending of money. Systematic measures will be taken for implementation of the projects according to the allotment. Damaged roads and bridges due to heavy rains will have to be rebuilt for the convenience of the transport. After scrutinizing duties, functions and finance, superintending engineers from the states and divisions and project superintending engineers are to give instructions to engineers at all levels in accord with rules and regulations of the department.

After the superintending engineers from the states and divisions had presented reports to the minister on condition of the tasks to be carried out, financial support and use of heavy machinery and fuel, the meeting came to a close. — MNA

U Wunna Maung Lwin accredited to Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 20 June — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Wunna Maung Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

MNA

Three lose feet in separate mine blasts

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — Three villagers lost feet in separate blasts in three regions recently.

Saw Hpa Lo of Hipalaw Village in Myawady Township, Kayin State, stepped on a mine planted by insurgents on 28 May on his way to a hill near the village to pluck fruit. He lost his right foot in the blast. He was rushed to Myawady Township Hospital. Ko Naing of Htiakauk Village, Pattala Village-tract in Kyaukk Kyi Township, Bago Division, stepped on a mine planted by insurgents recently, and the blast blew off his right foot.

Saw Sao War of Yeyaw Village in Thaton Township lost his left leg as a mine exploded when he stepped on it on 14 June. He was taken to Thaton Township Hospital, and he is receiving medical treatment.

MNA

Fifth MOC Chairman’s Cup and 38th Inter-State/Division Men’s and Women’s Boxing C’ship held

YANGON, 19 June — The Fifth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Cup A Level Boxing Championship and 38th Inter-State/Division Men’s and Women’s Boxing C’ship were held at Aung San Stadium this morning.

In the matches on third day, Hnin Moe Moe Naing (Shan-South) routed Ei Pa Pa Tun (Ayeyawady Division) in the first round bout. In pinweight (C) class matches, Zaw Oo (Mandalay Division) won over Nan Lwin (Shan-North); Khin Maung Myint (Shan-East) defeated Aung Ko Myat (Ayeyawady Division); Than Min Htoo (Yangon Division) beat Kyaw Htoo Htoo (Kayin State) and Aung Hlaik (Mon State) won over Chit Maung (Sagaing Division). In flyweight (C) class matches, Zayar Min (Shan-South) defeated Sa Lin Aung (Mon State) and Aung Aung (Shan-East) routed Kyaw Swa Win (Sagaing Division).

A total of 30 matches — four of pinweight, four of flyweight, four of bantamweight, four of featherweight and four of light welterweight, two of light flyweight (B), class, three of flyweight, four of lightweight, one of women’s 50 kilo class — were held today.

The boxing matches continue at Aung San Stadium tomorrow. — NLM
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush suffers court setbacks in war on terrorism

WASHINGTON, 18 June—President George W. Bush’s broad assertions of power in his war on terrorism are under assault by US judges who have rejected his indefinite imprisonment of enemy combatants and the domestic spying programme.

A pair of recent rulings, one from military judges and the other from a US appeals court, delivered new legal setbacks for Bush’s tactics in dealing with terrorism suspects held at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or in the United States.

“In case after case, this nation’s judicial branch has told the Administration that it may not trample on fundamental rights in the name of national security,” said Hina Jilani of the New York-based group Human Rights First.

A federal appeals court panel in Virginia ruled 2-1 on Monday that Bush could not declare civilians in this country to be enemy combatants and have the military hold them indefinitely.

The ruling said Bush overstepped his authority in the case of a Qatari national and suspected al-Qaeda operative, Ali Saleh al-Marri, who has been held in military custody for four years without any charges.

Human rights and civil liberties groups said the decision underscored the importance of judicial review as a check on Bush’s executive power.

“Once again, the courts have stepped in to rein in the executive and restore the rule of law,” said Jennifer Daskal, US advocacy director of Human Rights Watch.

The ruling came a week after military judges dismissed all charges against the only two Guantanamo prisoners facing trial, saying they had been designated only as “enemy combatants,” and not “unlawful enemy combatants” as required by a 2006 law.

The decisions added to a number of earlier rulings that went against the Bush Administration over the past three years.

Two soldiers, one worker wounded in twin Narathiwat blasts

NARATHIWAT, 18 June—Two bomb blasts wounded two soldiers and a government employee in separate insurgent attacks in Narathiwat.

The first bomb was detonated on a road in Tak Bai district while a six-man military patrol was passing through the area on foot. Royal Thai Army soldiers PO1 Weerayuth Yopathum and Pte Somrak Singhkham were wounded and rushed to hospital. The preliminary investigation also found the remains of a remote-controlled bomb weighing about 5 kg at the scene.

A second bomb exploded nearly simultaneously on a bridge over a waterway sluice gate in Tak Bai district. A worker of the Royal Irrigation Department, Soon Khongpoon, was wounded and sent to hospital.

Curfew lifted in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 June—Iraqis slowly began returning to the streets of Baghdad when a curfew was lifted on Sunday, four days after the bombing of a revered Shiite Muslim mosque to the north sparked fears of reprisal sectarian attacks.

But a curfew remained in place in the city of Samarra where the bombing of al-Askari Mosque was carried out by suspected al-Qaeda militants.

An attack on the same mosque in February 2006, in which its golden dome was destroyed, triggered waves of sectarian violence that killed tens of thousands of people and pushed Iraq to the brink of all-out sectarian civil war.

Bomb scare forces evacuation of building near White House

WASHINGTON, 18 June—A building near the White House that’s home to the Press Corp was evacuated Monday following a bomb scare in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s visit with President Bush scheduled for tomorrow.

Security near the White House was heightened due to Olmert’s visit.

The White House conference centre was evacuated after receiving a bomb scare. The Centre houses the White House Press corps and is located around the corner from Blair House where PM Olmert is staying.

The Press Corps is only at the Centre temporarily while their facilities at the White House undergoes renovation.

Palm fronds that government-owned developer Nakheel is building off Dubai’s coast.

Dubai to buy "Queen Elizabeth 2" for floating hotel

Dubai, 19 June—Dubai said on Monday it had agreed to buy the Queen Elizabeth 2 for 100 million US dollars and turn the famous cruise ship into a floating hotel and museum to draw tourists to one of the Gulf emirate’s man-made islands.

State-owned private equity firm Istithmar will become the new owner of the QE2, the longest-serving ship in the 168-year history of the Cunard line, which belongs to Carnival Corp, the world’s largest cruise operator.

The liner will be anchored off the 560 hectare (1,384 acres) Palm Jumeirah, the smallest of three islands shaped as palm fronds that government-owned developer Nakheel is building off Dubai’s coast.

The cruise ship, which will also have shops on board, will arrive in Dubai in 2009 as part of a drive to turn the island into a tourist destination, Nakheel spokesman Charlie Taylor said.

Around 6.5 million people visited Dubai last year, more than any Arab destination except Egypt.

Chinese President Hu Jintao meets with armed police in Beijing, on 18 June, 2007.—XINHUA

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Internet
Lead in paint forces recall of wooden toys

LONDON, 19 June—Thousands of wooden toys in a popular Thomas the Tank Engine range have been withdrawn from sale in the UK as part of an international safety recall, following concerns that their paint could contain potentially dangerous levels of lead.

People who may have bought the toys — which were made in China between January 2005 and April this year — are also being advised to stop using them and return them to the manufacturer as soon as possible.

The range of brightly coloured engines, trucks and other vehicles, made by the RC2 Corporation and sold as Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway, is designed to appeal to pre-school children and sold through retailers such as the Early Learning Centre.

Last Wednesday up to 1.5m toys from a range of 22 named items were withdrawn in the US and Canada, and on Friday the recall was extended to the UK, where it applies to nine specific toys — predominantly named after the James character and painted bright red or yellow.

They include a red James engine and coal tender, Skarloey engine and tanker truck. Products painted blue — based on the more popular Thomas character — are not affected.

Flood kills 15 in Pakistan’s northwest

ISLAMABAD, 18 June—A flash flood triggered by torrential rain killed 15 people, including a dozen children, and injured more than 60 in a mountainous village in northwestern Pakistan, a government official said on Sunday.

The flood swept away 32 houses in Bairdra Village, nearly 200 kilometres (125 miles) north-west of Islamabad, on Saturday, leaving at least 500 people homeless, a senior local government official, Syed Mohammad Javed, told Reuters.

“Fifteen villagers are confirmed dead and a large number of the population has been affected,” he said, adding that a relief operation had been launched in the area and affected people were being shifted to safer places.

After a spell of sweltering heat that killed more than 50 people in the last two weeks, some parts of Pakistan, especially those in the east and north, are experiencing pre-monsoon rains.

Pakistan’s chief meteorologist Qamar-ul-Zaman Chaudhry said more rains and thunderstorms were expected in the country in the next few days.

Canada, India conclude talks on investment promotion agreement

OTTAWA, 18 June—Canada has concluded negotiations on a Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (FIPA) with India, marking an important step in tightening bilateral trade ties, International Trade Minister David Emerson announced Saturday.

“This FIPA is a concrete step in our efforts to secure improved access for Canadian firms to a rapidly growing market,” Emerson said in a press release.

FIPAs are bilateral agreements that protect and promote foreign investment through legally binding rights and obligations. They encourage two-way investment by providing investors with the protection and predictability they need when investing in foreign markets.

“This agreement will provide a stable environment for investors and will further stimulate trade and investment flows between our two countries,” Emerson said.

Canadian man arrested in Dubai on drug charges

OTTAWA, 18 June—A Canadian man has been arrested in Dubai after poppy seeds and a small amount of hashish were found in his clothing. Canada’s Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed Saturday.

Thirty-five-year-old Bert Tatham was working for the US State Department in Afghanistan on an anti-narcotic project. His work involved getting farmers to stop growing poppies that were to be used for heroin, a report by Canadian Press said.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman confirmed it is providing consular assistance to the man.

If convicted, Tatham could face up to five years in prison.

A 24-year-old Italian was sentenced to four years in jail for possession of hashish in Dubai last month.
**Nepal wins destination travel award at Hong Kong expo**

KATHMANDU, 18 June — Nepal won the New Travel Routes Contest 2007 award at International TravelExhibition held on 14-17 June in Hong Kong, according to the Nepal Tourism Board.

According to a Press release issued here by the board Sunday, the contest was conducted through the visitors’ survey of the trade, media and consumers that attended the exhibition. “The award is a testament to the new confidence in the destination which is also reflected in the tourist arrival numbers in 2007,” the release said. Nepal’s participation in the exhibition is to promote Nepal in the Chinese market, it said.

Along with Nepal Tourism Board, three private sector companies: Asian Trekking, Amadablam Adventure and Dharma Adventure participated in the exhibition. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Abbas swears in new emergency govt in West Bank**

RAMALLAH, 18 June — The 12th Palestinian Government, an emergency one, was sworn in before President Mahmoud Abbas in West Bank city of Ramallah on Sunday, replacing the two-month-old unity government led by Hamas.

According to the footage of the official Palestinian Television, 11 ministers of the new government, including two female ministers, took their oath before President Abbas and new Prime Minister Sallam Fayyad one by one with their hand on the Holy Book of Quran.

After the inauguration ceremony, Fayyad delivered a short speech, in which he pledged economic and political improvement in the Palestinian territories.

He also referred the Palestinians in Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, saying “I tell our people in Gaza you are in our hearts and we will never let you alone.”

“I promise them (Gazans) that we will do all our best to ensure their basic needs,” he added.

New Prime Minister Salam Fayyad will also hold the portfolios of foreign and finance while most of the other ministers will also assume more than one portfolio.

Among the ministers, a number of them are the former government members who were non-Hamas. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Russia has green idea for growing Arctic cucumbers**

MOSCOW, 19 June— Russia’s Environment Minister has a novel suggestion for natural gas from its Arctic north oilfields that is usually wasted — harness it to heat greenhouses for growing cucumbers.

Oil wells often produce so-called associated gas which then has to be burnt, or “flared”, if there are no gas pipelines.

“We need to think about how to use associated gas,” the minister, Yuri Trutnev, was quoted as saying on Monday by the RIA Novosti news agency during a visit to the Siberian city of Khanty-Mansisk. “If it costs too much to link it up to the pipeline network, then we need to look at the possibility of using it on the spot: build greenhouses and grow cucumbers in the far north.” — MNA/Reuters

**Moscow wins again as most expensive city, with London as runner up**

NEW YORK, 18 June— If your boss wants to transfer you to Moscow this year, he’d better offer you a fair sum to do so — or even a downright handsome one depending on where you live now. That’s because Moscow has just been designated the world’s most expensive city for the second year in a row by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

Using the cost of living in New York as a base, Mercer determined Moscow is 34.4 percent more expensive after taking into account the cost of housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

A luxury two-bedroom in Moscow now rents for $4,000 a month; a CD costs $24.83, and an international newspaper, $6.30, according to Mercer. By comparison, a fast food meal with a burger is a steal at $4.80.

London takes the No 2 spot, up from No 5 a year ago.

Following closely on London’s heels are Seoul and Tokyo — Nos 3 and 4, respectively — both of which are 22 percent more expensive than New York, while No 5 Hong Kong is 19 percent more costly. **Internet**

**Argentina maintains natural gas cuts to industry**

BUENOS AIRES, 18 June— Argentina’s three largest natural gas distributors maintained supply cuts to industry and service stations for a second day on Saturday due to a spike in demand from homes in cold weather.

President Nestor Kirchner’s government has asked the distributors — covering half the country’s population — to ration supplies to factories to guarantee normal service to homes as temperatures dropped to freezing during the southern hemisphere’s late autumn.

Metrogas supplies Buenos Aires City and southern Buenos Aires Province, Gas Natural Ban serves the northern part of the province, and Camuzzi Gas Pampeana supplies La Pampa Province and the rest of Buenos Aires Province.

Energy prices have been heavily controlled in Argentina ever since a deep 2001-2002 economic crisis, so investment in the sector has been low. With the economy and energy demand booming, energy supplies cannot keep up when demand spikes. — MNA/Reuters
Anti-clotting drug may reduce need for amputation

B ELLING, 19 June — An anti-clotting drug used to treat strokes and heart attacks may prevent some patients from amputations of frostbite-damaged finger and toes, according to a new study released Tuesday in the Archives of Surgery medical journal.

The research conducted by doctors at the University of Utah showed that the anti-clotting drug could also restore blood flow to frostbitten fingers and limbs, which greatly reduced the need for amputation. Patients with frostbite often experience swelling as the frozen skin thaws, blocking tiny blood vessels.

In contrast, researchers said, the addition of the anti-clotting drug tPA, or tissue plasminogen activator, helped keep blood flowing to the injured area, averting permanent damage.

“…the researchers noted.

In the Utah study, six patients who were treated with a drug called tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, within 24 hours of injury were compared with 25 other patients who did not receive the drug, and one patient who got the anti-clotting drug later than the 24-hour window.

Among the patients who received tPA within 24 hours, only six of 59 frostbitten fingers or toes were removed, or about 10 percent. In the other group, 97 of 234 affected digits were amputated, or about 41 percent.

Thrombolytic therapy is not new, but has been difficult to study because not every frostbite victim is a candidate. For instance, people already on blood thinners or someone who has suffered a head injury would be at risk for serious complications from the anti-clotting drug.

China to build highway on world’s tallest mountain

LHASA, 18 June — China will begin Monday building a “highway” on Mount Qomolangma, the world’s tallest peak, in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region so as to ease the path of those bearing the Olympic torch. Budgeted at 150 million yuan (19.7 million US dollars), construction of the road will kick off at Qomolangma Base Camp 5,200 meters above sea level.

The project aims to turn a 108-km rough road linking Tingri County of Xigaze Prefecture at the foot of the mountain to the Base Camp into a blacktop highway fenced by undulating guardrails. The project will take about four months. On completion, the highway will become the major route for tourists and mountaineers who are crowding onto Mount Qomolangma, known in the west as Mount Everest, in ever larger numbers.

Organizers of the Beijing Games have revealed ambitious plans for the longest torch relay in Olympic history — a 137,000-kilometre, 130-day route that would cross five continents and scale the world’s summit, which straddles the border between China and Nepal.

Israel fires back on Lebanon

BEIRUT, 18 June — Israeli troops on Sunday afternoon fired five shells at south Lebanon where two rockets were launched against northern Israel, Lebanese security sources said. The Israeli troops fired five shells on the southern mountainous areas of Birkat Naqqar and Jabal Saddanneh near the Lebanon-Israeli border, they said, adding that there were no reports of casualties.

The shelling came after two Katyusha rockets slammed into northern Israel from Lebanon without causing any casualties, in the first such fire since last summer’s conflict with Hizbollah.

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

Israeli and Lebanese security sources were quoted by local Ya Libnan news website as reporting that they believed a Palestinian group had fired the rockets. However, Israel said it would not “succumb to provocation.”

13 killed in German coach accident

BERLIN, 18 June — As many as 13 people were killed and 30 injured in a coach crash on Monday on an eastern German motorway.

The coach, carrying old-aged pensioners, ran off the road and plunged down an embankment on the A14 motorway between the cities of Magdeburg and Dresden, German news agency DPA reported, quoting police.

About 48 adults were aboard the coach, which started its journey in the western German town of Hohenauern to Dresden.

Helicopters and police rushed to the scene to help send the injured to hospital. The cause of the accident was not clear, police said.
Commander attends physic…
(from page 1)

The commander presented physic nut saplings and physic nut grafts to departmental officials, social organizations and local people, and looked into the growing of physic nut.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint proceeded to the fish breeding camp of Fisheries Department in Khashi Village, Waingmaw Township and heard a report presented by an official on producing and sale of fish.

After giving necessary instructions, the commander attended to their needs.

After that, the commander inspected the fish breeding camp and viewed the upgrading of roads in Moklwe Village and Khutchu Village. The commander gave instructions on timely completion of the task, stockpiling of raw materials and future tasks.—MNA

Myanmar delegation attends
96th annual conference of ILO

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June
— A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Labour Maj-Gen Aung Kyi arrived back here on 17 June after attending the 96th annual conference of International Labour Organization held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 May to 15 June.

Members of the delegation are Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Director-General of Labour Department U Chit Shein, Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Hla Myint, Deputy Director U Win Myint of Labour Department, representative of employers General Secretary of Myanmar Industrial Producers Society Dr Pwint San and representative of employees-Union Ministry of Labour U Htay Oo of Good Morning Bakery of Myanmar Mayson Industries Co Ltd also arrived back on the same flight.

On 12 June, the deputy minister for labour delivered a speech Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin also delivered an address at Ministers’ Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries.

On 13 June, on behalf of Home Minister of Brunei Darassalam Honourable Peixin Adanan Yussuf, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darassalam Dato Paduka Haji Mahadi Haji Waisi, hosted working breakfast in honour of Labour Ministers of ASEAN.

The Deputy Minister for Labour discussed cooperation with ILO and latest developments.

He attended the meeting of Labour Ministers of Asia and the Pacific Region.

On 7 June, the deputy minister and party met with Deputy Director-General and Executive Director Mr Kari Tapiola of ILO Office and Director-General of ILO Office Mr Juan Somavia on 11 June.

Next, the commander looked into packaging of mangoes in the brokerage, transport of fish and prawn at 1200-ton cold storage and packaging of fish and prawn and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

On arrival at Kyugok-Wantein bridge in Kyugok (Panhsan), the commander oversaw condition of export of goods by cargo trucks and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Afterwards, the commander attended a ceremony to present exercise books, stationery and school uniforms for the schools held at Kyugok motel. Next, Kyugok Township Education Officer U Tin Oo briefed the commander on school enrollment of the school-going age children in the region.

When the commander and wife presented exercise books, stationery and school uniforms for the schools, the teachers and students accepted them.

Next, the teachers and students accepted cash assistance K 150,000 presented by the commander and wife.

Afterwards, chairperson Daw Cherry accepted a total of 200 membership applications presented by executive Daw Lwan Thwe of Kyugok (Panhsan) MCWA and Assistant Education Officer U Soe Myint of Shan State (North) spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the commander and wife cordially greeted teachers and students.—MNA

USDA Secretary-General urges members to step up efforts for regional development

USDA Secretary-General U Hay Oo meeting with departmental officials and USDA members at Meiktila District/Township USDA Office in Meiktila. — A & T

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June
— Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Hay Oo met with departmental officials, townsmen and USDA members at the office of Meiktila District/USDA in Meiktila on 17 June and called for stepping up efforts for regional development tasks.

While the government is making efforts for prevalence community peace in all regions and developments of the country, members of USDA are also taking part in implementing the social welfare tasks joining hands with the people, he said. He urged those present to make more efforts while the country is enjoying fruits of development.

Before meeting with departmental officials and USDA members, USDA Secretary-General U Hay Oo visited Wundawpwiay Pagoda and Relic Pagoda and donated offerings to Sayadaw of Wundawpwiay Monastery.

U Hay Oo and USDA members also made cash donation at the monastery.

Afterwards, they went to Kyathit Monastery in Meiktila and also donated offerings to the Sayadaw of the monastery. U Hay Oo also met with townsmen and officials concerned at the monastery and discussed construction of No 132 Basic Education Primary School. At the meeting, the USDA Secretary-General fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, they visited Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Meiktila and made cash donation there. —MNA
**Shake off the shackles as soon as possible**

Happy Birthday, Ma Suu! I wish you a success for the wellbeing of the State and the people with peace of mind and body from your 62nd birthday anniversary to many years to come.

Ma Suu, I remember my meeting you on such an occasion of your birthday anniversary. On 8-8-1988, I left the Kyaikkhami strike as Party Council members came to participate in it in spite of the opposition of the people. I loaded up my motorboat moored to Kyaikkhami jetty with salt and sailed it to Yangon. When I learnt that you would give talks at the western stairways of the Shwedagon Pagoda on your arrival at Yangon, I arrived in Monywa in February, three months earlier than you did. I took the same route as yours and got to YeU where I met Ko Po Thaung, a rice dealer. With his help, I studied fish breeding in Dabayin and YeU.

I witnessed those regions growing in economy. I spent a night at the native village of Ko Po Thaung. As there was a wedding at the house next to his, videos were shown throughout the night. In the following morning, in the compound of that house all the villagers, young and old, were served meals. I was surprised to see that the whole village was served on such a small occasion, and I raised a question about that. My host replied that that was not a wedding of the rich. He said those who could afford would serve the whole village with rice and pork curry for a period of seven days.

While walking around, I found a Latpan tree blossoming in red by Mu canal and sat under it. After a while, a young man aged about 30 came over and took shelter under the tree. When I asked him how the water in the canal came from, he replied it came from Kabo Dam. When asked if the water was enough for irrigation, he said it was not enough in the past but now more than enough. In the past, the water from Kabo Dam came here only in the rainy season. It could not flow properly in summer, he added. **Thanks to the building of Thaphanseik Dam on the upper reaches of Kabo Dam, the latter could then be supplied with enough water.** That was why water was enough in both monsoon and summer and multiple cropping could be carried out. The houses in the village had become the ones made of wood roofed with corrugated iron sheets. The local people could give more charities. They could afford to buy trailer-Gs and motorbikes, he explained. Even before I arrived at Thaphanseik Dam, I learnt how the dam benefited Shwebo region.

Thanks to a letter of introduction written by Ko Aung Kyaw Oo, a rice mill owner of YeU, to Thaphanseik PDC Chairman U Maung Lay, I got the opportunity to visit Thaphanseik Dam. It is the largest dam in Myanmar whose construction started in September 1996 and was completed in April 2001. The State had to spend K 8960 million to build it. The dam irrigates 500,000 acres of farmland and can generate 30 megawatts of electricity. The dry and arid Shwebo region is now greening with golden paddy plantations even in summer. Due to Thaphanseik Dam, the towns and villages in Shwebo region have access to sufficient supply of electric power. Local people told me that the electric power supply to Shwebo exceeded the demand. I asked an old woman at the age of nearly 80 in Shwebo if she had been to Yangon. Wearing a smile on her face with her eyes filled with tears of joy, she said, “Yes, of course. Due to Thaphanseik Dam, my sons have got an opportunity to grow multiple crops and are doing well in business. And they took me to the Shwedagon Pagoda and Kyakhtiyo Pagoda. So, I have had my ultimate wish fulfilled.”

(See page 9)
I would say, Ma Suu, In the administration of justice, there are two kinds of evidence—living evidence and material evidence. When a living evidence (man) gives evidence in the court of law, he may tell lies. So, judges place more reliance on material evidence than living evidence. The Thaphanseik Dam I have visited is a material evidence. You were treated as a VIP in the trips the Tatmadaw government conducted you round construction sites across the nation. At the time, the entire people were delighted with your around-the-nation tour and thought that the Tatmadaw government and you were working together. However, you failed to recognize the material evidence.

I moved from one place to another along the over 30 miles long Thaphanseik Dam to observe the richness of fish resource in it. During my stay, I got acquainted with some local people in Shwebo. Then, I noticed that many of local people did not have clear outlook on you, and some local people said that you failed to preserve own lineage and made the nation get into crises.

Ma Suu, Shwebo is the native town of U Aung Zeya, who unified the entire nation into the Third Myanmar Empire. Many local people in Shwebo are his posterity. In addition, Dabayin in Shwebo region is the native town of general Maha Bandoola. So, Shwebo dwellers are not in your support and leaders and members of Shwebo NLD should have prevented you visiting Shwebo. However, these were things of the past.

Ma Suu, about a month after the Dabayin incident, I left Thaphanseik Dam for Monywa. There I came across a friend of mine with whom I used to attend St. John’s school together. He was a standard senior to me and he often explained to me the lessons I did not understand well. He was also the student in charge of our hostel. And he was a responsible person of an administrative body of the Tatmadaw government then. I told him that I was sorry for the Dabayin incident. He said, “Yes, Min Swe, I was also sorry. We dissuaded Daw Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo from proceeding to Shwebo, but in vain. That night on 30 May, I heard the bad news that there was a clash between their supporters and protesters when they arrived at Dabayin.”

I think that Ma Suu and U Tin Oo realized that the incident was due to their stubbornness.

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Ma Suu, these days, 15 to 20 NLD members are saying prayers at pagodas for your release. In that regard, I pondered their services for your release. Yes, you are under restriction and you should have been released. I wish you would be released. Indeed, you are caught by the west bloc so far has helped present more than 80 prizes and medals to you. You have been awarded these prizes, so you have to comply with their wishes. Fulfilling their wishes, you got involved in the Dabayin incident. The government had to release an order to put restriction on you to stay just in your home in order to avert possible similar incidents. Making a review of that situation objectively, we can perceive that you will never be released from restriction so long as you cannot shake off the fetters of the west bloc.

Ma Suu, the entire people today have an aspiration to witness the emergence of a modern developed nation. The other countries in the region are developing rapidly. Even Cambodia has a prosperous future for development. Now, Myanmar people have a strong desire to enjoy development with high living standard and an easy life. So, it is required of you to set yourself free from the west bloc’s shackles and to join hands with the government and the people. I would like to exhort you to have sympathy for the nation’s population of more than 50 million and to get yourself free from the shackles created by more than 80 prizes of the west.

Translation: ST+MS
Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 18-6-2007
*****
Mandalay Division
MCWA conducts preventive...

(from page 16)

construction of a new school building and a canteen.

Afterwards, the commander and party went to No 13 Basic Education High School in Mahaungmyay Township and also inspected preventive measures against the mosquito-born disease.

Members of MCWA, MWAO, social organizations, teachers and students carried out sanitation tasks to keep the school clean and help making the insect-repellent curtains of the school. Health workers also volunteered to fumigate the school.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party also visited No 13 Basic Education Middle School and fulfilled the requirements for prevention of flood in the school compound during the rainy season.

Town dwellers and social organizations are also participating in implementing the preventive measures against the dengue fever in Mandalay. — MNA

New school building handed over

(from page 16)

under the command through Commander of Monywa Station Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo. Next, the commander presented school uniforms and exercise books to male students of families at Alon Station and Daw Wai Wai Khaing, wife of the commander to female students of families at the station.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn also presented school uniforms and exercise books to 50 students in Alon Station.

At the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials accepted K 5.45 million donated by well wishers. — MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Sri Lankan Ambassador

YANGON, 19 June — President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and members met with Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr PAD Samarasekera and Minister (Commercial) Mr Bandula Somasiri of High Commission of Sri Lanka at the federation here yesterday.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed promotion of mutual trade between the two countries, cooperation in business and IT sector and holding of trade fairs in the two countries. — MNA

Barak sworn in as Israel’s new Defence Minister

JERUSALEM, 19 June — Former prime minister Ehud Barak was sworn in as Israel’s Defence Minister on Monday in a Cabinet shakeup pushed through in response to violence in Gaza.

Barak received a vote of approval from Parliament to replace Amir Peretz, who lost to Barak in last week’s Labour Party leadership election.

Labour is the main coalition partner in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s government.

Barak, a decorated former commando and Armed Forces chief, built his comeback on Labour chagrin at the way Olmert and Peretz, who both lack military pedigrees, handled last year’s Lebanon war. — MNA/Reuters

Training Workshop on HPAI Surveillance in Wildbirds opened

YANGON, 19 June — A ceremony to open the Training Workshop on HPAI Surveillance in Wildbirds jointly conducted by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and FAO was held at the meeting hall of the department in Insein this morning.

Director-General of LBVD U Maung Maung Nyunt and Resident Representative of FAO Mr Tang Zhengping made speeches on the occasion.

Dr Boripat and Dr Rattapan of the Region Office for Asia and the Pacific to FAO, Dr Alessandro Cristalli of EU, Senior Adviser Dr Masao Sasaki of FAO and scholars from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Forest Department and others will lecture the workshop.


At the workshop, they discussed matters on directives and programmes on helping the victims to the Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing and members of the committee leaders of the special task force, deputy ministers reported on work accomplishment of the first four-month period.

A videotape titled “Climate changes on the grounds of forests” was on screen to the attendees.

The committee chairman delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Environmental conservation measures coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The Committee for Environmental Conservation held its meeting No 6 of 2007 at the Ministry of Forestry here yesterday.

Chairman of the committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Vice-Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addressed the meeting.

Secretary of the committee Director-General of the Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing and members of the committee leaders of the special task force, deputy ministers reported on work accomplishment of the first four-month period.

A videotape titled “Climate changes on the grounds of forests” was on screen to the attendees.

The committee chairman delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Technical Workshop on Repatriation and Reintegration open

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The opening of Technical Workshop on Repatriation and Reintegration was held at Shwe Myanmar Hotel here today.

The workshop was organized by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Home Affairs, UNICEF(Myanmar), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNIAP, World Vision and Save the Children.

It was attended by officials of the Social Welfare Department and Myanmar Police Force, responsible personnel of Myanmar Women’ Affairs Federation, the invited persons of UNICEF, UNIAP, IOM, World Vision, Save the Children and International non-governmental organizations.

At the workshop, they discussed matters on directives and programmes on helping the victims to reintegrate with the community and rehabilitation tasks.

The workshop lasts till 21 June. — MNA

Officials of UMFCCI hold meeting with Sri Lankan Ambassador

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Castro says Cuba will defend itself against US

HAVANA, 19 June — Cuba will continue to build up its defences against the United States and Cubans should be prepared to make more sacrifices to remain independent, Cuban leader Fidel Castro said in an editorial published on Monday.

In his commentary in the ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma, the first time in a series of such articles that he has turned his attention directly to Cuban affairs, Castro called on Cubans to safeguard the island’s socialist system against Havana’s long-time ideological foe the United States.

Castro, 80, has not been seen in public since undergoing emergency intestinal surgery in July last year, when he handed over power temporarily to his younger brother, Raul.

In Monday’s article, which took up the entire front page of Granma and was called a “Reflection and Manifesto for the Cuban People,” Castro denounced five decades of US policy of isolation toward Cuba and accused US President George W. Bush of wanting to invade Cuba.

The convalescing leader, who took power in 1959 and launched a leftist revolution on the Caribbean island, warned Bush that Cuba was prepared to do what it takes to defend itself from a foreign threat.

“Cuba will continue to develop and improve the fighting abilities of its people, including our modest but active and efficient defensive weapons industry, which multiplies our ability to confront the invaders wherever they are, and whatever weapons they possess,” Castro wrote.

“We shall continue acquiring the necessary materials and the pertinent firepower,” he added, without providing details.

Castro quoted 19th century Cuban independence hero Jose Marti as saying that freedom carries a high cost, and added that “In spite of everything, we will keep on growing as necessary and as possible”.

MNA/Reuters

Thai southern schools ordered to be closed

BANGKOK, 19 June — Thailand’s Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont on Monday ordered the closure of schools in remote and violence-plagued areas in the restive South and relocation of students to other schools for safety reason.

His order came on the heels of a bomb blast at a tea shop in Yala municipality, injuring 14 people — four of them in serious condition. The bomb, activated by a mobile phone, went off at the tea shop opposite a school in Banang Sata District.

Surayud announced at a Press conference that he had ordered closure of schools in troubled areas in the deep South after discussing the issue with the Internal Security Operations Command.

Students from those schools will move to schools where officials can provide maximum security, the Prime Minister was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying.

“There are more than 700 schools in the three southern provinces. It’s difficult to beef up security at all schools,” the Prime Minister said.

Reiterating his decision not to specially assign a minister to tackle the southern violence, the premier pointed out that the government was resorting to new tactics to cope with the changing situation.

He said the best way to tackle the southern unrest was to educate young people and change their attitude on discrimination.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills 78 in crowded Baghdad square

BAGHDAD, Iraq, 19 June — A truck bomb ripped through a crowded square in the capital Tuesday, killing at least 78 people and wounding 224 others, an Interior Ministry official said.

The bomb erupted about 2 pm in Khalani Square, a busy commercial district near a Shiite mosque, the official said.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki condemned the attack and blamed the blast on Saddamists and other extremists intent on stoking sectarian violence.

Ten cars were destroyed in the blast, which sent a plume of smoke rising over rooftops in central Baghdad.

The Khalani Mosque also was damaged in the blast, authorities said. Video from the scene showed part of the wall surrounding the mosque collapsed.

The attack comes six days after insurgents blew up the two remaining minarets at the al-Askariya Mosque, a revered Shiite shrine in Samarra that was badly damaged in a February 2006 attack.

Internet

7 Afghan children killed in coalition airstrike

KABUL, 19 June — An airstrike launched by the US-led coalition forces killed seven children in Paktika Province of eastern Afghanistan, a coalition statement said Monday.

Afghan and coalition forces conducted an operation against a compound in Zarghun Shah District late Sunday, the statement said.

The compound, which contained a mosque and a madrassa (a religious school), was suspected of hiding al-Qaeda militants, it added.

An air strike was called in and resulted in the death of seven militants and seven children, according to the statement.

“Early reporting said that seven children at the madrassa died as a result of the strike,” it said.

The statement said after the air strike residents of the compound confirmed al-Qaeda fighters had been present all day. — MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 20 June, 2007 11

A view from the clearwater river of Fort McMurray and the ongoing construction on 14 June 2007. Not since the late 1800s when tens of thousands of Europeans settled in Canada’s wild west have so many people migrated here, but recent newcomers are still too few to abate a growing demand for oil industry workers.—INTERNET

San Antonio Spurs Tony Parker kisses the Larry O’ Brien Trophy after defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers to win the NBA Finals basketball series in Cleveland, Ohio, on Thursday, on 14 June. — INTERNET
At least eight immigrants die in seas off Sicily

ROME, 18 June—Eight illegal immigrants were found dead in waters south of Sicily on Sunday after their boat capsized. An Italian Coast Guard spokesman said the bodies had been sighted by a plane around 67 miles (108 kilometres) south of Lampedusa, an Italian island between Sicily and Libya which is a common destination for African immigrants.

“We can’t tell where they come from or who they are,” the spokesman said.—MNA/Reuters

Afghan suicide bombing kills 24

KABUL, 18 June — A Taleban bomber blew up a police bus in the heart of Kabul on Sunday, killing 24 people in one of the deadliest suicide strikes to hit Afghanistan since the Taleban were ousted in 2001.

The blast tore apart the bus, wounding dozens of bystanders, wrecking several other vehicles and scattering body parts. It was the fifth suicide attack in three days in the country, suggesting an escalation in use of the tactic.

Official death tolls changed throughout the day, reflecting chaos at the scene and in hospitals. Police initially said more than 35 people were killed, but officials revised that down to 24.

That would still make it one of the deadliest suicide bombs since the Taleban were toppled, and the worst insurgent bomb attack of any kind since a car bomb killed 26 in 2002.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the attack, calling it an attempt to block the training of Afghanistan’s Western-led police force.

“The enemies of Afghanistan have lost the capability to fight our forces face to face and are resorting to these cowardly tactics,” said Interior Minister Zarar Ahmad Mqbel, who gave the final figure of 24 dead.

The Interior Ministry said five of the wounded were foreigners, including two Japanese, a Korean and two Pakistanis. Earlier reports that foreigners had been killed proved false.

A police officer at the scene, outside the Kabul police chief’s headquarters, said he had seen the bomber leap on to the bus as it was moving slowly away, its door wide open.

“It was a very, very successful suicide attack,” a Taleban commander, Mullah Hayatullah Khan, told Reuters by satellite phone. “We have plans for more successful attacks in future.”—MNA/Reuters

Beijing police seize nearly 30,000 fake Olympic products

BEIJING, 18 June — Beijing police have seized nearly 30,000 fake Olympic products, mainly the official mascots of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, or “Fuwa’s, since the beginning of this year.

According to a report of Beijing Daily Messenger, most of the fake products were sold near subways or at night markets or on the Internet. The cost of fake products sometimes cost more than authentic ones, said the report.

In one case, more than 12,800 partially finished “fuwa’s” and more than 12,700 finished products were confiscated in February in a house in Dongcheng District, which was rented by a man from east China’s Shandong Province, said the newspaper.

Chinese captain detained after deadly bridge collapse

BEIJING, 18 June—Chinese authorities have detained a captain and five other suspects after a boat ploughed into a bridge in the country’s south, sending nine people plunging into a river.

The six detainees were accused of criminal blame for a major accident after the boat laden with sand struck a mile-long bridge in Guangdong Province, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday.

Seven of the missing were crossing the bridge in vehicles while two others were walking along it when the boat struck at 5 am on Friday. Part of the bridge collapsed on to the bus as it was moving slowly away, its door wide open.

“It was a very, very successful suicide attack,” a Taleban commander, Mullah Hayatullah Khan, told Reuters by satellite phone. “We have plans for more successful attacks in future.”—MNA/Reuters
Ginkgo helps improve thinking, but not much

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Ginkgo probably can help improve thinking, but not by much, US scientists said in remarks published by the Los Angeles Times on Monday.

Benefits of ginkgo are minor and supplement enhances memory but not by much, said Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery at University of California in Los Angeles and a spokesperson for the Society for Neuroscience.

Ginkgo works best on minds on the decline, but “it (Ginkgo) won’t make you a genius,” he said.

Ginkgo contains several compounds that seem to stimulate blood circulation and perk up brain cells, Gomez-Pinilla said. “For people who are performing at a high level, the changes will be very small.”

In some cases, the benefits are small enough to be essentially invisible. A four-month Stanford study of 90 high-functioning adults ages 65 to 84, published in March, found no real differences between a placebo and a supplement containing 160 milligrammes of ginkgo in 5 of 6 thinking tasks. Make that almost no difference: In the sixth task — which measured the ability to memorize a list — subjects taking the placebo outperformed patients taking ginkgo.

“My personal feeling is that the verdict on ginkgo isn’t in yet,” says lead author Joseph Carlson, now the director of radiology, sports and cardiovascular nutrition at Michigan State University.

Microsoft to buy shares in China TV giant

CHENGDU, 18 June — Microsoft China is buying 15 million shares of China’s Sichuan Changhong Electric, one of the Mainland’s largest television makers.

Microsoft will pay 94.05 million yuan for the shares at a price of 6.27 yuan each and they will not be tradable for 36 months from the end of Changhong’s non-public offering of 400 million shares, a statement from Changhong said.

Changhong is raising 2.5 billion yuan to develop its plasma display panel (PDP) production line by selling 400 million shares for a minimum 6.27 yuan each.

The statement prompted Changhong Electric shares to surge by the 10-percent daily limit on Monday to 10.92 yuan, following up a 9.97-percent increase due to speculation on Thursday.

Roger Chen, a Microsoft spokesman in Beijing, said Microsoft made the investment because Changhong was competitive and had advantages in digital entertainment products.

Changhong, the company based in southwestern city of Chengdu, refused to give further information. Microsoft signed a memorandum of understanding with Changhong on Friday to cooperate in a project named Media Galaxy to develop products that connect televisions with computers and the Internet, said the statement.

Chen said Microsoft’s digital media technologies would be used in the products, but declined to give more details on Media Galaxy.

In 2004, Changhong and Microsoft signed an agreement to cooperate in the field of multimedia, which Changhong said would help consolidate and develop its market share in China’s multimedia market.

The investment of Microsoft showed investors were optimistic about the development of Changhong, observers said.

Last year, Changhong acquired a 75-percent stake in the Republic of Korea’s third largest PDP producer Orion PDP Co Ltd, entering the upper level of the production value chain.

Changhong realized a record 18.8 billion yuan in the first half of 2007, up 9.4 percent from the same period last year.
Saviola leaves Barca with bitter taste

MADRID, 19 June — Argentine striker Javier Saviola has said he is leaving Barcelona after six years with a “bitter taste” in his mouth because of the club’s treatment of him in his final season.

“They haven’t treated me well, but that’s their business,” the 25-year-old international told a news conference on Monday.

“They’ll have their reasons for acting that way, but I’m leaving with my conscience clear, knowing that I’ve always tried to do my best.”

Russia wants more balanced drugs testing programme

MOSCOW, 19 June — Russia’s athletics chief coach has asked the sport’s governing body (IAAF) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for a more balanced drugs testing programme.

Valery Kulichenko accused the IAAF of discriminating against the Russians, saying his athletes have been drug tested more often than most of their competitors.

“The IAAF’s statistics don’t lie, our athletes have been tested 102 times for the past month while the Americans only 41 and the Chinese a mere nine times,” he said on Monday.

“I don’t understand why there is such a discrepancy.”

Russia have been the sport’s dominant force in Europe and are expected to challenge the United States for the medal count at the world athletics championship in Osaka, Japan in August.

Kulichenko said he would like to see better coordination between IAAF, WADA and other agencies involved in drugs testing.

“Don’t get me wrong, I’m for a thorough drugs control but there must be a good balance,” he told Reuters from Tula, where he was watching one of the club’s training sessions.

“It’s a pity because Russia has never had a drug control system to speak of.”

Police arrest 3 footballers for motoring offences

LONDON, 19 June — Former England and Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham was named on Monday as one of three footballers arrested over an alleged scam involving motoring offences.

Last week Sheringham, 41, who was released by West Ham United at the end of last season, was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list to mark his distinguished career of almost 1,000 games for club and country.

Two former West Ham teammates, Bobby Zamora, 26, and Shaun Newton, 31, have also been arrested in connection with the alleged offences together with a woman, police have said.

“On 15 May a 41-year-old male was arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice when he attended by appointment a police station in east London,” a Metropolitan Police spokesman said. — MNA/Reuters

Marseille owner denies role in transfer scandal

Marseille (France), 19 June — The owner of Olympique Marseille on Monday denied misusing club funds in a fraud scandal during the late 1990s as he sought to clear his name on appeal.

Robert-Louis Dreyfus, who holds a majority stake in the club, received a suspended three-year prison sentence last year after being found guilty of involvement in the scandal linked to player transfers in the late 1990s.

Former coach Rolland Courbis was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to serve an additional year from a previous suspended sentence, and both men were fined 375,000 euros (502,600 US dollars) each.

“As president of OM, I obviously take responsibility for these facts, but I do not recognize misappropriating company funds,” Dreyfus told the appeal trial, which opened on Monday.

Dreyfus and nine of the 12 other people originally convicted appeared in court, including Courbis.

Prosecutors at the original trial said some 22 million euros were illegally diverted from club funds as part of the transfer of 15 players between 1997 and 1999 — including Laurent Blanc and Christophe Dugarry of France’s 1998 World Cup winning squad.

During that trial, which took place after a six-year investigation, the court heard of a complicated system of international cash transfers between several tax havens as part of a system of hidden commissions paid on player moves. — MNA/Reuters

Roddick stages great escape to win Queen’s title

LONDON, 19 June — Andy Roddick staged a great escape to win his fourth Queen’s Club trophy in five years with a dramatic 4-6, 7-6, 7-6 win over France’s Nicolas Mahut on Sunday. The American second seed survived a match point deep in the second set tiebreak to wreck Mahut’s hopes of landing a debut title.

After winning the most hotly contested final in the event’s 29-edition history, Roddick told the crowd after winning his first title of the season. “This was by far the toughest match I’ve ever played here and I feel pretty lucky to be standing in the winner’s circle so hopefully I can carry the luck over to Wimbledon.”

MNA/Reuters
"Severe poverty" affects 1.3 mlm British children

LONDON, 19 June — One in ten children in Britain are living in "severe poverty" in families surviving on an average income of 7,000 pounds a year, charity Save the Children said on Tuesday.

"It is an outrage that in such a wealthy country, parents are struggling to get by on such low incomes and children are missing out on basic things like living in a warm house, having a proper diet or going on a school trip," the charity said.

Using a new measure that combines household incomes with adult and child deprivation, the charity calculated that 10.2 percent of children — or 1.3 million — were living in what it called "severe poverty".

The government disputed the measure, accusing the charity of producing a "misleading analysis".

In a report, Save the Children said conditions were worst in London where severe poverty affected one in six families, living on incomes well below the national average of 19,000 pounds a year.

Hostages freed in Paris bank siege

PARIS, France, 19 June — Would-be robbers took six people hostage in a bank south of Paris on Tuesday, but all were released unharmed during several hours of negotiations with authorities, and the gunmen surrendered, police said.

Police with guns drawn were seen going into the bank, and they later emerged, leading out two people whose heads were hidden by ski masks.

The attempted holdup was at a branch of the LCL bank at a wholesale food market in Rungis, a southern suburb of Paris, near Only international airport and about 7/12 miles from the city centre.

The prefecture of the suburban Val-de-Marne region said the gunmen almost immediately released one person — a woman — when the siege began, and she alerted police, said Patrick Trotignon, a police spokesman.

The others were released in small groups during the negotiations.

The gunmen agreed to turn themselves in on condition that their faces be hidden as they were led from the bank. Trotignon said.

"They wanted money but their ambitions exceeded their abilities," he said.

Trotignon described the hostage-takers as "amateurs" who stole a scooter and left it in front of the bank, which would have attracted attention even without the holdup.

Special police forces gather outside the bank where two hold-ups six people hostage in Rungis, south of Paris, the site of the main Paris wholesale food market, on 19 June, 2007. Three of the hostages were released earlier in the day and the final three were freed early in the afternoon after a specialist police negotiating team was sent to the scene. — PHOTO

VENICE, Italy, 19 June — Venice's rate of 21,000 pounds a year, which would have hidden the bank, which would have attracted attention even without the holdup. — PHOTO

WEATHER

Tuesday, 19 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, lower Sagoing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay Division, scattered in Rakhine State, upper Sagoing, Magway and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawkhaw (3.22 inches), Kyainkun (1.02) inches, Kyainpyu (0.79) inch. Myaynigyi (0.75) inch and Magway (0.20) inch. Maximum temperature on 18-6-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 19-6-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 19-6-2007 was 97%. Total sunshine hours on 18-6-2007 was (2.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-6-2007 was (0.51) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba Aye, (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (41.77) inches at Mingaladon, (46.38) inches at Kaba Aye and (42.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was (9) mph from Southeast at (18:15) hours MST on 18-6-2007.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and south Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-6-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagoing and Bago Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Mandalay, Magway Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nai Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 20-6-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 20-6-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 20-6-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Earthquake report

(Investigated at: 13:00 hours MST Today)

A Moderate earthquake of intensity (50) Richter Scale with an epicentre outside of Myanmar about (280) miles Southeast of Mandalay Seismological observatory was recorded at (11) hrs (37) min (24) sec on MST 19-6-2007. One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 20 June, 2007

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MANDALAY, 19 June — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife Daw Khin Pyone Win visited No 7 Basic Education High School in Chamnyathazi Township on 2 June and inspected preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever conducted by Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association in the school’s compound.

Members of Mandalay Division MCWA, Women’s Affairs Organization, Red Cross Society and social organizations volunteered to carry out sanitation tasks at the school. Health workers also helped making mosquito-repellent curtains and fumigated classrooms of the school. On his tour of inspection, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attended to the needs for extended sanitation and further fumigation, Red Cross Society and social organizations volunteered to carry out sanitation tasks at the school. Health workers also helped making mosquito-repellent curtains and fumigated classrooms of the school. On his tour of inspection, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attended to the needs for extended sanitation and further fumigation.

New school building handed over to Basic Education Department in Monywa

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Acts of NLD party undermining the State and the people

48 members resign from Eimme Township NLD

YANGON, 19 June—Altogether 13 members of the Eimme Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division including U Tun Kyaw and U Than Lwin of Kyakhatkway Village, five members including U Kyi Win of Htanbinyo (Khattiya) Village, five members including U Zaw Myint and U Than Gyi of Ywama (Khattiya) Village and U Myint Ohn of Yetho Nyaungwaing Village, eight members including U Khoo Li of Thannyaung Village, U Ni of Phayagyigon Village, and U Myint Maung of Kunyatagun Village totalling 48 persons on 11 June resigned from the party of their own accord, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters of resignation sent to the Eimme Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commissions, they said that they were fed up with the NLD as it has been engaged in activities that are undermining the State and the people without participating in nation-building endeavours. That was why they resigned from the party of their own accord, they said.—MNA

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