China and Myanmar have been good neighbourly nations for many years based on mutual understanding, respect and friendship

In the international arena, China will protect the just and fair interests of Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 June —Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China at Zhongnanhai Hall in Beijing at 4.15 pm on 16 June. Together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were SPDC Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Li-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Ministers U Nyan Win, U Soe Tha, Col Zaw Min, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Brig-Gen Lun Thi and departmental heads. Together with the Chinese Premier were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Wang Guangyu, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Hu Zheng Yue and high-ranking officials.

First, in his greetings, the Chinese Premier said he warmly welcomed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and goodwill delegation members. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye has visited China many times and he is the one who has always given priority to strengthening the relationship between China and Myanmar. The Premier said he believed the visit would further cement the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said he thanked China for having accorded its warm welcome and hospitality since the Myanmar delegation arrived in Beijing. He was very delighted to have the opportunity to see the Premier first among the Chinese leaders after the delegation had arrived in China, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 22 June, 2009**

Try to achieve new successes in China-Myanmar relations

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Mya Mya San arrived in Beijing on 15 June on a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China at the invitation of Chinese Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping held a meeting at the eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 16 June.

China and Myanmar are good neighbourly nations and the bilateral relations and cooperation are making progress. The visit of Myanmar goodwill delegation will not only enhance the existing mutual friendship but also promote the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the leaders of the two countries, the bilateral relationship and cooperative measures are achieving success in all aspects. In addition, progress has been made in political, economic, trade, cultural, military and other sectors.

During the meeting, the Chinese Vice-President said he believes that the internal issue of Myanmar can be addressed only by the people and the government of Myanmar. Foreign countries should not interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs and impose sanctions on her. China will continue to support Myanmar in the international sphere.

The China-Myanmar relations have existed since ancient times, and Myanmar is one of the earliest nations to establish diplomatic relations with China. Therefore, the visit of Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife will surely bring about new successes in bilateral relations between the two countries.

---

**Maj-Gen Ko Ko looks into development tasks in Pyapon District, Maubin Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected collective ploughing task with the use of modern farming implements in Hleseik Village of Kyaiklat Township on 17 June.

In Daminseik Village of Pyapon Township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into construction of Cyclone Shelter and digging of drinking water lake. On 18 June, they oversaw construction of new school building at BEHS in Akechaungwa Village in Dedaye Township.

They visited the rural health centre in Akechaungwa Village. Next, they viewed digging of the drinking water lake in Daw Nyein Village of Pyapon Township.

On 19 June, they inspected construction of the extended building at Pyapon General Hospital (200-bed).

While in Pyapon Township, they looked into collective ploughing tasks with the use of modern farming equipment.

Later, they inspected progress in construction of Maubin-Yelegale-Shwe-taungmaw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun Road and placing of gravel on the road.

---

**Olympic Day Run Cricket Movement organized**

YANGON, 21 June—The Olympic Day Run Cricket Movement, organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation, yesterday opened at Cricket Ground in Bahan Township yesterday morning, with an address by President of the federation U Nyunt Win. Myanmar selected cricket players divided into two squads and took part in the movement.

---

**International Olympic Day commemorative swimming contest organized**

YANGON, 21 June—The International Olympic Day commemorative swimming contest 2009 took place at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, here, yesterday morning.

Executives presented prizes to winners in the competition.

Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, President of Myanmar Swimming Federation Dr Khin Shwe, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Huik of Sports and Physical Education Department, General Secretary of MWSF U Kyaw Oo (Assistant Director of SPED) and executives presented prizes to the winners.

The swimmers took part in the under-13 and above-13 boys’ and girls’ 50-m and 100-m backstroke, freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly events.

---

**People’s Desire**

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

---

**President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win speaking at 2009 Olympic Day Run Cricket Movement.—MCF**

---

**Maj-Gen Ko Ko views construction of Cyclone Shelter in Damiseik Village of Pyapon Township. —MNA**

---

**International Olympic Day**

---

**Patron of MWSF Daw Mu Mu Win presents prize to winners in International Olympic Day Swimming Contest.**

---

**2009 Olympic Day**

---

**NLM**
Baghdad, 21 June — Deadliest bombings in Iraq since Jan 1, when a new US-Iraqi security pact took effect:

- 20 June — Truck bomb strikes Shiite mosque near northern city of Kirkuk, killing 72.
- 10 June — Car bomb explodes in market near Shiite city of Nasiriyah, killing 30.
- 21 May — Bomb in mainly Sunni area of Baghdad kills 15 people, including three Americans.
- 20 May — Parked car bomb tears through restaurants in northwest Baghdad, killing 41.
- 6 May — Parked car bomb explodes at a produce market in southern Baghdad, killing 15.
- 29 April — Twin car bombing in Baghdad’s Shiite district of Sadr City kills 51.
- 23 April — Suicide bomber hits Iraqis collecting humanitarian aid in Baghdad, killing 31.
- 25 March — Suicide bombing in Muqdadiyah kills 53 people, including 44 Iranian pilgrims.
- 6 March — Series of bombings in Baghdad kill 37 people.
- 26 March — Car bomb tears through market in Shiite area in east Baghdad, killing 20.
- 23 March — Suicide bomber strikes Kurdish funeral in Jalula, killing 27.
- 10 March — Suicide bomber targets tribal leaders at market in Abu Ghraib, killing 33.
- 8 March — Suicide bomber strikes police academy in Baghdad, killing at least 30.
- 5 March — Car bomb tears through livestock market in Hillah, killing 13.

Internet

Tillah and her sister, Freshta, 5, were visiting their aunt’s house with their mother when a plane bombed a nearby building. They fled to a nearby home that they thought would be safe. Tillah said she heard the buzzing noise of a plane, but only remembered coming to when someone pulled her from the rubble the next morning. — Internet

Militants dynamite high school in E Afghanistan

Khost, 21 June — Anti-government militants in the wee hours of Saturday dynamited a high school in east Afghanistan’s Khost Province, spokesman of educational department said on Saturday.

“The incident occurred in Musa Khil district at about 3 am local time (GMT2330). As a result, 20 classrooms in two separate buildings were completely destroyed,” Syed Musa Majroh told Xinhua.

He also added that over 1,200 students had been studying in this high school. No information about the school or report on casualties is available now. — Internet

Foreign soldiers among dozens killed in Afghanistan

Kabul, 21 June — Four foreign soldiers were killed and dozens of Afghans, mostly Taliban militants, have been killed in two days of violence across insurgency-hit Afghanistan, authorities said on Saturday. One soldier serving with the US-led coalition was killed in an attack in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday. — Internet

A wounded woman lies in the hospital after a suicide bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 20 June, 2009.—Internet

Men search for survivors buried in rubble after a truck bombing near Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq on 20 June, 2009.—Internet

Men grieve for their sister, killed in a truck bomb attack, at a hospital in Kirkuk, 290 kilometres (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, June 20, 2009. Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qader says Saturday’s explosion occurred following noon prayers south of the disputed city.—Internet

Tillah and her sister, Freshta, 5, were visiting their aunt’s house with their mother when a plane bombed a nearby building. They fled to a nearby home that they thought would be safe. Tillah said she heard the buzzing noise of a plane, but only remembered coming to when someone pulled her from the rubble the next morning. — Internet

Internet

US admission of error in death of 26 civilians

Kabul, 21 June — Afghanistan’s government welcomed on Saturday a US report accepting blame for a bombing run that killed dozens of villagers, saying it confirmed that international military forces were not doing enough to safeguard civilians. The investigation into a May battle against Taliban militants that killed at least 26 civilians was released on Friday in Washington. The report prepared by US Central Command recommends tighter controls to limit the civilian deaths that risk turning Afghans against the US war effort. — Internet

Internet

Rockets hit US base at Bagram, kill two US troops

Kabul, 21 June — A rare rocket attack on the main US base in Afghanistan on early Sunday killed two US troops and wounded six other Americans, including two civilians, officials said.

Bagram Air Base, which lies 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Kabul, is surrounded by high mountains and long stretches of desert from which militants could fire rockets. But such attacks, particularly lethal ones, are relatively rare.

Two US troops died and four Americans were wounded, including four military personnel and two civilians, said Lt Cdr Christine Sidenstricker, a US military spokeswoman. — Internet

KABUL, 21 June — A rare rocket attack on the main US base in Afghanistan on early Sunday killed two US troops and wounded six other Americans, including two civilians, officials said.

Bagram Air Base, which lies 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Kabul, is surrounded by high mountains and long stretches of desert from which militants could fire rockets. But such attacks, particularly lethal ones, are relatively rare.

Two US troops died and four Americans were wounded, including four military personnel and two civilians, said Lt Cdr Christine Sidenstricker, a US military spokeswoman.—Internet
Russia wants US assurances on missile defence

AMSTERDAM, 21 June—Russia is ready for deep cuts of strategic nuclear weapons in a new deal with the United States if the US eases Moscow’s concerns about plans for a missile defense system, President Dmitry Medvedev said on Saturday.

Medvedev lifted hopes for progress when President Barack Obama visits Moscow 6-9 July for talks focusing on replacing the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in December.

Launching the talks was part of Obama’s efforts to improve ties with Russia, which plunged to a post-Cold War low under the previous US administration.

US and Russian arms negotiators have met several times in the last two months to prepare for the Moscow summit, with much of the discussion revolving around the missile defense system the US had planned to install in Poland and the Czech Republic.—Internet

Airbus CEO eyes China one of most important markets

BEIJING, 21 June—Tomas Enders, president and CEO of Airbus “Let me say, very importantly, to develop the Airbus to the next stage, Airbus must be a purely European company. It’s already beyond that stage. We have partnerships and suppliers worldwide. But this is something of globalization and internationalization of Airbus which I’m absolutely convinced of, it’s necessary to be successful in the next forty years.

And we have no better example than China. We have no better example than the partnership with Chinese customers. We and our Chinese colleagues, and partners are particularly proud of. Because the first final assembly line outside the Europe, it was built up in the regular time, it’s working well. The first aircraft did flight the May and the next week we will delivery the first aircraft to the Sichuan Airlines.”

Meanwhile, Airbus’ 40-year commemorative flight display takes place, but the boom of the airplane affects our interview. Tomas Enders explained it in a humorous way.

Investors shun North Sea despite rebounding oil prices

ABERDEEN, 21 June—Despite a recent spike in oil prices, energy industry chiefs warn that infrastructure investment in the North Sea will not jump in tandem as market volatility is scaring away investors.

Bosss from the oil and gas sector gathered last week in the Scottish coastal city of Aberdeen for an industry conference that delivered little optimism regarding the outlook for North Sea development.

Oil & Gas UK, an organisation representing Britain’s offshore energy industry, hosted the Aberdeen gathering amid a sharp domestic downturn that has curbed business investment across the country.

“Businesses have already found 2009 a turbulent, tough year and the UK offshore oil and gas industry is no more immune to these pressures than the rest of the economy,” Oil & Gas UK said in a statement. Internet

Turkey condemns bomb attack in Iraq’s Kirkuk

ANKARA, 21 June—Turkey on Saturday strongly condemned a bomb attack near the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said Turkey expressed profound sorrow over the killing of a number of people in the bomb attack.

“Turkey attaches great importance to the efforts to ensure peace and stability in Iraq and to provide a peaceful atmosphere among different ethnic and religious groups in Kirkuk. We strongly condemn this heinous attack,” it said.

“We want to reiterate once again that Turkey is opposed to all kinds of terrorism and the Turkish people sympathize with Iraqi people who lost their beloved ones in the attack,” it said.

“We are ready to take in those who were injured in the attack for medical treatment. We are taking all kinds of measures including dispatch of an ambulance helicopter to Iraq,” it added.—Internet

Moderate quake shakes central California

PASO ROBLES, 21 June—A moderate earthquake has jolted part of central California’s San Luis Obispo County.

County Sgt Steve Himmelrich says several people called and reported alarms going off after the quake shook the area early Saturday.

But he said there were no reports of damage or injury.

The US Geological Survey said preliminary reports estimated the quake at magnitude 4.6.

The USGS said the quake was centered about 15 miles west of the city of Paso Robles.—Internet

Thousands remain without power following storms

CHICAGO, 21 June—Thousands of utility customers in the Midwest are without electricity following waves of thunderstorms.

In northern Illinois, ComEd spokesman Peter Pedrazza said 67,000 customers still had no power early Saturday as a result of the severe weather that struck on Friday.

Consumers Energy in Michigan said about 33,600 of its customers statewide had no power Saturday and Duke Energy in Indiana reported about 13,000 customers blacked out. Indianapolis Power and Light reported nearly 8,000 outages.

Iowa and Wisconsin also had scattered outages.

The storms produced torrential rain. The National Weather Service said parts of northern Illinois may have gotten up to 4 inches of rain on Friday and Racine, Wis., had a 24-hour total of nearly 7 inches.—Internet
Chinese president’s three-nation tour successful

ZAGREB, 21 June—Chinese President Hu Jintao’s just concluded three-nation tour is “very successful” in enhancing friendship, boosting cooperation and promoting common development with relevant countries, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said on Saturday.

During the tour from 14 June to 20 June, President Hu attended the ninth annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the first BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia, and paid state visits to Russia, Slovakia and Croatia.

Hu’s tour took place amid the complicated and changing international situation, while the global financial crisis continues to spread, regional security faces new challenges, and various countries share stronger will to deepen cooperation and promote development, Yang said.

The tour was a significant diplomatic move taken by China to develop relations with neighboring countries, major developing countries as well as Central and Eastern European countries, said Yang.

He said the tour has made successful achievements in four major areas.

Abbas, Assad call for Arab unity on Palestinian issue

DAMASCUS, 21 June—Syria President Bashar al-Assad and visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday called for Arab unity to confront Israel’s settlement policy, Syria’s official SANA news agency reported.

The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian territories and the Arab world, particularly following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech, SANA said.

The two presidents affirmed the need of uniting Arab stances to confront the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian lands and obstacles placed to hinder the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state. Abbas expressed appreciation of the Syrian stance that supports finding a permanent solution to the Palestinian cause, SANA said.

Two bodies of British hostages passed by Iraqi authorities to Britain

LONDON, 21 June—Britain’s Foreign Secretary David Miliband, said on Saturday that two bodies of British hostages had handed by Iraqi authorities to British officials.

In a statement, he said the British side had not yet confirmed about who they were. But British government’s thoughts were with the families of five British people taken hostage in Iraq in May 2007, he said.

“This is terrible news,” he said. “The threat to all those taken hostage in Iraq remains very high indeed.”

Three other captives still missing were in “grave danger,” he said. “The threat to all those taken hostage in Iraq remains very high indeed.”

The Britons, computer instructor Peter Moore and his four bodyguards, were seized by a Shi’ite militant group from inside an Iraqi Finance Ministry building in Baghdad in May 2007.

Environment friendly aircraft on display at Paris Air Show

PARIS, 21 June—As environmental initiatives and clean technologies are becoming popular, oil-saving aircraft and green-efficient equipment are also gaining more favor as evidenced at the 48th Paris Air Show at Le Bourget. Airline companies, in the face of unstable oil prices and global depression, are placing more hope in green growth of the industry.

The limited but most efficient way to save oil during air flights may be to build new engines and use lighter materials.

That is why International Aero Engines (IAE) chief executive and president Jon Beatty could not help but be proud when introducing the company’s new advanced engine.

“The V2500 engine we supplied to Airbus has the lowest oil consumption, and this is to our advantage,” he said.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

India ready to look into border dispute with Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 June—Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Shiv Shanker Menon has said that New Delhi will look into the encroachment of the Nepali territory from the Indian side, the Kathmandu Post reported on Sunday.

Talking to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal at the prime minister’s official residence in Baluwatar Kathmandu Saturday afternoon, Menon assured the former that the Indian government will take action against the ones found guilty of breaching the Nepal-India border.

The duo agreed upon containing the encroachment of territories by developing a strong mechanism, informed Prime Minister’s foreign affairs advisor Rajan Bhattarai.

It has been learnt that the Indian side discussed signing a newly prepared border map in an authority level with PM Nepal.

A teacher views pictures painted by children at the 2nd Kindergarten of Caixiang Yicun for the forthcoming Father’s Day in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 19 June, 2009. —Xinhua

Construction work on Wall Street in front of the New York Stock Exchange. A jittery bond market and economic “green shoots” notwithstanding, the Federal Reserve is likely to reaffirm a commitment to keep pumping money into the economy to battle recession, analysts say.—Xinhua

Syria President Bashar al-Assad (R) meets with visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Syria’s capital Damascus, on 20 June, 2009.—Xinhua

China’s capital Damascus, on 20 June, 2009. —Xinhua
Five Taliban militants killed, Nine wounded in E Afghanistan
Khōst, 21 June — A clash between the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Taliban militants left five rebels dead and nine more injured in the outskirts of Khōst City, the capital of eastern Afghan province Khōst. Khōst Governor Hamidullah Qalanderzai said Saturday.

“The clash erupted this morning at 8 am local time (0330 GMT), as some 35 to 40 rebels attacked a convoy of ANA in Ismail Khil District, some eight kilometers east of the city, resulting in five rebels were killed and nine more sustained injuries,” the governor told a press briefing hours after incident.

Qalanderzai also said that one civilian was killed and four others were wounded in the firefight, adding that there were no casualties on ANA.

Two fighters, according to the governor, were arrested by ANA.

Taleban officials, who are active in southern and eastern provinces, have yet to make comments.—Internet

China to excavate cabins on 800-year-old recovered merchant wreck
Guangzhou, 21 June — Chinese archaeologists have won permission to start an “excavation” into the cabins of the 800-year-old shipwrecked merchant vessel Nanhai No1, the local government said on Sunday.

The municipal government of Yangjiang, Guangdong Province, where the Nanhai No1 boat has been preserved since it was hoisted from a depth of 30 metres below the South China Sea at the end of 2007, won permission from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage in May for the “excavation”, Feng Shaowen, director with the municipal publicity bureau, told Xinhua.

The 30-metre-long vessel ship has been soaked in a sealed pool in the “Crystal Palace” at the Marine Silk Road Museum in Yangjiang. The glass pool—64 metres long, 40 metres wide, 23 metres high and about 12 metres in depth—was filled with sea water, sand, and silt to replicate the water temperature, pressure and other environmental conditions of the seabed where the vessel had lain for centuries.—Internet

World’s oldest man dies at 113
Tomoji Tanabe, the world’s oldest man, died in his sleep at his home in southern Japan, a city official said. He was 113.

“He died peacefully. His family members were with him,” said Junko Nakao, a city official in Miyakonojo on Japan’s southern island of Kyushu. Tanabe died of heart failure, she said.

Tanabe, who was born 18 September, 1895, had eight children—five sons and three daughters. The former city land surveyor also had 25 great-grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren, according to a statement from the Miyakonojo City. He was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s oldest man when he was 111 years old.

New York Times reporter escapes Taleban captivity
Kabul, 21 June — A New York Times reporter known for making investigative trips deep inside dangerous conflict zones escaped from militant captors after more than seven months in captivity in Afghanistan and Pakistan by jumping over a wall, the newspaper said Saturday.

David S Rohde, 41, was abducted 10 November along with an Afghan reporter colleague and a driver south of the Afghan capital, Kabul. He had been traveling through Logan Province to interview a Taleban commander, but was apparently intercepted and taken by other militants on the way. The Times reported that Rohde and Afghan reporter Tahir Ludin, 35, on Friday climbed over the wall of a compound where they were held captive in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan. The two then found a Pakistani army scout, who led them to a nearby base, the Times said. On Saturday, the two were flown to the US military base in Bagram, Afghanistan, the Times reported.—Internet

Most older adults don’t get eight hours sleep
A US study indicates 55 percent of adults reported sleeping on average for seven hours or less per night over the past month, researchers said.

Lead author Karen Rose of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville said less than half of older Americans get the recommended eight hours of nightly sleep. The study involved data from 1,570 men and women age 60 or older, who had completed telephone or in-home surveys.

Older adults who were more educated, had higher household incomes, were black, reported more depressive symptoms, were more active, complained of difficulties maintaining sleep, and complained of “leg jerks” at night were the most likely to report more difficulty performing everyday functions as related to feeling sleepy or tired, Rose said.

Man hammers 6-cm nail into head and survives
A middle-aged man miraculously survived a suicide attempt in which he hammered a 6-cm-long nail into his head. Gao who has been sick for 15 years, had his left leg cut off by surgery, due to his medical problem. After he used the nail to kill himself, his brother rushed him to a hospital and doctors removed the nail.

In this file photo, Tomoji Tanabe, the world’s oldest man, is congratulated on his 113th birthday at his home in Miyakonojo on Japan’s southwestern island of Kyushu. Tanabe died of heart failure, a Miyakonojo official said.

At least 16 die in China factory blast
Beijing, 21 June — At least 16 people have died and 43 have been injured in a factory explosion in eastern China’s Anhui Province, a police source and state media have said.

The explosion occurred at 03:17 am (1917 GMT) in the workshops of a privately owned factory that produces and processes quartz sand in the district of Fengyang, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing local authorities.

“At the moment we have 16 dead confirmed,” a local policeman, who declined to give his name, told AFP.

“It happened in a mining area. We don’t know what caused the blast.”

Most of those killed were factory workers, Xinhua said.

Most older adults don’t get eight hours sleep
A US study indicates 55 percent of adults reported sleeping on average for seven hours or less per night over the past month, researchers said.

Lead author Karen Rose of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville said less than half of older Americans get the recommended eight hours of nightly sleep. The study involved data from 1,570 men and women age 60 or older, who had completed telephone or in-home surveys.

Older adults who were more educated, had higher household incomes, were black, reported more depressive symptoms, were more active, complained of difficulties maintaining sleep, and complained of “leg jerks” at night were the most likely to report more difficulty performing everyday functions as related to feeling sleepy or tired, Rose said.

At least 16 die in China factory blast
Beijing, 21 June — At least 16 people have died and 43 have been injured in a factory explosion in eastern China’s Anhui Province, a police source and state media have said.

The explosion occurred at 03:17 am (1917 GMT) in the workshops of a privately owned factory that produces and processes quartz sand in the district of Fengyang, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing local authorities.

“At the moment we have 16 dead confirmed,” a local policeman, who declined to give his name, told AFP.

“It happened in a mining area. We don’t know what caused the blast.”

Most of those killed were factory workers, Xinhua said.

World’s oldest man dies at 113
Tomomi Tanabe, the world’s oldest man, died in his sleep at his home in southern Japan, a city official said. He was 113.

“He died peacefully. His family members were with him,” said Junko Nakao, a city official in Miyakonojo on Japan’s southern island of Kyushu. Tanabe died of heart failure, she said.

Tanabe, who was born 18 September, 1895, had eight children—five sons and three daughters. The former city land surveyor also had 25 great-grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren, according to a statement from the Miyakonojo City. He was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s oldest man when he was 111 years old.

Man hammers 6-cm nail into head and survives
A middle-aged man miraculously survived a suicide attempt in which he hammered a 6-cm-long nail into his head. Gao who has been sick for 15 years, had his left leg cut off by surgery, due to his medical problem. After he used the nail to kill himself, his brother rushed him to a hospital and doctors removed the nail.

In this file photo, Tomomi Tanabe, the world’s oldest man, is congratulated on his 113th birthday at his home in Miyakonojo on Japan’s southwestern island of Kyushu. Tanabe died of heart failure, a Miyakonojo official said.

At least 16 die in China factory blast
Beijing, 21 June — At least 16 people have died and 43 have been injured in a factory explosion in eastern China’s Anhui Province, a police source and state media have said.

The explosion occurred at 03:17 am (1917 GMT) in the workshops of a privately owned factory that produces and processes quartz sand in the district of Fengyang, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing local authorities.

“At the moment we have 16 dead confirmed,” a local policeman, who declined to give his name, told AFP.

“It happened in a mining area. We don’t know what caused the blast.”

Most of those killed were factory workers, Xinhua said.
Information Minister meets local people of Saw Tsp in Gangaw District

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with the local people in Thigots Village, Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division, on 17 June afternoon and coordinated regional development tasks. Present were district and township level departmental staff, members of social organization and 2,300 local people from 13 villages including Thigots Village. The local people reported on regional development work and requirements. The minister fulfilled the needs and made a speech. Next, he made cash donations for construction of Thigots Village library, repairs of Kyakhat Village middle school building and repairs of Taungbokgyi Village primary school and rural clinic and purchase of a TV for the village library. The minister also donated exercise books for students and clothing for the local people. Responsible persons accepted the donations.

Later, the minister cordially greeted those present.

Collective tree planting ceremony for 3rd week of Ministry of Information held

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June — A rainy season tree growing ceremony 2009 for the third week of the Ministry of Information was held at the office of the Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw daily of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw Printing house of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon this morning. Staff actively participated in collective tree plantation.

At the rainy season tree planting ceremony 2009, a total of 300 kinds of trees were grown at the Information Minister’s office, 500 trees at the Myanmar Radio and Television, 350 trees at Nay Pyi Taw newspaper daily, 300 trees at Nay Pyi Taw Printing house, totaling 1,450 trees were grown in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. — MNA

Web Essentials course for creation of websites

YANGON, 21 June — Nowadays, the communication technology is developing with momentum. Internet is essential for economic, social, health and education sectors. The information websites on economic, social, health and education sectors are posted into the Internet. In the Myanmar Info-Tech, Myanmar WWW Institute is conducting the Web Essentials training courses on introduction to Internet & WWW, CSS, JavaScript and rules on creation of Websites. The Web Essentials include Webdesign, Web page, Dreamweaver, animation, Adobe Photoshop, Image Ready & Flash, e-Marketing, XML for Data Interchange and TCP/IP for computer networking. Assignments and projects will be given to the trainees for gaining experiences to be applied in their practical works. The computer enthusiasts may attend the course.

For further information, contact Room 4 of Hostel 5 at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, Tel: 652288 and 512215.

Talk on Noni (Morinda angustifolia) given

YANGON, 21 June — A talk on “the era of Noni (Morinda angustifolia) has come” was held at the IHBC yesterday afternoon.

After the talk had been opened, author U Myint Thura presented writer Maung Su Shin’s opinion and final advice on “the importance of Noni and healthy life of humans”. Chairman of Myanmar Noni Family Club Dr Thet Swe (Shae Saung Tin Swe) talked about the emergence of Myanmar Noni Family Club. Daw Mi Mi Mya talked about her past experiences and the future of Noni. U Tin Win (Shwe Naga Tin Win) recounted his experience of growing Noni trees. Then those present took part in the discussions and the talk concluded. — NLM

Staff of Nay Pyi Taw Printing Press of PPE growing saplings at rainy season tree planting ceremony 2009 for third week.

MNA
China and Myanmar have been good neighbourly...

(continued from page 1) added. The relationship between the two countries is based on Paukphaw relations, China and Myanmar have been good neighbourly nations for many years based on mutual understanding, respect and friendship. This is the third time he had arrived in China and the aim of the visit is to scale up friendly ties and economic cooperation between the two nations, said Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Then, he talked about China's assistance to the development of Myanmar's economy, promotion of bilateral trade cooperation, multilateral economic cooperation, regional cooperation and bilateral cooperation in the international community. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye invited the Chinese Premier to visit Myanmar at a convenient time.

The Chinese Premier said diplomatic relations between the two countries will turn 60 and during the past 60 years, mutual friendship and cooperation have been cemented. Besides, all the difficulties facing the two countries could have been overcome.

The leaders of both countries have tried their best to further strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two nations. The success has been achieved because China always considers the relations with Myanmar important under the China's foreign policy.

The Premier went on to say that China is cooperating with Myanmar for her economic development. After the 2008 cyclone Nargis, China rendered assistance to Myanmar. Moreover, the relations between the two nations have been firm and improved based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence.

The Premier added in the international community, China would protect the fair interests of Myanmar. The bilateral cooperation includes economic and other sectors and they are making progress forever. In rendering assistance to the development of Myanmar's economy, China will do so in accord with the non-strings-attached policy. Emphasis will be placed on promotion of the friendship and cooperation between the two nations. He thanked Vice-Senior General Maung Aye for inviting him to Myanmar. He then said he conveyed his greetings to Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and the Prime Minister through Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. Then the meeting ended. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San meet staff of Myanmar Embassy in Beijing

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June—A Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San at 11.30 pm on 17 June arrived at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing of the People's Republic of China where they were welcomed by embassy staff and families.

The ambassador and wife, the military attaché and wife and families paid reverence to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San according to Myanmar traditions and custom.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented gifts for embassy staff through Ambassador U Thein Lwin and Military Attaché Col Tint Wai. After that, Daw Mya Mya San presented souvenirs to children of the embassy staff.

Next, Secretary-1 General Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo met the embassy staff and Myanmar scholars of the respective ministries studying in PRC and made a speech. He said that the Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye was in PRC with the aim of further cementing friendship and economic cooperation between the two countries, adding that the relation between the two countries is in better shape. He continued that the government and the peoples of the two countries have been living together for years in accord with the five principles of Peaceful Co-existence, and they are dealing with one another on the basis of fraternal spirits.

He said that based on the already-fostered friendly ties, the PRC is not only providing Myanmar with aid for economic development but also is standing by her in the international arena in her interest.

Moreover, the two countries are in the process of cooperating in hydel electric power, energy, mining, communications, trade and industrial sectors, he said and stressed the need for the embassy staff to constantly focus on further strengthening friendship and serving the interests of the two countries.

 Afterwards, the Secretary-1 clarified the political, economic and social development of Myanmar and stressed the importance to abide by the rules and laws of the host country to observe the diplomatic codes of conduct, to keep in touch with their own citizens including scholars and businessmen in PRC and provide assistance to them and to be on friendly terms with one another.

Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted scholars and the embassy staff. Afterwards, the Myanmar ambassador and wife hosted a luncheon to members of the Myanmar delegation in their honour. —MNA

Secretary-1 General Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address in meeting with embassy staff and scholars in Beijing.—MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye is the visit of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San tour Fa Men Si Temple in Xi’an City of Shaanxi Province.—MNA

Myanmar delegation led by …

(from page 16)
At 5 pm, they visited Qin Shi Huang Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum in Xi’an. Officials conducted them round the museum.

Xi’an City in Shaanxi Province is famous in the world for ancient earth soldier statues. The earth soldier statues were made for guarding the tomb of King Qin Shi Huang who passed away in BC 210. There are three pits on 2,000 square metres land and these pits are yet to be unearthed up to now. It is estimated that there are about 8,000 soldier statues, archer statues, officers and soldier statues, 130 coaches and 250 horses. The statues were found in 1974 and conservation of heritage is being undertaken.

At 10.20 am on 18 June, the Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San went to Fa Men Si Temple, 140 kilometres from Xi’an. They were welcomed by Governor of Shaanxi Province calls…

Governor of Shaanxi Province calls…

(from page 16)

native of Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping, he added. He continued to say that it will be the 60th anniversary of establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries in the coming year. He noted that before the 60th anniversary celebration, the visit of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye is very important for PRC.

He noted that the friendly relationship between China and Myanmar is deep rooted. Three-time visits of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye are promoting the bilateral ties of the two countries, he added. Shaanxi Province is located in central western area of the People’s Republic of China and it is home to over 38 million people, he added. He said that Shaanxi Province has famous historical events on dynasties of 13 Ming kings, Qing dynasty, Han dynasty and Tang dynasty. He disclosed that the province is achieving progress in education and science and technology sectors.

The governor said that the airplane factories are operating in the province and aerospace machinery are also being manufactured. He asserted that Shaanxi Province is developing at the third position after Beijing and Shanghai in the science and technology sector. Various sizes of vehicles, large gear boxes and over 50-ton vehicles are being manufactured, he added.

In the province, he explained that oil, natural gas, coal and other minerals are produced. He said that the companies in the province are undertaking the joint-venture oil and mineral exploration tasks with other countries.

In conclusion, the governor said that a 10-year plan was laid down and is being implemented for development of the western regions of PRC and Shaanxi Province wants to cooperate with Myanmar in education, science and technology, industrial and culture sectors.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that it is his first visit to Shaanxi Province. He said that he would like to express thanks for warm welcome of authorities of the province to the Myanmar delegation. After meeting with the PRC Vice-President, he has known that Shaanxi Province is the native of the Vice-President of PRC. He said that he is pleased with the visit to the native of the Vice-President of the PRC.

He disclosed the purpose of his visit to the PRC was that he would like to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries and enhance the economic cooperation. He said that he had visited the PRC for three times. As a neighbouring friend, he said that he was pleased with more and more development of China during the visits. He noted that both Myanmar and China are sharing over 1300 miles long border and the countries established friendly relations since time immemorial. He pointed out that late Chinese Premier Mr Chu En Lai visited Myanmar for several times and enjoyed the Myanmar Thingyan Festival as the Paukphaw relationship by wearing Myanmar national costume. He added that leaders of the two countries exchanged visits and strengthen the bilateral relations.

He said that he expects to cooperate in the economic sector by cordially holding discussions between the entrepreneurs of two countries on prospects of economic cooperation. In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye invited the governor of Shaanxi Province to visit Myanmar at an opportune time.

Later, the governor of Shaanxi Province hosted a dinner in honour of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and Myanmar delegation members.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Chairman of Provincial People’s Congress of Zhejiang Province

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 June—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Chairman of Provincial People’s Congress of Zhejiang Province Mr Zhao Hongzhu at Qiantang Conference Hall of Zhejiang Xizi Hotel in Hangzhou at 6 pm on 18 June.

Also present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Li Gen Tin Aye, Li-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, ministers and senior officials.

Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Chairman of Provincial People’s Congress of Zhejiang Province Mr Zhao Hongzhu was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo. Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People’s Congress of Zhejiang Province Mr Wu Guohua, the Vice-Governor of the Province and senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee said that on behalf of the Zhejiang Province Government and the people, he warmly welcome Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party. He said that he is pleased with the goodwill visit of Myanmar delegation to Zhejiang Province among 31 provinces of the People’s Republic of China. He said that he would like to explain the progress of the province. Zhejiang Province is located in southeast region of the PRC, and over 51 million people are residing in the province, he added. The province is famous for agriculture, silk wares, culture and tourism industries, he said. In the past, he continued, the development of province stood at the middle level in the PRC and it now stands at the higher level.

He explained that the private industries of the province are gaining development, and over 20 companies from the province are included in the list of 50 well-known economically strong companies of the world. The province mainly produces silk wares, electronic products, foodstuffs, chemical and steel wares from the respective factories, he added. At present, he asserted that eight companies of the province are working in Myanmar, and four companies of Myanmar are also doing their businesses in the province. The province has potentials to cooperate with Myanmar in agriculture, electrical and industrial sectors, he concluded.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said before the visit, he learned that Zhejiang Province is gaining development momentum and it is a beautiful and pleasant province. On arrival at the provincial capital Hangzhou and surrounding areas of the province, he added, he was able to guess the development and beauty of the province. He said that the purpose of his visit was to promote bilateral ties and economic cooperation between the two countries up to next generations and that the goodwill delegation comprises the ministers and private entrepreneurs, and discussions.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets with Mr Zhao Hongzhu at Qiantang Conference Hall in Zhejiang Xizi Hotel in Hangzhou.—MNA

The Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee hosted a dinner in honour of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and goodwill delegation members.

Nagapauk sluice gate in Waw Township commissioned

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 June—A ceremony to open Nagapauk sluice gate in Waw Township, Bago Division constructed by No. 6 construction unit of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at the pavilion near the sluice gate yesterday morning, with addresses by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Command of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Brig Gen Hla Min, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo, departmental officials, members of social organizations, farmers and local people.

A farmer spoke words of thanks for construction of the sluice gate.

The Commander and the Minister greeted local people who attended the ceremony.

The Commander pressed the button to open the stone inscription and sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the Commander and the Minister formally opened the sluice gate and posed for a documentary photo.

At the briefing hall of the project site, the director of Irrigation Department reported on construction of the sluice gate and its benefits, and the director-general gave a supplementary report. The commander and the minister left necessary instructions.

Nagapauk sluice gate is located at the confluence of Nagapauk Creek and Khamon Myitkyo Creek, three miles east from DaikU-Nyaung-khashe Road. It will prevent 15,000 acres of farmlands in Waw Township from flooding. The sluice gate will also prevent inflow of water from Sittoung River and drain out water from the farmlands. In summer, it will supply fresh water from Sittoung River to the farmlands and prevent inflow of seawater.

Nagapauk sluice gate in Waw Township in Bago Division.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Secretary of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Chairman of Provincial People’s Congress of Zhejiang Province
Scientists use high-pressure ‘Alchemy’ to create nonexpanding metals

Science Daily, 21 June—By squeezing a typical metal alloy at pressures hundreds of thousands of times greater than normal atmospheric pressure, scientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have created a material that does not expand when heated, as does nearly every normal metal, and acts like a metal with an entirely different chemical composition.

The discovery, described in a paper in Physical Review Letters (PRL), offers insight into the exotic behavior of materials existing at high pressures—which represent some 90 percent of the matter in our solar system.

Zero-expanding metal alloys were discovered in 1896 by Swiss physicist Charles Édouard Guillaume, who worked at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. While attempting to develop an inexpensive international standard for the meter, the metric unit of length, Guillaume hit upon an iron-nickel alloy that expands very little when heated. He dubbed the material an “Invar” alloy—because the metals are “invariant” when heated, such that the length of a piece of Invar metal does not change as its temperature is increased, as do normal metals.

Since Guillaume’s discovery—which, in 1920, earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics.—Internet

Biofuel could lighten jet fuel’s carbon footprint over 80 percent

Science Daily, 21 June—The seeds of a lowly weed could cut jet fuel’s cradle-to-grave carbon emissions by 84 percent.

David Shonnard, Robbins Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, analyzed the carbon dioxide emissions of jet fuel made from camelina oil over the course of its life cycle, from planting to tailpipe.

Camelina sativa originated in Europe and is a member of the mustard family, along with broccoli, cabbage and canola. Sometimes called false flax or gold-of-pleasure, it thrives in the semi-arid conditions of the Northern Plains; the camelina used in the study was grown in Montana.

Oil from camelina can be converted to a hydrocarbon green jet fuel that meets or exceeds all petroleum jet fuel specifications.

The fuel is a “drop-in” replacement that is compatible with the existing fuel infrastructure, from storage and transportation to aircraft fleet technology. Oil from camelina can be converted to a hydrocarbon green jet fuel.

Advance in solving mysterious machine-workers’ disease

Science Daily, 21 June—Scientists in Ohio are reporting a long-awaited advance toward making the workplace safer for more than one million machinists in the United States who may be exposed to disease-causing bacteria in contaminated metalworking fluids. Those fluids become airborne during machining of metal parts.

The planet has undergone cyclic ice ages for millions of years, but by about 850,000 years ago, the cycles of ice grew longer and more intense—a shift that some scientists have attributed to falling CO2 levels. But the study found that CO2 was flat during this transition and unlikely to have triggered the change.

In the study, Bärbel Hönisch, a geochemist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and her colleagues reconstructed CO2 levels by analyzing the shells of single-celled plankton buried under the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Africa. By dating the shells and measuring their ratio of boron isotopes, they were able to estimate how much CO2 was in the air when the plankton were alive. This method allowed them to see further back than the precision records preserved in cores of polar ice, which go back only 800,000 years.

In the report, Jagjit S Yadav and colleagues note that a bacterium called Mycobacterium immunogenum (M. immunogenum) was first identified in 2000 as the potential cause of a mysterious disease that had been occurring among machinists. The illness, called hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), is an inflammation of the lung resulting from the body’s immune reaction to bacteria, mold, and other airborne particles.—Internet

In the report, Jagjit S Yadav and colleagues note that a bacterium called Mycobacterium immunogenum (M. immunogenum) was first identified in 2000 as the potential cause of a mysterious disease that had been occurring among machinists. The illness, called hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), is an inflammation of the lung resulting from the body’s immune reaction to bacteria, mold, and other airborne particles.—Internet
**“Safe Sleeping Day” for babies launched in Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles, 21 June**—Health authorities launched a “Safe Sleeping Day” in Los Angeles on Friday in a bid to promote the practice of safe sleeping. Safe sleeping means placing babies in a crib instead of in their bed, child safety advocates said. Recent surveys show that 77 percent of parents in Los Angeles County co-sleep with their infants, said Cynthia Harding, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department’s Director for Maternal Child and Adolescent Health.

Deanne Tilton Durfee, executive director of ICAN, said parents of newborns should be required to have cribs or side-sleepers before their babies can be released from hospitals, just as they must have special car seats for babies.

Durfee refuted suggestions that babies are meant to be with their parents, and that sleeping together fosters bonding and encourages breastfeeding.

It’s not worth the risk, Durfee said, adding that “We’re talking about tiny helpless babies who can’t walk or talk or call 911. Why should we lift their heads out from under a pillow, a blanket, or you.”

Dr Carol Berkowitz, former president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, suggested that parents who cannot afford a crib use a laundry basket instead.

She offered the following safe sleeping tips for infants:

— place babies on their backs for sleeping;
— keep a baby’s sleep area close to, but separate from, where others sleep;
— place babies on a firm sleep surface; and
— keep soft objects, like toys and loose bedding away from a baby’s sleep area.

City Councilman Richard Alarcon, who has a 16-month-old daughter, called co-sleeping “a very, very dangerous thing to do.”

“As the father of an infant, I am well aware of the desire to be close to your child, to protect them and shield them from danger,” Alarcon said. “But sometimes, what we think is protecting them is actually putting them in harm’s way. Sleeping in the same bed as an infant can be fatal.”

**—INTERNET**

### East China braces for strong tropical storm Linfa

**Fuzhou, 21 June**—As Linfa, the third tropical storm this year which has upgraded to strong tropical storm Saturday noon, people in east China are bracing for it.

The voyage route between Xiamen of Fujian and Jimmen of Taiwan was closed temporarily while 1,185 cargo ships suspended their service and sought shelter, according to the provincial maritime affairs bureau.—**INTERNET**

### Marijuana causes cancer: California regulators

**Beijing, 21 June**—California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has put Marijuana smoke on a list of substances that causes cancer. The Friday ruling by the agency will force the states’ medicinal marijuana dispensaries with ten or more employees to post warnings. The listing only applies to the marijuana smoke and not the plant itself.

The agency found the marijuana to have 33 of the same harmful chemicals that are found in tobacco smoke, warranting its inclusion on the Proposition 65 warning list. The law requires the state to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity, and businesses and government agencies must post warnings when they use such chemicals or sell products containing them.—**INTERNET**

### The Magic Aster starts animation battle of the summer

**Beijing, 21 June**—A premiere for the upcoming Chinese cartoon animation movie, “The Magic Aster” in Shanghai on Friday marked the beginning of this summer’s round of box office battles for animation movies from home and abroad.

The ceremony brought in a star-studded line-up from the voice acting credits including Taiwan supermodel-actress Lin Chiling, Hong Kong actor-singer Leon Lai, as well as pop stars Kenji Wu and Valen Hsu. Most of the voice actors were able to make the ceremony, but NBA star Yao Ming, who also lent his voice to the animation, was only able to send his good wishes over the big screen.

Closely following “The Magic Aster”, the Doraemon series “ Nobita and the Green Giant Legend”, which reportedly topped box office rankings on its opening day in Japan, will hit screens across China starting 9 June.—**INTERNET**

### Dozens of British lawmakers overclaim for council tax

**London, 21 June**—More than 50 British lawmakers have overclaimed for council tax in the past four years, adding more scandal to a series of over-claiming for parliamentary expense claims that have severely shaken the credibility of British politicians, the Daily Telegraph revealed on Saturday.

The overclaim, amounting to thousands of pounds in some cases, are on the lawmakers’ designated second home during the past four years. In total, more than 50 lawmakers are thought to have profited from the dubious claims. Eighteen of them have privately repaid over-claimed council tax to the Commons fees office, said the newspaper.—**INTERNET**
Moon orbiter faces many risks

PHOENIX, 21 June—Despite its successful launch, NASA’s unmanned moon mission still faces heat damage, instrument glitches and calculation mistakes, a US scientist said.

“There’s always that little bit of tension until you get the first data back on the ground,” said Mark Robinson, an Arizona State University scientist overseeing the orbiter’s three cameras.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter launched on Thursday for a four-day journey to the moon. If all goes as planned, the spacecraft will enter the moon’s orbit on Tuesday.

If all the orbiter’s seven science instruments could still malfunction even if everything else works correctly, forcing scientists to troubleshoot the problem from millions of miles away.

“There’s a lot of risk,” Robinson said.

Apple CEO received liver transplant

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 June—Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs underwent a liver transplant operation about two months ago and is expected to return to work by the end of June, The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Jobs, a pancreatic cancer survivor seen as the driving force behind development of the iPod, iPhone and other category-defining products from Apple’s famed innovation machine, went on medical leave in January for an undisclosed condition.

A spokesman for Apple Inc. would not confirm the Journal report but said, “Steve continues to look forward to returning to Apple at the end of June and there is nothing further to say”. While investors may react negatively to the news on Monday, when stock markets re-open, analysts say Wall Street is broadly prepared for Jobs’ shift to a role that sees him focusing on big pictures and products at Apple.

Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook has been managing the company on a day-to-day basis in Jobs’ absence, and is expected to continue to do so if Jobs does not return to the role full-time, analysts say.

MNA/Reuters

Fiji reports first confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1

SUVA, 21 June—The Pacific island nation of Fiji has recorded its first case of influenza A/H1N1, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

A 36-year-old male Fijian resident, who recently returned home from Australia, showed symptoms of cough and fever.

He was tested and it was confirmed on Saturday that he tested positive of A/H1N1 virus, said Health Ministry officials.

“The man is currently under isolation at his home where our medical team is treating him,” the Fijijive website on Sunday quoted Ministry of Health public relations officer Iliesa Tora as saying.

Tora said the health ministry was working closely with UNICEF and the World Health Organization to manage the spread of H1N1 in the country and there were enough resources, including medications, to treat those infected.

All those who came in close contact with the man have also been tested for the virus.

The man is being treated with Tamiflu. A public health team is closely monitoring the man and his family who are being quarantined at their home.

MNA/Xinhua

All villages in Indonesia to have internet access by 2010

JAKARTA, 21 June—The Indonesian Government has targeted that all 72,000 villages in the country will have internet access by the end of 2010.

State Minister of Information Muhammad Nuh said on Saturday that “we have targeted that the ‘Internet Goes to Village’ programme will be completed in 2010, so that we can move to our next programme, i.e. creating ‘Clever Villages’.” Antara news agency quoted M Nuh as saying in Brebes, Central Java.

He explained that by the end of this year, a total of 32,000 villages, mostly in the western part of the country, would have been connected with the Internet.

He said the government has allocated 1.4 trillion rupiah (140 million US dollars) to finance the project for this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico detains 60,000 drug traffickers in 31 months

MEXICO CITY, 21 June—More than 60,000 suspects have been detained since Mexican President Felipe Calderon launched operations against drug trafficking and organized crimes in December 2006, according to authorities.

General Operative Director of the Attorney General’s office Octavio Campos said recently that ministries of National Defence, Public Security and the Navy have been involved in these operations. So far the number of people killed in drug trafficking-related clashes reached 11,000.

The first five months of this year witnessed more than 3,000 deaths.

Meanwhile, Mexican authorities have seized more than 1,472 tons of marijuana, four tons of poppy seeds, 1,195 tons of cocaine, 374 tons of heroin and 3.7 million pieces of narcotic pills.

The Mexican Army seized 11,215 vehicles, 382 ships, 30,000 weapons (53 per cent with high power), five million cartridges of different calibres as well as cash worth 78 million US dollars.

The authorities has also dismantled 98 laboratories and several hundred of other locations used by the criminals. The war against drug trafficking and organized crime demanded the deployment of 40,000 soldiers and policemen with more efficient training, better equipment and intelligence works.

MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**Iraq crash out as New Zealand make their point**

New Zealand’s goalkeeper Glen Moss, left, makes a save as Iraq’s Younis Mahmoud, center, and his teammate Salih Sadir, challenge him, during their Confederations Cup Group A soccer match at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 20 June, 2009.—INTERNET

for a place in the last four but crashed out of this World Cup warm-up without scoring a single goal. After an opening goalless draw with South Africa and a valiant 1-0 loss to Spain, Iraq went into the game in contention for the Group A runners-up spot. 

**Spain beat South Africa for new world record**

BLOEMFONTEIN, 21 June—David Villa and Fernando Llorente scored the goals that gave Spain a 2-0 win over South Africa on Saturday for a world record 15th straight victory.

Valencia’s Villa broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute and substitute Llorente sealed the game with 18 minutes left to ensure the European champions finished top of their group at the Confederations Cup. It means they play the runner-up in Group B, likely Italy or Egypt, in the semi-finals next on Wednesday. 

**Ronaldo says made up mind on Real transfer last year**

LONDON, 21 June—Cristiano Ronaldo says he made up his mind last year to quit Manchester United for Real Madrid, whom he has agreed to join for a world record 93 million euros, the News of the World reports in Sunday’s edition.

Madrid courted Ronaldo all through last summer but the 24-year-old decided to stay and try to help United defend their 2008 Champions League title, featuring in their final loss in May to Barcelona. Although United retained their English Premier League title, Ronaldo told the paper he decided to leave after the May 2007 final win over Chelsea.

“After we won the European Cup, I thought there is no more I can achieve here,” said the Portuguese. “And when you have done all you can, you know it is time for a new challenge. I stayed one more season and it was nice to make it three titles in a row but it was my dream to play for Madrid.”

**Italy match special for Kaka**

PRETORIA, 21 June—Brazil’s glamour clash against Italy at the Confederations Cup here will be extra special for new Real Madrid signing Kaka, who recently was an AC Milan player. The 27-year-old, who signed a six-year contract with the Spanish giants for a reported fee of 65 million euros, earlier this month, is relishing the opportunity of facing Marcello Lippi’s men.

“They lost the last match and won’t want to lose again,” he told reporters. “We will play for first place in the group and it won’t be easy. For me it will be a particularly special match, because of everything that Italy meant for me.”

**Venus is simply the best says sister Serena**

SINGAPORE, 21 June—Serena Williams has saluted her sister Venus Williams as the best grass-court player of her generation as the Americans prepare to continue their dominance at Wimbledon.

Between them the Williams sisters have won seven of the last nine singles titles at the All-England Club, but it is Venus, with five victories compared to Serena’s two, who has reigned supreme on the lush lawns of south-west London.

**Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle**

| MILLER | TARRY | OELSEUA |
| DRIVETERWALER | ESVEREK | SAVSEGERIOTR |
| TRSTRAWL | VETRAWY | SHOCKRIPDVERUE |
| ROPIRU | NSUEDEA | KNEADORDER |

A health screening officer stands behind a thermal scanner at Changi International Airport in Singapore. The city state has quarantined 19 members of a Philippine youth football team after one player tested positive for swine flu ahead of a regional sports competition, officials have said.—INTERNET

**Man Utd confirm Tevez to leave Old Trafford**

LONDON, 21 June—Argentinian forward Carlos Tevez will leave English Premier League champions Manchester United, the club confirmed on Saturday.

Tevez’s two-year loan deal was set to expire this month because United have been unable to agree a transfer fee with the group of investors who own the economic rights to the Argentine forward. United offered Tevez a new five-year deal that would have made him one of the highest-paid players at Old Trafford, but said he turned it down.

**N Korean players given heroes’ welcome**

SEOUL, 21 June—North Korea’s footballers received a heroes’ welcome after last week qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 1966, according to state media. The North’s squad returned home on Saturday, greeted by government officials at the airport and crowds of people on their way to a banquet in Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

“Sportspersons congratulated players and coaches on their success, putting garlands around their necks (KCNA)

They lost the last match and won’t want to lose again,” he told reporters. “We will play for first place in the group and it won’t be easy. For me it will be a particularly special match, because of everything that Italy meant for me.”—INTERNET

**Philippine footballers quarantined in Singapore**

SINGAPORE, 21 June—Singapore has quarantined 19 members of a Philippine youth football team after one player tested positive for swine flu ahead of a regional sports competition, officials have said. The 17 players and two coaches were brought to a beach resort set up to isolate foreigners for seven days, Alvin Hang, spokesman for the games’ organising committee, told AFP. He said a team doctor accompanying the Filipinos was also under quarantine at the beach resort.

**Spanish forward Fernando Llorente celebrates after scoring the second goal during the Fifa Confederations Cup football match at the Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein.**

**Astray Williams of the US reacts as she trains in London on 20 June, 2009.—INTERNET**
Southern Indian air company orders 10 Airbus “A-321"

NEW DELHI, 21 June—A southern Indian air company based in Chennai of the southern state of Tamil Nadu has decided to order 10 Airbus A-321 aircraft, with the option of 10 more, for a total cost of 1.5 billion US dollars, according to local media reports.

Paramount Airways, an all-business-class air carrier, will place a list price of 90.3 million US dollars for each airbus delivery, while the optional jets will cost half the price.

Paramount last week signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus SA on at the annual Paris Airshow at Le Bourget, France. The southern Indian air company is planning to start international flights from Chennai and other major Indian cities to some Asian destinations, according to the reports. —MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22-6-2009) (Monday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>North America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 AM</td>
<td>Signature Tune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Concert on the Song of Myanma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Beauty &amp; Scenic Sights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Ecstasy of Life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:00 AM</td>
<td>The Unique Pindaya Shan Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:00 AM</td>
<td>Travelogue (Nay Pyi Taw)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05:40 PM</td>
<td>A Visit to A laungdaw Kassapa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06:30 PM</td>
<td>A Collection of Rakhine Cultural</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:30 PM</td>
<td>Heritages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 PM</td>
<td>The Beauty of Tamonyel Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 PM</td>
<td>The Golden City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>Ancient Historic Mwatyaw Kakku</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 PM</td>
<td>Pagoda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WEATHER

Sunday, 21 June, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, isolated in Kachin and Sanythai Divisions, and scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squally with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-6-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-6-2009: One or two thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-6-2009: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits China Science and Technology Museum, Qin Shi Huang Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, Fa Men Si Temple

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits China Science and Technology Museum in Beijing.—MNA

Governor of Shaanxi Province calls on Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

Governor of Shaanxi Province Mr Yuan Chunqing calls on Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at Sheraton Xian Hotel in Xi’an City of Shaanxi Province.—MNA