Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on the PM’s return from ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 4.45 pm today on the Prime Minister’s return from the Republic of Korea after attending the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and Related Summits of Bilateral Summit and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit held in Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea.

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on his return from the Republic of Korea after attending the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and Related Summits of Bilateral Summit and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit held in Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe greets Prime Minister General Thein Sein on his return from the Republic of Korea after attending the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and Related Summits of Bilateral Summit and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit held in Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea.

MNA

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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
Thursday, 4 June, 2009

Build new roads and bridges for higher socio-economic status

Good transport means smooth flow of goods and increased trade between regions within the country. At the same time, it can also raise the social and economic status of the people.

This being so, the government has been building new roads, railroads and bridges wherever necessary like a network. As a result, transport in every state and division has become smooth and secure and there has been a parallel development in the political, economic and social sectors.

The Swa Chaung bridge built in Yedashe Township in Bago Division was opened on 29 May. The bridge is on the Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay Union Highway. It is a reinforced concrete bridge 270 feet long and can bear a vehicle weighing up to 60 tons.

The Swa Chaung bridge is one of 226 bridges 180 feet and above long built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and it has become the 18th major bridge in Bago Division. With the opening of this new bridge, transportation of raw materials to and finished products from factories and workshops in Thagara regional industry in Yedashe Township will become quicker and easier.

Bago Division is one of the major regions for the development of national economy. Paddy, sugar cane, edible oil crops and various kinds of beans and pulses grow very well in Yedashe Township. Therefore, the Swa Chaung bridge will contribute a lot to transportation of agricultural produce and their trade.

As the government has built new roads and bridges not only in the plains but also over mountain ranges and across rivers and creeks, regional products trade has developed and education, health, social and economic status of the people in the region improved.

Forestry Ministry to celebrate World Environment Day

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Under the guidance of the Head of State, Ministry of Forestry will organize World Environment Day on 5 June.

To mark the World Environment Day which falls on 5 June, tree planting ceremonies will be conducted in states and divisions. Ministry of Forestry will conduct a ceremony to plant trees, to award winners of article and essay contests which were held to mark the day at the ministry on 5 June. Meanwhile, the ministry will stage booths and read out 10 papers on environmental conservation.

Nav Pyi Taw, 3 June—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized an educative talk on prevention against New Influenza (A/H1N1) at the office of the association in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw District, with an address by President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin.

Also present were vice president of the

President Daw Khin Saw Hnin of MMCWA makes a speech at educative talks on prevention against New Influenza (A/H1N1).—MNA

Good opportunity for CDMA 450 MHz phone users

YANGON, 3 June—Mobilemate Telecommunications Co., Ltd., which has been manufacturing GSM, CDMA, TDMA Handsets and accessories, is now selling Korea-made Axesstel Fixed Wireless phone which has been very powerful and can be used at any places covered by CDMA 450 MHz network.

The advantages of these phones are light and robust.

The phones are available at wholesale and retail centres minutes Mobilemate Distribution (Yangon/Mandalay) of the company with one-year guarantee. The customers may buy the phones at telephone shops in various townships across the country.

As a special promotion programme, every customer who buys a Curitels brand handset at Mobilemate Distribution (Yangon/Mandalay) and retail shops-Nokia Store (1), Axesstel, Curitel and Ubiquam are very powerful and can be used at any places covered by CDMA 450 MHz network.

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New US Afghan strategy will cost billions, take years

WASHINGTON, 3 June—President Barack Obama’s choice to take charge of the war in Afghanistan on Tuesday called “significant growth” of the Afghan army and national police the key to his strategy, but the annual cost of building and maintaining the existing Afghan force is more than four times larger than the entire Afghan economy.

Army Lt-Gen Stanley McChrystal’s testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is considering his nomination to lead US and NATO forces to the current 2011 end of 2011. McChrystal said he plans to boost those figures, but said he won’t know by how much until he’s in Afghanistan. However, maintaining and building the security forces to the current 2011 goals is estimated to cost roughly $4 billion a year, while Afghanistan’s economy generates only $800 million a year. Senior US military officials told McClatchy. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk to reporters.—Internet

Two terrorists detained in NE Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 June—Personnel of Afghan law enforcing agencies arrested two persons on charge of having link with terror network in northeastern Afghan province of Badakhshan, an official said on Tuesday.

“The terrorists namely Mawlawi Nasir and Neman have been captured from Baharak district and are under investigation in the provincial capital Faizabad,” deputy to National Security Directorate in the province Fazal Rahman told Xinhua.

Both the men are Afghans and materials found from their possession proved their link with anti-government militants, he further said.

Soldiers leave Iraqi cities for sweltering tents

CAMP CARVER, 3 June—The US military is expanding some rural bases and building others to house thousands of troops displaced by a June deadline to withdraw from Iraq’s major cities. With continual power outages pushing temperatures well above 100 degrees, that can’t come soon enough for some soldiers living in sweltering tents at Camp Carver in the small town of Madain, about 15 miles southeast of the capital. “Can’t wait,” said Spc. Oscar Garza, 20, of Port Lavaca, Texas, as he carted his bed frame to newly constructed plywood houses with air conditioners elsewhere on the US base. The Americans have already closed or handed over 60 urban bases since the beginning of the year, with more than 50 others tentatively scheduled to be closed or returned to Iraqi control by the end of June, said Lt Col Brian Maka, a military spokesman.—Internet

US deaths rise in Afghanistan from last year

KABUL, 3 June—US deaths in Afghanistan have risen to 65 so far this year, up from 36 over the first five months of 2008 — though US and coalition troops have also killed hundreds more militants, an Associated Press tally shows. As newly arriving Marines enter the violent Afghan south — the spiritual home of the Taleban and the country’s major drug-producing region — the military said on Tuesday that US deaths will likely increase even further this summer.

“We’re doing everything we can to ensure the deaths occur on the militants’ side, but there is a potential there will be an increase in US deaths,” said Col Greg Julian, the top US military spokesman in Afghanistan.—Internet
Chavez accuses CIA of backing plot to kill him

CARACAS, 3 June—President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday alleged that US intelligence agencies were behind a purported assassination plot that prevented him from visiting El Salvador.

Chavez had planned to attend the inauguration of leftist President Mauricio Funes in the Central American nation on Monday, but said he canceled his trip due to the alleged plot.

“I don’t doubt that the intelligence organizations of the United States are behind this,” Chavez said, accusing them of plotting with Cuban militant Luis Posada Carriles to murder him.

He said Venezuelan intelligence services have “very precise information” that they were planning to launch rockets at the Cuban de Aviacion plane he was going to travel in.

Officials at the US Embassy in Caracas couldn’t immediately be reached for comment. The US State Department has denied similar accusations by Chavez in the past.

Venezuela has asked the US to extradite Posada, a former CIA operative and opponent of former Cuban president Fidel Castro who is accused of plotting the 1976 bombing of a Cuban plane off Barbados that killed 73 people on board. The 81-year-old Posada is accused of plotting the bombing while living in Venezuela but denies involvement.—Internet

Nine killed, nine injured in bus-train collision in central China

Wuhan, 3 June—Nine people were killed and nine others injured on Tuesday in a bus-train collision in central China’s Hubei Province, the local railway authority said.

The accident happened at around 6:18 pm when an unregistered mini-van collided with a train heading from Yichang City for Wuchang City on the Changjing Railway, according to the railway administration of Wuhan, the provincial capital.

Nine people in the mini-van died at the site, the nine injured, including four badly wounded, have been sent to a local hospital.

No one onboard the train was injured. No other details are available at this time. An initial investigation showed that the mini-van was trying to pass a pedestrian intersection that is off-limits to vehicles when it crashed with the train. Railway officers and police were rushing to the site for further investigation.—Internet

Heinz 4Q profit falls 10 percent

MILWAUKEE, 3 June—HJ Heinz Co plans to boost marketing and limit price discounting in fiscal 2010 as it looks to keep selling its ketchup and sauces to consumers who have been trading down to less-expensive store brands.

The Pittsburgh-based food maker said consumers this winter switched to private-label store brands abruptly as they sought to stretch their food budgets amid the recession. But now they’re retreating a bit, Chief Executive Bill Johnson said, and the company will focus on innovations — such as different types of packaging — and marketing to make sure its brands keep selling.

Low fare Ryanair soars to Europe’s biggest airline amid financial storm

London, 3 June—Ryanair, Europe’s largest low fare airline, has emerged as Europe’s biggest airline in terms of passenger numbers and market capitalization thanks to a growing number of price-sensitive customers amid the global financial crisis.

Having overtaken major rivals like Air France, British Airways and Lufthansa, the Irish airline is expected to continue its “robust performance” as economic prospect remains uncertain.

Ryanair announced on Tuesday a net profit of 105 million euros (some 149 million USdollars) over the last financial year. Ryanair’s CEO, Michael O’Leary, said the airline has overtaken Air France, British Airways and Lufthansa in passenger numbers and market capitalization and become Europe’s largest airline.

“Ryanair’s continued fare cuts and traffic growth has seen us overtake Lufthansa’s traffic figures in March 2009 to finally become Europe’s largest airline by both traffic and market capitalization,” said O’Leary, Internet

Polluted ecosystems can recover

New Haven, 3 June—A Yale University study suggests most polluted or damaged ecosystems can recover within a lifetime if there’s a public commitment to the restoration.

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies researchers looked at 240 independent studies and found forest ecosystems recovered in 42 years on average, while ocean bottoms recovered in less than 10 years.

Researchers said ecosystems undergoing multiple, interacting disturbances recovered in 36 years, while those affected by invasive species, mining, oil spills or trawling recovered in as little as five years.

The scientists said most ecosystems took longer to recover from human-induced disturbances than from natural events, such as hurricanes.

“The damages to these ecosystems are pretty serious,” said Professor Oswald Schmitz, co-author of the meta-analysis with postdoctoral student Holly Jones. “But the message is that if societies choose to become sustainable, ecosystems will recover. It isn’t hopeless.”—Internet

Electric cars park free in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, 3 June—Officials in Cincinnati have revealed plans to allow drivers of all-electric vehicles to park for free—a program that will benefit at least eight locals.

The parking programme, part of the Green Cincinnati Initiative, began on Monday and will allow electric vehicles displaying city-issued stickers to park without charge next to city parking meters and in four downtown parking garages, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

City officials said an informal survey of residents found eight all-electric vehicles in the city. There may be a few unknown others tooling around town, as well.

Councilman David Crowley, who spearheaded the effort to adopt the programme, said it sends an important message.—Internet
Detroit, 3 June—Ford Motor Company could grab a larger share of the US market now that the other two top automakers General Motors Corp and Chrysler LLC have sought bankruptcy protection. But there are risks.

Ford’s top-to-bottom transformation that started years before the severe crisis hit the world’s auto industry in 2008 enabled it to hold its own.

Ford faces risks in bid for bigger market share

Los Angeles to ban smoking in all public parks

Los Angeles, 3 June—The Los Angeles County proposed on Tuesday that smoking be banned in all of the 144 public parks in the county’s 88 satellite cities. An ordinance prohibiting smoking at all county parks will be drafted by the end of summer for approval, the Board of Supervisors said. The proposal also called for designated smoking areas at lease-operated facilities, including the county’s 19 golf courses. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who asked that the ordinance be drafted, said he regretted that something was not done sooner so that Angelenos could “enjoy the parks in the most crowded period smoke-free.”—Xinhua

Microsoft Windows 7 to go on sale in October

San Francisco, 3 June—Microsoft Corp on Tuesday confirmed that Windows 7, the next version of its operating system, will hit stores on 22 October, in time for the holiday shopping season. US media has reported. The new software will replace the current Windows Vista operating system, which has been the target of much criticism and negative press. Microsoft said it plans to offer a guarantee programme that would get of much criticism and negative press. Microsoft said it plans to offer a guarantee programme that would

Red Bull products taken off shelves in HK

Hong Kong, 3 June—A Hong Kong SAR government official on Tuesday advised the retailers to take off Red Bull products from the shelves as a precaution. It was also suggested that they consider returning the products to their suppliers and the retailers were receptive to the advice.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Dancers spring up in a brilliant art show during the 3rd Three Kingdoms Cultural Week, in the Xudu Capital Park, in Xuchang City, central China’s Henan Province, on 1 June, 2009.—Xinhua

Debris confirms crash of Air France jet

Rio de Janeiro, 3 June—Brazil Tuesday confirmed the debris found earlier on the open Atlantic Ocean belonged to Air France Flight 447, solidifying the crash of the jet that went missing early on Monday.

The three-mile (five kilometres) path of wreckage found in the Atlantic Ocean belonged to the Air France jet carrying 228 people that was believed to have crashed into the sea. Brazilian Defence Minister Nelson Jobim said on Tuesday.

The debris were found about 400 miles from Brazil’s Fernando de Noronha archipelago, near the Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands. Pieces of white debris scattered over five kilometres, which, according to the minister, showed that the plane indeed fell at that site.

There is still no way to determine whether the plane blew up, and there is also no news of survivors, said Jobim.

The objects found at the sea will be taken to the Fernando de Noronha archipelago on a Brazilian naval ship, said Jobim. The minister added that Brazil will be in charge of the recovery of the plane parts, while France will carry out the investigations. Brazilian Navy ships are not expected to arrive in the area until Wednesday morning. Three mercantile ships, which were close to the area, have reached the crash site. The final passengers’ list of the plane will be released on Wednesday by Air France, Jobim said. But it will not be complete, he said, as some of the names will be held upon the requests of families and relatives.—Xinhua

A man reads the front pages of Brazilian newspapers reporting on the Air France passenger jet which disappeared, on 1 June over the Atlantic while en route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, at a newsstand in Rio de Janeiro. Xinhua

Hu holds telephone conversation with Obama

Beijing, 3 June—Chinese President Hu Jintao held a telephone conversation with his US counterpart Barack Obama on Wednesday morning.

Hu said China-US ties are developing smoothly. Both countries have conducted frequent exchanges at various levels, strengthened cooperation in all fields and are carefully implementing the broad consensus reached at the summit held in London on 1 April.

China is willing to make joint efforts with the United States to expand mutual exchanges, deepen cooperation, and move forward bilateral ties continuously, he added.

Obama expressed his satisfaction with the development of the US-China relations, saying both sides have recently conducted fruitful high-level exchanges.

The United States would like to boost coordination and cooperation with China on a broad range of major issues, and further push forward bilateral ties.

The two leaders also exchanged their views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula. —Xinhua

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Ford faces risks in bid for bigger market share

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Ford’s top-to-bottom transformation that started years before the severe crisis hit the world’s auto industry in 2008 enabled it to hold its own.

The nearly 106-year-old auto company mortgaged all its assets, including the famous blue oval brand, for billions of dollars in loans by the end of 2006. Ford’s top-to-bottom transformation that started years before the severe crisis hit the world’s auto industry in 2008 enabled it to hold its own.

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**Havana, 3 June —** Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Tuesday rejected the conditions placed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for a "open dialogue" between Washington and Havana.

In an article entitled "The Clapping and the Silence", published by Cuban media on Tuesday, Castro described Clinton's announcement on the possible resumption of bilateral talks on migration and direct mail service as "rude and far from being diplomatic".

Clinton said in El Salvador on Monday, Cuba now has restored formal ties with all Latin American countries. El Salvador's move followed the restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and Costa Rica in March this year.

The historical agreement on the re-establishment of relations was signed in Salvador, capital of El Salvador, by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Alejandro Gonzalez, in the presence of El Salvador's new president Mauricio Funes.

"This is an event that leads El Salvador to reach the level of the times and to surpass its historical debts with Cuba... a step that should have been taken long ago. At no time should the ties with Cuba be interrupted," Martinez said.

Cuban Vice President of the Council of State Esteban Lazo said the event was a victory of the people that had been able to "surpass pressures and threats to make a choice with mind and heart."

With the restoration of ties with Cuba, Funes, who was sworn in as El Salvador's president on Monday, fulfilled a promise during his campaign to renew ties with the Caribbean island nation.

El Salvador severed ties with Cuba in 1961 when the United States pressed countries in the region to cut ties with the island.

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**Anti-pirate task force disarms 10 pirates**

**Dubai, 3 June —** The international anti-pirate task force patrolling the Gulf of Aden intercepted 10 suspected pirates and disarmed them on Tuesday, said a US Navy statement.

The British frigate HMS Portland intercepted two skiffs filled with 10 men armed with assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades and boarded them with Royal Marines.

"Having prevented this group of pirates from reaching their merchant traffic prey, Portland destroyed one of the ships and confiscated all their weapons," said the statement.

The suspected pirates were not detained, however, due to the lack of evidence linking them to a specific criminal act on the high seas, the statement added, though it noted the boats contained extra barrels of fuel, grappling hooks and ammunition.

The Gulf of Aden is one of the world's most important shipping lanes, crossed by 20,000 ships a year, and a prime target for Somali pirates.

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**Last Latin American nation resumes diplomatic ties with Cuba**

**Havana, 3 June —** With the resumption of diplomatic relations with El Salvador on Monday, Cuba now has restored formal ties with all Latin American countries.

El Salvador's move followed the restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and Costa Rica in March this year.

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**Pink dolphin a standout in La shipping channel**

What's pink, has red eyes and leaps around a Louisiana shipping channel long enough for you to believe your eyes? A rare albino bottlenose dolphin.

Bottlenose dolphins are common in the lower Calcasieu Ship Channel, feeding in the deep water and riding on top of boats' waves. And when the pink one jumps amid four dark gray dolphins, it's easy to spot.

The albino is just the 14th reported worldwide, and the third in the Gulf of Mexico, according to biologist Dagnarr Fertil of Plano, Texas.

It was first reported by Wesley Lockard of Rayville, La, as a small calf in June 2007. Lockard, 26, said he and family members were fishing when they were stunned by the sight.

"Something comes up and you say, 'Wow! Did I just ...?' Then he comes up again and you say, 'Yeah! I just saw a pink dolphin!'" he said.

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**Man convicted after boasting of crime on MySpace**

A man who confessed to robbing a South Carolina bank in a message posted on MySpace has pleaded guilty.

Federal prosecutors said on Thursday that 27-year-old Joseph Northington posted a message to his MySpace account reading: "On tha run for robbin a bank Love all of MySpace account reading: "On tha run for robbin a bank Love all of the money and the watch and the purse all that sh#t...

Northington faces seven years to life in prison. His attorney did not return a call.

Northington's MySpace page is still online, his status listed as "wanted."
Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects Kayan Sluice Gate, attends Yangon South District rainy season tree growing ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, arrived at Kayan sluice gate near old Chaungwa Village, Thanlyin Township, this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard the reports on endurance and maintenance of the sluice gate and storage of clean water presented by the Deputy Director of Construction-6 of Irrigation Department and successful cultivation of summer paddy with the use of water from the sluice gate by Chairman of Thanlyin Township PDC.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe instructed officials to carry out maintenance of the sluice gate and its durability and to effectively use the irrigated water in growing summer paddy.

At the rainy season tree planting ceremony held near mile post No 4/2 by the approach road to Dagon bridge, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party heard reports on growing of tree in the townships and future tasks submitted by Assistant Director of Yangon South District Forest Department. Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials presented the saplings to departmental officials and local people.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe grew a Gangaw (Mesuaferrea) sapling and the commander, a star-flower sapling.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into ploughing of farmlands along both sides of the road for growing monsoon paddy.

At the briefing hall of construction project of the linking Dagon bridge to Thilawa Industrial Zone, he viewed maintenance of the road, completion of drains along the road.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on progress of the tarred road linking Dagon bridge and Thilawa Industrial Zone presented by of the Superintending Engineer of Yagon Division Public Works.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called for maintaining the road for its durability and growing wind breakers on both sides. 

Industry-2 Minister visits Magway Industrial Region

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, on 2 June, visited Heavy Truck Manufacturing Factory Project (Magway) in Magway Industrial Region.

At the briefing hall, personnel concerned reported on progress of steel structure works of Heavy Truck Manufacturing Factory and engineering works of Transmission Plant & Components Parts Production Factory. The minister called for timely completion of construction works according to set standard.

The minister then looked round the progress of the industrial region.

Tree growing ceremony held in Bahan

YANGON, 3 June—Under the arrangement of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council, a tree planting ceremony to commemorate World Environment Day 2009 was held in the compound of Hninzigon Home for the Aged on GabaAye Pagoda road in Bahan Township here this morning.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC and members, Chairman of Bahan Township PDC and members, social organizations in Bahan Township, Chairman of Hninzigon Home for the Aged and executive members, and staff and their families grew plants at designated places.

Altogether 21 kinds of vegetables and 1100 kinds of shady trees were grown with the assistance of Forest Department.

Upgrading of Yangon-Pathein Road in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Chairman of Ayeawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected upgrading of Yangon-Pathein Road on 26 May morning. 

Danok Pagoda collapses in Danok Model Village of Dalla Township

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Hsandawshin Hsutaunggyae Danok Pagoda in Danok Model Village of Dalla Township was renovated, and the ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the upper reliquary and hoist Seinbudaw (diamond orb) and Hngeytnatnadaw (pennant-shape vane) was held at the pagoda on 7 May.

On 30 May afternoon, the pagoda collapsed while the renovation tasks of the pagoda were being carried out after hoisting the diamond orb and pennant-shape vane atop the pagoda.

The pagoda is 189 feet and nine inches high plus 32 feet high umbrella and 244 feet in circumference. At 3.04 pm, the pagoda above the bell-shape structure collapsed on the northern prayer hall. Due to the collapse, a crack appeared at the remaining part of the pagoda and the structure of the pagoda remained 50 feet high.

After the incident and 26 Tatmadawmen and eight people were injured. The injured persons were not serious and they are receiving medical treatments at the respective hospitals.

A technician team was formed and they inspected the collapse of the pagoda. The preliminary report of the technicians mentioned that as efforts were made to maintain the original style of the pagoda there became the unexpected over-loads on the main structure, and then the pagoda collapsed. Efforts were made to quickly renovate the pagoda for its completion before the rainy season due to the wishes of the wellwishers. Therefore, the structure of pagoda collapsed due to poor quality of the renovation task at some parts of the pagoda.

Tobacco Kills

Among the Tatmadawmen and the people who participated in the renovation tasks, two persons died in the incident and 26 Tatmadawmen and eight people were injured. The injured persons were not serious and they are receiving medical treatments at the respective hospitals.
Myanmar gladly recognizes improvement in political and future goal. Regarding the ASEAN-ROK cooperation and the future goal, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that ASEAN-Republic of Korea relations round cooperation. He urged ROK to provide assistance for ASEAN cooperation including Ayeyawady-Chaopradesign Economic Cooperation Strategy.

The whole region will gain benefits from the support by the Republic of Korea for peace, freedom, neutralization and establishment of nuclear-free zone of Southeast Asia.

The trade volume between ASEAN and ROK increased to 90 billion US dollars in 2008 from 46 billion US dollars in 2004. And Myanmar expects the trade volume will reach 150 billion US dollars by 2015.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Myanmar booth in Jeju World Culture & Travel Expo

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Prime Minister General Thein Sein visited Myanmar booth in Jeju World Culture & Travel Expo held at Jeju World Cup Stadium in Jeju of the Republic of Korea on 1 June afternoon. The Prime Minister, accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Myo Lwin, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin, departmental heads and personnel left (See page 11)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Myanmar booth in Jeju World Culture & Travel Expo held at Jeju World Cup Stadium in Jeju of the Republic of Korea. —MNA

President of ROK Mr Lee Myung-bak makes speech at dinner. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein enjoys dance of Bagan-era of Myanmar cultural delegation performed in commemoration of Jeju World Culture and Travel Expo held at Jeju World Cup Stadium in Jeju of the Republic of Korea. —MNA

Prime Minister visits Myanmar booth in Jeju World Culture & Travel Expo

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by ROK President and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted by President of the Republic of Korea Mr. Lee Myung-bak and wife at Crystal Ballroom of the Lotte Hotel in Jeju of the Republic of Korea at 8 pm on 1 June. Also present at the dinner were King of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia (See page 11)
Prime Minister attends opening ceremony of ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit, enjoys entertainment of ASEAN-Korea Traditional Orchestra

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit on the fifth floor of the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Jeju of the Republic of Korea at 2 pm on 31 May.

Also present on the occasion were ROK President Mr. Lee Myung-bak, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh, Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Chairman of Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Mr Kyung Shik Sohn, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, senior officials of the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries.

First, Chairman of Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Mr Kyung Shik Sohn made an opening address.

After that, ROK President Mr. Lee Myung-bak and Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva delivered addresses on the occasion.

The heads of State/Government cordially greeted the senior officials and entrepreneurs of the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries.

At 3 pm, the Global Economic Outlook and Asia’s Role, the Session I of the ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit commenced. Prime Minister General Thein Sein enjoyed the entertainment of the ASEAN-Korea Traditional Orchestra that honoured the ASEAN-Korea Summit at the Tamna Hall (A) of the International Convention Centre.

Also present on the occasion were ROK President Mr. Lee Myung-bak, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, senior officials of the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries.

A total of 79 musicians from 11 countries namely, Korea, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam performed musical entertainments with the use of 52 musical instruments at the ASEAN-Korea Traditional Orchestra, and it was the entertainment of the first orchestra with a view to ensuring the inter-relations of Asian culture and presenting the own musical creation styles of Asia that is different from the western style.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein enjoys entertainment of ASEAN-Korea Traditional Orchestra in honour of ASEAN-Korea Summit.—MNA

Pre-primary teachership course concludes

YANGON, 3 June — Course No. 20 on pre-primary teachership of Myanmar Education Research Bureau was concluded at the Bureau in Kamayut Township today.

Director-General of the Bureau U Ohn Myint delivered an address and presented completion certificates to the trainees. President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo, Director-General of the No. 1 Basic Education Department U Kyaw Thu and Rector (Retd) of Yangon Institute of Education Dr Khin Zaw awarded the outstanding trainees. —MNA

A & I Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Chairman of Guangdong New Technology Import & Export Zhuhai Corporation (Guangdong NTC) Mr Huang Yixiang and party called on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at the Irrigation Department in Yangon on 2 June.—MNA
**Myanmar Prime Minister meets Vietnamese counterpart**

**Prime Minister visits...**

(From page 9) Lotte Hotel for Jeju World Cup Stadium at 1 pm.

On arrival at the stadium, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Mr Shi Joong-Mok, president of Travels Association of the Republic of Korea, U Zaw Mwin, Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, general secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay and members Dr Khin Shwe and U Sein Wan. The Prime Minister then viewed Myanmar traditional handicrafts displayed at Myanmar booth and cordially greeted responsible persons of the booth and members of cultural delegation. The Prime Minister observed international culture and tourism industry related art works displayed at the expo. The Prime Minister and party enjoyed Korean traditional dances, traditional dances of ASEAN countries, dance of Yama chasing deer, female dancer and dance of Bagan-era of Myanmar cultural delegation.

They frankly discussed matters on seeking more opportunities for cooperation in communications, energy, agriculture, mines and IT sectors between the two countries, further cementing bilateral ties. Myanmar’s support and cooperation in implementation of seven-step Road Map and national reconsolidation in Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar Prime Minister meets Vietnamese counterpart

Prime Minister General Thein Sein met Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at Lotte Hotel in Jeju, the Republic of Korea, on 1 June.

Present at the call together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Myo Lwin, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads. Together with the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam were Minister of Industry and Trade Mr Vu Hung Ha and the Minister at the Government Office and personnel.

Myanmar Prime Minister meets Vietnamese counterpart

**Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung. — MNA**

Myanmar Prime Minister meets Vietnamese counterpart

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung...—MNA

Myanmar Prime Minister meets Vietnamese counterpart

**Myanmar gladly recognizes improvement in political...**

(From page 8) He said that the whole region will gain benefits from the support by the Republic of Korea for peace, freedom, neutralization and establishment of nuclear-free zone of Southeast Asia.

He said that Myanmar would like to express its constant support for the peaceful approach to the nuclear issue in Korea Peninsula and call for continuing talks with international community for reduction of tension and maintaining regional peace and stability.

The trade volume between ASEAN and ROK increased to 90 billion US dollars in 2008 from 46 billion US dollars in 2004. And Myanmar expects the trade volume will reach 150 billion US dollars by 2015. Similarly, the investment rose from 1.3 billion to 6.8 billion US dollars in the same period. Myanmar would like to call for maintaining the development momentum.

He said that Myanmar welcomes the agreement on ASEAN-ROK investment endorsed after the summit, and it is required to maintain the present development momentum of trade and investment volumes.

Agreements on trade, service and investment between ASEAN and ROK have been signed, he said, calling for an agreement for establishment of ASEAN-ROK free trade zone according to the fixed periods of the two sides.

Myanmar thanks ROK for its assistance for promotion of ASEAN-ROK human resource development and efficiency, ASEAN+1 programmes and ASEAN+3 programmes, he said.

Myanmar welcomes the offer for promotion of bilateral cooperation in the sectors of ROK such as education, technology for rural areas, substitute fuel, small and medium-scale industries, communications and technology, monetary and tourism services. And Myanmar would like to see further cooperation for providing technological equipment in the science and technology sector and narrowing the technological gap, he said.—MNA

Prime Minister meets Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung...—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung...—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.—MNA

**How past communities coped with climate change**

**Leicester, 3 June** — Research led by the University of Leicester suggests people today and in future generations should look to the past in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. The dangers of rising sea levels, crop failures and extreme weather were all faced by our ancestors who learnt to adapt and survive in the face of climate change. Dr Jago Cooper, of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, has been studying the archaeology of climate change in the Caribbean as part of a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship.—Internet
INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER NO. 3 (T) AMD-FR(2009-2010)
1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of following Machines which will be purchased in US Dollar.
   Sr. No Description Quantity
   1. Machinery & Equipment for Combine Harvester Production 3 Lot
   2. Tender closing date (15-6-2009) (Monday) 16:00 H
   3. Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon during the office hours.
   4. For further details please call 680959, 682046 Ext. 323.

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

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Folic acid offers more protection than thought
WASHINGTON, 3 June—Baby-protecting folic acid is getting renewed attention: Not only does it fight spina bifida and some related abnormalities, new research shows it also may prevent premature birth and heart defects.

Now pregnancy specialists are asking if it’s time for the government to boost the amount being added to certain foods to help ensure mothers-to-be get enough. But for older adults, there may be a down side to the nutrient: Extra-high levels late in life just might pose a cancer risk. “Folate is assuming the role of a chameleon, if you will,” says Dr Joel Mason of the University of California Berkeley researchers developed a Life Cycle Impact Assessment to measure the benefits on human health that might result from a switch to biofuels.

“While the successful deployment of biofuels requires research to overcome technical barriers, there are other barriers that can often impose constraints more challenging than those related to technical feasibility, including constraints imposed by health risks,” researcher Thomas McKone said in a statement. “Just think, if we had done a life cycle impact assessment on the human health effects of gasoline years ago we might not be in the situation we’re facing today.”

Assessments of the life cycle impacts of emissions from gasoline-run motors in the United States on a county-by-county basis show that the heaviest damage — darkest coloring — is concentrated in urban areas, especially Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. Large urban regions also suffered disproportionate health damage as a result of benzene emissions at service stations and during the transporting by truck of gasoline to service stations, the researchers said.

The findings are being presented at the at the 31st Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals in San Francisco.

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Reducing gas emissions has health dividend
BERKELEY, 3 June—Eliminating 10 percent of current gasoline pollutant emissions would have a substantial beneficial impact on US human health, researchers said.

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Singapore confirms 9th Influenza A/H1N1 case
SINGAPORE, 3 June—Singapore has confirmed its 9th case of Influenza A/H1N1, the country’s Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The patient is a 19-year-old Singaporean female studying in the United States who returned for the summer holidays. She arrived in Singapore from New York via Tokyo on All Nippon Airways NH901 on 28 May. She developed symptoms in the morning of 1 June and was sent to local hospital on the same day. Laboratory results confirmed her infection on 2 June.

The ministry said that no flight passengers needed to be quarantined as the case only developed onset of symptoms more than 24 hours after disembarkation. Hence she was assessed to be non-infectious during the flight. So no claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (253)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (253) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.6.2009 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.

Damage cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 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.

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Obesity, diabetes fuel heart failure risk
NICE, 3 June—The twin epidemics of obesity and type 2 diabetes will fuel an explosion in heart failure, researchers in Scotland suggest.

John McMurray, professor of cardiology at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, Scotland, said about one-third of patients with heart failure have evidence of heart failure, and for them the outlook is very serious and effective treatment is “very difficult.”

McMurray emphasizes obesity is not just associated with an increased risk of heart attack, but also, and especially, with an increased risk of heart failure.

“Obesity is at least as great a risk factor for heart failure as it is for heart attack or stroke,” McMurray says in a statement. “Obesity more than doubles the risk.”

The pathways by which obesity plays such a role in heart failure are not yet fully understood, but have been shown to have an indirect effect through hypertension, heart attack or diabetes — and a direct effect on the heart muscle itself, McMurray says.

The finding was presented at the Heart Failure Congress in Nice, France.

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Elderly hearing, vocal problems linked

PHOENIX, 3 June—A study of 248 participants with a median age of 82.4 found 11 percent were hard of hearing and had vocal problems, US researchers found.

Researchers at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, said hearing and vocal problems go hand-in-hand among the elderly more frequently than previously thought.

“It’s important to realize these disabilities often occur concurrently,” Dr Seth Cohen, an otolaryngologist at the Duke Voice Care Center, said in a statement. “And when they do, they can increase the likelihood of depression and social isolation.”

Nearly half of people age 65 and older have some degree of hearing loss, a published report said, and about one-third of elderly adults have vocal problems including dysphonia—known as hoarseness. Taken apart, the disabilities have been linked in the elderly to increased depression, anxiety and social isolation.

“When people have trouble hearing, they strain their voices to hear themselves,” Cohen said. “Likewise, people may strain their voices if their communication partners can’t hear.”

Because there is effective treatment for both hearing loss and dysphonia, it’s important that people with one disability be evaluated for the other, Cohen said.

The study was presented at the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolological Society in Phoenix.

Obese pregnant women shouldn’t gain weight

NEW YORK, 3 June—The Institute of Medicine has changed its recommendation that overweight women should gain about 15 pounds during pregnancy, a US researchers say.

“It is the mindset of our specialty, and our society, that we need to have round, chubby pregnant women in order make sure they are healthy,” study leader Dr Yvonne S Thornton, a board-certified specialist in maternal-fetal medicine at New York Medical College, says in a statement. “Pregnancy has become a license to eat. We talk about ‘eating for two,’ but it’s really more like eating for one and 1/20th.”

In the study, conducted at several hospitals, the researchers followed 232 obese pregnant women, all of whom had a body mass index of 30 or greater. Half of the women, who acted as a control group, followed conventional pre-natal nutritional guidelines — “eat to appetite.” The other half were placed on a well-balanced, nutritionally monitored programme, which included a daily food diary.

The study, published in the June issue of the Journal of the National Medical Association, found the average weight gain in the control group was 31 pounds, compared to 11 pounds in the study group. Twenty-three extremely obese patients lost weight during their pregnancy.

Skeleton of ancient whale found in Sweden

STROMSTAD, 3 June—The skeleton of a whale thought to be nearly 10,000 years-old has been found in Gothenburg and the Natural History Museum in London are working together to conduct DNA tests on the whale, the Swedish research say.

Researchers from Sweden’s Gothenburg University and the Natural History Museum in London are working together to conduct DNA tests on the whale, the Swedish research say.

Stromstad, 3 June—The skeleton was found by construction workers during work on the E6 motorway in April.

The university said initial details about the discovered whale skeleton indicate the remains could represent a fifth species of right whale.

Currently, only four species of right whales have been identified, the Local reported.

Zoologist Thomas Dahlgren told the newspaper additional tests would need to be conducted on the skeleton to determine its official designation.

“There are previous skeleton finds in western Sweden which are believed to be the Swedborg right whale. But to determine the species of whale bones found buried in soil is complicated and it is therefore not yet ascertained whether the whale actually existed,” he said.

British scientists map Antarctic penguins from space

WASHINGTON, 3 June—Penguin poop (guano) stains, visible from space, have helped British scientists locate emperor penguin breeding colonies in Antarctica. Knowing their location provides a baseline for monitoring their response to environmental change, according to a new study published this week in the US journal Global Ecology and Biogeography.

In the new study, scientists from British Antarctic Survey (BAS) describe how they used satellite images to survey the sea-ice around 90 percent of Antarctica’s coast to search for emperor penguin colonies.

The survey identified a total of 38. Ten of those were new. Of the previously known colonies six had re-located and six were not found.

Because emperor penguins breed on sea-ice during the Antarctic winter little is known about their colonies. Reddish brown patches of guano on the ice, visible in satellite images, provide a reliable indication of their location.

BAS mapping expert Peter Fretwell explains, “We can’t see actual penguins on the satellite maps because the resolution isn’t good enough. But during the breeding season the birds stay at a colony for eight months. The ice gets pretty dirty and it’s the guano stains that we can see.”

Emperor penguins spend a large part of their lives at sea.

Air pollution linked to abdominal pain

EDMONTON, 3 June—Abdominal pain, one of the most common reasons for emergency room visits, may be linked to air pollution, Canadian researchers suggest.

Dr Gilaad Kaplan of the University of Calgary identified more than 95,000 patients discharged from emergency departments with non-specific abdominal pain from hospitals in Edmonton, Alberta. The study was replicated in more than 25,000 abdominal pain patients at a hospital in downtown Montreal. Data from Environment Canada’s National Air Pollution Surveillance were used to determine the hourly levels of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter of varying sizes. The study found nearly two-thirds of visits for non-specific abdominal pain were by women, and the majority of them were ages 15-24. Young women were more likely to present to emergency departments in Edmonton and Montreal for non-specific abdominal pain on days when indicators of air pollution were elevated.

Kaplan and the co-authors speculate that young women are the most affected cohort because they are at increased risk for functional motility disorders — the most common of which is irritable bowel syndrome.
Kaka signs for Real Madrid

Madrid, 3 June—Brazilian playmaker Kaka has signed for Real Madrid from AC Milan in a 65-million-euro deal, Spanish radio station Cadena Ser reported on Tuesday.

 Newly-installed Real president Florentino Perez sealed the deal with AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani and Bosco Leite, father and agent of the 2007 world and European player of the year, Cadena Ser said. Kaka, currently in Brazil with the national team, was expected to be target for them again this summer especially as they could offer him Champions League football while City failed to qualify for either European club competition.

Barry had a year left on his contract. City, who are owned by the Abu Dhabi United Group, are expected to be big players in the close season transfer market and manager Mark Hughes is a long-standing admirer of Barry. The midfielder is currently preparing for England’s upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Andorra on 6 and 10 June.

Nigerians give Domenech the blues

S T E T I E N N E , 3 June—France coach Raymond Domenech (L) spoke to captain Patrick Vieira during the friendly football match France vs Nigeria at the Geoffroy-Guichard stadium in Saint-Etienne, eastern France.

France coach Raymond Domenech suffered another blow to his authority here on Tuesday as Nigeria beat France 1-0 in an international friendly.

J o s e p A k h a scored the only goal of the game, the 22-year-old Club Brugge striker scoring in the 32nd minute after Ikechukwu Uche’s shot had come off the bar and hit French goalkeeper Steve Mandanda’s heel.

The crowd reacted furiously to the goal and started jeering and booing the French side, who had welcomed back from the international wilderness captain Patrick Vieira and Chelsea’s Florent Malouda. However, neither shone with Vieira especially static in midfield on what was a sad 107th appearance for the former Arsenal star.

The hosts failed to rouse their supporters and it took fully an hour for them to even summon up ‘Allez les Bleus’ (Come on the Blues) as with the exception of Franck Ribery and Nicolas Anelka few of the other players shone. — Internet

Blackburn snap up van Heerden

BL ACK B R U N, 3 June—Blackburn manager Sam Allardyce has voiced confidence that Elrio van Heerden can make an impact on the Premier League after signing the South African midfielder on a free transfer from Belgian side Club Brugge.

Van Heerden has been given a two-year contract at Ewood Park and Allardyce has great hopes for the 25-year-old, provided he can cope with the physical demands of English football.

“We need to build him up as he is not the biggest of lads, then I am sure he will make an impact as the season progresses,” Allardyce said on Tuesday.

“We have signed a very talented young man. He is a great addition to the squad. He has lots of pace, lots of ability and can play wide right and left.” — Internet

City secure Barry transfer

B IR M I N G H A M, 3 June—England midfielder Gareth Barry signed for Manchester City from English Premier League rivals Aston Villa for 12 million pounds on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old came close to joining Liverpool last year and was expected to be a target for them again this summer especially as they could offer him Champions League football while City failed to qualify for either European club competition.

Barry had a year left on his contract. City, who are owned by the Abu Dhabi United Group, are expected to be big players in the close season transfer market and manager Mark Hughes is a long-standing admirer of Barry. The midfielder is currently preparing for England’s upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Andorra on 6 and 10 June.

Clay will inspire me at Wimbledon, says Murray

PARIS, 3 June—Andy Murray said he would go into Wimbledon in the form of his life despite his French Open quarter-final defeat to Chile’s Fernando Gonzalez.

Murray, the third seed, lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 to the number 12-seeded claycourt specialist in what was his first Roland Garros last-eight tie.

The 22-year-old Scot, though, has enjoyed a fantastic year to date, ousting Serbia’s Novak Djokovic from the top three in the world rankings following tournament victories in Doha, Rotterdam and Miami. Murray has also impressed on clay-reaching the semi-finals at the Monte Carlo Masters and the quarter-finals in Madrid — and feels his improved showing on the dirt proves that he’s becoming a more complete player. — Internet

Proud Maria ready for Wimbledon lift-off

PARIS, 3 June—Maria Sharapova shrugged off her devastating French Open hangover on Wednesday and admitted she’s come a long way since the dark days of injury misery which sidelined her for 10 months.

The Russian golden girl slumped to one of her heaviest defeats at the hands of Dominika Cibulkova in the Roland Garros quarter-finals, losing 6-0, 6-2.

She also came within a point of suffering only the second ‘double-bagel’ of her career.

But the former world number one, whose ranking should creep back inside the top 75 after her run to last eight here, insists there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic ahead of Wimbledon, which starts in under three weeks.

“I think this is a very good starting point for me,” she said.

“I always say you’re only as good as your last tournament. Reflecting back on everything that I’ve been through in the last year, I think I can sit here and say I’m pretty proud of what I’ve achieved, not only in this tournament, but in that whole time.” — Internet

Ballack signs up for extra year at Chelsea

L O N D O N, 3 June—German captain Michael Ballack has signed up for an extra year at Chelsea, ensuring he will be playing in the Premier League in the run-up to next year’s World Cup finals in South Africa.

Ballack moved to London from Bayern Munich in 2006 and has won two FA Cups and a League Cup in his time in the British capital. The 32-year-old said: “I am very happy to be staying at Chelsea for one more year as it was always my intention to play at least until the World Cup in 2010.”

“We had a fantastic end to the season, winning the FA Cup, and we are all looking forward to taking this success into the new season under Carlo Ancelotti, our new manager.” A Chelsea statement added: “Michael has been a key member of our team for three years so we are naturally very happy that we have agreed the extension.” — Internet

Valverde named Villarreal coach

M A D R I D, 3 June—Villarreal on Tuesday named Spain’s Ernesto Valverde as coach in place of Manuel Pellegrini, who is taking over at Real Madrid.

Valverde coached Olympiacos last season, but his contract was not renewed with the Greek club despite leading them to the domestic double this year.

Ernesto Valverde is seen during Espanyol’s Spanish League football match against Almeria at Mediterraneo Stadium in Almeria, 2008.— Internet

Valverde, 45, has previously coached two Primera Liga clubs, Athletic Bilbao and Espanyol Barcelona. Villarreal, fifth in the championship last season, are to play in the Europa League, formerly the UEFA Cup, in 2009-2010.— Internet

Blackburn manager Sam Allardyce has voiced confidence that Elrio van Heerden can make an impact on the Premier League after signing the South African midfielder on a free transfer from Belgian side Club Brugge.
GM facing difficulties in raising funds in India

NEW DELHI, 3 June—Bankrupt General Motors on Tuesday said it is facing difficulties in raising funds for its under-construction engine transmission plant in India, involving an investment of 200 million US dollars, due to the apprehensions of financial institutions.

The company also said the falling sales of General Motors in India, the wholly-owned subsidiary of the US firm, were mainly due to customers’ perception on the months-long uncertainty over the future of GM, which finally filed for bankruptcy protection in a New York Court Monday.

“It hasn’t been easy in India to raise the money (200 million US dollars). Frankly, we have found difficulties from Indian financial institutions, but we have not given up,” GM Group Vice-President Nick Reilly told reporters in a conference call.

“The majority of the fund remains to be raised. It might take us little longer, but the opening of the plant will continue,” he added.

Reilly also said that the company’s sales in the past couple of months have been declining in India on account of customers’ perceptions in view of the uncertainty prevailing in the US market over the parent company’s fate.—MNA/PTI

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit on Third Floor of International Convention Centre (ICC) in Jeju, the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives Jeju, ROK, to participate in ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and Related Summits

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, together with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads, left here for the Republic of Korea by Thai Airways on 30 May to participate in ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and Related Summits to be held in Jeju Island of the Republic of Korea at the invitation of Mr Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea.

They arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, at 9 pm local time on 30 May. Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr Kasit Piromya called on the Prime Minister at the VIP lounge of the airport at 10 pm local time.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and Ambassador of Myanmar to Thailand U Aung Thein while the foreign minister of Thailand was accompanied by Mr Kallayana Vipattibnumpates, the director of the East-Asia Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Thailand.

The Prime Minister and party left Bangkok for the Republic of Korea at 11:30 pm and arrived at Incheon International Airport of the Republic of Korea at 7.15 am local time on 31 May.

The Prime Minister and party, along with Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha who arrived there in advance, and Ambassa-