**True patriotism**

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

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**Commander visits vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone**

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win views tapioca plantation in Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaunghnpi Camp in Hmaubwy. — MNA

**Four political objectives**

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

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**In accord with the Head of State’s guidance, highland cultivation has been introduced and more farmland has been reclaimed to stop slash-and-burn cultivation that harms the environment. Hence, national races are able to grow high-yield crops to ensure local food sufficiency.**

CHIN GYA (MAUBIN)

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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
MWAF holds educative talks in Pyinmana

**Friday, 29 June, 2007.**

**Work together for well-being of womenfolk**

In the Union of Myanmar, more than half of the population are women who have been preserving own lineage, traditions and dignity and keeping abreast of their male counterparts in the political, economic and social sectors in the course of the Myanmar history.

With the aim of raising their role, Myanmar women set up the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation on 20 December 2003 with seven objectives and four principles designed to serve the interests of the nation and the people.

After forming such organizations as the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association enjoying the encouragement and support of the government, the majority of womenfolk have been participating in the social well-being activities as a national duty for their improvement.

The six working groups of the MWAF are taking measures throughout the nation for protecting women’s rights and ensuring their life security.

In addition, they are fulfilling economic, education, health and social requirements of women at state and division, district, township, ward and village levels.

The entire national people are duty-bound to make harmonious efforts in accordance with the motto “Let’s work together for well-being of women” for ensuring sustainable progress of the life of Myanmar women who preserve the national characters.

**PERSPECTIVES**

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**MWAF holds educative talks in Pyinmana**

**NAY PSE TAW, 25 June —** Educative talks on prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation and reintegration of victims persons organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana on 22 June.

Daw Tin Tin Ngwe, leader of the working group for prevention and rehabilitation, explained facts about the federation. Afterwards, leader of the working group for rehabilitation and reintegration Daw Kyi Kyi Mya gave educative talks on prevention of violence against women and leader of the sub-working group for prevention of trafficking in persons Police Capt Daw Oktar Mar Yin Mi on prevention of human trafficking.

After the educative talks, the Headmaster of the school accepted exercise books, books on general knowledge, stationery and cash donated by wellwishers to the school. — MNA

**Coord meeting organized to expedite development tasks**

**NAY PSE TAW, 27 June —** Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivered an address at the coordination meeting to expedite development tasks for 2007-08 financial year at the hall of the ministry, here, on 22 June morning.

Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe gave a speech on engineering work, Director-General U Than Swe of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department reported on training courses for youth from border areas.

Executive officers and engineers of development affairs committees from States and Divisions submitted reports on their respective sectors.

On 23 June, the meeting continued at the same venue. The Director-General of Development Affairs Department and officials discussed matters related to the reports of executive officers and engineers of DACs. Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe reviewed the sector-wise reports. After attending to the needs, the minister gave concluding remarks. — MNA

**Appointement of Ambassador agreed on**

**NAY PSE TAW, 29 June —** The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Ivan Hotek as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Ivan Hotek, born in 1955, graduated from the University of Economics, Prague. He joined the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1983 and since then he has served in various capacities at Czech Foreign Ministry and also at Czech embassies in New Delhi, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur from 1983 to 1995. He was appointed as Ambassador of Czech Republic to the Republic of Korea in 2000. From 2004 to 2006 he served as Director-General of the Logistics Section of Czech Foreign Ministry. He has been serving as Ambassador of Czech Republic to Kingdom of Thailand since January 2007.

Mr Ivan Hotek will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

**Five nations in GMS Region agree to cooperate in freight transportation services**

**YANGON, 28 June —** Officials of freight forwarders association of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam on 23 June signed Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of information, cooperation in freight transportation services and tasks in Greater Mekong Sub-Region.

Officials of the five ASEAN-member nations in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region gathered at the Enhancement of International Trade Logistics Development in Greater Mekong Sub-Region Forum at Pattaya Beach in Thailand. Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association U Aung Kyaw Min participated in the forum organized by Ministry of Commerce of Thailand.

The seven-member delegation also participated in the workshops of forwarders associations in Asia and Pacific regions.

The forwarders associations of ASEAN-members nations in GMS Region have a plan to hold talks with China International Forwarders Association. — MNA
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Even among allies, image of US drops**

WASHINGTON, 28 June—
The image of the United States has "plummeted" in many parts of the world, with mounting distrust of President Bush and US foreign policy expressed not only in Muslim countries but also among traditional allies, according to a survey of global attitudes released yesterday.

Still, majorities in 25 of the 46 countries surveyed said they had positive views of the United States, with particularly positive sentiments coming from Africa, suggesting that anti-Americanism has grown "deeper, but not wider." Those surveyed expressed little confidence in other world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

And China's increasing economic and military might is "triggering considerable anxiety," the survey found.

The project was conducted this spring by the nonpartisan, nonprofit Pew Research Centre and covered 46 countries and the Palestinian territories.

The study assesses global attitudes concerning policy, leadership and world threats.

**UN says number of drug addicts constant worldwide**

NEW DELHI, 27 June—
The number of people across the globe consuming drugs has remained constant since last year, a report released here Tuesday by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said.

The report was released by the United Nations (UN) worldwide to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse And Illicit Trafficking.

The report said there are signs of stability in production, trafficking as well as consumption for illicit incomes.

A message by UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa, released here, said there is some ground for optimism that the run-away train of drug addiction is being slowed down. Antonio said people worldwide must impress upon their governments, family, friends and co-workers the need to continue and push back against drugs.

With regards to Southeast Asia, the report said the region is a closed tragic chapter that has blighted the Golden Triangle for decades. The region is now almost opium free.

However, since the region is not free of poverty, farmers remain vulnerable to temptations of illicit incomes.

Farmers need assistance to move to alternate farming and need financial assistance.—MNA/Xinhua

**Former US official gets 10 months in Abramoff case**

WASHINGTON, 27 June—
A high-ranking Bush Administration official was sentenced to 10 months in prison on Tuesday for lying to Congress as it investigated a bribery scandal centred on lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Steven Gries, who served as the No 2 Interior Department official between 2001 and 2005, had hoped to serve his sentence at home working for a charity sponsored by Walt Disney Co and several outdoor-equipment makers.

But Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle said Gries had refused to take responsibility for his actions and imposed a sentence tougher than the one sought by prosecutors.

"Even now, you continue to minimize and try to excuse your conduct and the nature of your misstatements," Huvelle said.

Gries, 59, is the highest-ranking Bush Administration official convicted in the wide-ranging bribery scandal centred around Abramoff.

Gries pleaded guilty in March to lying to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee as it examined Abramoff's clout in the Interior Department.

Abramoff is serving a six-year prison sentence and cooperating with investigators.

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**Strong quake jolts off Indonesia's Java**

JAKARTA, 27 June — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck south of Indonesia's Java Island on Wednesday, but there were no tsunami risks or reports of damage, an official at the country's meteorological agency said.

The epicentre of the quake was 340 kilometres (210 miles) southwest of the city of Cilacap in the Indian Ocean and at a depth of 30 kilometres, the official at the agency in Jakarta said by telephone.

Cilacap is the site of Indonesia's largest oil refinery, owned by state oil and gas company PT Pertamina, with a capacity of 348,000 barrels per day.

A Pertamina official at the site said by telephone that the quake had not affected operations there.

The quake struck at 0523 am (2223 GMT on Tuesday) and there was an aftershock in the same area measuring 5.2 half an hour later, the agency said.

**INTERNET**

A man pours water on a cyclist, a tradition in celebration of the feast of patron Saint John the Baptist, in San Juan City Metro Manila on 24 June, 2007. —Xinhua
US says Iraq’s summer may be “very difficult”

WASHINGTON, 27 June—The White House predicted on Tuesday that due to growing sectarian violence and attacks on US troops, Iraq’s situation in coming weeks will be “very difficult.”

“Let’s make no mistake about it, it’s likely to be a very difficult summer,” said White House spokesman Tony Snow.

“Terrorists are going to do their very best to try to create very spectacular acts of terror,” he said, noting “We have been gratified that they have been intercepted on a number of occasions, but unfortunately they have also succeeded on a number of occasions.”

On the US strategy of deploying tens of thousands of additional troops in Iraq, Snow said “We hope that also succeeded on a number of occasions.”

“We have been gratified that they have been intercepted on a number of occasions, but unfortunately they have also succeeded on a number of occasions.”

The US Congress has been trying to force US President George W. Bush and his administration to change course in Iraq, but so far the White House remain standing firm. — Xinhua

Folic acid helps fight against depression

LONDON, 27 June—British researchers Tuesday confirmed a link between depression and low levels of folate, a vitamin which comes from vegetables.

The link emerged after a review of 11 previous studies involving 15,315 participants, researchers at the University of York, UK, reported on the science news website of Alpha Galileo.

The research led by Simon Gilbody suggests the introduction of mandatory fortification of either bread or flour with folic acid could help in the fight against depression. “Although the research does not prove that low folate causes depression, we can now be sure that the two are linked. Interestingly, there is also some trial evidence that suggests folic acid supplements can benefit people with depression,” Gilbody said.

We recommend that large trials should be carried out to further test this suggestion,” Gilbody said. Another piece of research by the same team proved that people with depression commonly have a gene, which could cause them to process folate less efficiently.

Folate is linked to the production of some of the “feel good” chemicals in the brain, such as serotonin, and the identification of this gene provides a plausible explanation as to why folic acid supplements may help people with depression, according to the researchers. — Internet

CIA releases declassified documents about past spying activities

WASHINGTON, 27 June—The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on Tuesday released hundreds of pages of declassified documents about its past spying activities dating back to the 1950s.

“lt’s important to remember that the CIA itself launched this process of recollection and self-examination. And it was the agency itself that shared the resulting documents in full with Congress,” CIA Director Michael Hayden said in a statement.

He said the documents were “exhaustively reviewed” in the 1970s by three outside investigative panels, and were reminders of some things “the CIA should not have done” and “a glimpse of a very different era and a very different agency”.

The documents, known inside the CIA as the “family jewels”, revealed some activities carried out by the CIA between the 1950s and early 1970s, including spying on Americans, assassination attempts against foreign leaders, and kidnapping.

Large sections of the documents were blacked out by agency censors before they were released. The 693 pages of documents were compiled after then CIA Director James Schlesinger ordered in 1973 that “all senior operating officials of this agency to report to me immediately on any activities now going on, or that have gone on in the past, which might be construed to be outside the legislative charter of this agency”.

The order was issued following the Watergate scandal, which later led to the resignation of Richard Nixon as US president in 1974. — Xinhua

One killed, four injured in teashop shooting in S Thailand

BANGKOK, 27 June—Daily violence continued in Thailand’s restive deep south as a gunman fired into a local teashop, killing one and injuring four people in Pattani Province Tuesday morning.

Police said the suspect riding on the pillion of a motorbike stopped in front of the teashop in the Muang Pho District, shortly after the vehicle boarding a patrol unit providing security for local teachers, passed by.

Suspected bombers were believed to have missed the target. No one was wounded in the incident. — MNA/Xinhua

A young man carries electric fans on a motorbike on a hot day in Changchun, in northeast China’s Jilin Province on 22 June, 2007. Changchun has been suffering under a prolonged heat wave, with temperatures reaching 37 degrees Celsius (98 degrees Fahrenheit). — INTERNET
Iran to keep up gasoline imports for now

NEW DELHI, 28 June — Iran will keep up its hefty gasoline imports for now — despite the start of rationing — as it has yet to spend all the money set aside for the purchases, a top Iranian oil official said on Wednesday.

“We will continue with our previous plan to import 30-plus million litres a day (nearly 190,000 barrels per day),” said Hojatollah Ghanimifard, international affairs director of state-owned National Iranian Oil Company.

This year’s budget to March 2008 allocated 2.5 billion US dollars for gasoline imports, and based on today’s price of imported petrol, Teheran has enough cash to buy supplies for almost another month and a half, said Ghanimifard.

“Gasoline imports will be adjusted after rationing is in place for a month or so,” he said. “We expect conservation to be one of the consequences.”

The official said Teheran may review the amount of fuel allocated to motorists in two months. — MNA/Reuters

Uganda’s new oil discovery worth $7b

KAMPALA, 27 June — Heritage Oil Corporation, a company exploring oil in western Uganda, has said the country’s new oil discovery in the region shows a multibillion-barrel oil potential estimated at 7 billion US dollars.

State-owned New Vision on Monday quoted an Irish newspaper, The Post, as saying that the oil reserves from the Kingfisher well discovery could be ten times greater than what was previously believed.

Heritage Oil, a Canadian-based international oil company and Tullow Oil, an Irish company jointly own the Kingfisher well on Block 3A in Bunyoro, Hoima District.

On 1 March, Heritage Oil company said in a statement that final tests from Kingfisher, one of Uganda’s oil wells in the western region located on the shores of Albert Lake, indicate that a maximum daily output of 13,893 barrels, increasing the country’s potential to begin commercial production.

The Kingfisher discovery is so far the largest finding in Uganda.

A highly-placed source in the Ugandan Energy Ministry on Sunday said it was possible that the area held oil reserves to that magnitude. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s manufacturing output up 17.7% in May

SINGAPORE, 27 June — Singapore’s manufacturing output in May grew 17.7 per cent from a year ago, riding on the strong growth in the biomedical manufacturing and transport engineering clusters, the government said on Tuesday. According to a statement by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the seasonally adjusted index for May was up almost 4.8 per cent from April.

The biomedical manufacturing cluster continued to grow in May with a 76.2 per cent jump in output. In which, the pharmaceuticals and medical technology segment grew 82.5 per cent and 39.3 per cent respectively.

The growth was due to a wider range of active pharmaceutical ingredients being manufactured and strong orders from the United States, European Union and Japan stimulated the high production of medical devices and appliances, the EDB said. — MNA/Xinhua

Manila says poor APEC members cautious on trade

MANILA, 27 June — Developing economies within APEC were lukewarm to move by wealthier members to use the annual forum to hammer out a free-trade area, a senior Philippine diplomat said on Monday.

Edsel Custodio, the Foreign Ministry’s undersecretary for international economic affairs, said the Philippines was only supporting proposals for a regional economic integration plan instead of a free-trade deal.

“We have some concerns about turning APEC into a negotiating forum and coming up with a free-trade area,” Custodio said before leaving for the Australian city of Cairns to attend preparatory meetings for the annual APEC leaders’ summit in Sydney in September.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate to turn APEC into a negotiation forum.”

Custodio said more advanced economies pushing for free-trade talks within APEC would encounter problems, citing the difficulty of getting Taiwan and China to negotiate, given that Beijing views the island as part of China. — MNA/Reuters

China to spend extra $300m in Zambia

LUSAKA, 28 June — China will invest an additional 300 million US dollars in Zambia’s mining and manufacturing industries, a government minister said on Tuesday.

Commerce and Trade Minister Felix Mutati said the money was in addition to the 900 million US dollars China has pledged to the Multifacility Economic Zone (MFEZ) in the Copper Belt town of Chambishi, 420 kilometres north of Lusaka over the next four years.

Chinese and Zambian authorities have signed investment agreements which would see the creation of a cement plant, an acid plant and smelter for a new nickel mine in the south, as well as a fertilizer production factory, at a cost of 200 million US dollars.

Zambia and China had also agreed to construct a new 100-million-US-dollar high-technology economic zone on the outskirts of the capital Lusaka where television sets, cell-phones and other electronic items would be manufactured. “The Chinese ... want to start manufacturing some of the items from Zambia instead of just importing raw materials,” Mutati told Reuters in an interview. — MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Cast member Tyrese Gibson (R) waves next to co-star Jon Voight at the premiere of “Transformers” at the Mann’s Village theatre in Los Angeles on 27 June, 2007. The movie opens in the US on 3 July. — INTERNET

The mummy which Egyptologists have identified as Sitre In, Queen Hatshepsut’s wetnurse, is displayed at the Egyptian museum in Cairo on 27 June, 2007. — INTERNET

People use mobile phones to photograph a model of Japan’s futuristic robot toy ‘Gundam’ at the International Tokyo Toy Show in Tokyo, Japan, on 28 June, 2007. — INTERNET

The New Light of Myanmar  Friday, 29 June, 2007
UN scientist says Greenland ice may melt much faster

London, 27 June — New research shows that man-made climate change could cause the Greenland ice sheet to break up in hundreds, rather than thousands of years, the chair of a United Nations panel of scientists said recently.

Its entire collapse would raise sea-levels globally by around 7 metres (23 feet), they said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its five-yearly report earlier this year, and described threats from global warming including sea-level rise of up to 79 centimetres this century. It said that the entire Greenland ice sheet would melt over a period of thousands of years, if temperatures remained around 2 degrees Centigrade (3.6 Fahrenheit) or more above the levels predating the industrial revolution. Temperatures and other climate changes are now about 1 degree Centigrade above pre-industrial levels, said the IPCC.

But the new research, not considered by the IPCC, could change that view, according to Bert Metz, a senior IPCC member. “No models that predict sea level rise include this,” he told Reuters on the fringes of a climate change conference hosted by Chatham House in London on Monday.

“It’s plausible that the whole thing could disintegrate in hundreds of years, an order of magnitude faster.”

The new research shows rapid melting on the surface of the Greenland ice sheet. Meltwater is disappearing down huge crevasses, and theory suggests that water will lubricate the bottom of the ice sheet and speed up its flow into the sea. “They have seen more movement at the edges,” said Metz. “It needs to be challenged... but some scientists are clear and say this is it. The IPCC always tries to be cautious.” Metz is the co-chair of the third of the IPCC’s three reports published this year, focusing on the policy options to fight the global warming problem.

One option is to penalize emissions of planet-warming carbon dioxide (CO2), for example, through a carbon tax. To make a significant difference, carbon prices should reach 50 US dollars to a 100 US dollar per ton of avoided CO2 emissions by 2030, he said.

In 2006, the WHO identified 1998 polio patients in Nepal, and in 2003, it said polio had been eradicated in the country. But the new research shows rapid melting on the surface of the Greenland ice sheet. Meltwater is disappearing down huge crevasses, and theory suggests that water will lubricate the bottom of the ice sheet and speed up its flow into the sea. “They have seen more movement at the edges,” said Metz. “It needs to be challenged... but some scientists are clear and say this is it. The IPCC always tries to be cautious.” Metz is the co-chair of the third of the IPCC’s three reports published this year, focusing on the policy options to fight the global warming problem.

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MNA/Reuters

Study says good place for CO2 is under ground

Beijing, 27 June — US government scientists suggest pumping carbon dioxide released by human activity into deep coal seams as a good way to displace methane in coal for industrial use or into oil wells to extract the last few drops of oil.

Internet

WHO adjudges Nepal polio-free country

Kathmandu, 28 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) has adjudged Nepal a polio-free country, a report published here on Thursday by the organization said.

According to The Himalayan Times, last year, after finding polio patients in Nepal’s adjoining Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states of India, officials of the WHO had suspected there would be polio cases in Nepal too. However, those fears have proved unfounded.

WHO’s New Delhi-based official V Cherian was quoted by the daily as saying that no case of polio was detected in either Nepal or Bangladesh. In 2006, polio swept Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria on an epidemic scale, said the WHO report. Some 531 polio patients were detected in these countries that year.

The WHO expressed satisfaction that only 171 polio patients were detected in 2007 in these countries.

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Successful anti-drug drive of Myanmar wins international recognition

Chin Gya (Maubin)

Opium poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs production and abuse are not the traditions of Myanmar. Myanmar is in the process of implementing the 15-year Narcotics Elimination Plan (1999-2014) to root out the drugs introduced to Myanmar by the colonialists. New Destiny Project, a part of drug elimination task, was initiated in April 2002. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC Report 2007 stated Myanmar’s success in drug eradication task.

Thanks to the government’s leadership, the anti-drug drive is gaining more ground. The aim — to end poppy cultivation by setting up businesses in border areas — is included in the five aims of border areas development task. As the task was launched in 1989 before the start of the major anti-drug drive, it has helped ensure success and effectiveness to the drive.

Priority has been given to building social infrastructures in inaccessible poppy growing areas. Of the border area development funds amounting to over K 101,066 million to this date, 75 per cent have been used in the regions covered by anti-drug drive. As business opportunities are rising in border areas, there is substantial reduction of economic dependency on poppy cultivation in the areas.

In the past, intensive aerial spraying method was used and major military operations were launched to wipe out poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs. However, there was no considerable drop in opium production. Thanks to regional development undertakings and greater opportunities for running businesses and informing local people about the knowledge on the drug menace at present, we are witnessing a marked decline in poppy cultivation and opium production.

The nation is also crushing the problem of other drugs manufactured with raw materials and chemicals brought in from neighbouring countries, making efforts to free border towns such as Tachileik, Myawady and Kawkhao from drugs. Cooperation has been made with WFP to solve food problems of farmers who have just quit poppy cultivation. WFP distributed 30,576 tons of rice worth US $ 11.793 million for ex-poppy farmers of Kuktai, Kaungkha, Mongko, Phounghsai, Tamoeyne, Mongton, Mongpan, Thekon, Pinlaung and Hsihseng regions. Relief and rehabilitation programme (2007-2009) has been implemented in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kachin states and Magway Division for families facing food insufficiency. The programme covers the distribution of 114,315 tons of rice and other foodstuff valued at US $ 51,739 million.

The government transported 1000 tons of rice donated to WFP by Thailand in March 2005 to Wa region via Tachileik, and 10,000 tons of rice worth 30 million yuan or K 5 billion presented by the People’s Republic of China to ex-popper farmers in Panwa, Laiza, Laukai, Pangsaung and Mongla at Myanmar-China border.

Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and UNODC are jointly implementing the Wa Alternative Development Project-WADP with US $ 14,899 million provided by the latter in Monglaung Townships of southern Wa region, from 1998 to 2007. The project covers ensuring of health, education, food sufficiency, social development, alternative income generation, knowledge on drugs and AIDS, infrastructure building and poppy cultivation monitoring and survey.

Human capacity development project (1994-2007) has been implemented with the UNDP aid of US $ 38 million. Phases 1 from 3 of the project was implemented with UNDP assistance of US $ 21.1 million to improve public health and education and clean water supply and increase family income in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states.

Phase 4 has been implemented from 2003 to 2007. The project covers the task of improving public health and education and clean water supply and increasing family income with UNDP aid of US $ 16.9 million in 849 villages of Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Putao, Machanbaw, Tanaing, Mansi and Momauk townships in Kachin State; in Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Thantlang, Tonzang, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet and Paletwa townships in Chin State; in Maikuri, Minbya, Kyauktaw, Butriadawng and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State; Hpa-an Township in Kayin State; and Kyaukmaraw, Bilin and Kyakhito townships in Mon State.

In accord with the Head of State’s guidance, hilland cultivation has been introduced and more farmland has been reclaimed to stop slash-and-burn cultivation that harms the environment. Hence, national races are able to grow high-yield crops to ensure local food sufficiency. Large-scale perennial crops farms have emerged to generate income of local people. Thanks to such sound foundations, more and more national races are beginning to quit poppy cultivation. Assistance has been rendered to extend alternative crop cultivation and find local and foreign markets for the produce.

In the Golden Triangle Region covered by the drug elimination plan, the government in cooperation with FAO has been providing rice under the Food for Education programme to children of ex-poppy farmers who are attending classes. A UNDP-point project covers building of 507 schools and repairing of 589 existing schools in the remote townships of Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. Exercise books have been distributed in border areas free of charge under the arrangement of Border Areas and National Races Development Work Committee and also in cooperation with UNICEF. There are 185,552 students in border areas in academic year 2006-2007. Educated youth will help local people know more about the bad impacts of the poppy cultivation the evil legacy of the colonialists.

Due to the government’s harmonious implementation of the border areas development project, the 15-year narcotics elimination plan and New Destiny Project, Myanmar has achieved considerable success in anti-drug cultivation and the success can be proved internationally.

The comparison between the 1996 survey and 2004 survey both conducted jointly with Counter Narcotic and Crime (UNC) of US shows that poppy cultivation fell 81 per cent and opium production 88 per cent.

UNODC also issued a 2006 report in March 2007, indicating a 34 per cent drop in Myanmar’s opium cultivation. The report also stated that the result of the second five-year project of the 15-year narcotics elimination plan was the proclamation of Wa region in Shan State (North) Special Region 2 as an opium free zone.

In the report UNODC said that in Kokang and Wa regions it provided assistance to protect them against possible economic impacts resulting from the drastic fall in opium production; that it also provided food, basic services and education aids to a large number of rural people, who quit poppy cultivation; and it built Nantu diversion dam in Hotaung Township in 2006.

The report also said that during the period from 1999 to 2005, there was 785-hectare rise in cultivation rice as an alternative crop, 21 per cent up in rice sown acreage, 42 per cent rise in lowland rice cultivation and 60 per cent increase in fruit production. As there appeared news that three townships in southern Shan State conducted unseasonal poppy cultivation to escape from regular drug elimination project that is launched during poppy growing season, UNODC and CDDAC jointly conducted a survey in southern Shan State. Both organizations confirmed that they did not find any evidence of unseasonal poppy cultivation.

UNODC treated drug addicts in Monglaung and Weinkaung regions in Wa region and helped drug addicts to quit their bad habit during the period from 2004 to 2006. It also consolded a large number of families.

As Myanmar anti-drug drive has been launched with national outlook, it has won international recognition. The nation is witnessing significant success in the drive and the success is recognized internationally.

(Translation: TMT)
(Kyemon: 26-6-2007)
Transport Minister receives foreign guests

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Mr Kiyoyoshi Katagiri, General Manager of Mitsubishi Corporation. — MNA

Yangon, 28 June — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received General Manager of Mitsubishi Corporation Mr Kiyoyoshi Katagiri and party at his office, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on transport services of the two countries. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Managing Director of the Myanmar Shipyards U Kyi Soe, Managing Director of the Myanmar Port Authority U Thein Htay and officials.

Then, the minister also received the delegation led by the Vice Chairman of C & Group of the Republic of Korea at the same venue. They discussed matters on transport, port and shipyard services. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials. — MNA

Paper-reading session on Conservation of Marine and Coastal Environment

Yangon, 28 June — Special Work Group No 2 of National Committee for Environmental Conservation, together with the government, Myanmar scholars, economic entrepreneurs and environmental conservation organizations, held the paper-reading session on Conservation of Marine and Coastal Environment at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

In-charge of the Special Work Group No 2 Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu delivered an address.

Secretary of the Committee U Kyaw Khin read the address of Chairman of the National Committee for Environmental Conservation Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

At the paper-reading session, Deputy Director-General (Rtd) U Hla Win presented the paper on Conservation of Marine and Coastal Environment.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu delivers an address at Paper Reading Session on Conservation of Marine & Coastal Environment. — MNA

USDA CEC members open tube wells and clinic in Lattha, Pabedan, Dagon Myothit (South)

Yangon, 28 June — CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, both in charge of Yangon Division, attended the opening ceremony of tube wells organized by Lattha and Pabedan Township USDA under the supervision of Yangon Division USDA at the place of the townships this morning. The CEC members and Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint formally opened the tube wells and inspected the quality of the clinic organized by Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA under the supervision of Yangon Division USDA held at the office of township association in Ward-25. Next, the CEC members, the Secretary of Yangon Division USDA and Clinic in-charge Dr Nyan Hlaing

USDA CEC members open tube wells and clinic in Lattha, Pabedan, Dagon Myothit (South). — YCDC

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretaries of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint and Dr Nyan Hlaing formally open Phyo Cetana Clinic in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — YCDC

Sports Ministry holds work coordination meeting

Yangon, 28 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended a work coordination meeting of the ministry, here, yesterday. The minister made an opening speech and read the resolutions of the previous meeting.

Later, Director-General U Thaung Htaik reported on work being done by state and division Sports and Physical Education Departments.

Assistant Director Dr Mya Lay Sein discussed matters on medicines. Officials of Sports and Physical Education Institutes (Yangon) and (Mandalay) reported on courses being organized. The director-general and deputy director-generals gave supplementary reports. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. Stipends for the schoolchildren of the staff were provided through the officials. — MNA
MEPE and Gunkul Engineering Co Ltd sign agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — A ceremony to sign a contract between Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and Gunkul Engineering Co Ltd was held at the meeting hall of Royal Kumutra Hotel, here, on 26 June.

Present at the signing ceremony were Minister for Electric Power No-1 Col Zaw Min, Director-General of Department of Electric Power Dr Thein Tun, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and officials of Gunkul Co Ltd.

Firstly, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint made a speech on the occasion. Next, resident representative U Zeya Thura Mon of Gunkul Engineering Co Ltd spoke words of thanks. After signing the agreement, Managing Director Dr San Oo and Mr Gunkul exchanged documents. — MNA

Thingangyun Tsp MCWA provides cash to patients with chronic diseases

YANGON, 28 June — Thingangyun Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association provided cash assistance to patients with AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and other chronic diseases in Thingangyun Township yesterday.

Chairperson of Thingangyun Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai delivered an address and accepted K 1,860,000 donated by wellwishers in Thingangyun Township at the office of Thingangyun Township Peace and Development Council here yesterday.

Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Chairperson of township MCWA Daw Nan Li briefed on health care services provided to local people in the township. Afterwards, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party visited Laydaukkan Ward and provided cash assistant to the patients in Thingangyun Township at the office of Thingangyun Township Peace and Development Council here yesterday.

MMCWA holds educative talks


MMCWA Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha delivered an address at educative programme for parents. — MMCWA

Donors for Vipassana Pagoda in Mumbai invited

YANGON, 28 June — Wellwishers have been invited to participate in cash donation ceremony for World Vipassana Cave Pagoda which is under construction in Mumbai, India, to be held at Dhamma Zawti Meditation Centre in Bahan Township on 1 July.

World Vipassana Cave Pagoda, a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, is being constructed in Mumbai, India, and on completion, it will become 8th wonder of the world.

Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee laid foundation of the pagoda and Maha Suddhamma Jotikadha U Goenka led the construction of it. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to Waso Hmi Monastic education school

YANGON, 28 June — A ceremony to present cash and kind to Waso Hmi Monastic Education School in Yankin Township was held at the monastery this morning, attended by members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of social organizations, officials, teachers and students.

Firstly, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Kalaywa Tawya monastery Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa and offered provisions to the members of the Sangha.

Next, officials presented K 500,000 and school uniforms to the monastery school and shared the merits gained.

A wellwisher from Japan also presented K 12.7 million to set up education fund through the Presiding Sayadaw of Yankin Township Maha Bawdi monastery at the ceremony. — MNA

Yangon Division sees strong wind

YANGON, 28 June — A strong wind hit some townships of Yangon Division this afternoon, causing damage to some buildings. The strong wind hit Botataung, Kyauktada and Lammadaw townships at about 4.30 pm, removing the roofs of some buildings, uprooting some trees, disrupting telephone lines and cable lines, and sweeping away things of some shops.

In Dalla, Thingangyun and Dagon (South) townships, roofs of some buildings were thrown off, many trees were fallen down to the ground, and some telephone lines and cable lines were disconnected. A woman was injured in Thingangyun Township, while a woman was killed and a man injured in Dagon Myothit (South) in the natural disaster.

Soon after the incident, employees of the Yangon City Development Committee, township level officials and social organizations cleared the damages, and provided assistance to the two injured.— MNA

Myanmar heroines

* Energetic throughout history
  With nationalistic fervour true Myanmars
  Took part in historic independence struggle
  Blood, sweat, lives they sacrificed
  Freed nation from enslavement
  Power of brave Myanmar women mass
  Worthy of honour and commendation
* Preserve race with respect
  Myanmar has come into being since yore
  Delicate in appearance
  But strong in patriotism
  Genuine Myanmar women
  Volunteering to serve Union’s interest
  Power of hands that rock the cradle
  Noble and admirable
* From time immortal
  Myanmar women have been safeguarding
  Gentle and civilized culture and traditions
  From vanishing due to advancing eras
  Keep Myanmar style out of harm’s way
  Value Myanmar characteristics more than gems
  Power of Myanmar Kommari (women) heroines
  Truly honourable

Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day

Hinthada Myint Ngwe (Trs)
Iran says backs Iraq Govt, US trying to hurt ties

TEHRAN, 28 June — Iran’s supreme leader said his country backed the Iraqi Government and accused the United States of seeking to undermine its ties with Baghdad, the Iranian student news agency ISNA reported.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s highest authority under its system of clerical rule, was speaking to visiting Iraqi President Jalal Talabani on Tuesday.

Iran has said it is studying an Iraqi request to hold more talks with US officials in Baghdad about Iraqi security after a first round of discussions in May that were the most high profile Iranian-US meeting in almost three decades.

Both sides described that meeting as positive but no date has been fixed for another session.

“Those mainly behind the insecurity of Iraq and catastrophes (in Iraq) are the spy networks of America, the Zionist regime (Israel) and some countries who walk beside them,” Khamenei was quoted as saying at the meeting with Talabani.

“Amercians are against the development of relations between Iran and Iraq and are trying to create some disorder in this relationship but one should stand against this effort,” Washington accuses Iran of stoking violence in Iraq, a country with which Iran fought an eight-year war in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein was in power. Teheran dismisses the accusations and says US forces are behind the instability.

Hamas dismisses Abbas decree to ban all armed militia

Gaza, 28 June — Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, on Wednesday dismissed an earlier presidential decree to ban and dismantle all armed groups in the Palestinian territories.

Abu Obaida, spokesman of Hamas’ military wing, the Qassam Brigades, said President Mahmoud Abbas’ decree was “mere ink on paper and doesn’t worth the ink that was used to write it”.

“Resistance groups will not wait any decree when they go to combat the invasion and no one has the right to determine the groups’ future as long as the occupation remains in place,” said Abu Obaida. But Ahmed Abdel Rahman, a spokesman for Fatah movement, said Abbas’ decree was part of his efforts to “tackle the security chaos and scenes of rebellion”.

Since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip on 14 June following days of bloody fighting with Abbas’ Fatah militants, Abbas had issued a number of presidential decrees, including the one on Tuesday.—MNA/Xinhua

OPEC head warns US lawmakers on anti-OPEC bill

ISTANBUL, 28 June — OPEC President Mohammed al-Haml said on Wednesday they were taking a “really dangerous step” in seeking legislation to sue the oil group.

The US Senate last week approved a plan that would enable the federal government to take legal action against OPEC for price manipulation, but the White House has threatened to veto the measure.

“It’s a really dangerous step. We are in the process of fighting that,” Hamli said at an oil conference in Turkey.

He said OPEC had successfully fought off two prior attempts by Washington against the 12-member grouping, saying decisions taken by the group were non-binding.

The current bill, sponsored by Democrat Herb Kohl of Wisconsin and Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, would revoke the sovereign immunity members of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries enjoy from US legal action.

Gaza crossing closed for 2 days due to attacks

JERUSALEM, 28 June — The Kerem Shalom crossing, which had been opened to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in order to allow humanitarian aid to cross, has been closed for two days, local media said on Wednesday.

The report said that the reason for the closure are attempts by the Palestinian militants to attack the facilities at the crossing by shooting and mortar shelling. Israel said that it hopes goods could be transferred via other crossings.

Earlier on Tuesday, a large explosive device was uncovered in the southern Gaza Strip, close to Kerem Shalom.

However, the Sufa crossing is still functioning despite that intelligence reports warned it is also a possible target for attacks. But it is uncertain how much longer it will remain open for traffic.—MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills 7 in Samarra

SAMARRA (Iraq), 28 June — A roadside bomb killed seven people including five police commandos in central Samarra on Wednesday, Iraqi police said, and two more civilians were killed in the aftermath of the blast when security forces opened fire.

Police Captain Ali Mohammed Ali said the attack targeted the police patrol. He said two policemen had been wounded in the blast and two civilians had been hurt by the subsequent police shooting.

The blast in Samarra, 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of Baghdad, comes despite heightened security in that city after suspected al-Qaeda militants blew up the twin minarets of a Shiite mosque there earlier this month.

Iraqi woman cries at the site of a blast at a bus station in the Baiya neighbourhood in Baghdad, Iraq, on 28 June, 2007. A parked car bomb exploded in one of Baghdad’s busy outdoor bus stations at rush hour on Thursday, killing at least 20 people and wounding at least 40, police said.

Some 40 minibuses were incinerated in the explosion. —INTERNET
UNSG urges collective effort to combat drug abuse

UNITED NATIONS, 28 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for collective effort from all walks of life on Tuesday to stop the scourge of drug abuse.

“Drug abuse is a problem that can be prevented, treated and controlled,” Ban said in a message marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Combating drug abuse “requires political leadership and sufficient resources — particularly for more and better treatment facilities. It requires the engagement of parents and teachers as well as health care and social workers. It requires the media and criminal justice officials to play their part”, Ban said.

“All walks of life must join forces and devote special attention to the vulnerable: to those who are vulnerable to taking drugs because of their personal or family situation, and to those who are vulnerable because they take drugs,” he said.

The Secretary-General urged member states to devote more attention to early detection; to do more to prevent the spread of disease — particularly HIV and hepatitis — through drug use; to treat all forms of addiction; and to integrate drug treatment into the mainstream of public health and social services.

Teenager stabbed to death in Islington

LONDON, 28 June — A teenage boy has been stabbed to death in a north London street, the latest victim of a spate of murders of young people in the capital over recent months, Scotland Yard said on Wednesday.

The boy, who was in his mid-teens and White, has yet to be identified. He was discovered by police on Tuesday evening after reports of a “disturbance” involving a number of youths at the junction of Tollington Way and Axminster Road in Islington.

Paramedics treated him for stab wounds but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

His violent death follows that of 16-year-old Ben Hitchcock, who was fatally stabbed on Saturday in Beckenham, south London, in a fight involving a group of youths who had tried to gatecrash a party.

Bomb kills 3, wounds 17 in Thai south

YALA (Thailand), 28 June — A roadside bomb killed three people and wounded 17 in Thailand’s rebellious Muslim south as they were buying food on Wednesday, police said.

The remote-controlled 5-kilo (11-pound) bomb hidden in the basket of a motorcycle exploded near food stalls in the city of Yala, capital of one of three southern provinces where more than 2,100 people have been killed in a three-year-old separatist insurgency, police said.

Tigers stray into Bangladesh villages, kill 3

KHULNA (Bangladesh), 28 June — Tigers straying into villages around Bangladesh’s Sundarbans mangrove forests have killed three people and some 50 cattle over the last 15 days, forest officials said on Tuesday.

Police, forest guards and volunteers have been engaged to guard villages by igniting bonfires to stop the ferocious predators.

Forest officials said the tigers might have strayed into villages in search of food, which is becoming scarcer in the Sundarbans because of deforestation and human encroachment.

About three million people live in and around the Sundarbans part of the Sundarbans. The Sundarbans mangrove swamps, which stretches into India’s eastern state of West Bengal, is about 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of Dhaka and home to a wide variety of wildlife. But its chief attraction are the tigers.

Lake Victoria water level rises

KAMPALA, 28 June — Recent rains in East Africa have significantly raised the water level in Lake Victoria by 40 centimetres, which is most likely to have a positive impact on power generation, a senior government official here has said.

Simon D’ujiangi, Uganda’s State Minister for Energy, was quoted by Daily Monitor on Tuesday as saying that if the rainfall pattern continues, there will be increased power generation. “We have been monitoring it (lake level) and if the rainfall pattern continues, we shall be able to increase power production within a month,” D’ujiangi said.

He said power generation would be increased to 140 megawatts (MW) from the current 120MW. The fall in the water level in the past years has caused a major power crisis in Uganda with economists warning that the impact is slowing down the country’s economic growth.

Recent statistics by the Ministry of Energy indicated that the water level has reached 11.30 metres from last year’s lowest of 10.41 metres. The increase puts lake level at 1134.16 metres above sea level.

According to the hydraulic statements from the power generation company — Eskom-Uganda Limited and the Ministry of Energy, the lake level has been increasing steadily from 10.90 metres in January this year to the current high of 11.30 metres.
after they consumed the anti-elephantiasis medicines. District, some 70 km west of capital Kathmandu, fell ill among the total 75 districts of the country last week. The government had organized a campaign to distribute the medicine should be taken after having breakfast or diarrhea and headache, while some even fell private clinics for treatment. Kathmandu, the villagers said the number of such been admitted to local hospitals, health posts and Kathmandu Post reported on Thursday. The detainees were accused Hashimi and his guards have been captured for killing two of my sons, but I want Hashimi’s guards have been involved in the attack, the source said, adding that Hashimi who has immunity as minister is not wanted yet. For his part, Alousi accused Hashimi and his guards of involving in the bombing attack on the Mansour Hotel on Monday. “I knew that Hashimi’s guards have been captured for killing two of my sons, but I want to disclose that security sources told me that Hashimi and his guards are also responsible for the attack on the Mansour Hotel yesterday,” Alousi told Xinhua by telephone.—MNA/Xinhua

Police detain six bodyguards of Iraqi minister

Baghdad, 27 June—The police said Tuesday they detained six bodyguards of the Iraqi Minister of Culture over terrorism charges. “Iraqi security forces pre-dawn raided the house of As’ad al-Hashimi, Minister of Culture in Baghdad, and detained six of his bodyguards,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The detainees were captured over terrorism accusations, including the killing of two sons of a Sunni lawmaker, Mithal al-Alousi, two years ago in western Baghdad, the source said. Hashimi, apparently was not at home during the attack, the source said, adding that Hashimi who has immunity as minister is not wanted yet. Two dead, eight missing in Russian coal mine incident

Moscow, 27 June—At least two miners have died and another eight were missing in a coal mine incident occurred on Monday evening. ITAR-TASS news agency reported. “There was a popping sound in the mine at 21:05 Moscow Time (1705 GMT) resulting in a power outage in two under

KATHMANDU, 28 June—Over 500 Nepalis have fallen sick after taking anti-elephantiasis medicine distributed by a team of paramedics in Palpa district, local newspaper The Kathmandu Post reported on Thursday. In Palpa district, some 180 km west of capital Kathmandu, the villagers said the number of such patients reached 500 as of Tuesday. The patients have been admitted to local hospitals, health posts and private clinics for treatment. The locals after taking the drugs suffered vomiting, diarrhea and headache, while some even fell unconscious. According to doctors, it might be due to the improper timing of the intake of the medicine. They said the medicine should be taken after having breakfast or lunch. With a view to eradicating the disease, Nepali government had organized a campaign to distribute the anti-elephantiasis medicine to residents of 21 districts among the total 75 districts of the country last week. Former report on Monday said 65 persons in Dhadhing district, some 70 km west of capital Kathmandu, fell ill after they consumed the anti-elephantiasis medicines.

500 Nepalis sick after taking anti-elephantiasis pills

Details of ATF goods for FTA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIAN FENG VOY NO (7037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIAN FENG VOY NO (7037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.6.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIIT T where it will lie at the consigne’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

PHONE NO: 260908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (712)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY NO (712) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.6.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

PHONE NO: 256908/378316/376797

CLAMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIAN FENG VOY NO (7037)

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Police detain six bodyguards of Iraqi minister

Two dead, eight missing in Russian coal mine incident

Moscow, 27 June—At least two miners have died and another eight were missing in a coal mine incident occurred on Monday evening. ITAR-TASS news agency reported. “There was a popping sound in the mine at 21:05 Moscow Time (1705 GMT) resulting in a power outage in two underground workings where work was in progress at that time,” Emergencies Ministry spokesperson Natalia Lukash was quoted as saying.

The bodies of two miners have been found. Three miners walked out into the surface but the fate of eight more miners remains unknown, Lukash said. The incident occurred at the Komsomolskaya Mine in Vorkuta in central Russia and the management are trying to find out the number of people working underground, ITAR-TASS said.

Local emergency department official said the accident might be a methane explosion.—MNA/Xinhua

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PHONE NO: 260908/378316/376797
Researcner: vitamins are not deadly

BEIJING, 27 June—Medical professionals fight back the conclusion ofa recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association claiming that vitamin pills are deadly, which has caused panic among the health conscious. Are vitamins deadly? Medical professionals pointed out the recent study saying that vitamins could kill is irresponsible and badly misleading. Their message is that vitamins can work in moderation, and for prevention. The statistical comparison of frequent causes of death in the United States, dietary supplement ranks lowest at 0.001 percent, whereas preventable medical misadventure is 2.40 percent and properly prescribed and used drugs, 5.18 percent, according to a research of Dr Denice Smit, Research and Development Manager at Vital Health Foods. “Dietary supplements pose a lower risk than insect stings, lightening strikes, poisonings and many other seemingly unlikely causes of fatalities,” Smit said. The study authors themselves acknowledged that their results are in conflict with observational studies that have shown beneficial effects of supplemental antioxidants. They also admitted not knowing what the actual causes of death may have been in the individuals in the trials. Still physicians and dietitians warn of rampant misinformation on the Internet. They recommend consulting with a professional before trying anything more than a multivitamin.

Kaiping Diaolou inscribed on World Heritage list

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND, 28 June —The Diaolou (watchtower house) of Kaiping, China, was inscribed Thursday World Heritage status by the 31st World Heritage Committee meeting here. The Diaolou of Kaiping thus became the 35th World heritage site, also the World Heritage status by the 31st World Heritage Committee. Kaiping Diaolou were first built in late Ming Dynasty and were booming in early 1920s with the development of overseas Chinese. There are a total of 1,833 diaolou in Kaiping, mixing the Chinese and Western Architectural styles, said the World Heritage Committee. Kaiping Diaolou were inscribed on the World Heritage list on Wednesday. China has now 35 heritage sites, with 24 cultural sites, six natural sites and five mixed. Over 600 international delegates are attending the 31st World Heritage Committee meeting starting 23 June.

Heilongjiang: a tourism paradise

BEIJING, 27 June —Heilongjiang Province is a magnificent land, which is well-known for its large forests, vast wetlands, spectacular sights of ice and snow and long border rivers. Green area covers 19.19 million hectares of the province, accounting for 41.9 percent of the province’s total land. And 20.3 percent of the forests are listed in a national natural forest resources protection project, according to the Heilongjiang provincial government.

The Yichun Forest Park is the epitome of the green landscape of the province, where green coverage reaches 82.2 percent. With such vast forests, the climate in summer is quite cool. No wonder the province is nicknamed the “cool bar.” The forests are not only a key part of the local ecological system but also the natural shield for an agricultural base in the Northeast Plain and an animal husbandry base in Hulunbuir Grassland, in the neighbouring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Wetland resources are another attraction of the province, providing optimum places for sightseeing, rafting and fishing. For instance, the Jingbo Lake, one of the world’s major high-mountain lava-blocked lakes, and Wudalianchi, one of the world’s three major cold springs, both situated in the province, are popular summer resorts. The Zhalong Nature Reserve, included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance in 1992, is home to red-crowned cranes. The Xingkai Lake, a boundary lake between China and Russia, is also a frequently visited scenic spot.

London and Moscow. Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB) said the man charged that Britain’s M16 and self-exiled Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky had approached him to spy for Britain. The fresh, and public, spying allegation came after the Kremlin rejected the 2007 Glastonbury Festival in Pilton, near Glastonbury, south west England, on 22 June, 2007. The festival has been going 27 years and is now the largest music festival in Europe.

“M16” accused of trying to recruit Russian

MOSCOW, 27 June —Russia said on Tuesday it would investigate accusations by a Russian national that British intelligence had tried to recruit him, an announcement likely to further tax fraught relations between London and Moscow. Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB) said the man charged that Britain’s M16 and self-exiled Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky had approached him to spy for Britain. The fresh, and public, spying allegation came after the Kremlin rejected any involvement by M16 in the Litvinenko case. Moscow and London had met him and said when, and in what European countries, cities and hotels secret meetings had been arranged with him, and what tasks he had been assigned. He earlier accused Putin of ordering Litvinenko’s murder, a charge the Kremlin rejects as ridiculous.

An Iraqi journalist carries a flower bouquet as an offering for fellow journalists killed in Iraq during a ceremony marking the 30th founding anniversary of the Iraqi Journalists Union in Baghdad on 24 June, 2007.

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Arsenal chief casts doubt on Henry’s reasons for leaving

LONDON, 28 June — Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood has cast doubt on Thierry Henry’s reasons for leaving the Premier League club to join Barcelona this week.

Henry had said that director David Dein’s departure from the Arsenal board in April and uncertainty over the long-term future of manager Arsene Wenger were the reasons behind his decision.

But Hill-Wood was quoted as telling The Daily Telegraph on Wednesday: “We certainly don’t think Thierry Henry going and Arsene Wenger’s contract situation are in any way linked. That was just an excuse.”

In the wake of his friend Dein’s exit, Wenger has not committed beyond his current contract, which expires in 2008.

“I am really hopeful he will extend, but at this moment I am only in a position of hoping,” Hill-Wood said.

“I’ve no reason to think that he won’t, but at the same time I have no reason to believe he will say ‘yes’.”

Henry’s 16-million-pound (32-million-dollar) move, which came as a body blow to many Arsenal supporters, has at least given Wenger money to spend on the transfer market.

“We would like to find another player or two,” Hill-Wood said. “But what he is not prepared to do is just go out and spend the money if he doesn’t think it is going to improve the squad. ‘He is not going to buy a player in order to appease the fans. He is going to buy a player who he thinks will improve what he has.”

Dein left the board after a disagreement over US-tycoon Stan Kroenke, who has around 12 per cent of the club’s shares and who has been linked with a possible takeover bid.

— MNA/Reuters

Vaidisova sails into second round at Wimbledon

LONDON, 28 June — Czech teenager Nicole Vaidisova, twice a Grand Slam semifinalist, moved smoothly into the second round at Wimbledon on Wednesday with a workmanlike 7-6, 6-2 victory over Italy’s Karin Knapp.

Vaidisova’s all-court game and powerful serve were enough to wear down the determined Italian, who was ranked 55 places below the world number 10.

The Czech 18-year-old, already the holder of six titles, has been a semifinalist at the Australian and French Open and also reached the fourth round at Wimbledon last year.

— MNA/Reuters

Saudis sweep aside Singapore in Asia Cup warm-up

SINGAPORE, 28 June — Saudi Arabia’s preparations for next month’s Asian Cup continued smoothly on Wednesday when the three-times champions swept aside Singapore 2-1 in a warm-up friendly despite playing almost half the match with 10 men.

The visitors took the lead at the National Stadium through Abdulrahman Al Qahtani in the 26th minute and doubled it eight minutes later through Taiseer Al Jassam. Al Jassam received his marching orders five minutes into the second half for a second bookable offence but still the Saudis were too strong, holding firm until a face-saving goal from the hosts in the final minute of play.

— MNA/Reuters

Frenchman Valcke named FIFA general secretary

ZURICH, 28 June — FIFA named Frenchman Jerome Valcke as their new general secretary on Wednesday, less than eight months after he lost his job as their marketing director.

FIFA announced Valcke’s departure in December 2006 over the part he played in the botched sponsorship negotiations with credit card rivals MasterCard and Visa.

On Wednesday the Frenchman was presented as the organization’s new number two, second only to president Sepp Blatter, succeeding Urs Linsi who left after five years in the job earlier this month.

“When Mr. Valcke first came to FIFA we had equity in the red,” FIFA president Blatter told a news conference at the organization’s Zurich Headquarters.

“Four and a half years of intensive work later we now have a reserve of 752.0 million Swiss francs (612 million US dollars) and Mr. Valcke has proven that in the field of marketing, television and operations he is a dominant personality.”

Valcke joined FIFA in 2003 after leaving his former position as CEO of sports marketing firm Sportfive.

— MNA/Reuters

Jankovic sweeps into third round

LONDON, 28 June — Number three seed Jelena Jankovic swept into the third round at Wimbledon on Wednesday with an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 win over Slovakian Jarmila Gajdosova.

Jankovic, having a superb year after rising from 12 to three in the world rankings, put her cross-court speed and consistency to deadly effect against an overawed opponent who never stood a chance.

The 22-year-old Jankovic could prove a major threat at Wimbledon after winning four singles titles this year.

She reached her second Grand Slam semifinal in Paris, failing to world number one Justine Henin just as she did at the US Open last year.

— MNA/Reuters

Serena into third round

LONDON, 28 June — Double former Wimbledon champion Serena Williams claimed her place in the third round on Wednesday despite looking far from her best in a 7-6, 6-3 win over Australian Alicia Molik.

The seventh seed looked deflated at 4-1 down in the first set after Molik broke her in the fourth game but she composed herself to break back in the seventh and the 11th.

The 25-year-old American had set point on her serve at 6-5 but sent a forehand into the net and eventually lost the game. In the ensuing tiebreak, Williams came from behind to nail the set with an ace and a loud “Come on!”.

The 2002 and 2003 champion again faltered early in the second set, dropping her serve in the third game but then seemed to find her confidence to come back at her opponent with a double break.

— MNA/Reuters

Henin cases past Dushevina into third round

LONDON, 28 June — World number one Justine Henin outclassed Vera Dushevina 6-0, 6-4 in the second round of Wimbledon on Wednesday in her bid to capture the only Grand Slam title to elude her.

French Open champion Henin broke the Russian in the opening game and went on to ease through the first set in 20 minutes.

Dushevina settled down in the second set, holding her serve in the opening game. After being broken in the third game, the world number 83 even managed to level things up again at 3-3 when the Belgian put a forehand into the net. — MNA/Reuters

Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Erik Bedard delivers a pitch against the New York Yankees in the second inning of their MLB American League baseball game in Baltimore, Maryland on 27 June, 2007.

— INTERNET

Jian Arango (R) of Venezuela controls the ball during the match against Bolivia at the 2007 Copa America in San Cristobal, Venezuela, on 26 June, 2007.

— INTERNET

Juan Arango (R) of Venezuela controls the ball during the match against Bolivia at the 2007 Copa America in San Cristobal, Venezuela, on 26 June, 2007.

— INTERNET


— INTERNET

Holders Lokomotiv out of Russian Cup

MOSCOW, 28 June — Holders Lokomotiv Moscow were knocked out of the Russian Cup at the first hurdle on Wednesday, exacty one month after winning the trophy.

Lokomotiv, who edged out city rivals FK Moscow 1-0 in last month’s final to clinch their seventh cup triumph, were beaten 1-0 by Second Division Ural Yekaterenburg in the round of 32.

The loss came on the heels of three consecutive league defeats for Lokomotiv, who have slipped to Yekaterenburg in the round of 32.

— MNA/Reuters

FIFA payment for Arsenal "completely confidential"

London, 28 June — Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood said on Wednesday that the club had received a payment from FIFA in connection with Thierry Henry's transfer to Barcelona.

The Frenchman moved to the Catalan club last month on a free transfer after rejecting a new deal at Highbury which included an option to buy him back for his original £21m fee.

But Hill-Wood, who had earlier said the transfer had been completed for free, said on Wednesday that the amount paid was "completely confidential" and that he could not make any comment about it.

— MNA/Reuters

Sportfive dominates as top sponsor of 2007 World Cup

MNA/Reuters
OBITUARY
Daw Khin Mya Kyi, 95 Years
Daw Khin Mya Kyi @Iqbal Fatima, beloved wife of the Late U Mg Mg Gale @ Ali. Askar Khan (D.S.P), only daughter of U Kyaw Nyunt @ Ahmed. Khan Pol. Commissioner, Daw Pu, daughter-in-law of Lt. Malik Fatnour Khan @ Lt. Bo Lay+Daw Sunt of YE-OO. Sister-in-law of Haji U Mg Mg Gyi @ Ali Iqbal Khan D.S.P + Hajima Daw Khin Hhwe of Taunggyi, and Maj. Wai Lu, Mother of Khin Ma + Pe Thane. (GE-3) Advocate Khin Maung Maung + (Grace), Pol. Capt. Khin Mya Mya + Khin Myo Kywe (Law officer), Pol. Major Myo Myint of MuSa Special Task Force, Win Mar Lay (Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries) and grandma of Kyi Su Khaine @ Ju Ju + Mr. San Jee, Zali Myoe Kywe (Uniteam Marine Ltd.) and 10 grand-children and great granmary of 10, passed away peacefully at Kywe (Uniteam Marine Ltd.) and 10 grand-children.

Bereaved Family

Documents show CIA tried to get Mafia to kill Castro

WASHINGTON, 28 June — The CIA worked with two of the country’s most-wanted criminals in a botched “gangster-type” attempt to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro in the early 1960s, according to documents released by the CIA on Tuesday.

The CIA aired its dirty laundry by declassifying hundreds of pages of long-secret records that detail some of the agency’s worst illegal abuses during about 25 years of overseas assassination attempts, domestic spying and kidnapping.

CIA Director Michael Hayden ordered the documents released to try to lift the veil of secrecy on the agency’s past, even as the Bush Administration faces criticism of being too secretive now.

Much of the information has been released in various congressional investigations in past years, but the pages provide far more detailed accounts of agency activities, with multiple examples of covert domestic spying.

The documents are known in the CIA as the “Family Jewels”, and some describe the agency’s efforts to persuade Johnny Roselli, believed to be a mobster, to help plot the assassination of Castro.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 28 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Chin State, scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (7.84) inches, Kyangkyu (5.11) inches, Sittway (4.02) inches, Duwet (3.62) inches, Thaton (3.50) inches, Hpa-an (2.84) inches and Myitkyina (2.80) inches. Maximum temperature on 27-6-2007 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 28-6-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:00 hours MST on 28-6-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours 27-6-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 27-6-2007 was (0.79) inch at Mingaladon, (0.70) inch at Kaba-Aye, (2.00) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (49.37) inches at Mingaladon, (54.13) inches at Kaba-Aye and (51.06) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (15.30) hours MST on 27-6-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06.30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over West Central Bay has further intensified into a depression and it is centred at about (100) miles East-Southeast of Vishakhapatnam, India. It is forecast to move Northwest wards. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-6-2007: Rain will be scattered in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine and Mon States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-6-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-6-2007: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-6-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
NPED, Transport, Industry-1 bag wins in 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — The first round matches of the First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2007, jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation, continued at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Pyinmana and the sports ground in Lewe Township this morning and afternoon.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, departmental heads, responsible persons from MOC and MFF, service personnel of ministries, families and spectators watched the matches.

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development team crashed Supreme Court team 3-1 at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Pyinmana at 7.30 am. Another group match was held at the same venue at 4 pm. In the competition, Ministry of Transport team thrashed Ministry of Cooperatives team 5-0.

In the afternoon, Ministry of Industry-1 team trounced Ministry of Industry-2 team 7-0 at Lewe Township Sports Ground.

The first round of the tournament will be held up to 15 July and the second round matches from 17 to 29 July. The third round knockout matches will be organized from 1 to 4 August. Semifinal matches will be held on 6 and 7 August and the final on 10 August. — MNA

Tomorrow’s fixtures:

Paunglaung Sports Ground:
Livestock and Fisheries Ministry vs Forestry Ministry at 7.30 am

Immigration and Population Ministry vs Science and Technology Ministry at 4 pm

Lewe Township Sports Ground:
CPT Ministry vs Commerce Ministry. — MNA

Storm news

According to the observations at (06:39) hr MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over West Central Bay has further intensified into a depression and it is centred at about (100) miles East-Southeast of Vishakhapatnam, India. It is forecast to move Northwest wards.

Earthquake report

(Issued at: 13:00 hours MST Today)

A slight earthquake of intensity (3.6) Richter Scale with its epicentre about (20) miles West of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (12) hr (01) min (31) sec MST on 28th June 2007.

NLD opposes government in collusion with destructive elements

Two members of Myaung Township NLD quit

YANGON, 28 June — Two members of Myaung Township, Sagaing Division, National League for Democracy Party resigned from the party of their own volition on 23 June.

U Thein Zaw and other member of Myaung Township NLD sent their resignation letters to the Headquarters of the National League for Democracy Party and local administrative bodies.

In the letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that they no longer put trust and reliance on leaders of the National League for Democracy Party as the party opposed the government in complicity with internal and external destructive elements. This was the reason why they left the party of their own accord, they said. — MNA