Established 1914

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10th Waxing of First Waso 1369 ME
Sunday, 24 June, 2007

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

Commander participates in physic nut growing ceremonies, inspects development tasks in Mongyang, Mongkhat townships

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein together with departmental officials inspected construction of a new two-storey building of Middle School in Kanni village, Minbya Township on 6 June.

Chairman U Zaw Myint Thein of Township PDC reported on progress of work and stockpiling of development drives inspected in Minbya, Kyauktaw Townships

The commander also attended Mongyang Township physic nut growing ceremony and heard reports on progress of cultivation of physic nut plants and collection of physic nut saplings and grafts.

Next, the commander presented the saplings to members of township social organizations and local people.

Later, the commander and wife planted physic nut saplings at the designated places.

After the ceremony, the commander looked into the nurturing of physic nut saplings and thriving physic nut plantations.

(See page 8)

Weather Forecast for (24-6-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas
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Mandalay and neighbouring areas
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Plants give human beings not only crops for nutrition but also herbal medicines. Herbal plants and tubers and bulbs are used as ingredients of potent Myanmar traditional medicines. Global warming causes the gradual rise in temperature of the earth’s atmosphere with an increase in deterioration of plants. In consequence, there has been an adverse effect on natural forests, home to wildlife, and a great many species of animals have become extinct.

MAUNG SWE WIN (BAGO)

IN SIDE

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met with families of servicemen at Yan Myo Aung Hall in Mongyang Station on 8 June and urged them to carry out regional development tasks in cooperation with departments concerned.

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MAUNG SWE WIN (BAGO)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 24 June, 2007**

**Myanmar’s tourism industry with promising future**

Tourism industry is a lucrative business that is carried out on a wide scale around the world. World nations are preserving and promoting their famous archaeological buildings and the areas endowed with scenic natural beauties for development of tourism industry.

Myanmar is blessed with a large number of expressive geographical features and several beautiful and pleasant beach resorts. Moreover, it has many archaeological regions along with lovely traditions and customs of national races.

The State’s stability and peace, and friendship and hospitality of the people are attracting foreign tourists.

More than 600,000 tourists visited Myanmar in 2006. About one million tourists are expected to come this year. So, all necessary arrangements are to be made to upgrade and improve the hotels, international level services and transport in the regions of tourist attractions such as Mandalay, Bagan and Inlay in addition to Yangon so as to provide sufficient accommodation to the growing number of foreign visitors.

In building new standard hotels, the designs should portray Myanmar’s traditions, culture and customs instead of modern decorations only.

It is believed that Myanmar’s tourism industry will improve rapidly if greater emphasis is placed on providing standard accommodation, smooth transport, and advanced services for the convenience of the guests.

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**Mingalabyuha Parahita Society pays respects to centenarians**

**YANGON, 23 June**—A ceremony to pay respects to centenarians to mark the tenth founding anniversary of Mingalabyuha Parahita Society of Mingalabyuha Association was held at the hall of the association on Arzani Street in Bahan Township this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the association U Kyi Win.

Next, Chairman of MPS U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) explained the purpose of the ceremony, and introduced elder persons on the occasion to kind presented to the centenarians. The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasnam Citram Tilithatu three times.—**H**

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**UMFCCI President meets JETRO Managing Director**

**YANGON, 23 June**—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing received Managing Director Mr Kojima Eitaro of Japan External Trade Organization at the UMFCCI office yesterday.

They discussed promotion of bilateral trade and business participation of Myanmar companies in expositions held in Japan and proposal of Myanmar to hold the meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee (MJBCC) to be held in November.—**MNA**

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**Stipends provided for children of police members**

**YANGON, 23 June**—A ceremony to provide stipends for children of members of Phakant Township Police Force for 2007-08 academic year was held at the Township Police Force office on 5 June.

After giving a speech, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Tun Tun Oo presented K 365,000 to 101 children of police members from Phakant, Karmaing, Hsezin police stations and Township Police Force Commander’s Office.

**Police Captain Tun Tun Oo presents cash assistance to a student of Phakant Township Police Force.**—**H**
International News

ASEAN urged to set up standards for adoption of digital TV

SINGAPORE, 22 June — Singapore and Brunei have launched initiatives to promote the adoption of standards for digital TV in Southeast Asia, local media reported on Thursday.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Digital Broadcasting Cooperation Initiative, spearheaded by Singapore and Brunei, aims to pave the way for over 540 million people in ASEAN region to enjoy the sharper resolution and sound quality of digital TV by switching to digital video broadcasting on the terrestrial format (DVBT), Channel NewsAsia reported.

The two countries’ officials said on-going discussions and study by three new working groups would provide a clearer picture on how and when to switch from the current analogue broadcasts to DVBT.

Permanent Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts Tan Chin Nam told Channel NewsAsia that “By adopting DVBT as a standard, I think we will remove uncertainty in the market. From the manufacturers’ point of view, it will be easier to come up with a quantity of equipment which will be able to address the market needs in a very cost-effective manner.”

Ismail Mohamed, permanent secretary of Prime Minister’s Office of Brunei, said: “We are also hoping for cooperation between the industry players, the vendors and the manufacturers, for them to be sensitive to the aspiration of ASEAN and to make this new technology available without factoring in a big amount of the costs to retailers.”

Police swoop on suspected dog-fighting ring in N England

LONDON, 22 June — Police arrested nine people and seized six dangerous dogs in a crackdown on Thursday on a suspected dog-fighting ring in northern England.

Officers, together with members of the RSPCA Specialist Operations Unit, said they had carried out coordinated raids on seven properties in Accrington, Lancashire.

Those arrested are in police custody awaiting questioning while the dogs have been taken into RSPCA kennels.

“Dog-fighting is an abhorrent, cruel activity that was banned in this country over 150 years ago, but still continues today,” said RSPCA Chief Inspector Mike Butcher.

Police said dog-fighting was not widespread but an “isolated and localized issue”.

The issue of dangerous dogs gained prominence this year when five-year-old Ellie Lawrenson was manled to death by a pit bull terrier at the family’s home in Liverpool on New Year’s Day.

Her uncle was jailed in May after admitting charges of possessing a dog banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

After Lawrenson’s death, officers in the city carried out a series of raids in which dozens of dangerous dogs were seized. MNA/Reuters

Pumpkin for cancer prevention

PENANG, 22 June — Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) discovered that the humble cempedak can cure diabetes has done it again, this time with the pumpkin which can control activation of cancer cells.

Its Technology Industry Department lecturer Dr Noor Aziah Abdul Aziz said the pumpkin flour contains resistance starch as a cure for diabetes because of its insulin content.

Other than containing resistance starch which can weaken cancer cells, the pumpkin has high fibre content, natural colour suitable for bread or noodle and contain vitamin A, anti-oxidant and minerals. She said the flesh of the pumpkin is dried and then mixed with wheat flour and processed into multi-purpose flour.

“I am also studying the use of the skin and seed of the pumpkin in the flour. The pumpkin flower has no fruit taste and can be consumed by anyone,” she added.

Shuttle lands safely in California Desert

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, 22 June — The space shuttle Atlantis landed this afternoon at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, concluding a 13-day mission to install solar power panels on the International Space Station.

Rain and thunder-storms over central Florida prompted NASA ground controllers in Houston to bypass a landing attempt at Cape Canaveral’s Kennedy Space Center for a second day and instead choose the backup site in California.

It was the 51st time out of 118 missions since the shuttle began flying in 1981 that Edwards hosted a landing. The massive white-bodied spaceplane, carrying a seven-person crew, rolled to a stop on the desert runway at 12:51 pm PDT.

“Congratulations on a great mission,” ground controller Tony Antonelli said over the radio to Col Rick Sturckow, the shuttle commander.

“I’ll remember all the things that went right on this challenging mission,” said William H Gerstenmayer, associate administrator for space operations, said at a news conference after the landing. — Internet

A woman lights candles to place along the path through Omotesando EcoAvenue in Tokyo on 22 June, 2007. The Candle Night event was held in perspectives of protecting the environment and reducing energy consumption. — Internet
Poll shows Bush’s approval rating hits new low

WASHINGTON, 21 June — The latest Newsweek poll found US President George W. Bush’s approval ratings have hit a record low, with only 26 percent of the respondents endorsing him.

Meanwhile, a record high 65 percent disapprove of him, including nearly a third of Republicans, according to poll results released by the Newsweek website on Thursday.

Most notably, the 26 percent rating, a two-point drop from the last Newsweek poll in May, puts Bush lower than Jimmy Carter, who sunk to his nadir of 28 percent in a Gallup poll in June 1979. In fact, the only president in the last 35 years to score lower than Bush is Richard Nixon.

Nixon’s approval rating tumbled to 23 percent in January 1974, seven months before his resignation over the Watergate break-in. The war in Iraq continues to be the major factor that drags Bush’s rating down.

A record 73 percent of Americans disapprove of the job Bush has done handling Iraq. Despite “the surge” of US forces in Iraq, a record-low 23 percent of Americans approve of the president’s actions in Iraq, down 5 points since the end of March.

Moreover, Bush scores record or near record lows on every major issue from the economy (34 percent approve, 60 percent disapprove) to health care (28 percent approve, 61 percent disapprove) to immigration (23 percent approve, 63 percent disapprove). — Internet

Romanian surgeons perform world’s first half-kidney transplant

BUCHAREST, 22 June — A three-year-old boy suffering from kidney failure received a part of his mother’s kidney in the world’s first half-kidney transplant, a Romanian surgeon said on Thursday.

The operation was performed Wednesday at the Urology and Kidney Transplant Institute in the northwestern city Cluj-Napoca by a team of doctors headed by Mihai Lucan.

One day after the intervention, both the mother and the child were feeling well, according to Dr Lucan.

Dr Lucan explained that although an entire kidney was taken from the mother, the organ could not be transplanted as such to the recipient because it was not compatible with his body.

After the kidney was extracted from the donor, it underwent extra-body microsurgery and was sectioned in two; the child received some two-thirds of the kidney and the rest was removed because it was not viable.

The little Bucharest-born patient was receiving peritoneal dialysis six times a day since the age of nine months and looks like a one-year-old boy. The operation was seven hours long and the kidney “built” by doctors started to work after the transplant.

The young mother decided to donate a kidney to her son in full agreement with her husband.

The boy’s father, Bogdan Ionescu, said the really important thing is that the operation was a success, that the child feels well and will lead a normal life and that his wife is OK.

Only partial liver and lung transplants were performed before in the world. Professor Mihai Lucan says 16 in 1,000 babies are born with kidney failure in the world. To save them, there is the variant of dialysis or transplant, but chances to find a kidney to match the little patients are very low.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (R) listens to his Moldovan counterpart Vladimir Voronin at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on 22 June, 2007. — Internet

Syria says not to take sides between Fatah, Hamas

DAMASCUS, 22 June — Syrian Vice-President Farouk al-Shara said on Thursday that his country would not take sides between Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas, warning that peace cannot be achieved with split between the two movements.

“Syria cannot support one side over the other,” Shara told reporters, referring to the current break-up between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah movement and the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas.

Shara said Syria encouraged dialogue between Fatah and Hamas as peace between the Palestinians and Israel would be impossible while there is a dangerous rupture on the Palestinian scene”.

“It is vital even if it does not lead to direct results, but dialogue must start again,” Shara underlined.

Shara warned that not to marginalize Hamas although it enjoys international support, saying that Abbas and Israel could not reach any settlement as long as Hamas-ruled Gaza was isolated. “No faction can cancel out the other,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Abbas, Olmert to meet in Egypt next week

RAMALLAH, 22 June — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will meet at the Egyptian Red Sea Resort of Sharm El-Sheikh this weekend, a senior Palestinian official said on Thursday.

It will be the first meeting between the two leaders since April, weeks before Hamas Islamists took over the Gaza Strip following months of violence with Abbas loyalists. “The meeting will be held in Egypt next week.” Abbas media adviser Nabil Ame said.

An official in Olmert’s office said talks could take place, but added that no date had yet been set. Another senior Palestinian official said talks would be held in the Egyptian Resort of Sharm El-Sheikh on Sunday.

“(They) will discuss the recent Palestinian developments as well as ways of reviving the peace process,” said the official, who refused to be named. — MNA/Reuters

A work by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei lays on the ground at the major contemporary art show Documenta in Kassel, central Germany, on 20 June, 2007. A severe storm caused the collapse of the 8-meter (26-foot) tall work, organizers said.

“Temple,” an architeck structure being exhibited outdoors, collapsed in on itself “in astonishingly aesthetic fashion,” said Catrin Seefranz, a spokeswoman for the Documenta show. — Internet
ECONOMIC NEWS

GMS meeting expresses satisfaction over economic integration

MANILA, 22 June—Officials from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as foreign diplomats based in Manila Thursday concluded a three-day meeting on GMS economic integration and cooperation.

The meeting, which was the 14th Greater Mekong Subregion Ministerial Conference, focused on further strengthening cooperation for economic expansion and poverty reduction in the region and marked the 15th anniversary of the subregional cooperation project.

Ministers and senior officials from China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia expressed satisfaction over the progress made in regional cooperation and integration by implementing the Plan of Action endorsed in the last GMS ministerial meeting held in Vientiane in December 2004.

In a statement, the officials said that guided by the firm resolve of GMS leaders at the 2nd MS summit held in Kunming in July 2005 to further enhance connectivity, competitiveness and community building, the GMS countries have made remarkable progress in implementing the Plan of Action.

“Key items are being fast tracked and most initiatives have been completed or well advanced,” they said in the statement by officials from the six countries. China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province are participants in the subregional integration project.—MNA/Xinhua

People perform the Latvian national dance at the “Wild Grass Market” in Riga on 22 June, 2007. Latvians celebrate the Summer Solstice on 23 June every year in the countryside, dancing and singing by bonfires, men wearing wreaths made of oak leaves and women wearing chaplets of wild grass and flowers. —INTERNET

Putin to reform Russian arms exports company

Moscow, 22 June—Russian President Vladimir Putin would approve a reform of Russia’s current state arms exporter Rosoborobor export, a Russian newspaper reported on Wednesday.

A new Russian state corporation, called Russian Technologies, would absorb the current assets of Rosoborobor export, including the arms exporter itself and defence firm Oboronprom, the daily Kommersant reported.

Weapons export chief Sergei Chemezov would be named by Putin as the head of Russian Technologies.

Putin’s order to launch the reform would be signed within days and legislation would be passed by the end of this year, Chemezov told the newspaper.

Russia’s First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov could be appointed head of Russian Technologies’ supervisory council, Chemezov said.—MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds of balloons with pictures of missing British girl Madeleine McCann and seven-year-old Spanish boy Yeremi Vargas are released into the sky in central Madrid on 22 June, 2007. —INTERNET

Putin to reform Russian arms exports company

Thailand’s exports hit record high in May

BANGKOK, 22 June—Thailand’s exports in May totalled 13.049 billion US dollars, up 20.9 per cent from the same month the year before, which is considered a record high, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Commerce Minister Krikrkrai Jirapaet was quoted by the Thai News Agency on Thursday as saying that it brought up the exports in the first five months of this year to $8.75 billion US dollars, up 18.8 per cent from the same period last year.

Exports of products in the agricultural, industrial, and processed food sectors had increased in volume in all markets around the world. He said imports in May totalled 12.25 billion US dollars, a rise of 6.7 per cent, led by the shipment of capital, raw materials, instant and consumer products.

It brought up the imports in the first five months of the year to 53.42 billion US dollars, up 4.4 per cent from the corresponding period the year before.

Krikrkrai was confident Thailand’s exports this year would exceed 12.5 per cent to 140 billion US dollars as earlier expected. He projected Thailand would enjoy a trade surplus of no less than $8.9 billion US dollars this year unless there were untoward incidents, oil price volatility, and global economic fluctuations.

The ministry also forecast the inflation rate for this year would stay at 2-2.5 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

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Putin to reform Russian arms exports company

HANOI , 22 June—Vietnam is expected to produce 16.8 million tons of crude oil this year, which will not meet its initial target of 17.5 million tons, Youth newspaper reported on Wednesday.

During the first six months, the state-owned Vietnam Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam) exploited 7.68 million tons of crude oil, accounting for 46.5 per cent of this year’s target, Tran Ngoc Canh, general director of PetroVietnam was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The low output was due to some factors, including the progress of buying an oil field in Kazakhstan not as hoped, drilling in Malaysia being hit by bad weather.

Vietnam plans to pump out 17.5 million tons of crude oil and 7.3 billion cubic metres of gas this year, the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry said. Vietnam shipped abroad 16.6 million tons of crude oil valued at over 8.3 billion US dollars last year, mainly to China, Singapore, Japan, Britain and the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Putin to reform Russian arms exports company

South Korean protesters shout slogans during an anti-FTA demonstration in Seoul. The United States has proposed revisions to parts of a hard-won free trade agreement to reflect Washington’s new commercial guidelines at the start of renegotiations with South Korea, officials said recently.—INTERNET

Putin to reform Russian arms exports company
Omega-3 fatty acids may help slow prostate cancer

BEIJING, 22 June — A new study in US with mice suggests that a diet high in omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oil and certain types of fish might help slow prostate cancer, media reported Friday.

"This study clearly shows that diet can tip the balance toward a good or a bad outcome," said senior researcher Yong Q Chen, PhD, from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. "It’s possible that a change in diet could mean a significant difference between dying from the disease and surviving with it."

Working with mice genetically engineered to develop prostate tumors, scientists fed some of the mice a diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids from birth. These mice had fewer tumors and a longer life span than those not fed the diet. Survival was 60 percent in mice fed a high omega-3 diet, 10 percent in mice on a low omega-3 diet and zero percent in mice fed a diet high in omega-6, a different type of polyunsaturated fatty acid found in vegetable oils.

Meanwhile, in normal mice not engineered for prostate cancer, all survived regardless of diet, according to another study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

"This suggests that if you have good genes, it may not matter too much what you eat," said Chen. "But if you have a gene that makes you susceptible to prostate cancer, your diet can tip the balance. Our data demonstrate the importance of gene-diet interactions, and that genetic cancer risk can be modified favorably by omega-3 PUFA."

G-4 talks on global trade end prematurely without agreement

POTS DAM, (Germany), 22 June — Talks on global trade deal between key WTO players ended ahead of schedule on Thursday without agreement.

Top trade officials from the European Union, the United States, Brazil and India failed to gap differences so that the Doha Round of trade negotiations could be reactivated. “We have not reached convergence on our whole agenda,” EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said in a statement released after the closed-door talks ended prematurely in Potsdam, Germany.

The outcome of the talks headed off hopes of WTO officials that agreement on trade liberalization could be reached before the end of 2007. An agreement among the so-called G-4 group meeting was regarded as essential to help conclude the round in time.

Differences are mainly on farm subsidies and tariffs that have dampened the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks, which was staged six years ago in the capital city of Qatar. — MNA/Xinhua

Twenty unidentified bodies found in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 June — The Iraqi police said Thursday they found 20 unidentified bodies in execution-style in different parts of the Iraqi capital during the past 24 hours.

“Our patrols collected 20 unidentified bodies in Baghdad’s neighbourhoods,” a well-informed police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Most of the bodies were handcuffed, blindfolded and showing signs of torture with bullet holes in the chest and head, he said. The daily gruesome finding of unidentified corpses continued in the capital despite the US and Iraqi security offensive, which has achieved no visible progress in reducing violence or realizing national reconciliation between rival factions in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua
Let’s grow trees extensively for well-being of human society

Maung Swe Win (Bago)

The seasons are changing according to the regular cycle. People have to expedite the agricultural tasks more than ever in the rainy season especially in the period when the rainy season is in full swing for well-being of human society.

Myanmar launched its first tree planting festival on 27 June 1954. World Trees Planting Day is annually held on 17 June. We have to grow and nurture all suitable species of trees and plants in the most appropriate period of the rainy season. Growing trees yields a variety of benefits.

Various kinds of motives encouraging growing trees are seen in the forest reserves and protected forests of the Myanmar Forest Department across the nation. Trees can be categorized into five groups—cash crops, shade trees, fruit bearing trees, trees with edible plants, and landscaping plants. All species of trees make a significant contribution towards the well-being of the human society, so various species of trees are to be grown with the use of advanced agricultural methods.

Trees contribute towards ensuring temperate climate. According to scientists, some parts of the world are facing climate changes due to global warming. They pointed out that it was due to the greenhouse effect contributed by industrialized countries along with alarming deforestation throughout the world. Deforestation is caused by indiscriminate logging, slash and burn practice, shifting cultivation, cutting trees for firewood and charcoal, setting up pasturceland, urbanization, forest fires, and infection of insects to trees.

Deforestation is largely due to the negligence of people. In some countries, many species of trees are protected by law. Indeed, creatures and trees have to depend on each other. According to botanists, trees have much influence over oxygen and carbon dioxide; they maintain the moisture in the air by means of evaporation; and they keep a balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Human beings and animals breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, while trees and plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. That is the natural process of harmonious existence between living beings and plants.

Plants give human beings not only corps for nutrition but also herbal medicines. Herbal plants and tubers and bulbs are used as ingredients of potent Myanmar traditional medicines. Global warming causes the gradual rise in temperature of the earth’s atmosphere with an increase in deterioration of plants. In consequence, there has been an adverse effect on natural forests, home to wildlife, and a great many species of animals have become extinct.

Noticing the fact that people cut down trees indiscriminately for firewood, the government concerned is giving increasing encouragement to innovations to produce firewood-substitute briquettes, thereby conserving trees and forests.

Now, gradually important is the role trees play in coping with the fuel crisis that is rife around the world. And every government has to pay attention to development in extracting bio-fuel. Myanmar is now growing physic nut, sugarcane and tapioca to produce bio-diesel on a large scale.

All national people are urged to grow and nurture any species of trees on a small scale or on a commercial scale for greening and well-being of human society.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 22-6-2007

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Japan testing new “F2” fighter planes in N Marianas Islands

Canberra, 23 June — Japan is testing its new high-tech fighter planes in a joint exercise with US troops in the Northern Marianas Islands for the first time since the prototypes were made.

Japanese pilots have been testing the planes known as F2 in an uninhabited northernmost island of the Northern Marianas Islands, Australasian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Friday.

US Air Force Major Michael Tomasulo of the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam was quoted as saying that the Japanese and American pilots have been testing their aerial combat skills in an operation dubbed “Cope North”.

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“Cope North”

This is a significant joint exercise for the two countries because this is the first time that the Japanese are using their F2 fighter planes, which were made by Japan’s Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and has similar features as the US F16 fighter planes,” he said.

The planes are designed for heavy air combat and can carry sophisticated bombs and weapons.

Susilo calls for efforts to control population growth

Jakarta, 23 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has called for efforts to raise the number of family planning programme participants to achieve the government’s population growth rate target of 1.14 per cent by 2009, a family planning official said here Thursday.

“The present population growth rate is still 1.34 per cent a year and therefore the President has asked us to lower it to 1.14 per cent in accordance with the target of the medium-term development plan in 2009,” Sugiri Syarif, head of the National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN) was quoted by national Antara news agency as saying.

Susilo met with Sugiri over plans to observe the National Family Day on a national scale on June 29.

He said the President hoped the target could be met by increasing the number of family planning programme participants which had lately dropped.

“The President ordered family planning services for the community must be stepped up,” he said.
Energy Minister meets guests from Republic of Kalmykia

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Minister for Energy Mr Chedyrov Boris, Republic of Kalmykia and Russian Ambassador Dr Mikhail M Geladze.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Energy Minister Mr Chedyrov Boris of Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation and Russian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Dr Mikhail M Geladze and party at the minister’s office here yesterday.

They held comprehensive discussions on energy sector.

Present also were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, director-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

Students of Cooperative Degree College (Thanlyin) donate blood

YANGON, 22 June — As a gesture of hailing the International Cooperative Day, Red Cross Society of Yangon Cooperative Degree College (Thanlyin) held educative talks on health and organized the 3rd blood donation at the college today.

Chairman of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe briefed on MRCS and Dr Thida Aung of National Blood Donation Unit gave talks on donation of blood and health.

After the talks, Chairman of Yangon Cooperative Degree College’s Red Cross Society Deputy Principal U Saw Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, a total of 67 students and staff of the college donated blood to the unit. — MNA

Kubota power-tiller and engine demonstrated

YANGON, 23 June — Jointly organized by ZBT Co Ltd and The Siam Kubota Industry Co Ltd, a demonstration on maintenance for durability of Kubota power-tiller and engine was held at Parkroyal Hotel on 18 June, attended by responsible persons of the companies, guests and farmers.

Firstly, Managing Director U Hlaing Hein of ZBT Co Ltd and a representative of SKI Co Ltd extended greetings. An engineer of SKI Co Ltd demonstrated the power-tillers and engines for long term use.

Next, responsible persons of the companies answered the questions raised by those present.

Those wishing to buy the power-tillers and engines distributed by ZBT Co Ltd at a reasonable price can contact sales centre of the company, No 36, Bayintnaung Street in Kamayut Township (Ph: 500761, 501201). — MNA

1481st Prophet Day observed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 1481st Prophet Day at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Chairman of the Central Committee for the Prophet Day U Hla Win gave an opening address.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Patron of the Central Committee retired ambassador U Hla Maung, member of the Central Committee U Ohn Thaug and Patrons U Kyaw Soe and U Thein Hlaing gave talks on the Prophet Day.

Also present on the occasion were Adviser U Arnt Maung to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department and officials. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Departmental heads meet at coord meeting of Ministry of Forestry

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses first work coordination meeting for 2007-08 of the Ministry of Forestry—FORESTRY

Nav Pyi Taw, 23 June — The Ministry of Forestry held the first coordination meeting for 2007-08 financial year at its office, here, on 23 June.

First, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an address. Directors of Forest Department from states and divisions reported on progress of tasks.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, managing directors, rector and officials.

Yesterday morning, the coordination meeting continued. Officials of Arid Zone Greening Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise submitted reports on progress of greening Bago mountain range.

Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department, Director-General U Tun Tun of Arid Zone Greening Department and Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise took part in the discussions.

The minister explained the guidance of the Head of State at the first four-monthly coordination meeting for 2007 and future tasks.

Vice-Mayor inspects tax free markets

Yangon, 23 June — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa together with officials inspected sales of consumer goods at tax free markets in Shwepyitha, Hlathitaya and Kamayut Townships. The vice-mayor urged officials to carry out the tasks in accord with the five aims of tax free markets.

Next, the vice-mayor met with rice dealers at the meeting hall of Myanmar Rice Dealers’ Association in Seikkan Township. He heard reports on undertakings presented by those present and gave necessary instructions.

Members of Insein Township MANA sightseeing downtown Yangon

Yangon, 23 June — Students, who participated in the Insein Township inter-school essay, poem, painting and poster contests to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, teachers, executives of Township Anti-Narcotics Association led by Patron U Hok Sun and Chairman U Yin Kyaw (Film Director Maung Yin Kyaw) of Township MANA paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.

At the Motion Picture Museum, film director U Tin Yu, U Chit Than Myint, U Aye Kyu Lay, Daw Khin Lay Theint, Academy Tun Tun Win, Myitta and responsible persons conducted them round the booths of the museum.

The study group visited the Drug Elimination Museum in Sangyo Township. Curator Police Captain Zaw Min Oo and officials explained facts about the museum to them.

Personnel urged to strive for rising income of Ministry of Industry-2

Nav Pyi Taw, 23 June — The Ministry of Industry-2 held the coordination meeting at its hall, here, yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin stressed the need for service personnel to implement new projects on schedules and to strive for rising income of the ministry by minimizing loss and wastage and practising thriftiness.

The minister also instructed them to review tasks of the departments and enterprises for the first four-monthly period of 2007 and make efforts for production and sales to exceed the target in 2007-08 financial year.

Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Director-General U Khin Maung of Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning and managing directors reported on their respective sectors.

The minister and the deputy minister presented cash assistance for schoolchildren of the staff through officials. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Do drugs control YOUR LIFE?

Your life, Your community.
No place for drugs.
Olympic Day commemorative Cricket Tournament held

YANGON, 23 June — Olympic Day commemorative Cricket Tournament was held at sports ground in Bahan Township this morning. Altogether 156 competitors under 15 from basic education high schools in Latha, Dagon, Botahtaung, Lanmadaw, Bahan, Hlone, Pabedan, Kyimyindaung and Ahlon Townships.

President of Myanma Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win presented prizes to winners of novice and selected classes.

Two soldiers wounded by S Thailand’s bomb explosion

BANGKOK, 23 June — A remote-controlled bomb exploded in southern Thailand’s province of Yala on Friday morning, wounding two soldiers and six local residents.

The bomb, weighing an estimated two kilogrammes, was detonated in front of a shop selling engine oil in Yala City, according to the Thai News Agency.

Both the military and civilian victims were rushed to hospital, where they are being treated.

The bomb squad arrived at the site to clear up and to collect evidence. Mobile phone signals were cut off as the authorities believed that another remote-controlled device might be hidden nearby to entrap the police who responded to the incident.

The daily shootings and bombings in the three southern Thailand’s border provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat have claimed more than 2,300 lives since the violence erupted in January 2004.

Finals of Boxing Championship organized

YANGON, 23 June — The final matches of the Fifth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Cup A Class for 2007 and the 38th Inter-State/Division Men’s and Women’s B & C Classes Boxing Championship took place at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this afternoon.

Boxers participated in 20 final bouts including the women’s 46-kilo, 48-kilo, 50-kilo, 52-kilo and 54-kilo events, the Pin Weight, Light Flyweight, Fly Weight, Bantam Weight, Feather Weight, Light Welterweight and Welter Weight events for C Class boxers and the Pin Weight, Light Flyweight, Flyweight, Bantam Weight, Feather Weight, Lightweight, Light Welterweight and Welterweight events for B class boxers.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs meets Ven Mok Tak of ROK

YANGON, 23 June — Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko met Ven Mok Tak of Seoul, the Republic of Korea, at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs (Branch Office) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

Ven Mok Tak donated US$ 15,000 for construction of Monastic education school. The deputy minister accepted the donation. Also present were Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Deputy Director- General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mya Aung, Deputy Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Khang Aung and officials.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepts cash donation from Ven Mok Tak and party of Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Deputy Director- General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mya Aung, Deputy Director- General of Religious Affairs Department U Khang Aung and officials.

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Joint-Secretary U Than Zaw of MBF presents prize to a boxer.
**Hitachi can train your brain to run a train**

**NEW DELHI, 23 June** — Hitachi Inc. has developed a “brain-machine interface” that analyzes slight changes in the brain’s blood flow that could allow you to control electronic devices just by thinking.

The device utilizes a skull cap connected by optical fibers to a mapping device that is linked to a toy train by a computer and motor.

“Take a deep breath and relax,” said Kei Utsugi, a researcher at Hitachi’s Advanced Research Laboratory near Tokyo, while demonstrating the device on Wednesday.

At his prompting, a reporter did simple calculations in her head, and the train moved forward — apparently indicating activity in the brain’s frontal cortex, which handles problem solving.

Activating that region of the brain — by doing sums or singing a song — is what makes the train run, according to Utsugi. When one stops the calculations, the train stops, too.

Underlying Hitachi’s brain-machine interface is a technology called optical topography, which sends a small amount of infrared light through the brain’s surface to map out changes in blood flow.

A key advantage to Hitachi’s technology is that sensors don’t have to physically enter the brain. Earlier technologies developed by US companies like Neural Signals Inc. required implanting a chip under the skull.

Although brain-machine interface technology has traditionally focused on medical uses, makers like Hitachi and Japanese automaker Honda Motor Co have been racing to refine the technology for commercial application. — Internet

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**India says no farm compromise for global trade deal**

**NEW DELHI, 23 June** — India will not compromise on market access for farm products to seal a global trade deal, its Trade Minister said on Friday, as he cautioned the West not to attempt to drive a wedge between developing nations.

“We will not compromise on the livelihoods of farmers,” Kamal Nath told reporters after returning from the latest round of failed talks in Potsdam, Germany, between the Group of Four (G-4) powers — the United States, European Union, India and Brazil.

“There cannot be a trade-off between livelihoods and prosperity.”

Hopes of salvaging this year the World Trade Organization’s so-called Doha Round after nearly six years of frustrated negotiations have dimmed after the talks collapsed on Thursday.

Brazil and India, the main negotiators for developing countries, said the United States and EU were demanding too high a price for cutting their trade-distorting farm policies. — MNA/Reuters

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**76 Indonesians detained in US**

**JAKARTA, 23 June** — The United States has detained 76 Indonesian citizens in the country, due to alleged violation of immigration rules, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said here on Friday.

The Indonesian citizens who work in a plastic company were arrested on Wednesday and were now being detained in several detention centres, said spokesman of the ministry Kristianto Legowo.

“There are 76 Indonesian citizens being detained in the partition state of Pennsylvania. They were arrested on Wednesday,” he told a Press briefing at the ministry.

The spokesman said that the Indonesian consulate general office in New York sought for access to the United States Government for the detainees.

Legowo called on all Indonesian citizens in the United States to commit to the immigration rules in the United States. Thousands of Indonesian citizens work in the United States legally, according to the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua
Pioneer gene therapy promising for Parkinson’s disease

BEIJING, 22 June — The first attempt at gene therapy against Parkinson’s disease has yielded promising results without causing side effects in an early study of a dozen patients, according to media reports on Friday.

The pilot study was conducted among 11 men and one woman in New York. The treatments involved taking a gene and tucking it inside a disabled cold virus, which is then injected into a key area of the brain. The harmless virus “infects” the local cells and thus stealthily delivers the corrective piece of genetic code.

In the gene therapy trial, Dr Michael Kaplitt of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and colleagues found it had no ill effects and appeared to reduce the symptoms in the 12 volunteers, and the benefits lasted for four years in some. But researchers cautioned it’s too soon to draw conclusions about how well it works and said the approach merits further studies. — Internet

Parkinson’s is an incurable, degenerative disease of the central nervous system that causes uncontrollable shaking, along with impaired speech and movement. — Internet

Third ASEM Interfaith Dialogue ends with joint document in Nanjing

NANJING, 22 June — The third ASEM Interfaith Dialogue concluded here on Thursday with a joint document calling for better understanding and cooperation among different religions.

Under the theme “Deepening Interfaith Dialogue for Peace, Development and Harmony”, the participants from 37 ASEM members and four observers recognized the positive role of dialogue among faiths, especially in enhancing mutual understanding and respect through equal and friendly interaction among cultures and religions, and promoting human rights, respect for human dignity, equality, justice and freedom of religion.

“Culture and religion must be increasingly involved in building up ever broader and more stable social cohesion,” said Italian Foreign Undersecretary Gianni Vernetti who co-chaired the dialogue with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai. — MNA/Xinhua
Scientology, of which Cruise is an avid follower, and model wife Sarah Murdoch and Australian champion News Corporation boss Rupert Murdoch and his wife three days of celebrations in Cap d’Antibes, alongside ceremony in France on Wednesday, followed by a media and gambling mogul James Packer, married its room temperature set at minus 5 degrees Celsius (23 degrees Fahrenheit), Petter Kristensen and match their firstborn peers. second, or third, had IQs to beat brothers born third by 2.3 IQ points on their next more than 240,000 Norwegian military draft records for Thursday. Researchers reported on family may explain why, younger brothers, and their higher IQs than their — Firstborn sons have — Firstborn sons have higher IQs than their younger brothers, and their social status within the family may explain why, researchers reported on Thursday.

A study that used military draft records for more than 240,000 Norwegian men found that firstborns had an edge of 2.3 IQ points on their next oldest brothers, who in turn beat brothers born third by 1.1 points on average. Men who had been raised as the oldest, whether they were born first, second, or third, had IQs to match their firstborn peers. The same was true for those raised or born second. Petter Kristensen and colleagues at the University of Oslo report in the journals Science and Intelligence. “This study provides evidence that the relation between birth order and IQ score is dependent on the social rank in the family and not birth order as such,” Kristensen’s team wrote in Science.

Their studies confirmed what many scientists had suspected for more than a century — that firstborns have an edge. But attempts to prove the effect have been disputed, in part because the circumstances of each family are different. To compensate for this, Kristensen’s team studied brothers raised in the same families. And some scientists argue that birth order IQ differences arise in the womb, while others point to family interactions. To distill potential biological effects from social effects, Kristensen’s team dug up the young men’s family birth records and found families whose first-born or first- and second-born children had died before the age of one year. — MNA/Reuters

An underground train painted in a flower design enters Kievskaya station in Moscow on 22 June, 2007. Russian artist Sergei Andriaka and the Moscow Metro have turned the train into an art gallery on wheels displaying 35 water colour painting by Andriaka’s painting school. — INTERNET

Norway study shows firstborn have higher IQs

WASHINGTON, 22 June

Firstborn sons have higher IQs than their younger brothers, and their social status within the family may explain why, researchers reported on Thursday.

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Australia’s richest man marries in France

CANBERRA, 22 June — Australia’s richest man, media and gambling mogul James Packer, married model and singer Erica Baxter in a private town hall ceremony in France on Wednesday, followed by a lavish celebrity reception on the French Riviera.

Packer’s close friend, Hollywood actor Tom Cruise and his wife Katie Holmes, were among guests during three days of celebrations in Cap d’Antibes, alongside News Corporation boss Rupert Murdoch and his wife Wendi. Murdoch’s son Lachlan also attended with his model wife Sarah Murdoch and Australian champion cricketer Shane Warne.

Packer has shown interest in the Church of Scientology, of which Cruise is an avid follower, and Australian media had speculated that Cruise might conduct the wedding ceremony.

But Packer and Baxter were married in a quiet civil ceremony attended only by a handful of family and close friends, before returning to their exclusive hotel for a bigger garden ceremony.

Australian media said the cost of the wedding and three days of partying for more than 100 guests, would top 6 million Australian dollars (five million US dollars). Baxter, 29, wore a 100,000-Australian-dollar dress designed by Christian Dior’s John Galliano, newspapers said.

The couple were expected to honeymoon on their private yacht, the converted icebreaker Arctic P, the same yacht Cruise and Holmes used for their honeymoon in late 2006. — MNA/Reuters

British Govt launches CO2 calculator

LONDON, 22 June — Households can now work out their carbon footprints with an online calculator, the government announced. The CO2 calculator will work out an individual’s or household’s footprint based on the use of energy devices in the home, domestic appliances and means of transport.

Users are asked a series of questions before being provided with recommendations on reducing and avoiding energy waste as well as ways to offset it.

Environment Secretary David Miliband, who was launching the scheme, said: “Around two thirds of people are already taking action to try to limit climate change — but there is a lot of confusion about what people can do and how effective those changes actually are. We want to cut through that confusion.”

More than 65 per cent of people questioned in a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs survey said they were already trying to take personal action to try to limit climate change.

The CO2 calculator, developed in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, can be found at http://www.direct.gov.uk/acton/CO2.

MNA/Reuters

Depression affects most Indonesians

JAKARTA, 22 June — The majority of the Indonesian population has suffered depression of some form in the last year, local Press said Thursday.

The latest survey by the Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) showed that 94 per cent of population in the country was suffering from some form of depression.

reported English daily The Jakarta Post.

“This ranges from mild to severe cases of depression,” IDI chairman Fachmi Idris was quoted as saying.

Fachmi said that among the symptoms of depression were a tendency to violate rules and norms, apathy, withdrawal and a refusal to work. He said the research was based on the assumption of health as defined by the law on health, which regards health as encompassing physical, mental and social factors.

He also cited the World Health Organization’s definition of health as a “state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely absence of disease or infirmity.”

Since the economic crisis in 1997, Indonesia has seen an increase in depression rates.

The WHO’s regional office reports that suicide is on the rise in Indonesia. From 1997 to 1998 there were 34 suicides in Jakarta alone.

The suicide rate was 1.6 per 100,000 people in 1997 and 1.8 per 100,000 in 1998, while prior to 1996 the number had been lower. — MNA/Kohaus

Guests sit on seats made of ice at Absolut Icebar for a reception in Shanghai, China on 22 June, 2007, one day before its public opening. With experience 45-minutes of Scandinavian atmosphere over one cocktail in the bar built with blocks of ice. — INTERNET

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 24 June, 2007
Galaxy sign Honduras striker Pavon

MIAMI, 22 June — LA Galaxy, former England captain David Beckham's struggling new team, have signed well-travelled Honduras striker Carlos Pavon.

The 33-year-old, who has played in Mexico, Guatemala, Spain and Italy as well as his native country, will join the Galaxy subject to receiving a work permit, the MLS club said on their website on Thursday (http://la.galaxy.mlsnet.com).

"I am extremely pleased that the Galaxy had confidence in my abilities, and am also proud to be with such a great institution," said Pavon, who scored five goals in Mexico's Gold Cup campaign this month, including four against Cuba. "Now I am just anxious to start working and getting on the field," he added after

Malaysia's Nanthakumar Kalippa (L) and UAE's Faisal Khalil tussle for a loose ball during a friendly soccer match in Petaling Jaya, outside Kuala Lumpur, on 21 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Henry on brink of Barca move

BARCELONA, 22 June — Barcelona claim they have agreed a £16million fee for Thierry Henry. Thierry Henry - Your View

Reports in Spain have emerged suggesting the Arsenal striker has signed a four-year deal with Barca.

Cadena Ser radio, the station that broke the news of David Beckham and Zinedine Zidane’s moves to Real Madrid, have stated that Barcelona will pay $24million (£16million) for the Arsenal forward.

The station, which quotes Barcelona officials, says Henry has already put pen-to-paper on a contract spanning until 2011.

Spanish newspapers have also reported the story, but a spokesman from Barcelona has told Sky Sports News that the deal is not yet finalised.

The spokesman claims Henry’s move is ‘not totally done and dusted’ and has insisted that discussions are still ongoing between Arsene Wenger and his Barcelona counterparts.

Barcelona have been tracking Henry for over 12 months, despite the Frenchman signing a long-term deal with The Gunners last summer.

The Catalan giants are looking to strengthen this summer after losing out to Real Madrid in the Spanish title race.

And after Arsenal’s disappointing season in the Premiership it appears Henry has made the decision to continue his career at Camp Nou.

Speculation about his future has continued to mount in recent weeks, especially since the departure of David Dunn.

An official announcement is expected on Monday.

Australian footballer Tim Cahill (2ndL) plays football with children during a training clinic in Singapore recently. Australia have never been favourites to win a football tournament before and they are revelling in it, while being cautious about underestimating any team at the Asian Cup. — INTERNET

Australians confident of strong showing at Asian Cup

SYDNEY, 22 June — Australia’s first Asian Cup campaign should be deemed a failure if the Socceroos do not at least reach the final, coach Graham Arnold said.

The Socceroos are favourites to win the continental championship next month at their first attempt even though they are ranked below Japan and Iran, two of their main rivals for the title.

The Australians look to have a relatively smooth path to the semifinals but Arnold said he expected them to go one step further.

“A pass is reaching the semifinals, but I’ll put pressure on myself by saying a failure is not making the final,” Arnold told reporters at Sydney Airport on Thursday before the squad flew out to Singapore for a training camp.

“The big picture you have to get in the top four in Asia to get into the World Cup in 2010, so it’s a good test for us.”

Dortmund complete Kovac signing from Juventus

BERLIN, 22 June — Croatia defender Robert Kovac has signed for Borussia Dortmund from Juventus on a free transfer. Kovac, who played for Bayern Munich for four years before joining Juventus in 2005, opted for a return to the Bundesliga on a two-year contract after a proposed move to Dinamo Zagreb fell through.

“From a competitive point of view, the task in Dortmund is much more attractive,” the 33-year-old Kovac said in a statement released by the German club.

Caparrós steps down as Deportivo coach

MADRID, 22 June — Joaquin Caparrós announced on Thursday that he has decided to step down as coach of Deportivo Coruna despite having a year left to run on his contract.

“It’s a personal decision that comes because the job has taken its toll on me over the past two years and I think it is the best time to leave,” Caparrós told a news conference.

“I’m not going to see out my contract because I feel I won’t be able to get the best out of team next season.”

Caparrós took charge of the Galicians at the start of the 2005-2006 season following a successful spell at Sevilla, where he was renowned for bringing through youngsters from the reserves.

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Galaxy sign Honduras striker Pavon

MIAMI, 22 June — LA Galaxy, former England captain David Beckham's struggling new team, have signed well-travelled Honduras striker Carlos Pavon.

The 33-year-old, who has played in Mexico, Guatemala, Spain and Italy as well as his native country, will join the Galaxy subject to receiving a work permit, the MLS club said on their website on Thursday (http://la.galaxy.mlsnet.com).

"I am extremely pleased that the Galaxy had confidence in my abilities, and am also proud to be with such a great institution," said Pavon, who scored five goals in Mexico's Gold Cup campaign this month, including four against Cuba. "Now I am just anxious to start working and getting on the field," he added after joining the 10th club in his career. — MNA/Reuters

Australian footballer Tim Cahill (2ndL) plays football with children during a training clinic in Singapore recently. Australia have never been favourites to win a football tournament before and they are revelling in it, while being cautious about underestimating any team at the Asian Cup. — INTERNET

Australians confident of strong showing at Asian Cup

SYDNEY, 22 June — Australia’s first Asian Cup campaign should be deemed a failure if the Socceroos do not at least reach the final, coach Graham Arnold said.

The Socceroos are favourites to win the continental championship next month at their first attempt even though they are ranked below Japan and Iran, two of their main rivals for the title.

The Australians look to have a relatively smooth path to the semifinals but Arnold said he expected them to go one step further.

“A pass is reaching the semifinals, but I’ll put pressure on myself by saying a failure is not making the final,” Arnold told reporters at Sydney Airport on Thursday before the squad flew out to Singapore for a training camp.

“The big picture you have to get in the top four in Asia to get into the World Cup in 2010, so it’s a good test for us.”

Dortmund complete Kovac signing from Juventus

BERLIN, 22 June — Croatia defender Robert Kovac has signed for Borussia Dortmund from Juventus on a free transfer. Kovac, who played for Bayern Munich for four years before joining Juventus in 2005, opted for a return to the Bundesliga on a two-year contract after a proposed move to Dinamo Zagreb fell through.

“From a competitive point of view, the task in Dortmund is much more attractive,” the 33-year-old Kovac said in a statement released by the German club.

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Over 30 children die of diarrhoea in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 June — A diarrhoea, epidemic breaking out in western Nepal and southern Nepal, has claimed more than 30 children’s lives. Local newspaper The Kathmandu Post reported Friday.

In Khin of Kalikot District, some 380 kilometres northwest of capital Kathmandu, 20 children fell prey to the malady between 16 May and 11 June. Till Thursday, over ten kids died of diarrhoea.

According to local resident Rup Bahadur Rokaya, the children kept dying as there were no medicines and health workers in the local health post. Most of the dead were between 7 and 9 years. The outbreak has also spread into the neighbouring villages.

A team of health workers, including chief of Kalikot District Health Office Om Prasad Aryal went to the affected area with necessary medicines on Wednesday. Meanwhile, in Chandranigahapur of Rautahat, some 65 kilometres south of capital Kathmandu, two elderly people also died of diarrhoea on Thursday morning even as the disease takes on epidemic proportions since Tuesday. Over 300 people have been affected due to the disease in the district.

Rakhine State

In Khin of Kalikot

“No Smoking” stickers are compulsory in launche and passenger vessels from now onward. He stressed creating awareness about bad effects of smoking as well as strict enforcement of the Smoking Control Act and mobilization of a social movement against smoking both in urban and rural areas.

Over 57,000 die due to smoking every year in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 23 June — More than 57,000 people die of eight fatal diseases due to smoking every year, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Friday.

Fourth-one per cent of smokers suffer from cancer, heart ailment, high blood pressure and other lung diseases, the newspaper quoted the speakers as saying at a discussion on Smoke Free Environment Thursday.

Bangladesh Inland Water Ways Acting Chairman Alhaj Badruzzaman Badal said at the discussion smoking has been prohibited in launches and water transports.

Badal said pasting of “No Smoking” stickers is compulsory in launches and passenger vessels from now onward. He stressed creating awareness about bad effects of smoking as well as strict enforcement of the Smoking Control Act and mobilization of a social movement against smoking both in urban and rural areas.

Weather

Saturday 2:00 pm, 23 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyinoolwin (2.48) inches, Hkamti (1.58) inches, Sittwe (1.26) inches and Magway (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-6-2007 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 23-6-2007 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-6-2007 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 22-6-2007 was (1.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-6-2007 was (Nil) at MIngaladon, (Tir) at Kab-Aye, (0.20) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall on 21-1-2007 was (2.58) inches at MIngaladon, (47.99) inches at Kab-Aye and (44.49) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast at (10:30) hours MST on 23-6-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-6-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions, scattered in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Magway 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 24-6-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Collective physic nut growing in Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — A collective physic nut growing ceremony of Myeik Station was held at Shanchaung Village in Myeik, Taninthayi Division on 5 June.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and wife Daw Khin Than Htay, senior military officers, servicemen and their families were present at the ceremony.

Lt-Col Aung Thu Oo reported on the growing of 100 acres of physic nut.

The commander and wife presented physic nut saplings to family members of servicemen. They planted the saplings.

The commander also attended the collective physic nut growing of township development committee in Tatpyin Ward of Myeik.

Division Manager U Khun Shwe Lin of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise reported on the purpose of the growing of physic nut and Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Shwe on the implementation of the project.

Chairman and party presented physic nut saplings to departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

The commander delivered a speech at the World Environment Day commemorative ceremony in Bagan Yadana Hall in Myeik. Director of Taninthayi Division Forest Department U Ko Ko Latt gave talks on the World Environment Day.

The commander and officials presented prizes to winners in the World Environment Day commemorative Essay Competition.—MNA

CSSTB Chairman inspects exam centres

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, accompanied by CSSTB members U Aung Myint, U Hla Myint Oo, U Win Aung, U Soe Oo and U Nyi Tun, the head of office and officials of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department, inspected examination centres for the posts of head of workshop, head of branch and assistant manager of the Ministry of Industry-1, here, this morning.

A total of 1,847 candidates took the written examination at four exam centres here.

MNA

NLD members hand in glove with internal and external destructive elements

YANGON, 23 June—Members of Einme Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division U Be Natit of Kyontaloke Village, U Maung Lon, U Po Chan, U Be Lu, U Kyaing Whet, U Kyaing Nyunt, U Than Sein of Kalagon Village, U Sein Win, U Thaung Shwe and U Htay Win totalling ten on 15 June resigned from the party of their own volition, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters of resignation sent to the Einme Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that they resigned from the party of their own accord as they no longer liked the NLD’s activities and couldn’t accept acts of self-seeking NLD members who are hand in glove with internal and external destructive elements to put the country under foreign subjugation.—MNA

Earthquake report

(Issued at 15:00 hours MST Today)

A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (Eastern Shan State near China-Myanmar border) about (400) miles North-east of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (14) hrs (47) min (22) sec MST on 23 June 2007.