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Security, peace and stability, rule of law come first for township’s development

Development degree of resource-rich Myanmar depends on extent of our efforts

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Prime Minister U Thein Sein, who was on inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division, yesterday visited Kanyin Dam Project in Ingapu Township and inspected construction works and development tasks in Hinthada District and Pathein District.

The Prime Minister accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers and departmental heads, inspected the spillway of the dam. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo reported to the Prime Minister on location of the project, progress in construction of the main dam and other structures, salient points of the project, completion of construction works by 59 per cent, production of low-cost cement for rural areas, supply of electricity with 40-watt solar power cells to ten villages of Hinthada. Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe made supplementary reports.

At the briefing hall, Minister U Htay Oo reported to the Prime Minister on location of the project, progress in construction of the main dam and other structures, salient points of the project, completion of construction works by 59 per cent, production of low-cost cement for rural areas, supply of electricity with 40-watt solar power cells to ten villages of Hinthada. Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe made supplementary reports.

The Prime Minister called for completion of the project on schedule, recruitment and equipment of human labor and machinery if necessary, parallel completion of the dam and tunnels. He urged them to exert strenuous efforts for completion of the project ahead of schedule so as to enable people in catchment area as well as the nation gain benefit.

Prime Minister U Thein Sein looks into progress of main embankment at Kanyin Dam.—MNA

The Prime Minister then inspected groundwork of the main dam from view-deck. He then looked round the construction site. Kanyin Dam Project has been built in order to irrigate about 25,000 acres of farmland in Ingapu Township and to supply electricity to surrounding areas by generating 5-megawatt electricity. The earthen type facility is being built by damming up Kanyin Creek near Tatkon Village in Ingapu Township. (See page 8)

Ayeyawady Division has targeted to put 3,710,763 acres under monsoon paddy and so far, it has cultivated 1,006,394 acres of monsoon paddy.

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More roads and bridges for development of the Union

With the aim of ensuring equitable development of all regions across the Union, the government is trying its best to improve the transport sector by building roads, motor roads and bridges.

A ceremony to inaugurate Yin Creek Bridge, which is the 240th facility of its kind in the nation, on Taungdwingyi-Myaithit-Natmauk Road, was held at the pavilion in Natmauk Township, Magway District, Magway Division, on 27 June 2010.

As part of efforts to improve transport infrastructures, the government is building 108 miles and four furlongs long Magway-Kanbya-Myaithit-Taungnyo-Nay Pyi Taw motor road. Construction of Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe tar road with the length of 91 miles and four furlongs is nearing completion.

The endeavours of the government in carrying out extended construction of roads and bridges help forge friendship among national brethren. These have also improved communication and trade sectors in the respective regions. As local people are enjoying fruitful results of better health and education and widening knowledge, development gap becomes narrow among the regions.

At present, groundnut, sesame, paddy and other crops can speedily and smoothly be transported from one region to another across the Union thanks to roads and bridges built as network from the east to the west and from the south to the north.

As the government is handing down the fine legacy to the new generations, the people are to shoulder the duties to preserve these good heritages.

BCB to assist youths with building confidence

YANGON, 1 July—With the aim of helping youths to build confidence and to improve their capacity by themselves, Business Capacity Building (BCB) Centre will conduct the Confidence-Building Program course at the centre here.

Those who passed the matriculation exam are eligible to do the course which will kick off on 5 July and end on 19 August.

During the Confidence-Building Program course, the trainees will receive knowledge on costume etiquette, ways for enjoying healthy living, morality, leadership skills, proficiency in English skills and computer and effective information technology skills.

The course will take place from 9.30 am to noon on weekdays.

Similarly, the centre will launch a course on Management Skills for New Managers on 20 July.

The number of the trainees is limited. More information are available at the BCB centre at Room 405, No. 8, at the corner of Bagara Road and Dhamma Zedi Road, Myaynigon, Sangyoung Township, Yangon; Ph: 538531.

Workshop on perpetual existence of Inlay Lake

Minister for Forestry U Thein Aung addresses workshop on seeking ways to conserve Inlay Lake.—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspects progress of agriculture, construction of railroad section in Taninthayi Division

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence looks into ground works along the alignment of Thamok-Bokchan section of Dawei-Myeik railroad.—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw stressed the need to carry out disaster prevention drills.

On 29 June, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw attended the collective ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Aukpaung Village of Palaw Township.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw stressed the need for the officials to supervise cultivation of high yield paddy strains.

He inspected carrying out of ground works on Thamok-Bokchan section of Dawei-Myeik railroad with the use of heavy machinery.

At the briefing hall, the project engineer reported on progress of ground works on the railroad section. Lt-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks.

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Iraqi police in a checkpoint manned by silencer fitted pistols on car opened fire from their source said.

Violence continued in the Iraqi cities more than three months after the country held its landmark parliamentary election which is widely expected to shape the political landscape of the war-torn country.

BAGHDAD, 1 July—Two policemen were killed and three people wounded in a shooting and bomb attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

Gunmen in a civilian car opened fire from their silenced pistols on a checkpoint manned by Iraqi police in Baghdad's southern district of Doura, killing two policemen and wounding another, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In separate incident, a bomb hidden in a bag in front of a house in Baghdad's southwestern district of Amel, went off when police experts came to defuse it, wounding a policeman and a civilian, the source said.

The bodies were found in improvised graves dug by drug traffickers in the northern Mexico state of Nuevo Leon, in improvised graves found in northern Mexico.

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An Afghan boy transports water to his home through a neighbourhood in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 June, 2010.—INTERNET

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A destroyed car is towed away from the bombing scene in western Adil neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, 1 July, 2010. While violence has dropped overall across the country, insurgents trying to destabilize the country continue to attack on Iraqi security forces and government.—INTERNET

Airstrike kills six militants in southern Afghan Province

GHAZNI, 1 July—Six anti-government militants were killed as NATO-led airpower pounded their positions in Ghazni Province south of Afghanistan, deputy to provincial police chief Nawroz Ali Mahmoudzada said on Thursday.

The air strikes carried out against Taliban hideout in Aaband District on Wednesday night as a result six Taliban rebels were killed and five others sustained injuries, Mahmoudzada told Xinhua. There were no casualties on the troops, he stressed. Taliban militants have yet to make comment.

Over a dozen militants, according to Mahmoudzada, have been killed over the past two days elsewhere in Ghazni Province.

An Afghan boy transports water to his home through a neighbourhood in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 June, 2010.—INTERNET

Two PKK rebels killed in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 1 July — Turkish security forces killed two members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in eastern Turkey on Wednesday, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported.

The patrolling security forces came to defuse the IED (Improvised explosive device) blast in southwest Pakistan's Quetta, on July 1, 2010. At least five people were injured in the blast here on Thursday. XINHUA

NATO says district Afghan

District chief of Now Zad, a district southwest of the fighting.
More proof that new planet and star are moving together

Swiss team postpones solar plane night flight

New Zealand launches emissions trading scheme

Some 70,000 turtle eggs to be whisked far from oil

Russia sends cargo spaceship to ISS

Science

Chemical blaze: Chinese firefighters try to extinguish a fire which engulfed a chemical warehouse in Beijing. The blaze was brought under control after eight hours with no casualties reported.—INTERNET
Experts optimistic about solving puzzle of Alzheimer’s
disease

WASHINGTON, July—
Research into Alzheimer’s disease has reached a point of significant potential, even as the disease’s looming impact on society grows more and more dire, experts say. Some leading scientists, in fact, worry that we may not be doing enough to press forward with key advances and new insights into Alzheimer’s, the most common type of dementia among older people.

An estimated 5.3 million US residents have the disease, which results from the deterioration of nerve cells in the brain and leads to memory loss, impaired judgment, wandering and, as it progresses, to the inability to perform such normal daily functions as dressing, bathing and eating.

As the population ages, the number of people with Alzheimer’s is expected to spike dramatically. Today, someone in the United States develops Alzheimer’s every 70 seconds, according to the Alzheimer’s Association — a number expected to rise to once every 33 seconds in a few decades.

Obesity ups cancer death risk in Asia-Pacific region

WASHINGTON, July—
Overweight and obese people in the Asia-Pacific region have a significantly increased risk of dying from cancer compared to those of normal weight, finds a new study.

Researchers analyzed data from over 424,500 adults in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Overall, those who were overweight or obese were six percent and 21 percent, respectively, more likely to die from cancer (excluding those of the lung and upper digestive tract) than normal-weight people.

The study also found that obese people were significantly more likely than normal-weight people to die from colorectal, ovarian, cervical and prostate cancers and from leukemia. Obese women over 60 were also significantly more likely to die from breast cancer than women of normal weight.

Despite differing dietary and other lifestyle risk factors, the study did not find “a higher relative risk for cancer mortality in Asian populations compared with Western populations for the same level of BMI (body mass index),” as has been suggested for diabetes and cardiovascular disease,” wrote Christine Parr, from the University of Oslo in Norway, and international colleagues.

Preterm births rarely discussed with doctors

LONDON, 1 July— Even though one in eight babies in the United States are born preterm each year, most new or expectant mothers and their doctors don’t discuss preterm birth, a new survey shows.

Conducted by the March of Dimes and BabyCentre, the poll included more than 1,000 participants, including new or expectant mothers, mothers who’ve experienced preterm birth and their obstetricians/gynecologists.

Despite the fact that prior preterm birth is a major risk factor for delivering another baby prematurely, nearly 40 percent of women who had a previous preterm delivery were not informed of this by their doctors.

“If you’ve had a preterm birth, talk to your doctor because the greatest risk factor for having a preterm baby is if you’ve already had one,” said Dr. Alan Fleischman, March of Dimes medical director. “Our survey found that a lot of moms don’t feel informed about preterm birth’s risk factors and potential consequences.”

Mouse study suggests caffeine boosts athletic performance

LONDON, July—
High doses of caffeine could increase muscle power and endurance during activities ranging from walking to running a marathon, British researchers report.

The finding stemmed from testing on mice. The researchers, from Coventry University, found that giving a caffeine dose of 70 micrometres to mice resulted in a 6 percent increase in the power output of lower leg muscles. They indicated that the effect in humans would probably be similar.

That amount “is the absolute maximum that can normally be achieved in the blood plasma of humans,” Dr. Rob James, the lead researcher, said in a Society for Experimental Biology news release. “However, concentrations of 20 to 50 micrometres are not unusual in people with high caffeine intake.”

The findings, to be presented on Wednesday at the society’s annual meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, may have implications for the use of caffeine in sports.

Exercise may guard girls against dementia in senior years

TORONTO, 1 July — If you want to help your young daughter avoid dementia much later on in life, a new study suggests it might be a good idea to send her outside to play.

Canadian researchers believe they’ve found a link between exercise in adolescence and fewer cases of senility in a woman’s senior years.

The study doesn’t definitively prove that exercise lowers the risk of dementia. And the research is only based on the recollections of older women, some with signs of dementia, about their childhoods.

Still, the findings suggest that “early life physical activity is important to late-life health and in particular in preventing late-life cognitive impairment. The sooner you start being physically active, the better it is,” said study author Laura E Middleton, a researcher at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center in Toronto.
Toyota says 270,000 vehicles have faulty engines

Toyota Motor Corp. said Thursday about 270,000 cars sold worldwide — including luxury Lexus sedans — have faulty engines, the latest quality lapse to hit the automaker following massive global recalls.

The automaker following massive global recalls.

A masked worker in a lab sorts through silicon wafers at solar cell manufacturing facility in Changzhou, China. The country's economy grew 11.9 percent in the first quarter of 2010, fuelling fears of overheating in the world's third-largest economy. —Xinhua

Brazil’s inflation rate to reach 5.4% in 2010

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 July—Brazil’s inflation rate will reach 5.4 percent by the end of the year, according to the country’s Central Bank’s quarterly inflation report released on Wednesday. The figures show a slight increase from the previous quarterly report, when the Central Bank foresaw an inflation rate of 5.2 percent. In 2011, the Bank expects an inflation rate of five percent, up from 4.9 percent in the previous report.

The projections take into consideration a Brazilian Real-US dollar exchange rate of 1.80 reais a dollar and an annual basic interest rate of 10.25 percent. Both estimates are above the inflation target set by the Brazilian government for 2010 and 2011, which is of 4.5 percent with a tolerance of two percentage points, which means that the inflation rate should not exceed 6.5 percent.

According to the report, there is a 12 percent chance the inflation rate will surpass 6.5 percent in 2010. In 2011, there is a 17 percent possibility.

Last year, Brazil registered an inflation rate of 4.31 percent. In the first five months of 2010, the country accumulated an inflation rate of 3.09 percent, up from 2.2 percent in the same period in 2009. —Xinhua

Visitors look at the Toyota Lexus GS 450h at a Toyota showroom in Tokyo on 1 July, 2010. Toyota Motor Corp. said on Thursday about 270,000 cars sold worldwide, including luxury Lexus sedans, have faulty engines, the latest quality lapse to hit the automaker following massive global recalls.

Also to take effect Thursday, the Tort Liability Law will allow for the granting of compensation for psychological injuries and assessment of the sum to be granted. It also mandates better protection of personal privacy by imposing liability for unauthorized personal information leaks.

The Law on National Defence Mobilization will also come into effect on Thursday. —Xinhua

China to launch real name registration for online shops from Thursday

BEIJING, 1 July—Online shop owners in China will be required to submit personal information, including real names and addresses, to ecommerce agents before running their businesses online, according to a regulation which comes into effect on Thursday.

China will be required to submit personal information, including real names and addresses, to ecommerce agents before running their businesses online, according to a regulation which comes into effect on Thursday.

The regulation was issued by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce. The first Chinese regulation of online goods and services transactions, the regulation details the obligations of online shop owners and ecommerce agents. It also details authorities’ administration of online shopping.

If online business owners fail to abide by the regulation, they may be imposed a fine of up to 30,000 yuan (about 4,410 US dollars).

Little soccer fans in 2010 World Cup. —Xinhua

Banking sector causes collapse of Spanish stocks

MADRID, 1 July—The Spanish stock market suffered this year’s third major downfall on Tuesday. (5.45 percent) as a result of the banking sector’s liquidity problems. Fears of a double dip world recession grew sharply ahead of US jobs report to be released on Friday.

Once again, banks caused the Ibex-35 to sink under 9,200 points. Santander and BBVA shares fell by 6.8 and 7.2 percent respectively, whilst Bankinter saw the value of its shares reduced by 8 percent.

The Spanish financial sector was once more under close scrutiny by the international press on Tuesday when its liquidity problems were highlighted. According to the Financial Times, Spanish banks have been exerting pressure on the European Central Bank (ECB) ahead of Thursday’s redemption of 442 billion euro (539.2 billion US dollars) granted to European banks at an interest rate of 1 percent one year ago. The London-based journal reported that Spanish banks accuse the ECB of “absurd” behavior if the European monetary authorities finally decide to terminate their emergency cash policies. —Xinhua

Chinese economy likely to maintain steady, rapid growth in 2010: PBOC

BEIJING, 1 July—China’s economy is very likely to maintain steady and rapid growth in 2010, with more positive factors than last year boosting the economy, the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), China’s central bank, said on Wednesday.

But the nation’s economy still faces a complex domestic and international situation, the central bank said in the summary of the 2010 China financial stability report posted on its website.

It is imperative to continue implementing the country’s macro control policy and increase support for the economic restructuring and transformation of the economic growth pattern, the central bank said.

Further efforts are needed to strengthen prudent management of macro policies, deepen financial reforms and improve financial institutions’ profitability, so as to maintain financial stability. —Xinhua
Chinese Vice-Premier visits Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan-NyaungU

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July—Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding Vice-Premier Mr Zhou Tienong and party of the People’s Republic of China arrived in Yangon by air on 27 June afternoon to pay a visit to the Union of Myanmar.

In the afternoon, they paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. In the evening, Mayor of Yangon U Aung Thein Lin hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Sedona Hotel.

On 28 June morning, the Chinese guests arrived in Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon. They met with Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association at the headquarters of the association in Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhinathiri Township.

The Secretary-General explained facts about the association. The Chinese Vice-Premier discussed bilateral relationship and future cooperation plan. The Chinese guests viewed the ministries and staff quarters of Nay Pyi Taw, construction of the Pyithu Hluttaw building and the Presidential Residence and progress of Nay Pyi Taw, and visited the Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

In the evening, the UNDA Secretary-General hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Myat Taw Win Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

On 29 June, the Chinese delegation led by the Vice-Premier arrived at NyaungU Airport of NyaungU Township. They paid homage to Ananda Pagoda in Bagan Archaeological Region and visited Bagan Archaeological Museum. At Nammyint Tower, they enjoyed the scenic beauty of Bagan in the sunset.

In the evening, Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Aureum Palace Hotel and Resort. Yesterday, they visited U Sein Myint’s gold embroidery industry in Aungmyethazan Township.

At Mandalay Hill, they paid homage to the Buddha image and enjoyed the beautiful scene of Mandalay.

In the evening, Deputy Minister for Energy U Than Htay hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

This morning, the Chinese Vice-Premier and party visited Myan San Kyaw’s Golden palace and the Golden Palace Museum. They left Mandalay by air in the afternoon. They were seen off at Mandalay International Airport by Deputy Minister for Energy U Than Htay and officials.—MNA

Myanmar women stand tall in the world

Ingyin Hmwe (Nay Pyi Taw)

The Myanmar Women’s Day, which represents the entire women, is one of the days of significance. The Myanmar Women’s Day is, in fact, an auspicious day for the women because it is designated to recognize and put on record the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotism, and Union Spirit, the women who have been trying hard in the course of Myanmar history for flourishing of nationalistic spirits, morality and code of conduct. In the Myanmar society, Myanmar women have innate characters such as innate polite nature, strong spirit and great modesty. Therefore, younger generations of women have to take up and promote the fine traditions.

It is no secret that human traffickers resort to everything possible to traffic young women in the neighbouring country, and deceive the youth into copying decadent alien culture. With a view to life security of women who make up more than half of the Myanmar population, the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs was formed on 3 July 1996. Myanmar has celebrated the Myanmar Women’s Day yearly on 3 July since 1998 with the participation of the mass of Myanmar women with fine traditions in the interest of the entire women. Today, the world has seen dramatic changes in technology. So, on 20 December 2003, the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs was reconstituted into the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation with the aim of raising the role of women, and improving the living conditions for women.

After adoption of the seven objectives, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation formed central, state/division, township, ward and village-tract levels women’s affairs organizations. The MWAF has been working hand in hand with the government to improve the status of the entire women. Besides, it takes a variety of measures to achieve its goal, such as conducting courses on computer, astrology, accountancy, spoken English, tailoring, knitting, fruit decoration and arranging flowers. It also provides aids for needy children, schools for the deaf and dumb, hospitals and patients, cash assistance for needy schoolchildren, and donates blood with goodwill. It takes part in environmental conservation and nation-building tasks.

Today, Myanmar women are no longer complacent about upholding old traditions for women. Therefore, government is providing effective encouragement through the objectives it has adopted for development of Myanmar women. So, the entire Myanmar women on their part have to show greater performances as reliable forces in nation-building undertakings. Translation: MS
Security, peace and stability ...

At mile post No. 9/2 on Pathein-Monywa Road, the Prime Minister and party oversaw private companies carrying out road works with heavy machinery and heard reports on upgrading of Pathein-Monywa Road into tarred one by dividing it into three sections, and upgrading of Kankalay-Thowngwa-Yekye-Ngathaingchaung-Bekye-Ushitpin section of the road by private construction companies and construction groups of the Public Works.

At the Laymyethna Township PDC Office, the Prime Minister met departmental personnel, social organizations and senior citizens. At the meeting, Chairman U Kyaw Zaw Hla of the township PDC submitted reports on location and area of the township, moving of the town from the west bank to the east bank of Ngawun River due to bank erosion, composition of the township, utilization of land and annual rainfall and farming, education and health sectors and social works, preventive measures against bank erosion.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the needs. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the upcountry Laymyethna was situated in the western part of Ayeyawady Division and lacked behind in development; that they were there to fulfill the needs for all-round development of the region including disaster management in coordination with ministries concerned.

Natives are to cooperate with local authorities in order to ensure peace and stability and law enforcement as security, peace and stability, rule of law come first for township's development.

He continued to say that he was glad to know that the township had turned out 29 distinction-winners including one six-distinction winner in this academic year in matriculation examination; that it is necessary to make collaborative efforts for making sure that children-at-school-age go to school regularly till completion of their basic and higher education in their own region.

Ayeyawady Division, he continued, was an inexhaustible source of rice, meat and fish; that the Government had built 10 main roads and over 500 bridges big and small, knowing that the region would definitely enjoy booming economy with better transport facilities; that people on their part were to work hard for increased per capita income making effective use of already built infrastructures.

He went on to say that the degree of progress and prosperity of food-sufficient and resource-rich Myanmar depends on the extent of our efforts.

The Prime Minister then cordially greeted those present. He then inspected drain to protect bank erosion and heard reports on digging of the drain. The Prime Minister met local people and asked progress of the region.

Along Pathein-Monywa Road, the Prime Minister inspected upgrading of the road, cultivation of special teak plantations on both sides of the road, growing and preparations for growing of monsoon paddy and progress of Ngathaingchaung and Yekyi.

At Kyonphayoe Village in Kyaunggon Township, the Prime Minister viewed local farmers transplanting paddy plants collaboratively at the 1000-acre model field of the township.

In meeting with local farmers, the Prime Minister asked their livelihoods and encouraged them to strive for development of own villages. He urged them to work hard to increase per capita income through farming and breeding and to improve their livelihoods by making good use of money they earned.

Ayeyawady Division has targeted to put 3,710,763 acres of farmland under monsoon paddy and so far, it has cultivated 1,006,394 acres of monsoon paddy. The region, it is learnt, is eager to surpass target cultivation.

The Prime Minister and party then proceeded to Pathein.—MNA
Major events of Shanghai Expo

Myanmar Media Team

Visitors seen at Myanmar Pavilion of Shanghai Expo.

(from page 16)

features bright coloured temples and traditional courtyard houses. Multimedia devices demonstrate Myanmar’s customs, education, culture and resources. Lush forests, mist-shrouded mountains, and flowing streams comprise the natural landscape of the country, the nature and its unique treasures: wood carving and jade.

There is a luxuriant display of handcarved wood sculpture. As the home of teak wood, sandal wood, and rosewood, Myanmar is renowned for its refined carved pieces. Wooden elephant, bear, and fashion accessories are common favorites.

Visitors to the Myanmar Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo are offered a rare chance to admire top-rated Myanmar jade.

According to officials with Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, there will be more than 20,000 cultural and artistic performance, or roughly 100 each day. Half of these are by participating Chinese provinces, and half by troupes from other countries, to be staged in public venues at the Expo site. Admissions to the performances are expected to be over 200,000 daily.

“The Shanghai Expo will become a showcase for the charm of different cultures,” the officials said.

In addition to this, the activities sponsored by a number of international organizations will add to the festive nature of the occasion.

The People’s Republic of China will stage four categories of events: ceremonies, parades, stage performance and theme performances. Pageants—a series of spectacular parades that echo the theme of Expo 2010, are holding several times a day during the Expo. Theme Show is named as “Window of the City” and its venue is located in Zone-C. In line with the Expo theme, it shows the evolution of urban life through fantastic settings and stunt performance and tells a story about “love, harmony and touching moments”.

Performance by China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble is a large music and dance show specially designed for Expo 2010, and consists of “Colorful World”, “Splendid China”. The performance is staging every day at Expo Cultural Centre of Zone-B.

The acrobatic drama specially designed for Expo 2010. Martial arts, magic, stunts, songs and dances are combined to interpret the particular charm of Chinese tea culture. The venue for this show is Entertainment Hall (Zone-D) and people watch the show every day.

During the Expo, visitors can watch the series of plays, festivals, entertainment and interactive programmes. The major events include Shaolin Kung Fu Play, Wudang Kung Fu Play, China Elements, Expo Chorus Festival, UBPA Square Festival, Rod-puppet Show, Shadow Play, Children’s Multimedia Show, Interactive Experience Programme, Innovative Tours of Youth and Youth Series Events.

Performers from East China’s Jiangsu Province present dances at 2010 Shanghai Expo.

Performers of Jiangsu Province of China perform dance at Shanghai Expo.

An inflatable dragon flies in the air during a parade celebrating National Pavilion Day of Japan at World Expo Park in Shanghai on 12 June.
Newest waste-to-energy plant opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 1 July—Japan agreed here on Wednesday to provide Vietnam with a programme worth 22 million US dollars to improve the country’s capacity in coping with natural disaster caused by climate change.

Exchange of notes for this agreement was signed here on Wednesday by Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Mitsuo Sakaba and Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Pham Khoi Nguyen.

The programme is part of Japan’s non-refundable aid for Vietnam in helping the country deal with natural disaster by collecting accurate and timely meteorological information.

At the signing ceremony, Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Mitsuo Sakaba said the programme will contribute to developing bilateral strategic partnership between Vietnam and Japan. —Xinhua

Two terrorist attacks rock SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 1 July—Two terrorist incidents, a bomb blast and rockets firing, frightened locals early Wednesday morning in provincial capital Quetta, southwest Pakistan’s Balochistan, local sources said.

A low intensity bomb exploded near the main commercial artery, Fatima Jinnah road. It broke the window pans of nearby buildings and created scare in the area.

Only one person was injured in the incident and had been discharged from the hospital after the treatment.

Two rockets were fired by unidentified terrorists at a paramilitary Frontier Constabulary (FC) checkpoint in Shanfarab, suburbs of Quetta. No one was hurt in the incident, official sources said.

Besides, late Tuesday night, at least two paramilitary troops were shotdead in an ambush on their checkpoint in Dasht area of district Mastung of the city, official sources said. —Xinhua

Victims of Tuesday’s fatal amusement park accident identified

SHENZHEN, 1 July—Authorities in Shenzhen on Wednesday identified the six people killed in an amusement park ride accident on Tuesday in the southern Chinese boomtown of Shenzhen.

The dead, all Chinese nationals, included two men and four women, and they were aged between 24 and 48 years old, according to a statement from Yantian District government.

Five residents of Guangdong Province and one was from central China’s Hunan Province. The accident happened at 4:45 pm on Tuesday after the Space Journey ride malfuncitoned at the Overseas Chinese Town East (OCT East) amusement park. The ride simulates the conditions of a rocket launch with the passengers experiencing doubled gravity. It elevates and spins 11 cabins each carrying four passengers. —Xinhua

Gas tank blast kills three in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 1 July—A natural gas tank exploded on Tuesday in Belgian eastern city of Soumagne, killing a couple and a worker, witnesses said.

The deadly blast occurred at around 4 pm local time (1400 GMT) in a villa in Soumagne in the Province of Liege and buried five people inside, including a couple, two children and a worker, a local resident at the scene told Xinhua.

The two children were rescued shortly after the blast, but the other three under debris have been confirmed dead, the resident said.—Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 1 July—A strong earthquake with 6.5-magnitude hit southern Mexico on Wednesday morning.

According to the US Geological Survey, the quake’s epicenter was 14 km east of Oaxaca, Mexico.—Xinhua

Japan helps Vietnam cope with natural disasters

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The two children were rescued shortly after the blast, but the other three under debris have been confirmed dead, the resident said.—Xinhua
**Tibet’s fourth civil airport opens**

**Ngari, 1 July—** Gunsa Airport in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region started operation on Thursday, becoming the fourth civil airport on the “Roof of the World.”

An Airbus 319 landed at Gunsa Airport, in Ngari Prefecture, at 10:20 am, marking the airport’s formal opening.

The airport sits more than 4,200 metres above sea level and has a 4,500-metre runway. Its annual throughput capacity is expected to reach 120,000 passengers by 2020.

Construction of the airport began in May 2007 and cost an estimated 1.65 billion yuan (241.22 million US dollars).

It is the fourth operational civil airport in Tibet after Gonggar Airport in Lhasa, Bamda Airport in Qamdo Prefecture and Nyingchi Airport.

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**The big cheese**

**Liu Yang brings artisanal cheese to Beijing.**

**BEIJING, 1 July—** It’s an amusing fantasy to believe that somewhere in the hulking caravans traversing the Silk Road, that ancient network connecting China to the Middle East and Europe, a single piece of cheese was slyly hitching a ride amidst the piles of fabrics, gems and spices that otherwise comprised the bulk of that era’s transcontinental trade.

Xinhua

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**HK allocates 544 mln HKD to 764 research projects**

**HONG KONG, 1 July—** The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong has allocated 544.6 million HK dollars in funds to 764 research projects, according to local government website on Wednesday.

Including an extra 15 percent of the project grant allocated to the institutional management as on-costs, the grand total awarded in General Research Fund for 2010/11 is 626.3 million HK dollars. The council received a record high of 2,463 applications by academic staff of the eight tertiary institutions funded by the University Grants Committee, up 7 percent on last year. The overall success rate was 31 percent. The average funding amount per project has also risen 7 percent from 667,000 HK dollars last year to 713,000 HK dollars this year. The number of high quality projects approved has grown 25 percent on last year. —Xinhua

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**Man, 81, accused of machete chase near taco stand**

**Police said an 81-year-old man was arrested after he chased another man around a Salem taco stand while armed with a machete. Salem police said on Monday the man accused the taco stand owner of stealing a drill from his nearby business. When the taco stand owner denied it, the suspect left and returned with a machete. Lt. Dave Okada said the suspect chased the unidentified man around the stand several times before officers arrested him on accusations of menacing and attempted assault. He was booked into the Marion County Jail. There were no injuries in Sunday’s incident.**

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**Calif woman says Chihuahua died saving her kids**

A Northern California woman says her Chihuahua died protecting her children from two pit bulls that got into her apartment.

Mayda Estrella, of Richmond, says the family’s Chihuahua, named Manchas, jumped in between the canine invaders and her 4-year-old son on Sunday.

A pit bull grabbed Manchas with its jaws and carried the Chihuahua away.

Contra Costa County animal services officials say the Chihuahua was killed, and the pit bulls are now in custody.

The pit bull’s owner says they had escaped their yard by chewing through a fence. Estrella says her front door was open when the dogs came in.

She says when she saw the dogs come in, she ran into a bedroom with her other child, a newborn baby.

County officials say the owner won’t face criminal charges.

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**Man arrested for entering house, taking shower**

Authorities have arrested a man accused of breaking into a home near Roswell High School at around 2:30 pm on Wednesday and taking a shower. Roswell police spokesman Lt. James McGee said neighbours tell police they saw a man entering the home.

Police said the homeowner then arrived and found someone taking a shower. McGee said the woman talked to the man who was in the shower, then came back out of the house.

She called police who got the man out.

McGee said the unidentified man insisted he was the “Duke of Germany” before he was taken to jail in north Fulton County.

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**Police say pair stole nearly $2K from Pa jail**

A couple were charged with stealing nearly $2,000 from a central Pennsylvania jail by using a routing number from a check the woman got from the jail after her release last year. Police said a 61-year-old man and his 31-year-old wife used the routing number to use Blair County jail account to pay their utility bills and transfer $179 to the man’s bank account.

The wife got the routing number when she received a check for $6.95 to reimburse her for money remaining in her inmate expense account after her release on unrelated theft charges in October. The couple pleaded not guilty and face a preliminary hearing on 13 July.

County officials said they’ve changed the way its inmate account is handled to prevent future abuses.
Clyrosat-2 focuses on ice target

LONDON, 1 July—The Clyrosat-2 mission is delivering on its promise to make high-precision radar maps of the Earth’s thick layer of ice. The first data from the European spacecraft have been presented at an Earth observation meeting in Norway.

The information clearly shows Clyrosat has the required sensitivity to assess the state of Antarctica’s and Arctic ice, according to its lead scientist.

“All of the measurement concepts have been confirmed,” UCL Professor Duncan Wingham told BBC News. The European Space Agency’s Clyrosat-2 satellite was launched in April on a quest to map the thickness and shape of the Earth’s polar ice cover.

Internet

No escape yet from ‘Swantanamo’ for Ottawa royal swans

LONDON, 1 July—Plans to approve a new winter home for a flock of royal swans in the Canadian capital Ottawa in time for a visit by Queen Elizabeth II have been delayed.

Campaigners dubbed the animals’ current off-sea home, ‘Swantanamo Bay’, saying it is squalid and cramped. Ottawa’s city council has postponed a debate scheduled for Tuesday about a new home for the birds. They are descendants of six pairs of mate swans presented by the Queen to Ottawa in 1967, amid celebrations of Canada’s 100th birthday.

Simple test could detect Down’s

LONDON, 1 July—A blood test during pregnancy could one day replace more invasive tests for Down’s syndrome, say researchers.

High-risk women are currently offered an amniocentesis test, which carries a risk of miscarriage. But Dutch researchers told a fertility conference they are on the verge of developing an accurate way of testing the mother’s blood for chromosome disorders in the foetus.

Internet

Advocators urge new UK climate policies

LONDON, 1 July—Major changes in policy are still needed to meet climate targets despite emission cuts brought about by the recession, say government advisors. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) calls for a “step change” in power generation, insulation and transport.

Continuing to rely on “light touch” approaches will not work, it says.

Internet

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Internet

Internet
Xinhua launches CNC World English channel

BEIJING, 1 July — China’s Xinhua News Agency on Thursday launched its English language TV service, CNC World.

CNC World broadcasts English news programmes 24 hours a day and covers breaking news and major political, economic and cultural news around the globe.

Xinhua president Li Congjun said, “CNC will present an international vision with a China perspective. It will broadcast news reports in a timely way and objectively and be a new source of information for global audiences.”

The English service is one of Xinhua’s initiatives to keep pace with a fast-developing global media industry.—Xinhua

Julianne Hough keeps coy on Ryan Seacrest rumors

NASHVILLE, Tenn., 1 July — Country singer and “Dancing With The Stars” pro Julianne Hough isn’t making her romantic life public, but she is giving hints that rumors linking her to “American Idol” host Ryan Seacrest are true.

When asked Tuesday whether she is dating Seacrest, Hough laughed and said that she wasn’t going to confirm or deny anything. While she answered, Hough looked up and to the right with a coy smile on her face.

Hough went on to say: “Ryan’s great. He’s a really good guy.”

Xinhua

Eminem sells 741,000 copies of new album in US

LOS ANGELES, 1 July — Eminem will blast in at No. 1 on the US pop chart on Wednesday with the biggest week for a single release since 2008, according to sales data from Nielsen SoundScan.

“Recovery,” the follow-up to the rapper’s 2009 album “Relapse,” sold 741,000 copies during the week ended Sunday, enough to become his sixth consecutive No. 1 debut on the Billboard 200 chart.

Eminem’s new album also vowed digitally, as downloads made up 255,000 units of the first-week tally. That’s the second-biggest digital week for an album in history.

Forbes list: Here comes Lady Gaga!

BEIJING, 1 July — Lady Gaga comes only behind power veterans Oprah, James Cameron, and Beyonce on Forbes 2010 Celebrity 100 Power List.

According to Forbes.com’s the judging criteria are as follows: “Earnings estimates are for 1 June, 2009 to 1 June, 2010. Includes dollars earned solely from entertainment income.”

Other factors are radio/TV mentions of magazine covers, and web hits on Google, and twitter and facebook followers.

2009 was the year of Lady Gaga. She continues to show her unique personal style without any doubt or fear, and she made her way as a newcomer to the list with a powerful gesture.—Internet

Space adventure “Captain EO” to return to Tokyo Disneyland

TOKYO, 1 July — A 3-D film, “Captain EO”, which stars Michael Jackson, will come back to Tokyo Disneyland on 1 July , with new in-theater experiences.

The musical space adventure tells the story of Captain EO who leads the crew of his spaceship on 30 June, 2010.

Deathly Hallows brings Harry Potter to end

BEIJING, 1 July — The final banquet for Harry Potter fans is almost near as the trailer for “Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows” has hit the web this weekend.

The film will be released in two parts, with the first installment slated for a 19 Nov. release. Part two will arrive in theaters on 15 July, 2011.

The movie will not only mark as the end of a saga, but will also bring an end to the long-awaited final confrontation between Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort.

In one scene, Voldemort grabs Harry’s face and malevolently hisses “Why do you live?” And brave Harry responds, “Because I have something to live for.”

These last two films will be the first to be shown in IMAX 3-D.

Jennifer Hudson opens up about family murders

BEIJING, 1 July—“Dreamgirl” Jennifer Hudson talked about her family murders for the first time publicly in an episode of “Behind the Music” airing on Monday, according to media reports.

Hunson called the 2008 triple-slaying was “surreal.” The bodies of Hudson’s 57-year-old mother Darnell Donerson and 29-year-old brother Jason Hudson were discovered inside the home where Hudson grew up in Chicago. Her 7-year-old nephew Julian King was later found dead in a vehicle.

“It’s all a blur. It was surreal,” she said during an episode of US cable channel VH1’s documentary series “Behind the Music” broadcast on Monday.

“It was like I was outside of myself.”

The Oscar and Grammy winning artist revealed that the overwhelming grief led her to spend two months totally sequestered in her home. “I was secluded from everything going on,” said Hudson on the VH1 show. “I didn’t even know what was going on. I had enough to deal with.”

Ever since then, Hunson’s various interviews for new entertainment projects generally were set-up with specifically requesting “no questions about her family tragedy.”

Hudson said a key moment for her came when she reappeared at the 2009 Grammies, where she won best R&B album. “If there was anything to lift me up, that was it.” She said.
Federer out of Wimbledon, Nadal planning offensive

London, 1 July—With Roger Federer put to the sword in stunning fashion, the fight for the Wimbledon title is more open than ever and that means Rafael Nadal will go on the offensive when he faces Andy Murray in the semi-finals on Friday.

Federer's shock defeat to 12th seed Tomas Berdych in the quarter-finals on Wednesday has given a huge shot of adrenaline to the four remaining players in the men's singles draw as they bid to replace the Swiss star as Wimbledon champion.

The chief beneficiary of Federer's exit could be

Place ex-england manager Sven-Goran Eriksson in April 2009, but Sunday's 3-1 defeat to Argentina in Johannesburg was the fifth successive time the country had failed at the second round stage.

'It's very clear. The first person responsible is me. I believe that I have to resign my job,' Aguirre told a news conference.

'It's the most honest solution, the fairest and it's something I have to do.'

Aguirre was in his second spell as national coach having qualified Mexico to the 2002 World Cup where they were eliminated by the United States in the last 16.

BRAZIL DEMAND END TO VIOLENCE

JOHANNESBURG, 1 July—Brazil demanded greater protection for their artists from World Cup assassins on Wednesday.

Midfield star Elano became the five-time champions' latest injury casualty when the Galatasaray player, who has scored twice in the tournament, was ruled as doubtful for Friday's quarter-final against the Netherlands.

Elano picked up an ankle injury in the group match win over Ivory Coast and he subsequently missed the scoreless draw with Portugal and Monday's 3-0 round-of-16 win over Chile.

'I didn't get the chance to speak to the referee (after the incident against the Ivory Coast), but he didn't even whistle for a foul. There was a foul on Robinho later that should really have merited a red card,' said Elano.

The referee for that match, Stephane Lannoy awarded a drop-ball instead.

'We have various characteristics in our squad, but there is no-one who goes out there with the intention of injuring an opponent,' added Elano.

'The problem is that it's me who pays the price because I can't be available for my team. These fouls must be punished.'

PORTUGAL STRAIN TOO MUCH FOR RONALDO, SAYS QUEIROZ

MADRID, 1 July—Cristiano Ronaldo, the world's most expensive footballer, may find playing for Portugal too heavy a burden, under-fire coach Carlos Queiroz implied on Wednesday.

Ronaldo once again failed to reproduce his club form on the international stage as Portugal went out of the World Cup on Tuesday, losing 1-0 to Spain in the last 16.

While the 25-year-old Real Madrid star has denied criticising Queiroz for the team's exit, he revealed in comments on a website owned by his agent that he felt like a broken man and had never felt such sadness.

However, his emotional comments failed to move Queiroz, who along with Ronaldo was savaged in the Portuguese press on Wednesday. The player was criticised for being virtually anonymous during the finals while the coach was accused of a lack of imagination and ambition.

PHILIPPINE BOXING STAR PACQUIAO ENTERS POLITICS

ALABEL, 1 July—Manny Pacquiao has taken his oath as a Philippine congressman, bringing the boxing star into a political arena that he said seemed more daunting than stepping inside the ring.

The 31-year-old Pacquiao, looking a bit uneasy in an elegant formal shirt and leather shoes, pledged on Monday before about 1,000 spectators in Alabel in the southern Sarangani province to be a good, God-fearing civil servant.

Talking to reporters later, Pacquiao said he was nervous that he could not accomplish much but he promised to try his best to ease the widespread poverty gripping his province, about 600 miles south of Manila.
One Indonesia’s last glacier will melt within years

JAKARTA, 1 July—Lonnie Thompson spent years preparing for his expedition to the remote, mist-shrouded mountains of eastern Indonesia, hoping to chronicle the affect of global warming on the last remaining glacier in the Pacific. He’s worried he got there too late. Even as he pitched his tent on top of Puncak Jaya, the ice was melting beneath him. The 3-mile-(4,884-metre)- high glacier was pounded by rain every afternoon during the team’s 13-day trip, something the American scientist has never encountered in three decades of drilling ice cores. He lay awake at night listening to the water gushing beneath him. By the time they were ready to head home, ice around their sheltered campsite had melted a staggering 12 inches (30 centimetres).

This undated photo released by Papua Project Freeport-McMoRan shows glaciers on Puncak Jaya, mountains in eastern Indonesia. ‘These glaciers are dying,’ Lonnie Thompson, one of the world’s most accomplished glaciologists, said on 30 June 2010.

WEATHER

Thursday, 1st July, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Mon State and Magway Division and widespread in Chin and Kayah States and Yangon Division and fairly widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (2.32) inches, Thipaw and Ngathainchaung (1.61) inches each, Lashio (1.57) inches and Kyauktaw (1.38) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-6-2010 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 1-7-2010 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-7-2010 was 93%. Total sun shine hours on 30-6-2010 was (1.5) hour.

Rainfall on 1-7-2010 was (0.47) inch at Mingaladon, (1.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.55) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (29.45) inches at Mingaladon, (34.13) inches at Kaba-Aye and (35.79) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from East at (18:30) hours MST on 30-6-2010.

Bay Influence: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of the 2nd July 2010: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayin State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayin and Mon States and Mandalay Division and fairly widespread in remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-7-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-7-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Major events of Shanghai Expo

A range of ceremonies, cultural shows and recreational activities are shaping the 184-day-long Expo into a gala event. More than 160 nations and international organizations have submitted applications for National Pavilion Day activities. Some 1,100 proposals for performances are scheduled to stage. All domestic provinces, autonomous regions and cities have put forward plans for their Thematic Week activities during the Expo, Myanmar Media Team has learnt.

At the Shanghai World Expo, Myanmar celebrated its National Pavilion Day on 1 June. The Myanmar delegation led by U Tin Naing Thein, the Minister for Commerce received a welcome from Mr Zhang Xiaoqiang, the vice-chairman of National Development and Reform Commission of China. Visitors were treated to some traditional performances.

Kids from Myanmar, dressed in festive outfits, ushered in the opening ceremony. Traditional songs and dances introduced the country and its people’s character, which is honest, courageous and virtuous.

With the theme of “Better Urbanization with Harmonized Ecosystem”, Myanmar Pavilion is situated in the Joint Asian Area. The building is influenced by Southeast Asian design elements and (See page 9)

Ayeyawady Div puts 1,006,394 acres under monsoon paddy

YANGON, 1 July—Up to 30 June, Ayeyawady Division has put 1,006,394 acres under monsoon paddy.—MNA