Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Saturday, 30 June, 2007

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 30 June, 2007

Maintain urban and rural roads for durability

Smooth and secure transport plays an important role in national development. Only when there is easy access between one region and another will the social-economic life of local people develop.

The Development Affairs Department is engaged in building rural roads, village-to-town roads and district-to-district roads. With better transport in rural regions, products of those region can easily be transported to markets, thereby bringing about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

More district-to-district roads are being built for the people to be able to travel from one township to another as well as from one district to another crossing remote and far-flung villages.

The government is building No 1 District-to-District Road running through Mandalay Division, Magway Division, Bago Division, and No 2 District-to-District Road linking Mandalay Division, Bago Division and Mon State. As many as 54 miles of tarred road and 323 miles of gravel road coupled with 100 wooden bridges have been completed on No 1 District-to-District Road while three miles of tarred road, 52 miles of gravel roads and 163 miles of earth road complete with 75 wooden bridges have been built on No 2 District-to-District Road.

Therefore, the Development Affairs Department is to continue upgrading earth roads into gravel ones and gravel roads into tarred ones, while maintaining the existing ones for durability.

Commander meets Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command


Present also at the call were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and military officers. In the evening, the commander hosted a dinner to the visiting deputy commander and party at Shweli Yeiktha of the command. — MNA

MEPE, IGE Pte Ltd ink contract on supply of materials for Thebyu (Yeni) Power Station

Pte Ltd and Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise inked the contract and exchanged the notes.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and departmental heads. — MNA

Fire breaks out in Myingyan

YANGON, 29 June — A hut, two warehouses and nine houses were destroyed by a fire on 27 June.

The fire broke out in No 1 Ward of Myingyan, Mandalay Division at 11 pm and it was due to negligence. A total of 13 households were left homeless. — MNA

LPDR delegation concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June — The delegation led by Director-General Mr Boun Nhang Xaysanavong of Department for International Relations of Mass Organizations of Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of Lao Revolutionary Party of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic left Yangon International Airport for LPDR this morning.

The Laos delegation was seen off at the airport by Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Maung Pa and responsible persons of the association, Laotian Ambassador Mr Koulily A Soupha Khet and embassy staff. — MNA

Mass walk to mark IOC Day in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June — The mass walk sports in commemoration of the International Olympic Day 2007 was held near Myoma Market, here, this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, departmental heads, officials and service personnel, totalling 1,300 participated in the activity.

They took the designated place at 5 am. At 6 am, they started the mass walk sports near Myoma Market and arrived back at the market along Taungnyo-Pyinmana Road and Thabyaygon roundabout. — MNA
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Kuwait lashes US human rights report**

**KUWAIT CITY, 28 June**—A Kuwaiti justice committee on Wednesday rejected a recent US human rights report charging Kuwait with human trafficking.

Considering the report as “divorced from reality”, the committee, affiliated to the Ministry of Justice, said in a news release that the allegation by the US report was a “blatant and designed distortion of facts”.

The UN agreements inked by Kuwait on the fight against organized crimes and human trafficking have become an irrevocable law in Kuwait, the committee said.

The committee said that it has already supplied the US Department of State with the number of cases falling within the concept of human trafficking. “Now that such facts that emanate from reality and law have been illustrated, allegations of human trafficking in Kuwait become meaningless,” the statement said.

Rejecting the accusation made by the US report saying Kuwait is running human trafficking in an excuse of reducing global joblessness, the committee said in the statement that “The State of Kuwait opens its arms to those incoming workers and even provides them with all available job opportunities, unlike many other countries which combat and deport them on the grounds of fighting illegal immigration.”

“By doing so, Kuwait ought to be commended, appreciated and even placed on an honour list,” it added.—MNA/Xinhua

**Man held in France over $48m lottery fraud**

**PARIS, 28 June**—French police are holding a man for questioning on suspicion of cheating a lottery winner out of a 35.5-million-euro (47.8-million-US-dollar) win last month, a police source said on Tuesday.

The man is suspected of having collaborated with a couple working at a tobacco shop selling the Euro Millions tickets.—MNA/Reuters

**Israeli Army strikes on Gaza Strip kill 12 Palestinians**

**GAZA, 28 June**—Twelve Palestinians were killed in an Israeli military actions on Gaza Strip Wednesday morning in eastern Gaza City, said medics and eyewitnesses.

Israeli forces killed at least 12 Palestinians, mostly gunmen but also a 12-year-old boy and other civilians, on Wednesday in the deadliest raid in the Gaza Strip since Hamas seized the territory, medical workers said.

The Israeli Army military actions on Gaza Strip on Wednesday morning is the toughest since Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) had taken control of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas security headquarters including his home and office nearly two weeks ago.

—MNA/Xinhua/Reuters

**New York City power restores but subways snarled**

**NEW YORK, 28 June**—A power outage struck Manhattan’s wealthy Upper East Side during a heat wave on Wednesday, snarling subway service during rush hour in another embarrassment for utility Con Edison.

The outage left half a million New Yorkers without power for 50 minutes. Traffic signals died, classrooms went dark, the fire department rescued people from elevators and the Metropolitan Museum of Art was evacuated in scenes that raised fears of another major summer blackout.

Grumpy New Yorkers recalled epic blackouts of the past on the second humid day in a row of temperatures topping 90 degrees F (32 C).

 Consolidated Edison Inc. said some 136,700 customers were without electricity in the Upper East Side and in the Bronx, including the neighbourhood around Yankee Stadium, after a transmission disturbance. It was investigating the cause.—MNA/Reuters

**Bond blast kills two in southern Thailand**

**BANGKOK, 28 June**—A huge roadside bomb exploded in Thailand’s southern province of Yala late Wednesday, killing at least two residents and injuring 20 others, local radio reported.

The remote-controlled bomb, weighing some five kilos, was planted nearby a food stall in Yala’s Muang District and triggered by mobile phone signal at about 6:00 pm local time (1100 GMT).

The report said at least two local residents were killed on the spot and 20 others were injured. Several of them were in critical condition.

Thailand’s three southernmost provinces — Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani have been troubled with insurgency-related violence which has claimed more than 2,300 lives since 2004.—MNA/Xinhua
ADB approves rehabilitation project in Solomon Islands

MANILA, 29 June— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved on Wednesday a 4.95-million-US-dollar grant to help finance the Emergency Assistance Project which will rehabilitate essential infrastructure in tsunami-affected Solomon Islands.

“The goal of the Emergency Assistance Project is to restore the economic and social activities in affected areas to pre-disaster levels through the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure. Restoring roads, wharves, and bridges, will facilitate recovery, rural development, poverty reduction, and economic growth,” said Philip Erquiaga, director-general of ADB’s Pacific Department.

ADB said the Emergency Assistance Project will be implemented over two years. Specifically it will rebuild and rehabilitate essential infrastructure that was damaged or destroyed by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, including about 35 kilometres of rural and town roads, 19 bridges, five wharves and jetties, and facilitate the repair of the Gizo Town water supply and sanitation system. On 2 April, 2007, a massive undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that devastated parts of western and Choiseul provinces in Solomon Islands. Fifty two people were killed, and 193 people in east China’s Zhejiang Province died from lightning disasters.

UN declares Ecuador’s Galapagos islands in danger

QUITO, 28 June— The United Nations on Tuesday declared Ecuador’s Galapagos islands in danger as booming tourism and immigration threaten giant tortoises and blue-footed boobies unique to the archipelago.

“They are threatened by invasive species, growing tourism and immigration,” UNESCO’s world heritage committee meeting in New Zealand said a statement. The volcanic islands, located 625 miles (1,000 kilometres) west of Ecuador’s coast, inspired British naturalist Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Maria Espinosa said the committee’s statement “will help the government’s efforts to solve the complex problems of the Galapagos”. President Rafael Correa declared the islands at risk in April and has vowed to impose more rigorous population restrictions and temporarily suspend some tourism permits.

Hungry jackals force Indian villagers to flee

PANATA (India), 28 June— At least 150 villagers fled their homes in eastern India after a pack of hungry jackals attacked them, officials said on Wednesday.

At least a dozen jackals emerged from nearby forests in search of food and attacked six villages in the state of Bihar on Tuesday, biting at least 50 people.

“Many victims said they could only watch as the jackals unleashed terror and bit them on their hands and feet,” Krishna Murari Prasad, a local surgeon said. Officials blamed the villagers in Gopalganj District, near the state capital Patna, for the behaviour of the jackals, saying local people had depleted the natural habitat of the animals by cutting down forests.

Lightning strikes kill 193 Chinese so far this year

BEIJING, 28 June — Lightning strikes have killed 193 Chinese people from January to 25 June this year, 78 more than during the same period last year, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said on Wednesday. It noted that the most obvious increase in the death toll was evident in Jiangxi, Yunnan, Sichuan and Chongqing Municipality.

Statistics showed that from January to 24 June, 34 and 23 people died from lightning strikes in Jiangxi and Yunnan respectively. Between 24 and 25 June alone, 21 people in Jiangxi and eight people in east China’s Zhejiang Province died from lightning disasters.
Russian FM says weapons sales to Syria under strict control

JERUSALEM, 28 June — Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told his Israeli counterpart Tzipi Livni that Russia’s weaponry sales to Syria were subject to strict internal control and complied with Russia’s international commitments, local popular daily Ha’aretz reported on Wednesday.

Lavrov told Livni during their meeting in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night that Russia’s weapons sales to Syria were completely transparent, for defensive purposes only, and did not alter the balance of forces in the region.

Lavrov, however, warned that the current regional military balance was no guarantee of peace, and he expressed hopes that archfoe Israel and Syria would eventually reach a peace agreement.

Last week, the Russian daily Kommersant reported that Russia has started shipments of five advanced fighter jets to Syria. But the report was denied by Russian state arms exporter.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Lavrov denounced what certain “extremists” did in the Gaza Strip during Hamas’ takeover of the strip, but stressed that Russia did not believe in a division and-rule policy toward Hamas and Fatah.

He warned that Israel would be facing tough challenges if the Palestinians remained divided between Hamas in Gaza and Fatah in the West Bank. “We do not want Palestine to be torn apart by a civil war,” Ha’aretz quote him as saying.

“A united Palestine is needed by the Palestinians. Otherwise, it would be impossible to resolve problems,” he said.

Malaysia’s police seized over 20,000 pirated, pornographic discs

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 June — Malaysia’s Police seized over 20,000 pirated and pornographic discs from two stores in a shopping complex in Pulau Tikus, the northwestern state of Penang on Wednesday.

The discs worth about 100,000 ringgit (29,412 US dollars), according to the report by Malaysia’s national news agency Bernama. Police also arrested four men in their 20s to assist investigations, said Rosli Ab Rahman, chief assistant commissioner of police (ACP) of Penang Commercial Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Israel invents smallest robot to deliver drugs through blood vessels

JERUSALEM, 28 June — Israeli scientists have invented a kind of miniature robot which can travel the bloodstream and deliver drugs throughout the human body.

It is the smallest robot yet developed and unprecedented both in miniaturization as well as in its ability to be controlled for an unlimited amount of time while in the body, according to the inventors of the robot, Israeli scientists of the Haifa’s Technion University and the College of Judea and Samaria.

“At a size of one millimetre in diameter and four millimetres in length, it is the smallest miniature robot (of its kind) made to date,” Nir Shoval, a researcher at the mechanical electronics lab of the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel, said in an interview with Xinhua, noting that the robot crawled rather than swam through blood vessels to give it more control.

The next smallest robot of this type was developed by researchers at the Kyoto University and measures one centimetre in diameter.

UAE, Bulgaria sign agreement to avoid double taxation

ABU DHABI, 28 June — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bulgaria signed on Wednesday an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and restriction of income and capital tax evasion, Emirates News Agency reported.

The agreement was signed in Bulgarian capital Sofia by UAE Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs Mohammed Khalfan bin Kharbash and Bulgarian Finance Minister Plamen Oresharski, the report said. “This agreement will help provide equal taxation treatment to investors in the UAE and Bulgaria. Moreover, it provides an environment that stimulates foreign direct investment, encourages business ventures, and enhances the cooperation across the economic growth levels within the two countries,” Mohammed Khalfan was quoted as saying. The agreement sets the framework for cooperation in matters related to taxes for economic and investment activities in the UAE and Bulgaria.

It will apply on personal and corporate income taxes in both countries and any other similar taxes levied by governments of the two countries.

The agreement also provides for income and profit tax exemption regulations granted to national air cargo companies.
**Investigator blasts CIA jail silence, says truth will be out**

**Strasbourg, 28 June** — European governments have built a “wall of silence” surrounding their complicity with a CIA programme that included holding terrorist suspects in secret jails, a Swiss investigator said on Wednesday.

But Dick Marty said he was certain the truth about alleged CIA abuses, including kidnappings and secret transfers of detainees, would emerge before long in the United States itself. “State secrecy is unacceptable when there are violations of human rights,” Marty told the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, the continent’s leading human rights forum.

“We came up against a wall of silence on the part of European governments,” he added in a debate on a June 8 report in which he accused Poland and Romania of allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to host secret prisons on their soil.

Both countries strongly deny the charges, and their parliamentarians lined up to attack Marty in the debate. “It is a far-fetched conspiracy theory spiced up with a generous helping of anti-Americanism,” said Polish Senator Urszula Gacek, describing the report as a “piece of fiction”. Romanian socialist Vasile Ungureanu said it was “like a film scenario”.

The assembly later approved the report by 124 votes to 37, with eight abstentions. Marty told a news conference he would not conduct any further reports on CIA secret prisons and flights, and it was now up to governments and Parliaments to perform their “duty of truth”. — MNA/Reuters

**Magnitude 6.7 quake jolts remote PNG region**

**Sydney, 28 June** — A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the Bougainville region of Papua New Guinea on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said on its website.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which had an epicentre of 10 kilometres (six miles) under the sea bed.

USGS said the epicentre was 220 kilometres (135 miles) south south-west of Arawa on Bougainville Island, and about 250 kilometres west of Gizo in the Solomon Islands, where a tsunami killed at least 34 people and destroyed up to 2,500 homes on 2 April.

The Hawaiian-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre’s website said there was no threat of a destructive or widespread tsunami following the quake, based on historical data. — MNA/Reuters

**At least three killed in Baghdad’s market explosion**

**Baghdad, 28 June** — An explosion rocked a vegetable market in Baghdad’s northern neighbourhood of Sleikh on Wednesday, killing at least three people and wounded more than 10 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

“At least three people and wounded more than 10 others,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear so far whether the powerful blast was caused by a booby-trapped car or an explosive charge, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

**Danish agency staff kidnapped in Bangladesh**

**Dhaka, 28 June** — Two Bangladeshi staff working for a Danish development agency had been kidnapped by suspected tribal rebels in Bangladesh, officials said on Tuesday.

Suman Sharif, an employee of the Danish International Development Agency (Danida), and his driver Mohammad Hanif were captured on Monday at a village near Thanchi, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka.

“They had no security escort, which visitors need in remote areas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT),” senior government administrative officer Mokhlesur Rahman told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

**Four Iraqi police killed in ambush south of Kirkuk**

**Baghdad, 28 June** — Four Iraqi policemen were killed in an ambush on Wednesday near the oil city of Kirkuk when gunmen opened fire on their vehicles, police said.

A fifth policeman was wounded in the attack, which happened south of Kirkuk, a restive city of Sunni and Shiite Arabs, Turkmen and Kurds that lies 250 kilometres (155 miles) north of Baghdad, the police said. — MNA/Reuters

**Eight-year-old shot dead in Boston**

**Boston, 28 June** — Boston police questioned a 7-year-old boy who shot and killed his 8-year-old cousin with an illegal gun, the latest example of the toll of gun violence in US cities.

The family had told police three armed intruders burst into their home and gunned down LaQuarrie Jefferson, 8, on Sunday night. But after further interviews with family members, the truth emerged on Monday as the boy died in a hospital.

The victim’s mother, Lakeisha Gadson, 30, apologized for lying and said the slaying was a tragic accident. She had briefly disappeared with the 7-year-old and police launched a city-wide search for the two.

The boy was the youngest murder victim in Boston since 2002, when a 3-year-old was killed in gang gunfire. — MNA/Reuters

**Indian farmer Srinivas Reddy levels a wet field with a pair of oxen ahead of the planting of paddy in the village of Bommarajupeta, some 30 kms from Hyderabad, India plans an ambitious project to boost flagging agricultural output by 11 percent over the next four years and reduce the need for imports, a top official said on 28 June, 2007. — Internet**

**A partially submerged mosque sits in flood waters in Pakistan’s cyclone-hit coastal town of Turbat, some 550 kms (330 miles) southwest of Quetta. Military helicopters led efforts to help 800,000 Pakistanis affected by a powerful cyclone on Thursday as floods claimed 23 lives in the northeast and at least 50 in neighbouring Afghanistan. — Internet**

**Afghan policemen at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul. Two suicide car bombs ripped into security vehicles in Afghanistan on 28 June, 2007, killing two foreigners and two Afghans, officials said, also reporting that the Taliban had beheaded three policemen. — Internet**

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From women’s development to nation building

Thida Soe (University of Economics)

One of the objectives of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is to promote the role of Myanmar women in nation-building task and to develop their economy, health and education. Besides, “Let’s rally to the constant development of the lives of women” is included in the nine objectives adopted by the annual meeting of MWAF in 2007.

Throughout Myanmar national history, women worked in harmony with their male counterpart. They took part in politics, administration and judicial affairs and were able to show their talent in literature, music and other arts with enthusiasm and vigour.

Prominent and efficient Myanmar women were born and brought up throughout the past successive eras. Some noble women martyrs even sacrificed their lives for national independence. There were Myanmar Thakinmas (patriotic women) who dared slap a British deputy commissioner. The hand that rocks the cradle took up arms to fight back the colonialists for Myanmar’s independence.

In that way, Myanmar women participated in nation-building and national defence, strongly opposed all attempts to enslave and destroy Myanmar and served the national interest in the national history. Noble Myanmar women always observe their fine moral conduct. They stoutly oppose any dishonourable woman.

In this regard, MWAF has been striving to develop the social status of Myanmar women till becoming historic nation builders and defenders after inheriting the noble moral conduct of their ancestors.

To realize the said goal, MWAF formed the Protection and Rehabilitation Task Force which has Violence Prevention Work Group, Human Trafficking Prevention Work Group, Nurturing and Rehabilitation Work Group and Young Women Work Group under it. The MWAF has been striving on all fronts for development of the women’s sector.

If compared with other nations, the number of violence against women in Myanmar is much small. Some democracy powers are trying to interfere in violence against women in Myanmar. There are very few cases of spiritual violence in Myanmar and most occurred within families, especially between husband and wife. The MWAF is solving such problems through consoling, comforting and educating the families concerned with social development of women and assurance of an lasting happy married life as the base. The said task is winning the trust, respect and reliance of women mass.

Women in some big democracies are facing spiritual violence as those countries are embracing the system of living together and unstable and failed marriages. And it is the real situation of marriages, culture and human rights under the democracy of those big nations.

Another problem is trafficking in persons that is now rife throughout the world. The problem has become not only local issue but also transnational crime. The government is cooperating with administrative and judicial bodies to protect Myanmar women against the danger of human traffickers. Simultaneously, it, through the organizing method, is carrying out tasks for rehabilitating the ex-women victims subject to physical and mental abuses so that they can return to normality in their society. Members of the central level working committee and leaders of working groups are conducting educative talks and family-type discussions in states and divisions, districts, townships, wards and villages to enable women to understand the dangers of being trafficked and evil consequences. Moreover, they are giving educative talks at basic education schools, factories, departmental courses and ministries.

The role of young women is important in the drive for improving social well-being of women. Educatively, it is an important job to be done constantly for enhancing knowledge and thinking power of young women who are future human resources. Free evening schools for women are opened in states and divisions for young women who cannot pursue education for various reasons.

Here, I would like to present the achievement of the free evening school for women of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization as evidence. Pyigyidagun Women’s Affairs Organization in Mandalay Division launched a free evening school for women in 1998-99 academic year. The number of the students in the school who completed basic, middle and high school are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Primary School</th>
<th>Number Middle School</th>
<th>Number High School</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 1998-1999</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 1999-2000</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 2000-2001</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 2001-2002</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 2002-2003</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 2003-2004</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 2004-2005</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 2005-2006</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The academic year-wise matriculation pass rates of the school are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Matriculation Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 2000</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 2001</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 2002</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 2003</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 2004</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 2005</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is fair to say that the free evening school of Pyigyidagun WAO achieved considerable success in creating educational opportunities for young women who could not enjoy opportunity to pursue education. Those from the school who passed matriculation examination continued their education in universities and colleges, and they are now serving in basic education primary schools and factories.

In addition, it is conducting basic accountancy course, make-up course, tailoring course and driving course. It is also opening clerical course, Introduction to Internet course and English proficiency course for the women from the school who have passed matriculation exam and are serving in government offices.

The MWAF is working hard for social well-being of the mass of Myanmar women. So, Myanmar women will serve as a strong force in the building of a new nation. It is believed that Myanmar women will see to the national duty as builders and protectors of the new nation.

Translation: TMT + MS

Kyemon: 28-6-2007
**Target of 1500 million baskets of paddy would be achieved in near future**

YANGON, 29 June—The Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association held its 17th annual general meeting at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township here this afternoon.

Chairman of the association U Tin Win delivered an introductory speech.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence in his address said that Myanmar is blessed with favourable conditions to grow various kinds of crops. The majority of national races grow crops as family business. So, the government is taking necessary measures to ensure that paddy supply exceeds the local demand.

In 2005-2006, paddy output reached more than 1326 million baskets. He quoted the guidance of the Head of State on production of paddy that is enough for 100 million of people. The target of 1500 million baskets of paddy would be met in the near future. The government promulgated Myanmar Paddy Trading Policy on 23 April 2003 for trade development in accordance with the market-oriented economic system.

In order to earn more foreign exchange, it is needed to produce more quality rice to be able to compete with rice exporting countries in Southeast Asia such as Vietnam and Cambodia. Production of quality rice calls for systematic storing of paddy and use of quality rice mills.

Nowadays, rice consuming nations prefer quality rice. Myanmar still has weak points in producing finished products if compared with other countries. The nation’s exports are to be better than that of other countries in quality.

He spotlighted the importance rice mills that can produce quality rice. In conclusion, he urged rice millers to store paddy systematically before milling it, produce export quality rice, seek innovations, and pay attention to the drive for bringing down rice prices.

Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and UMFCCI President U Win Myint made speeches. The master of ceremonies read the EC’s annual report of Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association and financial statement and sought the approval of those present. To hail the AGM, MRMA donated K5,000,000 each to the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Then, 27 wellwishers donated K6,050,000 and the master of ceremonies announced the resignation of the executive committee for 2005-2007. Deputy Director General U Myo Oo of Directorate of Trade announced the list of the new executive committee for 2007-2009 with U Tin Win as chairman and U Thaung Win as general secretary. Afterwards, MRMA Chairman U Tin Win delivered a speech and the meeting concluded.

Before the meeting, Li-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and party viewed paddy dryers, domestically produced machines and parts for rice mills, vehicles and Bayrol motor oil used in CNC vehicles manufactured by various private companies. In the evening, the chairman of the association hosted dinner to those present. — MNA

**Goodwill delegation from Yunnan Provincial Command visits Muse**

YANGON, 29 June—The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation headed by Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command of the People’s Republic of China Major-General Lin Tinggui left here for Lashio on 27 June.

They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint of North East Command and senior military officers. The delegation, accompanied by Col San Shwe Tha of Kutkai Station and officials, proceeded to Muse and observed regional developments.

In the evening, a dinner was hosted in honour of the goodwill delegation by Col San Shwe Thar of Kutkai Station at Shwe Yeikthan in Muse. Later, the delegation visited downtown Muse. Yesterday, the goodwill delegation paid a visit to Shweili-Kyegaung Border Checkpoint (Nandaw) and went to Jade Museum in Star Tourism Building. They also paid obeisance to Lweteinkham Sutaungpyay Pyitawpyan Pagoda on Lweteinkham hill in Muse and donated cash to the pagoda.

The Chinese delegation proceeded to 105-mile Border Trade Zone Checkpoint and officials of Border Trade Department conducted them around the checkpoint. The delegation visited 1200-ton Cold Storage of Fish and Prawn Export Camp of National Progress Private Co Ltd and responsible persons conducted them around the camp. — MNA

**UN Under Secretary-General meets correspondents**

YANGON, 29 June—Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, visiting UN Under Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, met member correspondents of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club at the departure lounge of Yangon International Airport this morning.

Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Under Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UNSC for Children and Armed Conflict, accompanied by UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie and UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha, explained the purpose of her tour of Myanmar related to children and armed conflict to the correspondents.

Next, the UN Under Secretary-General replied to the queries raised by the correspondents. — MNA
UN Under-Secretary-General visits Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay, Yangon

NAV Pyi Taw, 29 June — A UN delegation led by Mr. Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict visited Myanmar from 25 to 29 June.

The delegation was accompanied by UNDP Resident Coordinator Mr Charles J Petrie and UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Director-General U Paw Lwin Sein of Training, Research and Foreign Language Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 25 June, the UN delegation visited the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) and also had a meeting with Wa national race group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2. They also paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

On 26 June, the UN delegation proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw where the delegation members were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Director-General U Hla Myint of International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation called on Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha at the respective ministries.

In the evening, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation at Shwe Naung Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chinese goodwill delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAV Pyi Taw, 29 June — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation headed by Deputy Commander of the People’s Republic of China Major-General Lin Tinggui arrived here from Lashio of Shan State (North) this morning.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Lt-Col Kyaw Soe of Nay Pyi Taw Command and senior military officers.—MNA

Man loses foot in mine blast

NAV Pyi Taw, 29 June—A man on his way to the woods near the village where he lives to pluck Danyin (djenkol bean) fruit at about 7.30 am on 24 June, lost his right foot when he treaded on a mine planted by insurgents.

He is U Po Saw Mu, 30, son of U Po Thi, of Mezaungwa Village in Shwegyin Township.

A daughter like a protector

Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt (Trs)

So amiability is your character

With vigour and resolution

And discipline according to tradition

She has for race, religion

As the party, instead of carrying out pure party

In the letters sent to the Pathein Township Multi-Party General Election Sub-commission, they said they no longer wished to remain NLD members as the party, instead of carrying out pure party politics only, is sticking to seizing power, ignoring the process of national reconsolidation and harming the interests of the State and the people. This was why they made up their mind to leave the party of their own accord, they said. — MNA
Malaysia’s first astronaut to take off for “ISS” on 10 Oct

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 June — The first Malaysian astronaut is expected to take off for the International Space Station (ISS) on 10 October, Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Datuk Seri DrJamaludin Jarjis said here Thursday.

Under the contract, the preliminary launching date was 2 October, but Russia had set the new date which might also be changed again, according to the report by Malaysia’s national news agency Bernama.

The delay was due, among others, to technical factors like the recent damage to the carbon dioxide filter system in the ISS, he said.

“Everything depends on Russia’s discretion. We have been told not to be surprised if there would be further delays,” he told a Press conference at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

The Malaysian Government would be informed of the official launching date one month ahead, he said before having an audience with the King. Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin and the country’s two astronaut candidates, Dr Faiz Khaleed and Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor.

Dr Faiz and Dr Sheikh Muszaphar, who went to Russia on October 9 last year, had completed the theoretical training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre. Jamaludin said. — MNA/Xinhua

Global mobile phone use to hit record 3.25 billion

LONDON, 29 June — Global mobile phone use will top 3.25 billion — equivalent to around half the world’s population — in 2007 as cell phone demand booms in China, India and Africa, a survey said on Wednesday.

From African farmers to Chinese factory workers, mobile phone subscriptions will pass the three billion mark in July and exceed 3.25 billion by the end of the year, according to a report by UK-based telecoms analysis company The Mobile World.

The world’s population is forecast to hit around 6.6 billion in July, according to US figures.

Along with the Internet, the mobile phone has revolutionized communication. The mobile phone has spread from city whiz kids to Brazilian slum dwellers.

More than 1,000 new customers are effectively signing up for mobile phones every minute around the world, the survey showed.

“It took over 20 years to connect the first billion subscribers, but only 40 months to connect the second billion,” said The Mobile World Co-Founder John Tysoe. “The three billion milestone will be passed in July, just two years on.” — MNA/Reuters

Flood-hit areas in N England braced for more rain

LONDON, 29 June — Britain was braced for more rain on Thursday, with forecasters warning that an inch of water could fall overnight in northern England, the Midlands and Wales, with heavier showers likely at the weekend.

The extra rainfall could put pressure on areas already affected by flooding this week that lead to the deaths of four people, the Met Office said in a severe weather warning.

Forecasters said they were concerned about another weather front which could bring up to two inches of rain across Saturday and Sunday.

“This further rainfall, on top of what has already been a record breaking wet June for some, will only add to the problems being faced across parts of England and Wales,” the Met Office said.

“The hardest hit areas are likely to see further significant rainfall, only exacerbating the flooding which has already occurred.

As much as three or four inches fell in places on Monday, flooding about 1,000 properties in around Sheffield, Nottingham, Leeds, Rotherham, Leeds, and Shropshire. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese acrobats perform in Moscow, Russia on 27 June, 2007. The performance inaugurates the Beijing Week in the Russian capital as a part of the ongoing “Year of China” in Russia celebrations. — XINHUA

A woman displays a pure silver Bauhinia Flower brooch designed by Chinese sculptor Zhu Bingren to mark the 10th Anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong to China, in Hangzhou, in China’s eastern Zhejiang Province, on 26 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Pills better than injections in treating young pneumonia patients

LONDON, 29 June — A group of researchers from the University of Nottingham said Wednesday in a report that pills are better than injections for treating children infected with community-acquired pneumonia.

Child patients taking pills recover as quickly as those receiving injections but suffer less pain, and require less oxygen therapy, the report said.

The report was based on research on 243 child patients of community-acquired pneumonia. They were enrolled over a 21-month period at eight British hospitals, with half of them assigned to receive anti-biotic pills and the other half to receive anti-biotics intravenously.

Researchers found that both types of treatment are effective in tackling the illness and the former actually had a number of advantages.

One of the leading researchers, Terence Stephenson, said the majority of child patients would still require hospital treatment, while oral medication at home could be tolerated if the disease only lasts for a short period of time. — MNA/Xinhua

Tonga to become WTO’s 151st member next month

GENEVA, 29 June — The tiny South Pacific state of Tonga will become the World Trade Organization’s 151st member on July 27, the WTO said on Wednesday. Tonga, an archipelago between Hawaii and New Zealand, has a population of about 117,000. Its accession was cleared by the world trade body in December 2005 but needed government approval to become final.

The ratification was deposited with the Geneva-based WTO on 27 June and automatically becomes effective one month later.

Farms goods such as squash, coconuts, bananas and vanilla beans make up two-thirds of the aid-dependent Commonwealth country’s exports. It imports much of its food from New Zealand.

Only a handful of the world’s important economic partners remain outside the WTO, whose members are struggling to wrap up a pact on cutting international tariffs and subsidies. Russia and Ukraine are negotiating entry, and Iran is not a member. — MNA/Reuters

Flood defenses hold back the swollen river Severn as it flows past the The Plough Inn in Upton on Severn, Worcestershire, northern England on 28 June, 2007. More severe weather warnings were issued across Britain on Thursday amid fears that the floods, which have claimed at least four lives, could claim more. — INTERNET
Lebanese troops, gunmen clash in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI (Lebanon), 29 June — Lebanese troops clashed with gunmen in the northern city of Qalamoun early on Thursday, witnesses and security sources said.

They said the Army launched a raid at about 1 am (2200 GMT) in Qalamoun, which is on the Mediterranean coast south of Tripoli, and a firefight ensued involving assault rifles and grenades. Army helicopters hovered over the area.

The fighting appeared to ease later. There was no immediate information on casualties and the Army could not be immediately reached for comment. — MNA/Reuters

Floods in southeast Australia effect of La Nina

CANBERRA, 29 June — The wetter conditions in parts of the state of Victoria is an effect of La Nina, the Australian National Climate Centre has said.

In Gippsland in eastern Victoria, gale force winds are continuing across the region, with rainfalls of more than 150 millimetres in the higher peaks. Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Wednesday.

Rivers and creeks are bursting their banks in areas where bushfires razed forests just months ago.

A man was earlier taken to hospital with neck injuries when a gum tree crashed onto his car between Stratford and Bairnsdale.

State Emergency Service spokesman Kevin Perry was quoted as saying that there have been more than 300 calls for help.

"People need to be aware and listen because the flood warnings are going to continue on through the night," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Three new natural sites inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

CHRISTCHURCH (New Zealand), 29 June— The World Heritage Committee decided Wednesday to inscribe three new sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List: the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar), South China Karst (China), and Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes (South Korea).

The Rainforests of the Atsinanana comprise six national parks distributed along the eastern part of the island. These relic forests are critically important for maintaining ongoing ecological processes necessary for the survival of Madagascar’s unique biodiversity, which reflects the island’s geological history.

The South China Karst Region extends over a surface of half a million square kilometres lying mainly in Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi provinces. Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes comprises three sites that together make up 18,846 hectares, 10.3 per cent of the surface area of Jeju Island, the southernmost territory of the Republic of Korea. — MNA/Xinhua

Heat brings pythons to urban areas in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 29 June — A total of five pythons leaving their jungle habitat for cooler shelter in urban areas have been caught in the southeastern Chittagong District in the last seven days, local newspaper The Daily Star reported on Thursday.

Unable to withstand sweltering heat, the pythons have been leaving their natural habitat at hilly areas looking for cooler shelter at city localities in Chittagong, experts said.

Experts observed that since the pythons of this region cannot stand scorching heat, they usually move towards the urban areas when the temperature goes up beyond their tolerance level.

Zoologists in Chittagong said that the local pythons of “Indian Python” species can bear temperature from 23 degree Celsius to a maximum of 32 degree Celsius, while the average temperature in the port city for the last seven days was 33.31 degree Celsius. — MNA/Xinhua

An employee of Darica Zoo sprays water on a tortoise to cool it off during a heatwave in Istanbul on 28 June, 2007. — INTERNET
**US House Panel calls for Japan sex slave apology**

WASHINGTON, 28 June—A resolution calling on Japan to officially apologize for pressuring thousands of women into sexual servitude in World War II won strong approval on Tuesday from a US congressional committee.

The resolution introduced by Japanese-American lawmaker Mike Honda was approved 39 to 2 by the US House of Representatives International Relations Committee in a step that allows the non-binding measure to move to the full House.

**US Govt grants California $125m for bioenergy**

LOS ANGELES, 28 June—California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday announced a 125-million-dollar grant for California’s research effort for bioenergy.

Schwarzenegger said in a statement that the grant was awarded by the US Department of Energy (DoE) to fund a collaborative effort in California to develop alternative energy sources from plant materials.

With this grant, the Joint Bioenergy Institute near Berkeley, San Francisco is to bring new technologies to market within five years.

“I am very pleased that California is receiving this important grant that will lead to the development of cleaner burning fuels and less dependency on foreign oil,” said the governor. “California has more scientists, engineers and researchers and invests more on research and development than any other state,” said Schwarzenegger.

“We will reap tremendous rewards for our economy and environment by keeping California at the forefront of the clean tech revolution.”

**Pakistanis, Indians, struggle to help storm victims**

Quetta (Pakistan), 28 June — Pakistani rescue workers struggled on Wednesday to reach villagers, some stranded in trees, after a cyclone hit the coast, while in India, snakes and scorpions hampered efforts to help storm victims.

Early rainy season storms in South Asia have killed nearly 400 people since late last week and more had weather for at least parts of the region was on the way, weather officials said. Up to 60,000 people in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan were affected by a cyclone that hit on Tuesday, killing at least 17 people.

“The situation is out of our hands, it’s out of control. The entire town has been inundated and people have taken refuge in tall buildings and trees,” Rauf Rind, the mayor of the town of Kach, told Reuters by telephone.

The Kach District was also in danger from an overflowing dam, said provincial government spokesman Raziq Bugti.

Stretches of road and several bridges along the coast have been swept away while communications with worst-hit areas are patchy and much of the coast is without power, officials said: “We are really facing difficulties in evacuating stranded residents,” said Bugti. “There’s no road links and we have just one option—that’s helicopters — but they can’t be used unless the sky is clear.”

Scattered rain was expected until Thursday. In neighbouring India, authorities have been evacuating tens of thousands of people threatened by flooding as the toll from havoc wreaked by the arrival of the rainy season topped 150.

Thousands of villages have been left without basic services in the worst-hit southern state, Andhra Pradesh, and some villagers were stranded on rooftops for a fifth day.

The town of Kurnool, 215 kilometres (130 miles) southwest of the state capital, Hyderabad, was badly hit by flooding.

“Rain water has entered into protected drinking water systems in over 500 villages and four towns,” said district chief M Danakishore. Snakes and scorpions were hampering efforts by soldiers trying to clear debris from 1,200 villages and four towns, “I am very pleased that California is receiving this important grant that will lead to the development of cleaner burning fuels and less dependency on foreign oil,” said the governor. “California has more scientists, engineers and researchers and invests more on research and development than any other state,” said Schwarzenegger.

“We will reap tremendous rewards for our economy and environment by keeping California at the forefront of the clean tech revolution.”

**FENWAL**

Reg. No. 1381/1990 in respect of ‘Apparatus for collecting, storing, processing, testing and/or administering blood and/or other liquids; syringe tip covers, closures, and seals; caps and other devices for closing and holding containers and tubes of blood, parenteral solutions and similar liquids; and such containers and tubes; surgical, medical, dental and veterinary diagnostic apparatus and parts thereof.”

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**ENGAGEMENT**

Francisca Thandar Khaging
The eldest daughter of U Hla Win Saung and Francis King and Daw Su Su Khaging

John Khaging Nyein Kyaw
The second son of U Tin Maung Kyaw (Deceased) and Daw Tin May Chit on Sunday 24th June 2007 at 2:00 pm at St Edward Catholic Church, Pyay Road, Yangon.
White House refuses to answer subpoenas over firings of federal prosecutors

WASHINGTON, 28 June — The White House Thursday refused to supply documents subpoenaed by congressional panels over the firings of several federal prosecutors last year.

The White House asserted executive privilege for its refusal to provide the documents to the Senate and House judiciary committees.

President George W. Bush was not willing to provide the committees with documents “revealing internal White House communications or to accede to your desire for senior advisors to testify at public hearings,” White House counsel Fred Fielding said in a letter to the chairman of the two committees.

“We had hoped this matter could conclude with your committees receiving information in lieu of having to invoke executive privilege. Instead, we are at this conclusion,” he said.

The Senate and House committees issued the subpoenas last month for papers relating to the firings of eight prosecutors. Barring the White House周四's refusal to supply the documents, Thursday was the deadline for the White House to hand over the documents.

The subpoenas also required former presidential counsel Harriet Miers and former political director Sara Taylor to testify before the committees in their investigations over the firings.

Eight US attorneys were fired last year, and many lawmakers believed the dismissals were politically motivated. — Xinhua

Microsoft releases beta of two web-based applications

BEIJING, 28 June — Microsoft released a beta of two new web-based applications for storing and sharing photos and files — Live Photo Gallery and Live Photo Folder.

Live Photo Gallery allows people to easily sharing, editing, organizing and printing of photos and digital home videos stored on their computers.

Windows Live Folders provides 500MB free Microsoft’s online storage service, aiming to make it easier to share and control access to files stored online.

The effort represents Microsoft’s broad ambition in a growing area of the software industry.

“It’s a competitive advantage for us because while some companies offer just one or the other, offering software and services together makes for a stronger customer experience,” said Chris Jones on Tuesday, corporate vice president, Windows Live experience programme management at Microsoft. — Internet

New type of rodent embryonic stem cell found

BEIJING, 28 June — A new type of rodent embryonic stem cell, which is more similar to its human counterparts than current mouse stem cells, has been discovered, according to the Nature on Wednesday.

The new mouse embryonic stem cells could provide a useful model to further understanding of human stem cells, which effectively constitute a “missing link” between mouse and human embryonic stem cells, according to Roger Pedersen, leader of the Cambridge group.

People queue for free cold drinks given out during a promotion outside Philadelphia’s City Hall as temperatures climbed into the 90s on 27 June, 2007. — Internet

Health workers jailed in Kazakh baby AIDS death case

SHYMKENT (Kazakhstan), 28 June — A Kazakh court jailed more than a dozen health workers on Wednesday for infecting 78 babies with HIV/AIDS but provoked parents’ outrage for sparing senior officials.

Ten babies have died as a result of being infected. A group of medical workers went on trial in the southern city of Shykmend in January on charges of criminal negligence for allowing the children to be infected, mainly through blood transfusions in hospitals.

Campaigners accuse the oil-producing former Soviet state of doing too little to improve hospitals, raise medical standards and root out discrimination against HIV-positive patients. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore builds $140m microbial manufacturing plant

SINGAPORE, 29 June — US-based biotechnology giant Genentech started to build a 140-million-US-dollar microbial manufacturing facility here Thursday, another shot in the arm for Singapore’s biologics industry.

When it is fully operational, the plant will employ about 100 staff members and produce two cutting-edge cancer drugs Avastin and Herceptin, as well as Lucentis, a treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration.

Singapore has identified the biomedical sciences as a key pillar for its manufacturing industry, and has been trying to put in place the requisite policies and resources to make the country a conducive location for world-class biomedical sciences activities including pharmaceutical manufacturing.

According to the minister, Singapore now is host to eight of the world’s top pharmaceutical companies that have cumulatively set up 24 chemical-based pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities here. — Xinhua
**Sports**

Malaysia lose 2-0 to Jamaica

*Kuala Lumpur, 29 June* — Malaysia lost 2-0 to Jamaica on Thursday in their final warm-up match before next month's Asian Cup.

Goals in quick succession from Christopher Harvey and Wolry Wolfe just before halftime were enough to give Jamaica the first win of their Asian tour following defeats by Vietnam (3-0) and Indonesia (2-1).

It was Malaysia's second straight defeat, having lost 3-1 to United Arab Emirates last week. In their first warm-up match on June 18, Malaysia beat Cambodia 6-0.

"I don't think that the loss was demoralizing on the team as the players realize that this is just a friendly," Malaysian coach Norizan Bakar told journalists.

Malaysia play their first Group C match of the Asian Cup against China on July 10. They also face Iran and Uzbekistan in the group stages. The Asian Cup runs from July 7-29.

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Hewitt eases through against Bolleli

*London, 29 June* — Lleyton Hewitt showed his early exit from Queen's was just a blip when he eased through to the third round at Wimbledon with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 win over Italian Simone Bolelli on Thursday.

Bolleli, playing in only his third grasscourt event, had no answer to the 2002 Wimbledon champion's pinpoint groundstrokes and improved serve, which provided Hewitt with 14 aces.

"It's always good to get through these matches, the Australian told reporters.

Hewitt won the Court One tie on his first match point when his forehand hit the net cord and ball dinked over leaving Bolelli no chance.

Before Wimbledon, Hewitt had lost his only match on grass this season with a surprise defeat by France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga at the Queen's Club championships earlier this month.

He said he had also found his first round match against Briton Richard Bloomfield tough going but the win over Bolelli, ranked 65 in the world, had been a big step up.

Hewitt, who won the US Open in 2001, will face Guillermo Canas in the next round after the Argentine beat Belarussian Max Mirnyi 6-7, 7-6, 7-6.

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Dunga blames missed chances for Brazil defeat

*Puerto Ordaz, 29 June* — Brazil coach Dunga said his team was on the right track, despite losing 2-0 to Mexico in his first competitive game in charge on Wednesday.

"What we have to be frustrated about are the chances we missed in the second half," he said. "We created a number of chances but their goalkeeper had an insprirational evening."

"Our team is on the right path, we just have to sort out a few details."

Defending champions Brazil conceded two goals in an eight-minute spell during the first half of the Group B match.

They improved dramatically after Alfonso and Anderson replaced Diego and Elano at halftime but were repeatedly thwarted by Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Brazil, the defending champions, face Chile in their next match on Sunday needing a win to stay alive in the group.

"The idea of being eliminated hasn't crossed our minds," said captain Gilberto Silva.

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Sarkozy condemns LFP decision over Roux

*Paris, 29 June* — French President Nicolas Sarkozy condemned on Thursday a decision by the French Professional Soccer League (LFP) not to allow Guy Roux to be named Racing Lens coach because he is too old.

The 68-year-old Roux, who was appointed by Lens earlier this month, cannot act as head coach because he is over the age limit of 65, the LFP ruled.

"He (Sarkozy) finds this decision regrettable," Sarkozy's spokesman told reporters.

"The President believes it is the rule that is old, not Guy Roux," he added.

Roux had earlier said he was determined to fight the LFP ruling.

"The legal commission (of the LFP) would not homologue my coaching contract because it violates one of its clauses which is discriminating and against the French and European laws," Roux told France Info radio.

"I knew this would happen. The LFP charter is being implemented but I think it is illegal and something should now be done about it."

French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde immediately joined the debate, telling France Info: "It moves me. I think it's stupid to tell someone good and competent you can't work because you're too old."

"I think these age limits ... we should think about eliminating them. If Guy Roux is good, and I think he is a great coach, he must be able to coach."

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Sharapova eases into third round

*London, 29 June* — Number two seed Maria Sharapova eased through the second round at Wimbledon on Thursday with an almost effortless 6-0, 6-3 victory over France's Severine Bremond.

Bremond, 35 places behind the stylish Russian in the world rankings, looked headed for an embarrassing whitewash in a one-sided first set.

The French player, who was a Wimbledon quarter-finalist last year, put up a brief fight in the second set.

But Sharapova, who won Wimbledon at the age of 17 in 2004, never looked seriously troubled in a windswept Centre Court and earned a third-round tie against Japan's Ai Sugiyama.
Endangered deer species thriving in wild

NANJING, 29 June — Seventeen baby milus, commonly known Pere David’s Deer, were born in the wild along east China’s seaboard since the beginning of the year.

There are now 100 of the endangered deer living in the wild at the Dafeng Nature Reserve for Pere David’s Deer in eastern Jiangsu Province, according to Ding Yuhua, deputy director of the nature reserve.

The milu is a species of deer that is unique to China. It thrived in the central and lower Yangtze River basin. The deer gets its English name from a French missionary and naturalist, Father or “Pere” David, who came to China in the 1800s and spread the news of this species to Europe.

Milu has antlers with a main branched anterior segment, with the points extending backwards. This deer’s summer coat is reddish tan in colour and becomes woollier and dark grey in the winter.

In Chinese it is called ‘shixiuang’ which translates as ‘none of the four’. This strange name refers to the deer’s appearance that has the neck of a camel, hooves of a cow, the tail of a donkey, and antlers of a deer.

Overhunting and the loss of its habitats led to the near extinction of the species in the early 20th Century.

Thirty-nine Pere David’s Deer were bred at the Woburn Abbey Wildlife park in Britain and introduced to the coastal tidal zones near Dafeng, in 1986 in a programme sponsored by Chinese forestry departments in cooperation with WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The coastal tidal zones in Dafeng have since turned into a nature reserve, said Mr. Deng.

Workers at the administration for Dafeng Nature Reserve for Pere David’s Deer first released eight captive-bred milus into the wild on 5 November, 1998. — MNA/property

WEATHER

Friday, 29 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon States, lower Sagaing, Yangon and Tanninlay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkmami (2.99) inches, Kyakpyu (2.88) inches, Sittway (2.53) inches, Hmawbi (2.75) inches, Myintkyina (2.64) inches, Kyaktauw (2.36) inches and Maungtaw (2.28) inches.

Maximum temperature on 28-6-2007 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 29-6-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 29-6-2007 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 28-6-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 29-6-2007 was (0.51) inch at Mingaladon, (0.63) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.75) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (49.88) inches at Mingaladon, (54.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (51.81) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South West at (17:30) hours MST on 28-6-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over the West Central and adjoining Northwest Bay has crossed the Orrissa Coast near Puri, India. Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and strong to vigorous elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-6-2007: Rain will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon and Kayin States and Tanninlay Division and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea will be experienced at times off and along Deliicat and Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 30-6-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 30-6-2007: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 30-6-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of July 2007: During the coming weekend, one or two rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Division and some rain in Yangon Division.
Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects preparations for reconvening of National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp

YANGON, 30 June — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon inspected preparatory tasks for the National Convention to be reconvened on 18 July 2007, at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, and gave necessary instructions. Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein arrived at Nyaunghnapin Camp at 3.30 pm. They were welcomed by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Maj-Gen Thant Htay, officials of the National Convention Convening Commission, the NCC Work Committee and the NCC Management Committee, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees.

The Secretary-1 inspected preparatory tasks for the NC at Pyidaungsu Hall and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 viewed the tasks of preparations for the convenience of the delegates at the meeting room of the NCCC at Anawrahta Yeiktha, Bagan Mess Hall, the office of the Supply Group of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee, the office of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee, the office of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee, the office of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee, the office of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee, and the gym for enabling the delegates to take exercises, the table tennis hall and sports equipment, the golf training range and Nyaunghnapin Station Hospital to provide necessary health care services for the delegates.

After inspecting the facilities, the Secretary-1 instructed officials to manage providing of basic needs, welfare and health care services for the convenience of the delegates.

In the evening, the Secretary-1 left Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

Results of remote areas aired

YANGON, 30 June — The Radio Myanmar will air results of the 2007 matriculation examination for exam centres from remote areas of States and Divisions from 41.75 m at 8:30 am on Saturday today. The exam centres of the remote areas are: Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagon, Phakant, Sumprabum and Chitwe of Kachin State, Papun, Kya-in-Seikkyi and Kamamoung of Kayin State, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat and Paletwa of Chin State, Gwa, Kyeintali, Zayetkonkhin and Manauk of Rakhine State, Momeik, Namhsan (North), Monghsat, Mongkai, Kunlong, Mongton, Mongping, Mongyan, Maunma, Mongyawng, Kehsi Mahsam, Kunhing, Hopang, Mongkhath, Mongpan, Mongphyat, Mabein, Mongshu, Tonghon, Mantung and Laukkhar of Shan State, Palaw, Bokpyin and Palau of Taninthayi Division, Paik, Htilin, Saw, Laungshay, Kyauktu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyun, Leshi and Lehe of Sagaing Division and Cocogyun of Yangon Division. — MNA

Matriculation Examination results announced

YANGON, 30 June — The results of matriculation examination held in March 2007 were announced at 6 am today. The examination results were simultaneously announced at the examination centres and schools in respective towns, states and divisions. Besides, the examination results of the states and divisions except Yangon Division were also announced at No 1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, No 1 Basic Education High School in Yankin Township, No 3 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township, No 1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township, No 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township and No 1 Basic Education High School in Thingangyun Township, it is learnt. — MNA