People to participate in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation

Prime Minister inspects reconstruction tasks in Labutta Township

Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials. Upon arrival at South-West Command Headquarters, the Prime Minister inspected Kubota power-tillers and accessories, ploughshares, water pumps, and equipment for power supply to villages, and called for systematic distribution of the aid.

The Prime Minister, together with the commander, flew to Labutta Housing Project at the 3rd Mile Camp in Labutta.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on the building of a 200-bed hospital, progress in building roads, and building a 180m-gallon water tank; Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, on groundwork for building the hospital; Deputy Director-General (Engineering) of the Development Affairs Department, on progress in reclaiming plots and building roads; Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, on construction of a jetty on the bank of the Yway River; and Minister for Electric Power (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, on work for power supply.

(See page 8)
Towards lasting Paukphaw friendship

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye paid a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China from 15 to 20 June. During his visit, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping, the Governor of Shaanxi Province, the Secretary of Communist Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, the Secretary of Communist Party Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Myanmar and China share a common border more than 1,300 miles long. The peoples of the two countries have enjoyed friendly relations for a very long time and have respect and amity for each other. Exchange of goodwill visits by the leaders of the two nations has paved the way for deeper bilateral relations and closer cooperation in various fields.

During the goodwill visit by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, political cooperation between the two nations and the global economic and financial crisis were discussed. Frank and cordial discussions were also held on promotion of bilateral friendly relations and mutual cooperation in energy, electric power, transport, trade and industry sectors. Moreover, the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, the Memorandum of Agreement on Operation and Transfer of Hydropower Projects in Maykha, Malikha and Upstream of Ayeyawady-Myitsone River Basins were inked.

It is nearly 60 years ago that the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China established diplomatic relations. During that period, bilateral friendship and cooperation were able to be promoted. There are also prospects of enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations.

We believe that Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye’s goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China will be a shot in the arm for Paukphaw friendship between the two peoples and it will last for generations to come.

Seminar on Prospect of Trade and Tourism Indonesia-Myanmar held

YANGON, 23 June — Organized by Indonesian Embassy in Myanmar, the seminar on “Prospect of Trade and Tourism Indonesia-Myanmar” was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this evening. Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastians Su-marsono explained the purpose of holding the seminar.

Next, Director-General Dr. Sapta Nirwandar of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Indonesia read out the paper on “Indonesia Tourism”, Director-General U Huy Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on “Tourism Sector in Myanmar,” Assistant Director U Thein Myint of the Directorate of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce on “Prospects of Economic and Trade Relations between Indonesia and Myanmar During Global Economic Crisis” and General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Maung Maung Lay on Golden Opportunities in the Golden Land Myanmar.

Then the resource persons answered the queries raised by those present.
Bombings shake Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 June — Insurgency is sharply going up in the post-Taliban Afghanistan this year as in a single day on Monday three suicide bombings and a warehouse explosion left a dozen people dead and over five dozen others injured. The militants in the latest wave of violence carried out double suicide attacks in the eastern Khost Province Monday afternoon, killing seven civilians and wounding some 40 others.

Meantime, Amir Pacha Mangal the head of Health Department in Khost Province put the number of casualties higher, saying six people were killed and 30 others got wounded, all of them civilians including children. However, eyewitnesses at the site put the number of the casualties higher than that reported, saying the blasts occurred in a crowded area of a bazaar, causing huge damage. On Tuesday, a suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of international troops in central Afghanistan, killing two Afghan civilians, officials said.

Civilian deaths have become an increasingly contentious issue in Afghanistan as worsening violence has turned more villagers and passersby into victims.

The United Nations has said over 2,100 civilians died in the Afghan war last year. International and Afghan forces killed about 40 percent of them.

Bombings and shootings kill more than 30 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 June — Bombings and shootings killed more than 30 people across Iraq on Monday, including high school students on their way to final exams, part of a new round of violence ahead of next week’s deadline for US troops to withdraw from urban areas.

The attacks pushed the three-day Iraqi death toll over 100, shattering a recent lull and adding fresh doubt to the ability of government forces to protect people without US soldiers by their sides.

A man wounded in a bomb attack lies in bed as his mother stands next to him in a hospital in Baghdad on 22 June, 2009. Two people were killed and 13 were wounded when a bomb went off inside a cafe in a Shi’ite district of southern Baghdad, police said.

Eight killed, injured as tanker catches fire in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 June — Eight drivers including six nationals of Kazakhstan were killed and injured as a tanker caught fire in the border town of Hairtan in northern Afghanistan on Monday, a press release of Afghan Interior Ministry said.

“The incident occurred when the drivers were busy in downloading oil tanker during which an Afghan driver was killed and seven others, including an Afghan and six Kazakh nationals, sustained injuries,” the press release added.

Two tankers were damaged in the incident, it further said.

The press release termed carelessness of the drivers for the incident, adding the fire was extinguished by fire fighters and thus more damage has been avoided. Linking Afghanistan to Uzbekistan in the north, Hairtan is a busy border town with uploading and downloading thousands of tons of goods daily.

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Palestinian PM hopes for creation of statehood in two years

RAMELLAH, 23 June— Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad on Monday challenged the hawkish Israeli prime minister by saying that East Jerusalem will be the eternal capital of the future Palestinian statehood, expecting it to be established in two years.

Fayyad made the remarks in a public speech in al-Quds University in Abu Dis near the West Bank, in response to Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech on his diplomatic policy addressed from Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv on 14 June.

Netanyahu stressed that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Jewish state, noting the Palestinian statehood must be demilitarized and will not be created unless the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state. He also refused the return of the Palestinian refugees to the territories of Israel.

“I call for unity (of Palestinians) to establish the statehood in two years at most,” Fayyad said, adding “east Jerusalem will only be the eternal capital for our independent statehood.

Netanyahu’s speech was vague and was less committed to the two-state solution.”

Trade group cuts mortgage volume forecast for 2009

NEW YORK, 23 June— A key industry group on Monday slashed its estimate for mortgage volume by 27 percent because of higher interest rates and the slow start to the government’s refinancing programme.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said it expects lenders to make $2.03 trillion in mortgages this year.

That’s $750 billion less than its forecast just three months ago and a less than its forecast just $320 billion below the government’s refinancing Programme could have fallen short.

In March, the Obama administration said its Home Affordable Refinance Programme could help up to 1.5 million to 2 million borrowers.

But so far, only 13,000 loans have been refinanced through the programme.

German businesses expect improvement, survey shows

BERLIN, 23 June— Business confidence in Germany, Europe’s largest economy, dropped to a new all-time low in June but expectations for the future continued to improve, a closely watched survey showed Monday.

The Munich-based Ifo institute’s business climate index — an average of its current situation and future expectations numbers — improved overall to 85.9 points from 84.3 the month before, the third consecutive increase since March when the indicator hit a 26-year low of 82.2 points.

“The survey results confirm that the German economy is gradually stabilizing,” Ifo president Hans-Werner Sinn said in a statement.

The survey, based on around 7,000 monthly responses from firms in manufacturing, construction, wholesaling and retailing, showed a jump in expectations for the next six months, which improved from 86 to 89.5.

The current situation assessment, however, dropped to 82.4 from 82.5 the month before.

Andres could grow into hurricane, brush Mexico

ACAPULCO, 23 June— Tropical Storm Andres was expected to grow into the Pacific season’s first hurricane Tuesday and deal a glancing blow to southwestern Mexico before churning its way up the coast past picturesque towns popular with foreign retirees.

Mexico issued a hurricane warning for the Pacific coast from just south of Manzanillo north to near Puerto Vallarta. To the south, officials in towns such as Barra de Navidad that are home to some American and Canadian expatriates.

At Barra de Navidad, northwest of Manzanillo, Agapito Garcia Martinez, security manager at the Grand Bay Hotel-Isla Navidad Resort, said Monday that hotel staff were preparing, like taking in beach furniture and protecting hotel windows, but had not yet been advised by authorities to do so.
Vietnam to host 4th World Information Technology Forum

HANOI, 23 June—Vietnam will host the fourth World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR) in Hanoi from 26 to 28 Aug. Vietnam News Agency reported Monday. This is the first time the forum is held in Asia, according to the report.

With the theme of “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Sustainable Development”, the forum includes eight plenary meetings and 32 discussions, focusing on women’s role in IT development, and various policies and experiences of countries in IT development.

The fourth WITFOR is expected to bring enormous benefits to the Asian region, and open up new and broader paths for developing countries to apply achievements in ICT into socio-economic life, said Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Nguyen Minh Hong. It will provide an important foundation for local and foreign policymakers, scientists, experts and IT businesses to obtain accurate visions and assessments on current ICT development.

This will then push them to exercise more efforts to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries, said the report.

US capital shocked by deadly subway train collision

WASHINGTON, 23 June—Against the light darkness of twilight, the wrecks of two crashed light-rail trains stood still on an elevated track as rescuers cut through the cars to pull survivors out.

“I thought it was a thunder, but then I heard some screams and saw corpses,” Timbly Brown who lives across the street on a small slope in northeastern Washington.

Apparently, a transit train smashed into the rear of another at the height of the capital city’s Monday evening rush hour. Several cars of the first train ended up on top of the other train.

Walking around the tragic site, Mayor of Washington DC Adrian Fenty told reporters that accident is the “deadliest crash in the 33-year history of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, known as Metro.”

The latest figure show at least six people were killed and 76 others injured, among them six in critical conditions.

“The scene is as horrific as you can imagine,” Fenty said. “One car was almost squeezed completely together.”

He told Xinhua that there will be more press conferences and briefings to keep the public updated about what happened.

Chinese shipbuilder wins Oman order

BEIJING, 23 June—China’s biggest private shipbuilder Jiangsu Rongsheng Heavy Industries Co said it had won an order to build four vessels worth 484 million US dollars for Oman Shipping Co, reported Tuesday’s China Daily.

The deal was the biggest foreign order by a Chinese shipyard this year and also the second largest in terms of value Chinese shipbuilders clinched so far this year, only next to a 2-billion-US dollar order won by Zhoushan Jinhaiwan Shipyard Co Ltd from a Chinese shipping company.

The four vessels will be delivered by the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012. However, industry analysts said such remarkable new orders do not mean recovery of shipbuilding industry in China because many other shipyards in the country have not received any new order this year—Xinhua

At least 7 Colombian policemen killed in conflicts with rebels

BOGOTA, 23 June—At least 7 Colombian policemen were killed in conflicts with rebels of Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia (FARC) in the southwestern department Cauca, local police said on Monday.

General Gustavo Adolfo Ricaurte, commander of the local police said the Colombian army, local police and air force attacked on Sunday night a camp of rebels in the mountainous area of municipality Timb. At least 25 rebels had died during the conflicts, he said. The bodies were evacuated by rebels at dawn, seen by local peasants.

Two injured officers had been transferred to hospital. FARC is the largest leftist guerrilla against the government in Colombia. Alvaro Uribe, the Colombian president, put the elimination of the guerrillas as his priority.

Xinhua

Greek unemployment rises to 9.3% in first quarter

ATHENS, 23 June—Greek unemployment jumped to 9.3 percent in the first quarter of 2009, from 8.3 percent in the same period last year, Greek National Statistical Service said on Monday.

The statistics agency said the number of unemployed people totaled 462,343 in the first three months of 2009, from 406,547 last year.

The unemployment rate among women totaled 13 percent, while among men the unemployment rate was 6.8 percent.

The 15-29 age group recorded the highest unemployment rate at 18.5 percent in the country, followed by the 30-44 age group at 8.5 percent.

The percentage of new unemployed totaled 29.2 percent in the period of January-March, while long-term unemployment rate was 41.3 percent.—Xinhua

A singer performs during the Symphony Concert “The East Is Red” held in Zhangzou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 21 June, 2009. More than 30 revolutionary songs, mostly quite popular in the 1930s until 1970s, were performed during the concert. —Xinhua

Airbus delivers first China-assembled A320 jet

TIANJIN, 23 June—Airbus delivered its first China-assembled A320 jet on Tuesday in north China’s port city of Tianjin, the base of the manufacturer’s only final assembly line outside Europe.

The plane was delivered to Beijing-based Dragon Aviation Leasing, which will lease it to Sichuan Airlines for operation.

Xinhua
NATO thwarts pirate attack off Somalia

BRUSSELS, 23 June—Pirates tried to hijack a Singaporean freighter off Somalia on Monday, but they were chased down and captured by a NATO warship, the alliance said.

The MV Maersk Phoenix freighter issued an emergency call when it was attacked by the pirates, who were armed with AK-47 automatic rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, NATO said.

The alliance’s Portuguese warship Corte-Real gave chase and captured the pirates and their small boat, which also contained two ladders. NATO confiscated the vessel and the weapons, but freed the eight pirates after consultations with Portuguese authorities. No casualties were reported among the pirates or the crew of the freighter off the Somali port of Bossaso.

Most US kids have no playground access

WASHINGTON, 23 June—Sixty-nine percent of US children in the lowest income bracket don’t have access to a community playground, a survey indicates.

KalBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing play back into the lives of children, commissioned the survey conducted by Harris Interactive of 1,677 parents with children between the ages of 2-12. The group says US children experience a national play deficit because they don’t have enough time and space to play every day.

The survey found 59 percent of parents report their children don’t have access to a community playground. In terms of importance, 96 percent of parents said playing outside was critical to keep kids physically fit, but just 17 percent thought children played enough outside.

Plane, truck nearly collide in Boston

Authorities said a construction vehicle at Boston’s Logan International Airport wandered into an unauthorized area and was nearly hit by a plane on a runway.

Phil Orlandella, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Port Authority, which operates the airport, said the construction vehicle, a Ford Explorer, came dangerously close to the wing of a plane that was traveling down a runway after being cleared for takeoff at about 6:36 am Thursday, the Boston Globe reported Friday.

Airport officials said the Explorer was traveling on a taxiway and apparently failed to stop at the runway intersection and radio for permission to cross.

“It was a serious thing, a matter of seconds,” Orlandella said. “It was an actual near miss.”

The Port Authority said construction at the airport has been suspended while the incident is being investigated.

“We don’t take the needed action and we have a direct responsibility for the warehouse where the fire started,” state Attorney General Abel Murrieta said.

Investigators say the fire may have started with a short circuit or over-heating in the air conditioning system of the warehouse, which lacked fire alarms and extinguishers.

Flames spread to the neighbouring ABC day care centre.

“They are employees and officials with the Fire Department who have a direct responsibility for the warehouse everywhere the fire started,” state Attorney General Abel Murrieta said.

Investigators say the fire may have started with a short circuit or overheating in the air conditioning system of the warehouse, which lacked fire alarms and extinguishers.

Flames spread to the neighbouring ABC day care centre.

“The accused knew of the irregularities and deficiencies at the ABC day care centre in Hermosillo, Sonora, and didn’t take the needed action,” the federal office said in a statement.

British WW1 vet becomes world’s oldest man

Guinness World Records said Friday that 113-year-old British World War I veteran Henry Allingham has become the world’s oldest man.

The previous holder of the title, Tomoji Tanabe, died in his sleep in southern Japan earlier on Friday at the age of 113.

Allingham is one of only two surviving World War I veterans in Britain and holds the title of world’s oldest man since January 2007. Craig Glenday, editor-in-chief of Guinness World Records, said the last day care coordinators in Sonora were arrested and warrants issued for three other institute officials.

“The accused knew of the irregularities and deficiencies at the ABC day care centre in Hermosillo, Sonora, and didn’t take the needed action,” the federal office said in a statement.

Later Monday, the federal Attorney General’s Office said two women day care coordinators employed by the federal Social Security Institute in Sonora were arrested and warrants issued for three other institute officials.

“We are continuing to investigate,” the federal office said in a statement.

“2009 Yellow River Xiaolangdi Waterfall-Watching Festival” is becoming a hot tourist attraction in the region. It has already witnessed a peak of tourists visits just after opening last Saturday.

The festival will last until July. The opening day of the festival attracted some 30,000 visitors.

When Xiaolangdi reservoir dam takes off the brake and discharged floodwater, a 70-meter-long waterfall would rush down the Yellow River.

Xiaolangdi Dam regulate water and silt flow annually. This is the fifth festival held at the Dam.
Gifts for Zoological Gardens (Yangon)

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—The staff quarters of Zoological Gardens (Yangon) were handed over at a ceremony at the gardens in Yangon on 19 June morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Managing Director of Thai Saw at Import Export Co. Mr P C Chen explained the purpose of the donations and handed over the related documents to Director of Zoological Gardens Department U Kyaw Soe Khaing.

Next, the minister presented a certificate of honour to the donor. After that, Mr P C Chen gave away uniforms for the staffs and Manager of the gardens Major Nyo Aye spoke words of thanks. Later, the minister and the donor viewed the staff quarters.

F&R Dy Minister arrives back from Spain

YANGON, 23 June—Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Vice-governor U Maung Maung Win of the Central Bank of Myanmar, on 21 June, arrived back here by air after attending ASEM Finance Deputies’ Meeting held at Madrid, Spain on 19 June.

Finance deputies from Asia-Europe dialogue countries, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Commission and the Central Bank of Europe attended the meeting. They discussed measures taken by country-wise on global financial crisis and future tasks as well as exchanged views.—MNA

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe participates in ASEM Finance Deputies’ Meeting held at Madrid, Spain.—MNA

Mandalay Mayor provides spur to development tasks

YANGON, 22 June—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected tasks for upgrading Yangon-Mandalay Highway and reconstruction of U Shwe Taung Bridge in Amarapura Township on 15 June. He viewed progress in sinking No-35 tube-well and the place chosen for construction of No-7 waterworks.

Next, he inspected the housing project in Yadanaung Myothit and progress in installing rock grinding machine and the factory and Vehicles Division in Chanmyathazi Township.—MNA

Dicota appoints KMD as sole agent

YANGON, 22 June—Dicota appointed KMD Co Ltd as the sole agent for Myanmar for notebook bags and related products at a ceremony held at the Traders Hotel here on 20 June morning.

Chairman & CEO of KMD Computer Group U Thaung Tin extended greetings. Regional Sales Manager for ASEAN Mr James Yeo presented facts about Dicota products.

Dicota, in cooperation with 80 international associations, has produced beautiful, fashionable notebook bags with strong, neat stiffs and quality zips since 1992. High-density foams are used to protect notebooks, and thanks to permanent air cells, they cannot be damaged easily.

KMD Computer Group will soon launch its sales of Dicota notebook bags both in Yangon and in Mandalay simultaneously. For further details, please contact KMD Computer Sales & Service Centre at 550/552, corner of Merchant and 36th Streets, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, (Ph: 204071, 384109, 245180), KMD Computer Sales & Service Centre at 531, Pyay Road, Myaynigone, Sangyoung Township, Yangon (502244, 503511, 503522) and KMD Computer Sales & Service Centre (Mandalay) at 103/1, 77th Street, between 27th and 28th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, (60239, 60360).—MNA

Chairman & CEO of KMD Computer Group U Thaung Tin extends greetings at a ceremony to appoint KMD Co Ltd as sole agent for Myanmar by Dicota. —MNA

Talk on “How to Develop Successful Website” on 27 June

YANGON, 22 June—Web Development Director of Creative Web Studio U Wai Phyo Htut will give a talk on “How to Develop Successful Website” under the arrangements of the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association at Room No 205, Myanmar Info-Tech Main Building in Hline Township here from 1 pm to 3 pm on 27 June. Members of MCPA, web developers and all those interested may attend the talk and contact MCPA office at Room No 4 of Building No-4 (Ph: 652276) for further information. MNA

Say No to Drugs
People to participate in building a peaceful, modern...

The Prime Minister attended to the needs, and viewed progress in building roads, reclaiming plots, and building a police station. Next, he attended the ceremony to hand over 60 basic education schools in Labutta Township held at Ywe Nadi Hall in Labutta. Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on progress in carrying out reconstruction tasks and building schools; and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, on progress in rebuilding the schools that were damaged in the cyclone “Nargis”. Minister Dr Chan Nyein accepted the documents related to 14 basic education schools from Managing Director U Kyi Tun of Trust & Gain Co; 11 schools from Managing Director U Kyaw Khaing of Myanma Ahla Co; 10 schools from Chairman U Shwe Taing of Wah Wah Win Co; 10 schools from Manager U Than Soe of Shwe Gabah Co; eight schools from Managing Director U Han Kyi of Min Co; five schools from Managing Director U Thaung Oo of Mya Nanda Co; one school from Managing Director U Aye Lwin of Myat Noe Thu Co; and one school from Manager U Aye Lwin of Hsaung Hay Man Co.

The Education Minister handed over the documents related to the 60 schools, and exercise books to Labutta Township Education Officer U Win Maung.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented seeds of fruit to the chairman of Township PDC. The Education Minister delivered an address at a ceremony to hand over newly constructed 60 schools in Labutta Township to Ministry of Education.—MNA

Labutta Township gets 60 schools.

Photo shows power tillers and accessories, plough shares and water pumps to be distributed to villages in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects power tillers and accessories, plough shares and water pumps to be distributed to villages in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA
Labour Minister and party back home

YANGON, 23 June —The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi arrived back Nay Pyi Taw on 21 June after attending the 98th ILO Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland from 3 to 19 June.

On 11 June, the minister and Director-General Mr. Juan Somavia of ILO Office exchanged views on labour affairs being carried out by Myanmar in cooperation with ILO and future programme.

Minister U Aung Kyi addressed the plenary session of the 98th ILO Conference held at the assembly hall of the UN Headquarters Building in Geneva the same day. Employers’ Representative Dr Myo Thein took part in discussions on behalf of the employers’ organizations.

Minister U Aung Kyi, Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tun Shin and Myanmar delegation members attended the ILO Summit on Global Job Crisis on 15 June and the deputy chief justice addressed Meeting of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned Nations in the afternoon.

On 16 June, the minister, the deputy chief justice and Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN Office at Geneva U Wunna Maung Lwin attended the working breakfast of ASEAN Labour Ministers.

Workers’ Representative U Thein Soe attended the committee meeting on gender equality and plenary session of the conference on 3 June.

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Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint attends First ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy Security in Brussels, Belgium. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here today after participating in the First ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy Security from 17 to 18 June in Brussels, Belgium.

At the invitation of European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner and European Commissioner for Energy Mr Andris Piebalgs, the delegation attended the meeting.

According to the resolution of the 7th ASEM Summit in Beijing, the Republic of China, on 24 and 25 October, 2008, the 1st ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy was held in Brussels. After becoming a member of ASEM in 2005, Myanmar participated in the meetings of ASEM which comprises 16 countries from Asia, 27 countries from Europe, European Commission and ASEM Secretariat Office.

During the 1st ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy, the participants of the meeting discussed matters related to cooperation between Asian countries and EU on challenges for energy security, global energy sufficiency, price of fuel and technology for energy.

During the stop over in Bangkok on way back to Myanmar, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint held talks with Minister of Labour of Thailand Mr Phathoon Kaeothong over employment of Myanmar labourers in Thailand.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department U Min Lwin and Deputy Director of the Ministry of Energy U Htin Aung. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donates cash to a responsible official to be spent on development of Htilin. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Ministry of Industry-1 opened the English proficiency Course 2/2009 and On-job Training Course 2/2009 at the ministry here this morning, with an opening address of Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung. Altogether 83 trainees are attending the 6-week courses. — MNA

Over 80 staff of Industry-1 Ministry receive English, job skills

12th meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — The opening ceremony of the 12th meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants under the 12th ASEAN forestry-related conference, being hosted by Myanmar was held at Myat Taw Win hotel here yesterday morning, with an opening address by Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health. Also present at the meeting were deputy director-general U Kyaw Tun of Planning and Statistics Department under the Ministry of Forestry, directors from departments under the Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Health, responsible persons of ASEAN Secretariat’s office, delegates from ASEAN countries and guests.— MNA

Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt delivers an address at 12th meeting of ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

FORESTRY

People to make sustained efforts to achieve better social-economic life

Information Minister holds discussions with local people in Htilin

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan had a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and local people totalling more than 4000 from 28 villages in Htilin Township at Shwehti Hall in Htilin, Gangaw District, Magway Division, on 19 June.

Local people reported on ongoing regional development tasks, and requirements. The minister fulfilled the requirements after making coordination with officials concerned.

The minister presented cash donations for renovation of basic education primary school in Ward (1), building a post-secondary school in Htanbingon Village, a library in Tawyaung Village, and a basic education middle school in Akyiban Village, exercise books to students, and clothes to local people.

Chairperson of Htilin Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Khin Htwe presented publications donated by the Information Department under the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation.

In his speech, the minister elaborated that the government has improved the infrastructures in various sectors including the transport, agricultural and education fields. The people on their part have to make sustained efforts to achieve better social-economic life, making good use of basic foundations the government has laid.

He urged the attendees to learn lessons from the experiences the people faced from 1948 to 1988 and to generate objective conditions to maintain and beef up the positive changes in building a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation as aspired by the entire people. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Mr Aandris Piebalgs, the Commissioner for Energy Waldner and European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood and External Relations and EU on challenges for energy sufficiency, global energy sufficiency, price of fuel and technology for energy.

Over 80 staff of Industry-1 Ministry receive English, job skills

12th meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — The opening ceremony of the 12th meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants under the 12th ASEAN forestry-related conference, being hosted by Myanmar was held at Myat Taw Win hotel here yesterday morning, with an opening address by Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health. Also present at the meeting were deputy director-general U Kyaw Tun of Planning and Statistics Department under the Ministry of Forestry, directors from departments under the Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Health, responsible persons of ASEAN Secretariat’s office, delegates from ASEAN countries and guests.— MNA

Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt delivers an address at 12th meeting of ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

FORESTRY

People to make sustained efforts to achieve better social-economic life

Information Minister holds discussions with local people in Htilin

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan had a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and local people totalling more than 4000 from 28 villages in Htilin Township at Shwehti Hall in Htilin, Gangaw District, Magway Division, on 19 June.

Local people reported on ongoing regional development tasks, and requirements. The minister fulfilled the requirements after making coordination with officials concerned.

The minister presented cash donations for renovation of basic education primary school in Ward (1), building a post-secondary school in Htanbingon Village, a library in Tawyaung Village, and a basic education middle school in Akyiban Village, exercise books to students, and clothes to local people.

Chairperson of Htilin Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Khin Htwe presented publications donated by the Information Department under the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation.

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Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt delivers an address at 12th meeting of ASEAN Experts Group of Herbal and Medicinal Plants.
Medvedev: Moscow to hold Mideast peace conference by end of 2009

CAIRO, 23 June — The visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday that Moscow plans to hold a Middle East peace conference under the framework of two-state solution by the end of this year.

“Russia is exerting its best efforts to resume the peace talks in the Middle East according to the two-state solution and freezing settlements,” Medvedev said at a joint press conference after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

“We thank Egyptian president for his efforts to build mutual trust and cooperation in the Mideast,” Medvedev said, adding that “We plan to hold before the end of this year a Moscow Middle East Conference.” The idea was hailed by Mubarak, who said “Russia is one of the greatest countries in the world and has clout on the Mideast peace process.”

However, he said all the efforts should be collected to achieve Middle East peace.

“Peace can not be achieved through one power. All efforts and powers, including the Russian, the Americans and those who love peace, should participate to solve the Palestinian cause,” Mubarak added: “Although you are MPs, when you act wrongly, you will be punished by the court”. About 20 military and police blocked the public road in front of the National Assembly and barred reporters and others from watching the parliamentary vote. — MNA/Reuters

Somali pirates release Dutch ship

BRUSSELS, 23 June— Somali pirates have released a Dutch ship they hijacked last month in the Gulf of Aden, the Dutch Defense Ministry was quoted as saying by Radio Netherlands on Tuesday. Pirates took possession of the MV Marathon, sailing under the flag of the Dutch Antilles, on 7 May. In a gunfight one crew member of the Dutch ship was killed and another was injured, the radio reported on Tuesday.

After the hijack, the ship was taken to Eyl in Puntland, northeast of Somalia.

Long drawn-out negotiations over its release have been held between the Somali pirates and the Dutch government. It is not known whether a ransom has been paid.— Internet

Strong earthquake hits Papua New Guinea

CANBERRA, 23 June— A magnitude 6.7 strong earthquake hit the New Ireland region of Papua New Guinea, the U.S. Geological Survey reported on Tuesday.

The quake hit the region at 1419 GMT at a latitude of -5.261 and longitude of 153.413 with a depth of 35 km under sea bed.

The were no report of casualties or damage. — Internet

Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo (R) shakes hands with Abdel Moneim Mu Sochua of the main opposition lawmakers. Mu Sochua of the main opposition Sam Rainsy party now faces a charge of defaming the government and risks a hefty fine.

S Korea’s A/H1N1 flu cases reach 121

SEOUL, 23 June— South Korean health authorities said Tuesday the nation’s A/H1N1 flu infection toll rose to 121, confirming four additional cases.

According to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Family Affairs, a 17-year-old Philippine girl residing in Hawaii, who visited South Korea for a field trip, was confirmed contracting with the virus, along with two South Korean patients from the United States and a Filipino man.— Internet

Malaysia declares 10 new cases of A/H1N1 flu

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 June — The Malaysian Health Ministry confirmed ten new cases of A/H1N1 flu here on Tuesday, raising the total number of the cases to 69, while two more schools were ordered to close.

Malaysian Health Minister Liow Tiong Lay said that among the new cases, two of them were local transmissions.

The authorities closed the schools for a week after one A/H1N1 flu case was confirmed in each of them.

Hong Kong confirms 60 more flu A/H1N1 cases

HONG KONG, 23 June — A spokesman for Hong Kong Department of Health (DH) said there were 60 newly-confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 in the 24 hours up to 2:30 p.m. (0630 GMT) on Tuesday.

So far, the total number of infection cases has hit 408 in Hong Kong, said the spokesman.

The new cases involved 35 males and 25 females, aged from three and 63.— Internet

Singapore confirms 26 new flu A/H1N1 cases

SINGAPORE, 23 June— Singapore confirmed 26 new cases of Influenza A/H1N1 on Tuesday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases here to 194.

According to the country’s Health Ministry, the newly confirmed cases comprise 10 local cases and 16 cases with travel history.

Singapore reported its first confirmed case of Influenza A/H1N1 on 27 May. So far, 68 patients have been discharged. The remaining 126 patients are still in the hospital and their conditions remain stable.— Internet

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The were no report of casualties or damage. — Internet
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
One dead, six missing as tropical storm Linfa lands in E China

Soldiers of the local frontier defence troop rescue trapped resident in Zhao’an County, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 22 June, 2009. — Xinhua

FUZHOU, 23 June—Torrential rain, strong winds and landslides triggered by tropical storm Linfa have left one dead and another six missing in east and south China provinces, local authorities said Monday. A landslide triggered by heavy rain in Dapu County in south China’s Guangdong Province destroyed a house in Sanping Village, burying a 52-year-old woman named Li and her 3-year-old granddaughter, local officials said. Li was dug out from the debris but died despite treatment. Rescuers were still searching for the granddaughter.

A fisherman in Fujian, where the storm landed, was missing Monday after setting sail despite warnings, local officials said.

Scientists arrange the bones of an estimated 200,000-year-old giant elephant at Geology Museum in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, on 18 June, 2009. — Internet

Indonesian prehistoric elephant fossil under reconstruction

BANDUNG, 23 June—Scientists in Indonesia are reconstructing the largest, most complete skeleton of a prehistoric giant elephant ever found in the tropics, media reported Tuesday.

“The prehistoric elephant is believed to have been submerged in quicksand shortly after dying on a riverbed in Java around 200,000 years ago.”

The animal stood four metres tall, was five metres long and weighed more than 10 tons. It was considerably larger than the great Asian mammals of the same period in terms of size.

Its bones were perfectly preserved — were discovered by chance in March. A team of seven paleontologists from the Geology Museum in Bandung, West Java, set the bones in plaster for the trip back to their office after a monthlong excavation. “We believe from the shape of its teeth that it was a very primitive elephant,” but little else has been verified, said paleontologist Fachroel Aziz, who is heading a 12-strong skeletal reconstruction team. Scientists agree it is the first time an entire prehistoric elephant skeleton has been unearthed since vertebrate fossil findings began to be recorded in Indonesia in 1863.

Scientists arrange the bones of an estimated 200,000-year-old giant elephant at Geology Museum in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, on 18 June, 2009. — Internet

Moderate earthquakes hit US state of Alaska

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 June—Several moderate earthquakes rocked US state of Alaska on Monday with no immediate reports of damage, the Alaska Earthquake Information Centre said. A 5.4-magnitude earthquake first occurred at 11:28 am local time in the state’s Cook Inlet region, about 88 kilometres from Alaska’s largest city Anchorage.

“This event was felt widely in the Anchorage area and as far away as Fairbanks,” the Alaska Earthquake Information Center said in a statement.

The quake was followed by several aftershocks, including one with a preliminary magnitude of 4.0 in the same region. The Alaska Earthquake Information Center announced that it also located an earthquake that occurred at about 11:55 am in the state’s Andreanof Islands region with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6.

The magnitude and location of the earthquakes may change slightly as additional data are received and processed, the centre said.

Laos confirms second A/H1N1 influenza case

HANOI, 23 June—Lao health officials confirmed the country’s second A/H1N1 influenza case, a 9-year-old American boy, the Lao newspaper the Vienviane Times reported Tuesday.

The boy showed higher body temperature when arriving at Wattay Interna-
tional Airport in Vientiane on Saturday. He was tested positive to the A/H1N1 influenza virus on Sunday, and the newspaper. This boy is now being treated at the Mittaphab Hospital. His parents’ health is being monitored, according to the report. The alert level in Laos for the virus is maintained at phase three despite the second confirmed case, as human-to-human transmission has not been reported in the country, according to Boulay Phonmassak, head of the Lao National Emerging Infectious Disease Coordination Office.

World’s total A/H1N1 flu cases increase to 52,160, says WHO

GENEVA, 23 June— The world’s total number of laboratory confirmed A/H1N1 influenza cases has increased to 52,160, with 231 deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a latest update on Monday. (In 99 countries and regions)

Of that total, 7,873 cases, including 51 deaths, were reported in the past three days, the UN agency said. The United States has reported a total of 21,449 cases, the largest number among all countries and regions. It is followed by Mexico (7,624), Canada (6,457), Chile (4,315), Britain (2,506), Australia (2,436), Argentina (1,010) and others. So far most of the deaths occurred in Mexico (113) and the United States (87).

Strong aftershock hits quake zone

ROME, 23 June—A powerful aftershock hit the quake-struck areas of central Italy on Monday, rattling buildings as far away as Rome. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The temblor had a preliminary magnitude of 4.6, according to the US Geological Survey. Italy’s Civil Protection put its epicenter just north of L’Aquila, the Appennine city that was devastated by the April earthquake. L’Aquila is hosting the summit of the Group of Eight leading industrial nations early next month.

Monday’s quake struck just before 11 pm (2100 GMT) and was felt in the Italian capital, some 75 miles (120 kilometers) away. The April 6 earthquake killed nearly 300 people, displaced some 50,000 and toppled entire blocks of buildings in L’Aquila and the surrounding Abruzzo region.

Health of young offenders is poor

ADELAIDE, 23 June— The physical and mental health needs of juvenile offenders should be a priority if offenders have any hope of rehabilitation, Australian researchers suggest.

“They believe that the health of young offenders is commonly poorer in comparison with the general youth population,” lead author Dr Anne Wilson said in a statement.

The review, published in the Australian Journal of Primary Health, and co-authored by doctoral student Phillip Tully found:

— Mental health, grief and trauma are among the most common issues affecting both male and female young offenders.

— Young offenders have a higher death rate than similar aged non-offenders, with as many as 70 percent of deaths attributable to drugs and suicide.

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Heavily weights hold fire in early Europa Cup phases

The trophy of the new Europa Cup competition is displayed at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon. The new competition, which replaces the now defunct UEFA Cup, threw up some interesting matches when the draw was made here on Monday for the first of three qualifying rounds. – Internet

Federer settles in at Wimbledon as history beckons

LONDON, 23 June—Roger Federer’s bid for a record 15th Grand Slam title got underway in familiar fashion as the five-times champion settled into Wimbledon’s new look centre court with a straight sets demolition of Taiwan’s Lu Yen-Hsun.

Federer, the men’s favourite in the absence of injured champion Rafael Nadal, recovered from going a break down early in the first set to win 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 and set up a second round meeting with Spain’s Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, who had a similarly straightforward win over Argentina’s Agustín Calleri. – Internet

Wimbledon’s scream queen ‘won’t get distracted’

LONDON, 23 June—Portuguese scream queen Michelle Larcher de Brito insists the controversy over her shrieking won’t distract her from making a big noise at Wimbledon. Larcher de Brito had to endure a barrage of questions over her habit of making a high-pitched wailing noise during rallies after marking her All England Club debut with a 6-2, 7-5 first round victory over Klara Zakopalova on Monday.

The 16-year-old was on the right side of the net when she screamed and grunted so loudly that she was booted off court after her opponent Aravane Rezai complained to the umpire. – Internet

Sharapova slips into Wimbledon second round

LONDON, 23 June—Maria Sharapova, who has already written off her chances of a Wimbledon repeat as she heads into the second round on Monday.

The Russian, seeded 24, battled to a 7-5, 6-4 win over Ukrainian qualifier Viktoria Kuznetsova and will now face fellow tour glamour girl Argentina’s Gisela Dulko for a place in the last 32.

Sharapova showed no signs of the shoulder trouble which sidelined her for 10 months with her most pressing problem being keeping her feet on the slippery Court One grass which prompted two awkward falls.

The 2004 champion admitted her mental state may have to change if she is to have any hope of a second All England Club title. “I feel like the grass has changed in the last few years. It’s definitely not playing as quickly as it did when I won here in ’04,” said Sharapova. – Internet

Lucas Glover delivers breakthrough win at US Open

FARMINGDALE, 23 June—Lucas Glover held his trophy after winning the US Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park’s Black Course in Farmingdale, NJ, on 22 June, 2009.—Internet

Chelsea to appeal UEFA punishments

NYON, 23 June—Enylish Premier League giants Chelsea appealed on Monday against the punishment meted out last week by UEFA over their behaviour following the Champions League semi-final defeat by Barcelona last month.

The club had originally announced that they would accept the decision of UEFA on the behaviour of Ivory Coast star striker Didier Drogba and Portuguese international fullback Jose Bosingwa. Chelsea were also fined 100,000 euros.

However, they have decided that after Drogba received a six match suspension and two of which are suspended, while Bosingwa was handed a four game ban, with one match suspended, last week that they will appeal. – Internet

English Premiership sells Setanta rights to ESPN

LONDON, 23 June—The English Premier League has awarded the rights to 46 of its live games next season to US-based broadcaster ESPN, after they were forfeited by troubled Irish channel Setanta, it said.

The Disney-owned broadcaster has been awarded the live games for next season, and also 23 matches per season previously held by Setanta for the following three seasons, until 2013, it said.

“The Premier League is extremely pleased to have added ESPN as a UK rights holder,” said Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore. “They have a formidable worldwide reputation and experience in sports and I am sure we will enjoy a long and fruitful relationship with them.”

The English Premier League invited bids for the games after Setanta failed last month. The club had originally announced that they would accept the decision of UEFA on the behaviour of Ivory Coast star striker Didier Drogba and Portuguese international fullback Jose Bosingwa. Chelsea were also fined 100,000 euros.

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Russia’s Maria Sharapova returns a backhand to Ukraine’s Viktoria Kuznetsova on the first day of the 2009 Wimbledon Tennis Championships. Sharapova, who is on her way back from a shoulder injury won 7-5, 6-4.—Internet

The English Premier League invited bids for the games after Setanta failed last Friday to make a scheduled payment of 30 million pounds (35 million euros, 49 million dollars), thereby losing its rights to broadcast 46 EPL games.—Internet

Lucas Glover delivers breakthrough win at US Open

FARMINGDALE, 23 June—A voracious reader, Lucas Glover took a moment to scan the names etched on the walls of the US Open trophy. Talk about a great ending.

From Hagen to Sarazen, Jones to Hogan, Palmer to Trevino and Nicklaus to Woods, Glover couldn’t put the glistening silver chalice down. The last name on the list, improbable as this seemed a week ago, is now his, a permanent tribute for enduring a grueling week at Bethpage Black better than anyone else.

Glover won the 109th US Open on Monday afternoon, one perfectly timed birdie at the par-4 16th helping seal his two-stroke victory over Phil Mickelson, David Duval and Ricky Barnes. Glover finished at 4-under 276 for the long, damp, off-delayed week, getting just the second win of his career. “Here I stand,” said Glover. – Internet

FARMINGDALE, 23 June—Lucas Glover holds his trophy after winning the US Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park’s Black Course in Farmingdale, NJ, on 22 June, 2009.—Internet

Chelsea to appeal UEFA punishments

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FARMINGDALE, 23 June—Lucas Glover delivers breakthrough win at US Open

Glover said. There he stood, all right.

He was on the right side of the draw, weather-wise, for the first two rounds, opening with a 69 and then shooting a second-round 64 in rare scoring conditions for a US Open. Glover didn’t break par the rest of the way, shooting 70 in the third round and then closing with a 73 on Monday.—Internet

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UNESCO chief highlights diversity of heritage sites

BEIJING, 23 June — A senior official with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO is calling on the world to pay more attention to preserving the diversity of world heritage sites.

Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of UNESCO, said at the opening ceremony of the world heritage conference that as UNESCO is moving closer to its 40th anniversary in 2012, it is also innovating itself in diversifying the types of sites so as to advance with the times.

“Over the past ten years we have developed three more conventions covering underwater and intangible heritage as well as cultural expression” he said. “To date, aside from the original cultural and natural sites, UNESCO has come up with cultural landscapes, prehistoric sites, modern heritage and industrial sites.”

The nine-day conference will review protection and conservation practices at UNESCO’s heritage sites since the 1972 World Conference on Heritage Sites in Paris.

UNESCO has come up with initiatives to designate cultural landscapes, industrial sites, and one type of site that it calls “mixed heritage.”

Three years ago UNESCO began a mixed heritage program which now designates sites that combine cultural and natural values. Since then UNESCO has designated 177 sites and added new sites to the list.

UNESCO and the International Council on Monuments and Sites have also added 119 new sites to their World Heritage List, including China’s Terracotta Army in Xi’an and the United States’ Olympic National Park.

UNESCO is calling on the world to take care of its cultural and natural sites.

International News

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in upper Sagarina Division, fairly widespread in Chin, Rakhine States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Puto (2.52) inches, Thandwe (2.36) inches, Dawei and Myeik (1.93) inches each and Falam (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-6-2009 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 23-6-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-6-2009 was 88%. Total sun shine hours on 22-6-2009 was (2.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-6-2009 was (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and Nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (32.91) inches at Mingaladon, (38.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (44.61) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 22-6-2009.

Bay inference: Moomson is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24th June 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kinchie and Chin States, Bago Division, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagarina Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: Rain or thundershowers likely at times over southern and central Mandalay, scattered in northern Mandalay.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: Scattered showers likely in Nyaung U, scattered showers likely in central Nay Pyi Taw, scattered showers likely in eastern Nay Pyi Taw.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Employees work on a car assembly line producing the Fiat Panda in a factory in Tychy, Poland, April 2009. Poland’s economy is set to shrink 0.5 percent this year, making it one of Europe’s least crisis-hit nations, but a modest recovery in 2010 hinges on a continent-wide revival, the IMF said Tuesday.—INTERNET

Internet

TV Myanmar

Wednesday, 24 June
View on today

7:00 am
1. မြန်မာစာနာမဝင် ကွန်မာမှ ကာကွယ်တောင်းရန်

7:25 am
2. သွားမာရှင်နိုင်ငံတော် ကြည်ညာရမည့်

7:30 am
3. ကျွန်ုပ်တို့လိုလျော်

7:40 am
4. မှတ်စု

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 24 June, 2009

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MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (24-6-2009) (Wednesday)

Local Times

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<tr>
<th>Local</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>(09:00am – 10:00am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>(15:30pm – 23:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>(23:30pm – 07:30am)</td>
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Local Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
* The Splendour of Mt. Victoria (Natmatung)
* Rope Painting
* Shan Market Day
* Healthy Babies, Sweety Smiles
* The Origin of Htainmathein
* Traditional Art of Making Goldware
* Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
* Smogless sky, Enchanting Smiles (Nyayung Shwe, Southern Shan State)
* Engineered Floors Made with Unique Technology
* Central Glass Pavilion
* A Leisure Day in Ngapali
* A Picturesque resort along Shan Mountain Ranges
* Music Up… Close “Heavily Rained in the past”
* Let’s grow High-yielding Varieties for Surplus in Rice
* Taking an oath for life
* Rakhine Traditional Festival
* Myanmar Traditional Tamarind Juice
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv-3.net.mm

WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 June, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in upper Sagarina Division, fairly widespread in Chin, Rakhine States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Puto (2.52) inches, Thandwe (2.36) inches, Dawei and Myeik (1.93) inches each and Falam (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-6-2009 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 23-6-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-6-2009 was 88%. Total sun shine hours on 22-6-2009 was (2.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-6-2009 was (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and Nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (32.91) inches at Mingaladon, (38.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (44.61) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 22-6-2009.

Bay inference: Moomson is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24th June 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kinchie and Chin States, Bago Division, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagarina Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-6-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
YANGON, 23 June—Organized by Myanmar Agro-based Foodstuff Producers and Exporters’ Association, the 1st Myanma Foodstuff Fair will be held at Tatmadaw Convention hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, here, from 26 to 28 June. Various kinds of domestic foodstuffs will be put on show from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Invited guests and entrepreneurs are to visit the fair on 26 June and it will be opened on 27 and 28 June to the public.—MNA

Myanma Foodstuff Fair to be held on 26 June

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Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — A moderate earthquake of intensity 5.0 Richter Scale with its epicentre about 320 miles South of Kaba Aye Seismological observatory outside Myanmar (Andaman Sea) was recorded at 5 hrs 42 min 23 sec MST on 23 June, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA