NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Cambodian Military Attachés Colonel Ngi Vanndim who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Colonel Rumdas Cheav at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here at 9 am today.

Together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives incoming Military Attaché of Cambodia Col Rumdas Cheav and outgoing Military Attaché Col Ngi Vanndim in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Japanese Military Attachés Colonel Yoshihiko Izaki who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Colonel Mitsugi Saratani at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here at 9.30 am today.

Together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives incoming Military Attaché of Japan Col Mitsugi Saratani and outgoing Military Attaché Col Yoshihiko Izaki. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Win respect and trust of the people

Community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order are interrelated. Only when there is prevalence of law and order will the nation be peaceful and tranquil.

Every citizen is to abide by the law. As administrative bodies and the police force are the ones that are to direct the people to follow the decrees, directives and laws promulgated by the State they themselves must respect such decrees, directives and laws.

The duty of the police force is to prevent those from breaking the law and to safeguard the lives and property of the people. Likewise, judges and law officers from the administrative field are to pass sentences on those who have committed crimes only after conducting a thorough investigation into the cases without any discrimination.

Those from the two institutions are to be well-qualified, established and morally upright. Only then will their tasks be accomplished and successful.

Fully equipped with morale, integrity and uprightness the administrative bodies and the police force are therefore to carry out their tasks dutifully in accord with the codes of conduct of civil service and the police. Only then will they constantly win the respect and trust of the people.

**Perspectives**

**Tuesday, 26 June, 2007**

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

**Thais donate cash for Jivitadana Sangha Hospital**

**YANGON, 25 June** — Members of a Thai delegation led by Chairman of Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association General Lertrat Ratanavanich and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and party this morning visited Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Bahan Township.

First, Thai ambassador and party offered a day meal to members of the Sangha. At the cash donation ceremony, Chairman of Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association General Lertrat Ratanavanich presented a note to donate US$ 20,000 to be spent on one floor of the new six-storey building built at the hospital. The note was accepted by Retired Ambassador U Ko Ko Gyi, a patron of the administration board of the hospital.

Afterwards, The Thai Ambassador donated K 300,000 for a day meal for the members of the Sangha who were treated at the hospital. General Lertrat Ratanavanich explained the purpose of the donation and U Ko Ko Gyi spoke words of thanks. **MNA**

**Fifth MOC Chairman’s Cup and 38th Inter-State/Division Men’s and Women’s Boxing C’ships conclude**

**YANGON, 20 June** — The final bouts and the prize presentation ceremony of the Fifth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Cup A Class and 38th Inter-State/Division Men’s and Women’s Junior C and B Class Boxing Championship were held at Aung San Stadium at 3 pm today.

Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik watched the final bouts and attended the prize presentation ceremony and presented championship shields to winners.

A total of 17 final bouts were held today. President U Win Myint of Myanmar Boxing Federation presented best awards to Hnin Ei Swe (Taninthay), Kyaw Win Htun (Kayin), Kyaw Kyaw Aung (Yangon) and Sai Soe Myat (Sagaing).

Next, U Thaung Htaik handed the best player award to Kyaw Swa Aung (Bago). Afterwards, President U Win Myint gave away championship shields to Kayin State in the women’s class and Mandalay Division in the junior class, Yangon Division in the C class and Shan (North) in the B class.

Next, U Thaung Htaik presented MOC Chairman’s cup to Bago Division in the A class and Inter-State/Division championship shield to Yangon Division. **NLM**

**17th AGM of MRMA on 29 June**

**YANGON, 25 June** — The 17th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association will be held at 4 pm on 29 June at UMPCCI Office Tower at No-29 Min Ye Kyawwia Road in Lamadaw Township. Members of the association delegates from states and divisions are invited to attend the meeting. Booths on rice milling will be displayed on the day and those interested may visit the booths. **MNA**

**President U Win Myint of Myanmar Boxing Federation presents championship shield to Yangon Division.** **NLM**

**Members of Thai-Myanmar association donate US$ 20,000 to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Bahan Township.** — **U**
US could cut troops in Iraq next spring

WASHINGTON, 24 June — It could be next spring before US troops in Iraq can hand over areas gained in their latest offensive to Iraqi forces and start to draw down, a top American commander said on Friday.

Army Lieutenant-General Ray Odierno also said Iran appeared to have boosted support and training for Shiite militia groups in Iraq in recent months. Odierno, the top US commander for day-to-day operations in Iraq, said the United States was not arming groups responsible for insurgent attacks to fight al-Qeda but he defended working with them in some areas.

US and Iraqi forces last week launched what commanders described as a major effort to eliminate al-Qeda fighters and their bomb factories with simultaneous attacks in various areas around Baghdad.

“The key piece will be the follow-on operation of Iraqi police, Iraqi Army and coalition forces,” Odierno told reporters at the Pentagon by video link from Iraq.

He said the Iraqis’ ability to hold areas cleared by US soldiers would determine when the United States could reduce troop levels, which have increased this year by some 28,000 to more than 155,000. “I think if everything goes the way it’s going now, there’s a potential that by the spring we would be able to reduce forces and Iraqi security forces could take over,” Odierno said.

“It could be this fall, because we continue to build, and they continue to improve. It might take a little bit longer than that. It might be until the spring.”—MNA/Reuters

Five UN peacekeepers killed in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 24 June—A car bombing killed five United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon on Sunday, opening another potentially disastrous fault line in a country held hostage to violence and political deadlock.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack on the peacekeepers, who were deployed along the border with Israel after last summer’s war with Hezbollah.

But suspicion immediately fell on militant Islamists, who are fighting the Lebanese Army in the country’s north. The United Nations force, Unifil, has been on alert for weeks because of that fight and several bombings that are believed to be related to it.

The attack hit two United Nations vehicles on a main road near the southern town of Khiyam. Witnesses said ammunition in at least one of the vehicles exploded after the initial blast.

“Apparently it was a car bomb attack,” said Milos Strugar, a spokesman for the United Nations force. He said investigations were under way.

The Spanish defence minister, José Antonio Alonso, said three Colombian and two Spanish peacekeepers had been killed. Three Spanish soldiers were also wounded, he told reporters in Madrid, according to the Associated Press.—Internet

Three cases of H5N1 bird flu confirmed in Germany

BERLIN, 24 June—Three wild birds in Germany have died of the feared H5N1 strain of bird flu, a health official in Nuremberg in southern Germany said.

Katja Guenther said tests carried out by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute confirmed that two swans and a duck suffered from the H5N1 strain of the virus. She said tests were being conducted on another seven birds who died of bird flu to see whether they too had been carriers of H5N1, which is potentially lethal for humans.

The dead wild birds, who were infected with the virus, were found near Nuremberg in the past week. Local authorities said at the weekend that they planned to cordon off areas to prevent the disease spreading. H5N1 was found on a poultry farm in the Czech Republic last week, prompting the slaughter of some 6,000 turkeys.

Germany battled a bird flu epidemic in 2005. It broke out on the Baltic Sea island of Ruegen and spread to six of the country’s 16 states.

The disease spread to mammals, killing a cat and a stone marten, but did not affect humans.—Internet

The 10th China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Conference, as known as the CIPEC 2007, is being held in Beijing, with 204 enterprises from 20 countries and regions taking part in the expo. The pictures were taken on 22 June, 2007.—INTERNET

Car bursts into securities office in Shanghai, 17 injured

SHANGHAI, 24 June—Seventeen people were injured, two seriously, after an out-of-control car burst into a securities trading office in Shanghai on Friday morning.

The accident took place at about 10 am at a Shanghai branch of Zhongshan Securities Co, when a Volvo sedan smashed through the plate glass windows on the ground floor and came to a stop in the middle of the office, witnesses said.

All of the injured people were rushed to a nearby Zhongshan Hospital and two are still being treated for severe injuries.

The other 15 people have been discharged. Police investigations show that the driver of the sedan, a security guard of the company, was parking the Volvo for a customer.—MNA/Xinhua

A model displays a creation as part of Versace’s Spring/Summer 2008 men’s collection during Milan Fashion Week on 23 June, 2007.

XINHUA

A veterinary worker wearing a protective suit throws a turkey into a container on 21 June, 2007, at a farm in Tisova village, some 160 kms east of Prague. —INTERNET
Cambodia supports Pakistan as full dialogue partner for ASEAN

PHNOM PENH, 24 June—The Cambodian Government fully supports Pakistan as full dialogue partner for the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), local media reported Saturday.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong has told newly appointed Pakistani Ambassador Mohammad Younis Khan that Cambodia supported Pakistan which was proposed to be full dialogue partner with ASEAN, Sin Bun Thouern, head of Press department of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, was quoted by the Raksmey Kampuchea Daily as saying.

Meanwhile, Cambodia and Pakistan will improve bilateral ties and cooperation through the embassy in Phnom Penh, which was opened in 2005, Sin Bun Thouern said. Hor Nam Hong also urged the Pakistan side to help implement the project with 10 million US dollars of loan for an irrigation system in Kampong Speu Province, which was pledged by Pakistan while its Premier Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali visited Cambodia in 2004, Sin Bun Thouern added.

Rains cause chaos in Pakistani city, kill over 220

KARACHI, 25 May—Storms and torrential rain have killed more than 200 people in Pakistan’s biggest city, Karachi, a provincial minister said on Sunday, and left angry residents without power.

“No the total number of those killed because of rains 228,” provincial Health Minister Sardar Ahmed told Reuters. “These deaths are caused by electrocution, falling trees, house collapses and road accidents.”

More bad weather is forecast for Pakistan and neighbouring India, where dozens have died after prolonged downpours across the country in the last few days. Aid workers and military helicopters in India’s southern state of Andhra Pradesh were battling on Sunday to provide food for 200,000 people displaced by monsoon floods.

People practise Taiji, a form of Chinese martial arts, during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Cultural Festival in Shenyang, northeastern China’s Liaoning Province on 23 June, 2007. INTERNET

Workshop collapse kills nine, injures six in N-E China

BENXI (Liaoning Province), 24 June—Nine people were killed and six injured when a factory’s main workshop, which was under construction, collapsed in northeast China’s Liaoning Province on Thursday, according to local authorities.

The accident occurred at about 5:50 p.m. Thursday at a feed company in Huanren County, Benxi City, a spokesman with the local government said on Friday.

The injured were being treated in hospital, he said, without giving details. An investigation into the accident has been launched.

Guard kills one, wounds five at Yemen oil plant

SANAA, 24 June — A Yemeni security guard at a US-run oil installation in Yemen opened fire on colleagues on Saturday, killing an Indian engineer and wounding five others, a security source said.

Two British workers, one American and two Yemeni pilots were hurt when Jamal Mohammed al-Raai began firing indiscriminately at the installation run by US oil and gas firm Occidental Petroleum Corp in Sha-bwa, the source said.

Raai was seized by Yemeni security forces. Preliminary investigations showed he was suffering from psychological problems, the source added.

US, Iraqi troops kill 55 in major offensive on al-Qaeda

BAGHDAD, 24 June—US and Iraqi forces continued large-scale sweeping, hunting for al-Qaeda operatives in the volatile Diyala Province, killing at least 55 insurgents, the US military said on Saturday.

During four days of a major crackdown dubbed “Operation Arrowhead Ripper,” the combined forces killed 55 insurgents, detained 23 others and seized numerous weapons caches, the military said in a statement.

Early on Tuesday, more than 10,000 troops, including 2,000 Iraqi soldiers and policemen, backed by US aircraft, have launched a massive assault aimed at hunting for the al-Qaeda militants operating in and around Baquba, some 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad. “Since the beginning of Operation Arrowhead Ripper, at least 55 al-Qaeda operatives have been killed, 23 have been detained, 16 weapons caches have been discovered, 28 improvised explosive devices have been destroyed and 12 booby-trapped structures have been destroyed,” the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

An automobile is caked in mud in front of a home in Colchester, NY, on 21 June, 2007. INTERNET

People practise Taiji, a form of Chinese martial arts, during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Cultural Festival in Shenyang, northeastern China’s Liaoning Province on 23 June, 2007. INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
EC\NOMIC NEWS

US export controls cost firms trade opportunities in China

BEIJING, 24 June—US restrictions on high-technology exports to China were costing US firms potential trade opportunities and putting them at a disadvantage, said Wang Qinhua, a senior official with China’s Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

“The controls have affected not only the number of products requiring export licenses, but also exports that do not require licenses,” said Wang.

“The US side believes the rejected export licenses are a small fraction of US exports to China, with a negligible effect on bilateral trade,” said Wang. “But that’s not the case.”

China’s hi-tech imports grew at an annual rate of 31 percent over the past six years, but the US contributed 9.1 per cent of China hi-tech imports in 2006, down from 18.3 per cent in 2001.

In 2006, China imported machine tools worth 7.24 billion US dollars, but only eight per cent were from the US.

Meanwhile, 6 per cent of China’s integrated circuits imports and less than 3 per cent of its semiconductor imports were from the US.

Wang said the new US rules, which imposed licensing requirements on 31 export items to China for military use, had increased firms’ operation costs and political risks and hindered the smooth development of Sino-US hi-tech trade.

Billionairess arrested for illegal money raising in E China

HANGZHOU, 24 June—Another billionairess in east China’s economically booming Zhejiang Province has been detained on charges of illegal fund raising and fraud, local police said on Friday.

Dong Lixiong, 29, a native of Hutou Township, Wucheng District, Jinhua City, allegedly collected more than 300 million yuan (37.5 million US dollars) between May 2006 and March this year by promising investors high returns, a spokesman with the Jinhua Municipal Public Security Bureau said.

Dong promised investors lucrative returns ranging from 10 to 25 per cent. Investors lent money hand over fist, with sums ranging from hundreds of thousands of yuan to tens of millions of yuan, the spokesman said.

Most of the victims were Dong’s relatives and friends, in addition to private business bosses, farmers, workers and civil servants, he said.

Wang said the new US rules, which imposed licensing requirements on 31 export items to China for military use, had increased firms’ operation costs and political risks and hindered the smooth development of Sino-US hi-tech trade.

Russia interested in energy partnership with SE Europe

BELGRADE, 24 June—Russia is interested in partnership and cooperation in the field of energy with countries of Southeastern Europe, but also with Europe as a whole while respecting hieghocological standards, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in the Croatian capital Zagreb on Sunday.

Addressing a Balkan energy summit in Zagreb, Putin said that Russia has always had good relations with Balkan countries, and good economic and political links are important for stability and security in the region, the Serbian official news agency Tanjug reported.

Putin, who arrived in Zagreb on Sunday as a special guest invited by Croatian President Stjepan Mesic, said he expected that, along with an open dialog, precise directives will be outlined for cooperation among Russia, the region and the European Union in the field of energy and transport of energy sources.

“The strategic goal of our joint work in the field is to achieve that energy sources be made available and guaranteed to all countries in the region,” Putin said.

Russia, “one of the world’s leaders in the production and delivery of energy, should do everything to solve the energy problems of the region,” he said.
Cambodia concerns about fish production over Mekong River

By Som Pon, June 24 — Cambodian officials are worried about the fish production this year because of the low water level of Mekong River, a senior fishery official said Saturday. The low water level could cause difficulties for fish to lay their eggs in lakes and branches of the Mekong River, Nao Thouk, head of fisheries department of the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, told Xinhua.

Nao Thouk said that if the water level of Mekong River still does not rise in the next few weeks, the fish production this year will decline.

Last year, Cambodia had about 442,000 tons of fish production across the country and it provided over 200 million US dollars national revenue as well as about two million US dollars tax from fish lot. Nao Thouk said. The revenue did not include the income from fish exportation to China, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the US and Australia, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

A man performs during a contest in Moscow on June 24, 2007. The contest was part of festivities organized every year by Moskovsky Komsomol's youth-oriented newspaper at Moscow's Luzhniki sports area. INTERNET

Hungarian investigative journalist severely beaten

BUDAPEST, 24 June — A Hungarian investigative journalist, who had reported on the illegal oil dealings of the 1990s, has been beaten and threatened with injuries, national news agency MTI reported on Saturday.

A spokesman for Budapest police told Reuters an angler had found a woman bound up on Friday night by the Danube River and she was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries. The spokesman could not reveal her identity due to the ongoing investigation, but MTI reported it was Iren Karman, 40, who had written a book entitled Facing the Mafia on illegal oil dealings of Hungarian criminal gangs and police corruption.

The Association of Hungarian Journalists (MUOSZ) said it had had talks with Karman a few days ago about the presentation of a documentary entitled Oiled Relations.

“We have no certainty about the real reasons for the attack, yet we find it important to express our solidarity in connection with this unprecedented atrocity through this statement,” MUOSZ said on its webpage.

MTI said in November a bag containing court documents relating to her book and a documentary recorded on a tape had been stolen from Karman’s car.

The sentence against Karman a few days ago had had talks with a security guard killer.

MNA/Reuters

China drought causes water shortages for millions

BEIJING, 24 June — Drought affecting large swathes of China has left more than eight million people short of water, and many livestock have died of hunger, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The country’s northern regions, including Inner Mongolia and Liaoning and Jilin provinces, were among the worst affected areas, it said late on Friday, citing the flood prevention and drought control headquarters.

In Liaoning in the northeast, a leading corn-producing area, Xinhua said that close to 90 reservoirs had dried up and 25,000 wells could no longer supply adequate water supplies.

State media reported last week that Liaoning was suffering its worst drought in 30 years as a result of high temperatures and little rain and that some 1.4 million hectares of crops had been damaged.

Drought had also sapped water supplies for 870,000 people and around 1.5 million livestock in Inner Mongolia, Xinhua said. Cattle had died for lack of grass to eat in the most severely affected parts of that region, it said.

MNA/Reuters

South Carolina executes security guard killer

MIAMI, 24 June — A South Carolina man was executed by lethal injection on Friday for the killing nearly 10 years ago of an elderly security guard during an armed car robbery outside a rural bank, authorities said.

The sentence against Calvin Shuler, 40, was carried out at 6:17 pm (2217 GMT) at the state’s Lieber Correctional Institution, South Carolina Department of Corrections spokesman Josh Gelinas said.

Shuler was the 278th inmate executed in South Carolina’s history, Gelinas said, adding that his death was witnessed by one attorney and a spiritual adviser but no family members.

There was no final statement from Shuler, Gelinas said.

Shuler was convicted of killing 77-year-old security guard James Brooks during a December 1997 armed car hijacking outside the First National Bank in Harleyville, South Carolina.

The state Supreme Court had unanimously upheld his conviction and death sentence in 2001.

MNA/Reuters
International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
(26 June)

Aye Phyu

On 26 June every year, the “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” is celebrated worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Declaration adopted at the International Conference against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking on that day in 1987.

In resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day “as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.”

Every year a theme is established and it is said that thousands of people around the world are mobilized through national and international office network to celebrate this special day with a variety of activities.

Some of the past themes can be seen as follows:
1998: Youth Uniting To Prevent Drug Abuse
1999: Music Against Drugs
2000: Fight State Reality: Denial, Corruption, and Violence
2001: Sports Against Drugs
2002: Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS
2003: Plan’s Talk About Drugs
2004: Drugs: Treatment Works
2005: Value Yourself: Make Healthy Choices
2006: Drugs Are Not Child’s Play

The theme for this year (2007) is: Do Drugs Control Your Life?

Your Life, Your Community. No Place for Drugs

We know that narcotic drugs pose a great threat to our entire humankind with their adverse effects on the users and their social surroundings. Each nation has to be engaged in the fight against narcotic drugs, putting emphasis on the control and eradication.

Our government has been taking systematic measures through various strategies and tactics with the aim to control production, use and prevention of drugs. All possible efforts are being exerted to eradicate narcotic drugs at home while cooperation with other nations and relations with international agencies, interdicting and dismantling international syndicates and drug traffickers.

Through close collaboration with law enforcement departments, Myanmar has also enjoyed success in eradicating local drug production and illicit crop monitoring, which falls today. Similarly, all States and Divisions of Myanmar will be holding commemoration ceremonies for this important and auspicious day with shared common objectives.

This year’s theme chosen by UNODC for this day is “DO DRUGS CONTROL YOUR LIFE? YOUR LIFE, YOUR COMMUNITY, NO PLACE FOR DRUGS.”

This theme was chosen with the aim of garnering community participation in the fight against drugs and its dire consequences. HIV, as it is destroying the community environment in which youths are the key persons.

In accordance with this theme, I would like to call upon each and everyone to join hands with CCDAC at the State and Division, District and Township levels and help youths who are using drugs so that they shall become free from drugs.

Myanmar has embarked on a 15-Year Drug Elimination Plan since 1999 and has now successfully reached the second 5-Year phase of the three 5-Year phases.

In the Supply Reduction Sector, it has been documented that cultivation of opium has been declining significantly according to the reports of the Myanmar-UN Opium Yield Survey and Joint Myanmar-UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Program.

Moreover in the Demand Reduction Sector, the respective Sub-Committees of CCDAC, namely Treatment, Rehabilitation, Education and Information have also drawn up project plans and are implementing drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation activities.

The Education Sub-committee has conducted successful programs for preventing drug abuse among students through awareness raising activities by the teachers, such as essay, music, art, cartoon and poster competitions.

The Treatment Sub-Committee has also opened 26 major drug treatment centres and 40 minor drug treatment centres all over the country. The Rehabilitation Sub-Committee is also operating 7 drug rehabilitation centres in the States and Divisions while two youth correctional centres, Shwe Pyi Thar and Shew Pyi Aye, have been opened under the direct supervision of CCDAC.

It is also evident that the number of drug users have decreased from a baseline survey of 63,615 in 2004 to 56,823 in 2007 reflected in the annual surveys.

In the law enforcement sector comprising the armed forces, police force and other relevant departments, Myanmar has also enjoyed success through close collaboration with law enforcement agencies of neighbouring countries as well as international enforcement agencies, interdicting and dismantling international syndicates and drug traffickers.

In conclusion, may I urge all the people of Myanmar to join hands and fight the scourge of drugs in accordance with this year’s theme “DO DRUGS CONTROL YOUR LIFE? YOUR LIFE, YOUR COMMUNITY, NO PLACE FOR DRUGS.” In order to make our community become drug free. — MVA

The fight must go on

* Drug Addicts
  Often thought as ‘the most selfish’
  Do commit
  * Variety of crimes to their wit
  * Let them be punished
  Help them turn away from a life of drug addiction
  * Drug traffickers
  Profiting as sellers and carriers
  Are the real destroyers
  Of our generations, past, present and future
  * Stay put for the moment
  Till the time comes for you to regret
  For what you’ve done in the web
  * Drug abuse
  Having lied many to ruins and to their deathbeds
  * Drug traffickers
  Profiting as sellers and carriers
  Are the real destroyers
  Of our generations, past, present and future
  * Stay put for the moment
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  Of our generations, past, present and future
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  * The fight must go on

Aye Phyu

Message from Major-General Maung Oo, Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control

YANGON, 26 June—The following is the massage from Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control commemorating the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking today.

Countries all over the world are commemorating the International Day against Drug Abuse Illicit Trafficking which falls today. Similarly, all States and Divisions of Myanmar will be holding commemoration ceremonies for this important and auspicious day with shared common objectives.

This year’s theme chosen by UNODC for this day is “DO DRUGS CONTROL YOUR LIFE? YOUR LIFE, YOUR COMMUNITY, NO PLACE FOR DRUGS.”

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The Treatment Sub-Committee has also opened 26 major drug treatment centres and 40 minor drug treatment centres all over the country. The Rehabilitation Sub-Committee is also operating 7 drug rehabilitation centres in the States and Divisions while two youth correctional centres, Shwe Pyi Thar and Shew Pyi Aye, have been opened under the direct supervision of CCDAC.

It is also evident that the number of drug users have decreased from a baseline survey of 63,615 in 2004 to 56,823 in 2007 reflected in the annual surveys.

In the law enforcement sector comprising the armed forces, police force and other relevant departments, Myanmar has also enjoyed success through close collaboration with law enforcement agencies of neighbouring countries as well as international enforcement agencies, interdicting and dismantling international syndicates and drug traffickers.

In conclusion, may I urge all the people of Myanmar to join hands and fight the scourge of drugs in accordance with this year’s theme “DO DRUGS CONTROL YOUR LIFE? YOUR LIFE, YOUR COMMUNITY, NO PLACE FOR DRUGS.” In order to make our community become drug free. — MVA
Community development helps improve... (from page 16)

committes will be first discussed. Officials of town- ships, states and divisions development affairs commit- tees are discharging duties in their respective regions and their work activities can be seen in daily newspa- pers and TV programmes. However, the activities found on the screen are only part of their efforts, and in reality they are exerting more efforts. For smooth transport, more roads and bridges are being built. With the emer- gence of such transport facilities, towns and villages across the country are busy with the people traveling and trading freely. Besides, beautifying and sanitation tasks are being carried out in order to make the towns and cities neat and tidy.

The Secretary-1 said making the towns and vil- lages clean and tidy can provide not only pleasure but also good health for the dwellers. If there are piles of garbage and pools of mud lying about, such infectious diseases as malaria, DHF, elephantiasis and diarrhoea can break out. Although the tasks of development af- fairs committees seem to be ordinary, it is necessary to pay attention to such tasks as they can help people to feel happy and healthy, he noted.

That is why administrative officers of township development affairs committees and engineers are to supervise not only building roads and bridges but also carrying out beautifying tasks so as to make the towns and villages clean and tidy.

The Secretary-1 added that community develop- ment helps improve health and economy as well as indicates the standard of a people. And it is necessary to make the tourists be convinced of this fact. So, for the dignity of the State and the people, more efforts are to be made for making the towns and villages clean and tidy for ever. Responsible officials in cooperation with health staff are to organize the people to systematically dis- pose of waste materials and garbage, to make their houses and compounds always clean and tidy and to use fly-proof latrines by giving educative talks.

The government is undertaking the 24 special de- velopment region project and five rural development tasks for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the country and national races. At the same time, the State is striving its utmost to develop in various aspects such as politics, economy, education, health and social affairs.

The Government is building No 1 district-to-dis- trict road which will pass Mandalay, Bago (West), and Yangon and No 2 district-to-district road which will pass Mandalay, Bago and Mon. Until 2006-2007 fiscal year 54 miles of tarred road, 323 miles and two furlongs of gravel road and 100 wooden bridges at No 1 district-to-district road have been covered. Three miles of tarred road, 52 miles and 6 furlongs of the gravel roads, 163 miles of earth road and 57 wooden bridges at No 2 of district-to-district road have already been built.

To acquire safe water is the chief duty of the DACs in the process of rural development tasks. There- fore, a 10-year plan has been laid down for acquiring safe water in the states and divisions including three divisions in the arid zone and is being implemented. Health care services and life style of the rural people will improve due to efforts made for ensuring safe water in the rural areas. A total of 17,250 villages—7,911 in three divisions in the arid zone and 9,339 in remaining states and divisions—have access to safe water. The DACs are to make efforts in the drive to acquire safe water in every village with added momentum.

Apart from discharging duties to acquire safe water in the rural areas, the DACs are supplying water to urban areas. Until now they are supplying water to 179 towns. Tasks will be carried out to acquire safe water in the remaining towns.

The Ministry of Progress for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs initiated the rural housing project in cooperation with other depart- ments and organizations in seven divisions in 2003- 2004 and managed to build a total of 3420 houses until 2006-2007 fiscal year. The officials concerned are to take measures for the emergence of model rural housing suitable to the condition of region through the combina-
Uplift of health, fitness...

(From page 16)

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, members of Myanmar National Olympic Council, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and committee members, deputy ministers, the Deputy Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney-General, members of CSSTB, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the President of Myanmar Football Federation and officials, athletes and families.

In his address, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint said that The First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament for 2007 is being held with the aim of contributing to the National Fitness, of fostering friendship among staff members of the respective ministries, and of enabling service personnel to actively discharge their duties all the more.

In an effort to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation the government is laying emphasis on the development of the sports sector, he said. Of the four social objectives the uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is directly related to the development of the sports sector, he noted.

The government has laid down and is implementing short-term and long-term projects for the uplift of the sports standard under the motto “Myanma Sports: The World To Conquer”, he stressed.

At a time when steps are being taken for the uplift of the sports standard as a national duty plan is well under way for the development of Myanmar Football sector, he added.

In conclusion, the minister spoke of the need for all the athletes to play the football showing talent and sporting spirit, to compete in a fair way and to try their utmost to become healthy and qualified service personnel.

Next, the minister formally opened the football tournament. After taking the sports oaths, the athletes left the venue in order.

After the ceremony, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed the match between the Ministry of Defence Energy team and the Ministry of Defence team.

Lao PDR delegation arrives

YANGON, 25 June —

At the invitation of Union Solidarity and Development Association, a Laotian delegation led by Mr Boun Nhang Xaysanavong, Director-General of External Relations Department and Department of Public Administration and Civil Service of Lao People’s Revolutionary Party, arrived here by air today.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by CEC member of USDA U Maung Pa, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Koully A Souphakhet and responsible personnel of USDA.

Five members resign from Myaung Township NLD

YANGON, 15 June — Five members of the Myaung Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division resigned from the party on 16 June.

Those who resigned from NLD are U Bo Kyaw, U Myo Tint, Ma Aye Aye Khang, U Nyunt Shein and U Swe Nyein of Mayogon Village, Myaung Township.

They sent their resignation letters to NLD Headquaters and local authorities.

In the letters sent to Sagaing Division Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commissions, they said that NLD party entirely relies on other big countries and actions of the party are leading to make the country in servitude to other country. They do not believe that some NLD leaders relying on foreign assistance can serve the interest of the nation and the people if they get power. These are the reasons why they resigned from the party, they said.
Ministry of Mines holds work coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Ministry of Mines held work coordination meeting at the ministry here today with an address by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Directors-General, Managing Directors, Deputy Directors-General, Directors and General Managers of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry were present at the meeting.

They reported on work done and arrangements for exceeding the targets. The minister gave instructions on targets and requirements of the departments and enterprises. He explained the guidance of Head of State.

He stressed the need for staff to follow laws, rules and regulations, procedures and to grow the physic nut plants for bio-diesel.—MNA

Auditor-General’s Office holds work coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The Auditor-General’s Office held its first work coordination meeting for 2007 at the meeting hall of the office, here this morning, with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, Director-General U Myo Myint, deputy directors-general, directors and heads of administration departments from the states and divisions and deputy directors.

First, Auditor-Gen Maj-Gen Lun Maung made a speech on the occasion, saying that auditors are to be free from corruption when they discharge their duties. They are to systematically check annual budget of the organizations under the respective ministries in accordance with law, rules and regulations. They are to check the budgets in a correct and just way in order to focus on reaching the right track. They are to examine special projects that required large amount of capital thoroughly and present reports. Auditors should monitor to ascertain that the respective department faithfully follow and pay serious attention to the audit report, he said. Next, directors from the states and divisions presented reports to the Auditor-General on annual audit of departments and enterprises in the states and divisions and their reports, accomplishment of organizations concerned for taking action against those who violated laws concerning the important findings, strength of staff of the Auditor-General’s Office, construction of office buildings and service quarters and following and paying serious attention to the minutes of previous meetings.

Afterwards, the Deputy Auditor-General gave a supplementary report and the discussions were made. Next, the Auditor-General gave necessary instructions and the meeting ended with concluding remarks.—MNA

Message from Antonio Maria Costa,
Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

YANGON, 26 June—The following is the message from Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Drug Abuse Control commemorating the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking today.

As we mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, there is some grounds for optimism that the run-away train of drug addiction is being slowed down. The 2007 World Drug Report issued today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides further evidence that the world drug problem is being controlled. For almost every kind of illicit drug—cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants—there are signs of overall stability, whether we speak of cultivation, production or abuse.

Some obvious problems remain, like opium in the South of Afghanistan—a cancer that threatens security and health and breeds corruption. Furthermore, progress made in some countries is being offset by negative trends elsewhere. It is also hard to be conclusive about the drug situation in some of the world’s biggest and fastest growing countries because of a lack of data. Nevertheless, from a global perspective, the problem seems to be contained. In the past few years, the world drug situation has stabilized.

This does not mean that the drug problem has been solved or that we can become complacent. Drugs remain a deadly form of addiction, pose a real danger to security and health, and are ruining the lives of millions of people worldwide. There is still much work to be done.

Since we should not take our foot off the brake, I encourage you to use the occasion of this day to impress upon your governments, your family, friends and co-workers the need to continue to push back against drugs.

Further support is needed to reduce the vulnerability of farmers to the temptation of illicit incomes. Further improvements are needed in drug law enforcement—particularly through regional cooperation—to stop the drug producers and traffickers.

But even if the entire supply of drugs could be eliminated at the source and seized along trafficking routes, there would still be millions drug addicts looking for a way to satisfy their addiction. Therefore, the highest priorities in the fight against drugs should be prevention, helping people free themselves from drug dependence, and getting them back into society.

I am encouraging all of you to see a growing realization that drug addiction is an illness that can be prevented and treated. More investment is needed. This is an investment in the health of our societies as much as treating HIV, diabetes or tuberculosis.

In the years ahead, we hope that evidence will grow to support the trend towards a tipping point in the fight against drugs. If we all, within our communities and among the family of states, continue to shoulder our share of the responsibility, further progress can be made.—MNA

Talks on Famous Business Leaders held

YANGON, 25 June — Talks on Learning from Famous Business Leaders was held at Sedona Hotel here on 23 June.

 Managing Director of Smart Technical Services Co Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing gave talks on learning from six famous business leaders in the world and their views, establishment of successful business farm and abstracts from ways for successful business. He also answered the questions of those present.

After the talks, books published by Today Publishing House were sold at 10 % discount. Moreover, the house also sold subscription to monthly Lifestyle magazine and CEO economic and management magazine at 33 % discount. Sponsored by MK Fashion and Scott Tissue, the talks were organized by CEO economic and management magazine.—MNA
Malaysia rebukes EU envoy over race policy remark

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 June — Malaysia has accused a European Union envoy of meddling in its affairs after he criticized Kuala Lumpur’s affirmative action plan favouring majority ethnic Malays, a newspaper said on Sunday.

The European Commission’s chief representative to Malaysia, Thierry Rommel, said on Thursday Malaysia should roll back its 37-year-old New Economic Policy (NEP), which gives privileges in businesses, jobs and education to Malays.

Rommel said it was discriminatory and amounted to protectionism. Malays form just over half of Malaysia’s 26 million people, with ethnic Chinese and Indians forming sizeable minorities.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak hit back at Rommel, saying he had overstepped diplomatic boundaries.

“Once we make a comment on the policies of a country where we serve as an envoy, it means we are meddling in its internal affairs,” the New Sunday Times quoted Najib as saying.

MNA/Reuters

San Francisco bans bottled water for workers

LOS ANGELES, 25 June — San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has issued an executive order prohibiting city departments from buying bottled water so as to protect the environment and save cost, it was reported Saturday.

The decision would save taxpayer money and combat global warming, the Los Angeles Times reported, quoting Tony Winnicker, spokesman for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

More than 40 million gallons of oil are needed to make the plastic bottles Americans

23 hurt as bombs rip through Colombian port city

BOGOTA, 25 June — Seven bomb and grenade attacks blamed by authorities on leftist rebels wounded 23 people in Colombia’s main port Buenaventura on Friday and Saturday, part of an intensifying drug war in the city.

The attacks were directed at a police station and commercial areas frequented by civilians. Seven of the victims were children.

Another bomb was deactivated by police in the Pacific port city, which moves about half of Colombia’s international shipments.

Police said the attacks began on Friday evening in The Oasis restaurant, which was destroyed by the blast. The last explosion happened at daybreak on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Musicians from the Republic of Korea & Myanmar perform dances at the concert staged by Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association and Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association on 23-6-2007 at Karaweik Palace in Yangon.—NLM

Thai rebel snipers kill 4 in road ambushes

BANGKOK, 25 June — Suspected militants killed two soldiers and two villagers in ambushes in Thailand’s rebellious Muslim south on Sunday, police said.

The two men were executed and their bodies burned by suspected Muslim snipers on a road in Narathiwat Province. After their motorcycle came under fire, police said.

In nearby Pattani Province, two elderly civilians riding on a motorcycle were attacked by pistol-toting gunmen.

The two men were doused with benzene and set on fire, police said.

The military had detained 130 Muslim militant suspects and sympathizers during a security sweep through Narathiwat and nearby Yala Province since Wednesday, Army spokesman Akara Thiproy told reporters on Sunday.

Bomb attacks, shootouts have become almost daily events in the rebellious region where more than 2,300 people have been killed in a three-year insurgency.

MNA/Reuters

Torrential rain leaves 4 dead, displaces 20,000 in C China

YICHANG (Hubei Province), 25 June — Four people have died, two are missing and more than 20,000 have been displaced due to landslides and floods triggered by torrential rain in the past week in central China’s Hubei Province.

The rain began to hit The Oasis restaurant in Yichang on Friday. The Oasis restaurant, which was destroyed by the blast. The last explosion happened at daybreak on Saturday.

YICHANG, southern Hubei, on 17 June. By Saturday, the area had reported rainfall of 167 millimetres, according to the Yichang City government.

Around 450,000 people in 71 townships have been affected, and nearly 8,000 houses have been damaged or even destroyed.

The rain pelted rural roads, bridges and river dams and affected 47,000 hectares of cropland.

Traffic, power and telecommunications were completely cut off in three townships of Wufeng Autonomous County of Tuja Nationality after the area was hit by the strongest rainstorm in half a century on Friday.

The continuous rain has caused economic losses of 280 million yuan (36.8 million US dollars) in Yichang.

Government working teams have rushed to the worst-hit areas to carry out disaster relief operation.

MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian boys cool off in a Jerusalem’s fountain during a heatwave on 23 June , 2007. — INTERNET
Wild elephants kill two children in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 25 June—Wild elephants trampled to death brothers aged 5 and 7 in their home, and destroyed 10 bamboo houses when they strayed into a Bangladesh village, officials said on Sunday.

The herd of elephants also uprooted trees and damaged crops on Saturday night at Panthia village, in Tangail District Town, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of the capital Dhaka.

MNA/Reuters

Dutch PM says new EU treaty “good to take home”

BRUSSELS, 24 June — A deal on a mandate for a new treaty to reform the European Union’s institutions is “good to take home” to voters who rejected the EU Constitution in 2005, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said on Saturday.

“The idea of a Constitution and all the elements that go along with it... is gone,” he said, noting the Netherlands had also succeeded in introducing new elements such as a strengthening of the role of national parliaments.

But Balkenende refused to say whether voters in the Netherlands who rejected the Constitution in 2005 would have a second chance to vote, saying it was up to them to voice their views in another referendum.

He reiterated his government would consult with a government advisory body before deciding how to proceed.

An opinion poll found this week that a majority of Dutch voters want another referendum on a new treaty, and that almost two out of three Dutch voters would approve it at this time.—MNA/Reuters

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The best time is...
Private sector to bridge gap in US space flight

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 24 June — Far from being a hiatus in US manned space travel, the gap between the retirement of the US space shuttle and the debut of replacement ships looks set to be a renaissance led by private companies.

NASA, which on Friday saw the safe return of the shuttle Atlantis, is providing financial assistance to two private companies and technical advice and oversight to five others.

“By stimulating the growth of commercial space enterprise, NASA will free itself to focus on long-range exploration of the moon and Mars,” said Scott Horowitz, a NASA associate administrator.

NASA needs to find another way to get cargo and crew to the space station once the shuttles are retired in 2010 and until the Orion capsules, under development to replace the shuttles, are ready to fly people in 2014.

Not that industry seems to need NASA’s help.

Three years ago a group known as the X Prize Foundation organized a 10-million-US-dollar challenge for private enterprise to create and fly a manned ship to suborbital space.

Aircraft designer Burt Rutan teamed with Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen to create SpaceShipOne, a rocket-powered craft that slipped beyond Earth’s atmosphere three times in 2004 to clinch the prize and make history.

The vehicle now hangs in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, but its legacy lives on.

Bliss wins the Best Film of Asian New Talent Award

BEIJING, 24 June — “Bliss” from China, directed by Shen Zhiming, is chosen as the best film for its sincerity and artistic integrity. Gouam Rubbany Biplob of “On the Wings of Dreams” from Bangladesh is awarded for his clear thoughts and the spirited story-telling. “The Case” is selected as “the College Students’ Favourite Asian Film”.

As one of the most important parts of Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF)’s JinJue Forum, the Asian New Talent Award aims to find and support young film makers from Asia, which will help them to contribute for the film art and the industry.

The Asian New Talent Award is the only award with prizes. Under the principle of Innovative, Energetic and Multi-cultural, the prize will do help in realizing new talents’ new plan and their films’ distribution.

Zendai Group, who invests in culture industry, sponsors this year’s Asian New Talent Award with 150,000 RMB for the producer of the Best Film and the best director winner respectively. In addition, the Zhoushan Government provides each winner 300,000 RMB worth of film studio use.

With 101 films from 21 countries and regions signing up for the competition, the Asian New Talent Award shows its Asian impact in its 4th year.

Finally, 10 selected films, which reflect the latest change of Asian young film makers, are nominated. Especially with the rising of some once film weakness, it has been a growing focus on what their living and working condition are and how they present their countries and nations and paint for the colourful world film industry.

Vicky Zhao awarded at Shanghai Int’l Film Festival

BEIJING, 24 June— Chinese mainland actress Vicky Zhao won the Media Award for the most popular actress during the ongoing 10th Shanghai International Film Festival, scheduled from 16 to 24 June.

Vicky Zhao won the award for her breakthrough performance as a taxi driver in “The Longest Night in Shanghai.” The nationally projected film was hailed for its potential at the box office.

The 31-year-old actress missed the awards ceremony on Friday as she is shooting a new film “The War of the Red Cliff”, directed by John Woo.

She expressed her thanks for the honour over the phone.

The most popular actor award went to 47-year-old Taipei actor Winston Chao, for his portrayal of Sun Yat-sen in revolutionary’s love story.

The Media Award held by CCTV-6, the China Central Television’s movie channel, focuses on the development of Chinese films.

Internet
Saudi Arabia beat UAE 2-0 in Asian Cup warm up

SINGAPOR, 25 June — Saad Al Harthi and Malek Maaz scored second-half goals to guide Saudi Arabia to a 2-0 win over United Arab Emirates in an Asian Cup warm-up match in Singapore on Sunday.

Al Harthi opened the scoring in the 49th minute when he headed a corner from Abdulrahman Al Qahtani into the back of the net. Maaz sealed the win by scoring eight minutes later when he connected with a free kick from Al Qahtani in an encouraging buildup to next month's Asian Cup.

"I was very pleased with the performance of the players today," Saudi Arabia's Brazilian coach Helio Dos Anjos told the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) website.

"It was a hard game for us especially in the first half but the players did well and created opportunities and I think we deserved to win the game."—MNA/Reuters

S Korean Lee earns British Open spot with Japan win

TOKYO, 25 June — South Korea's Lee Dong-hwan captured his first title on the Japanese men's tour at the title with a total of 127 points, with France the overnight leader following three successive rounds of 68 in Nishinomiya, western Japan.—MNA/Reuters

Fasth holds off charging Langer for 2-shot win

MUNICH, 25 June — Sweden's Niclas Fasth withstood a remarkable charge by Bernhard Langer on Sunday before winning the BMW International by two strokes.

Fasth's closing two-under 70 for a 13-under 275 total kept out Langer, who had to settle for his fifth runner-up spot in the only German European Tour event he has never won.

Langer, finishing with a 67, shared second place with Portugal's Jose-Filipe Lima (72), who led the third round with Fasth.

Three strokes ahead of the field at the turn, Fasth's sixth European Tour title looked a formality with the Swede in the form that earned him fourth place in the US Open the previous week.

But with the 49-year-old Langer holing a series of outrageous putts, a 40-footer, two 25-footers and two from 15 feet, and Fasth double-bogeying the 10th, the outcome remained in doubt until the 71st hole.

Langer tangled with the rough on 18 and could only manage par to set an 11-under target. Fasth stayed only one in front of the German until holing a seven-footer for birdie on 17 to extend his victory margin.

While Fasth took the 445,000-US-dollar winner's cheque and with it a move close to the world's top 20, Langer, who becomes a senior in August, took top marks for determination.—MNA/Reuters

NZ beat Alinghi to level America's Cup

VALENCIA, 25 June — Team New Zealand staged a stunning comeback to beat Alinghi on Sunday, levelling the best-of-nine America's Cup series 1-1 and ending a 16-race winning streak for a group of Kiwis on the Swiss team.

In one of the most exciting races in recent Cup history, Alinghi led at the first mark despite being beaten off the start by New Zealand after a closely fought pre-match duel.

The Kiwis ground Alinghi down on the second upwind leg and the balance of the race shifted on one critical tack, with Team New Zealand rounding the final mark with a 15-second lead. Team New Zealand extended their gain downwind to win convincingly by 28 seconds, dispelling any idea of Alinghi's newly-built SUI100 having a clear speed advantage.—MNA/Reuters

Beijing Airport to launch emergency alert system for Olympics

BEIJING, 25 June — Beijing's Capital International Airport will set up an emergency alert system for extreme weather and security threats so as to ensure smooth transportation for millions of visitors from home and abroad during next summer's Olympic Games.

A five-colour grading system will be used, said Su Langen, senior official with the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

Green indicates normal conditions in which the airport can predict flight conditions in which the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).
Iraqi court sentences "Chemical Ali" to hang

**Baghdad, 25 June —** Saddam Hussein's cousin, widely known as "Chemical Ali", was sentenced on Sunday to hang for masterminding a genocidal military campaign that used poison gas against Iraq's Kurds.

Ali Hassan al-Majeed, looking frail and wearing traditional Arab robes, stood silently as the judge read the verdict. As he was escorted from the Baghdad courtroom, he said: "Thanks be to God." This is judgment day for the aggressors against the Kurdish people," said Majeed, as he handed out sweets to colleagues in Kurdistan's Ministry of Martyrs, which looks after victims of the campaign.

Majeed, whose very name once sparked fear among Iraqis, directed a military campaign against the Kurds in 1988 in which chemical weapons were used, villages demolished, agricultural lands destroyed and tens of thousands of people killed.

The court also sentenced to death Saddam's defence minister, Sultan Hashim, and a former military commander for their roles in the campaign.

Two other commanders received life in prison. Charges were dropped against the former governor of Mousul.

Saddam was the seventh defendant, until his execution in December in a separate trial for crimes against humanity.

Kurds have long sought justice for the so-called Anfal or "Spoils of War" campaign that has left lasting scars on their mountainous region. Prosecutors say up to 180,000 people were killed in the seven-month "scorched-earth" operation in 1988.

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*Rebecca Preston from Australia celebrates after winning the women's Ironman Switzerland event, on 24 June, 2007, in Zurich, Switzerland. Triathletes taking part in the competition had to swim 3.8 kilometres, then cycle 180 kilometres and run 42 kilometres. — INTERNET*
Community development helps improve health and economy as well as indicates standard of a people

Secretary-1 addresses meeting of development affairs committees

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — Annual Work Coordination Meeting of the development affairs committees of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs took place at the meeting hall of the department here this morning with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present at the meeting were Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads and officials.

Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-1 said at this annual work coordination meeting, matters related to the policy of the development affairs (See page 8)

Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation related to development of sports sector

Secretary-1 attends opening of First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—The First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament for 2007 jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation was opened at No 1 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground here at 4 pm today, attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

(See page 9)