NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein previewed display of Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sale 2011 this afternoon.

On his arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Mani Yadana Jade Hall where Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sale 2011 will be held, the President was welcomed by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Patron of Central Committee for organizing Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sale 2011 Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, vice-chairmen of the central committee, secretaries and committee members, officials of subcommittees, Patron of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Ko Win and executives.

The President and party examined petrified woods on display in front of the hall.

On the first floor of the hall, the President and party watched documentaries on Myanma Gems Emporiums, Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium 2010 which was held successfully in Nay Pyi Taw for the first time, the 48th Myanma Gems Emporium, Myanma Gems Museum, construction of Mani Yadana Jade Hall and preparations for Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sale 2011.

Accompanied by Union Mine Minister U Thein Htaik and officials, the President inspected quality jade lots displayed on the first floor of the hall, gems shops of private companies and entrepreneurs on the ground floor and preparations for the Special Sale by respective subcommittees.

The President gave necessary instructions to the patron of the central committee and responsible persons of MGEA and left there.

Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sale 2011 will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Mani Yadana Jade Hall from 1 to 13 July. Altogether 22,317 lots of jade, 284 lots of gems and 355 lots of pearl will be displayed and sold at the sale.

It is learnt that 6700 gems merchants from 13 countries have been invited and about 4000 gems merchants from eight countries are expected to visit the special sale. — MNA
Perspectives

Wednesday, 29 June, 2011

Ensure food security

Myanmar used to be the world leading rice exporting country. After 1962, its rice sector went from boom to bust in consequence of the then economic system. In 2003, reforms were made in the rice policy in accordance with the market economy, thus bringing about improvement in the rice production to some extent.

About 70 % of the people reside in rural areas, engaging in agricultural farming and livestock breeding as main source of their incomes. They are the main working force of the nation. So, there is a direct link between boosting production of goods in rural areas and the country’s economic growth.

Today, the world has come under the threats of climate changes and financial crises. To ensure food security and amounting energy demand have become major challenges for world countries.

For an agro-based country like Myanmar, development of agricultural and livestock farming in rural areas, ensuring food security, boosting incomes of rural folks and poverty alleviation have been at the forefront of the nation’s attention.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Myanmar jointly organized the Third Development Partnership Forum on Improving Rice Policies for National and Regional Food Security took place in Nay Pyi Taw the other day. It was productive of good results for development of rice production, boosting incomes of farmers and ensuring national and regional food security.

In Asia, food security of a household is interrelated to rice output as rice is staple food of Asians. The majority of world people get more calories from rice than any other food. It is therefore needed to improve Myanmar’s national rice policies and boost production of food in order that farmers will enjoy economic growth and poverty will be alleviated.

Wet Season! Hot Price! at CAPITAL Hypermarkets in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — CAPITAL Hypermarkets in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon will be the places for the Special Sales dubbed Wet Season! Hot Price! from 1 to 10 July. Various kinds of washing machine, iron, laundry dryer, garment rack, ironing board, water dispenser, vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, electric kettle, jar pot, cleaning utensil, household goods, detergents, soap cream will be on sale at reasonable price at the venues. Numerous brands including Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba, Elba, Sharp, Electrolux, Monarch, Three Friend, Cash ‘n’ Carry, Natray, Flower Home, Good Maid, Elan, Rainbow, Fuji, Daily, MA Star will boast their products at the sale. Customers will be lucky if they buy the products spending more than K 50,000 as there will be a lucky draw programme. Those who win the lucky draw will earn LCD-TV, washing machines, refrigerator, electric stove etc.—MLM

Sub-Regional Workshop on National Policy in PWDs held

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Sub-Regional Workshop on National Policy on Persons with Disabilities kicked off at Amara Hotel here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe. Also present were Deputy Minister U Myo Aung and officials.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe addressing at Sub-Regional Workshop on National Policy on Persons with Disabilities.—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan receives Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yaron Mayer at his office here this morning. The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in information exchange and archaeological works of information and cultural sectors that promotes friendship between the two countries and organizing music, film and photo exhibitions in Myanmar. It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin and departmental heads and officials of departments and enterprises under the two ministries.—MNA

Myanmar, Philippines to cooperate in industrial sector

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Union Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein met Filipino Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Maria Hellen M Barber at his office here this morning. They held comprehensive discussions on development of industrial sector, especially bilateral cooperation in small and medium industries. Also present were Deputy Minister U Myo Aung and officials.—MNA

People’s Desires

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

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yaron Mayer.—MNA

Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin and departmental heads and officials of departments and enterprises under the two ministries.

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Four civilians killed in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 June—Four civilians were killed on Monday in an militant attack in Mardyan district of Afghanistan’s Jawzjan province with Shiberghan as its capital, some 390 km north of Kabul, interior ministry said on Tuesday.

“A group of militants laid an ambush and carried out attack on police forces in Tash Tipa area of Mardyan District of northern Jawzjan Province at around 5 pm local time on Monday.

As a result of the attack four civilians including a woman and two children were killed,” said a statement issued by interior ministry here.

The statement blamed enemies of Afghanistan, a term used referring to Taleban militants for killing the innocent civilians during the gunfight which lasted for a while. However, the Taleban have yet to make comments.

According to the statement, police forces also killed four insurgents and found three AK-47 and two motorcycles in their possession.

26 people killed in two US drone strikes in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 June—At least 26 people were killed in two US drone strikes launched Monday in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of South Waziristan, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo.

According to the local media reports, the US drones launched two strikes in the same aforesaid area on Monday. During the first strike launched on Monday afternoon, four missiles were fired by US drones at a vehicle suspected of carrying militants in the Wana area of South Waziristan, reportedly killing 12 people.

The second strike, which was launched late Monday night in the Mantoi area of South Waziristan with a target at two houses, killing 14 people.

Monday’s strike is the 39th (counted on a daily basis) of its kind launched by US drones in Pakistan’s territory since this year. To date, a total of 344 people, most of whom are believed to be militants, have reportedly been killed in such strikes in 2011.

Two feared dead as army trainer plane crashes in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 June—Two people on board an army trainer plane were feared dead as the plane crashed Tuesday afternoon some 60 kilometres southeast of Pakistan’s capital Islamabad, reported local Urdu TV channel Aaj.

According to the report, the plane crashed at about 1:30 pm local time in Gujar Khan, a city situated southeast of Islamabad. Local residents in Gujar Khan said that they saw a plane flying over the city with engine on fire before it crashed in less populated area of the city. Other details about the crash are not immediately available.

Taleban threatens more attacks

ISLAMABAD, 28 June—The Taleban in Pakistan are making more threats to kill Americans and others as payback for the assassination of Osama bin Laden.

In a video released during the weekend, a Taleban leader vowed the terrorist group would initiate 10 attacks, with sites in the United States and NATO countries on its target list, ABC News reported Monday.

“Soon you will see attacks against America and NATO countries,“ Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan deputy commander Waliur Rehman says in the video.

France and the United Kingdom top the target list in Europe, he said. Rehman said an attack on a Pakistani naval base last month was the Taleban’s first act of revenge for the 2 May death of bin Laden, the founder of the terrorist group al-Qaeda.—Internet

80 illegal migrants kidnapped in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 28 June—A priest says armed men have stormed a northbound train and kidnapped at least 80 illegal Central American migrants.

Alejandro Solalinde runs a migrant shelter in the state of Oaxaca. He suspects the Zetas drug cartel seized the migrants on Friday.

The priest says some who escaped told authorities there were 250 migrants on the train, most from Honduras and Guatemala. Thousands of Central American migrants enter Mexican territory illegally each year, many bound for the United States.

Mexico’s National Human Rights Commission reported at least 11,333 migrants were abducted between April and September 2010. Police recently made arrests in the suspected December kidnapping of 50 migrants in Oaxaca.

Former town mayor shot dead in S Philippines

COTABATO, 28 June—A former mayor in southern Philippines’ Sulu Province died while his wife was injured when they were waylaid by still unidentified suspects in Zamboanga City on Monday morning, police said.

Zamboanga City police chief Edwin de Ocampo said investigations are still ongoing so as to the identities of the suspects and their motive although they are looking into the “political angle.”

De Ocampo said the former Maimbung town mayor Najib Maldisa and his wife, Alba Maldisa, were aboard a car and traversing the Public Cemetery when they were ambushed at around 8:15 am.

“They were aboard their service car driven by the mayor’s wife when (suspects onboard) two big bike motorcycles blocked their way and shot them close range using cal .45,” “The ex-mayor suffered six gunshot wounds at forehead and breast,” saidde Ocampo.

De Ocampo said the victims were rushed to a nearby hospital but the former mayor died while undergoing surgery operation. His wife remains confined at the hospital.—Internet

A man walks past an oil tanker after it was attacked and set ablaze by a bomb explosion during the night in the outskirts of Nowshera on 28 June, 2011.—Internet

80 illegal migrants kidnapped in Mexico
**Asteroid buzzes Earth harmlessly**

BEIJING, 28 June — A truck-sized asteroid passed over the Atlantic Ocean within 7,500 miles of the Earth on Monday, according to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The space rock, called asteroid 2011 MD, is the second space rock to zip extremely close to the Earth this year. The asteroid, with latest size estimates ranging from 16 to 86 feet (5 to 26 metres) wide, was discovered just last week on 22 June, but there was never any risk of it impacting the Earth, NASA scientists said.

That means asteroid 2011 MD would likely be too small to survive the fiery plunge through the Earth’s atmosphere, let alone reach the surface, NASA scientists said. Asteroids this size can be expected to buzz Earth with close shaves about once every six years, they added.

The space rock flew well below geosynchronous satellites, which orbit 22,236 miles (35,786 km) above the Earth, but well above the 220-mile (354-km) altitude of the International Space Station.

There was little chance that the asteroid would hit a satellite because of the vastness of space and relatively small number of satellites, experts said.

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**New software boosts computer performance, safety**

WASHINGTON, 28 June—Researchers have developed a software tool that optimises a computer’s functioning without compromising its safety features. Currently, computer programmes are incorporating more and more safety features, but they can also slow the programmes down by 1,000 percent or more.

“these safety features or meta-functions can slow a programme down so much that software developers will often leave them out entirely,” says James Tuck, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering North Carolina State University, who led the project.

The researchers have developed a tool that takes advantage of multi-core (or multi-processor) computer chips by running the safety features on a separate core in the same chip, according to a North Carolina statement. Currently chips contain between four and eight cores, allowing the main programme to run at close-to-normal operating speed.

“To give you some idea of the problem, we saw the application we were testing being slowed down by approximately 580 percent,” Tuck says.

“Utilising our software tool, we were able to incorporate safety meta-functions, while only slowing the programme down by approximately 25 percent. That’s a huge difference,” he added. This multi-core approach has been tried before, but previous efforts were unwieldy and involved replicating huge chunks of code — a process that was time-consuming and used a great deal of power.—Xinhua

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**Chinese ZTE to start producing tablets in Brazil**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 June—Chinese technology company ZTE will start producing tablets in Brazil in August, the company’s Chairman, Hou Weigui, announced on Monday.

We have made partnerships with local factories for the local production of tablets in August,” he said during a meeting with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff. The chairman added that the production of tablets is currently in test phase in Brazil.

ZTE, which has operated in Brazil since 2001, first announced its intention to produce tablets in the country in April, when Rousseff made her an official visit to China.

The company is building a large industrial park in the small town of Hortolandia in Sao Paulo state. The complex is expected to start operating in 2012, and will produce not only tablets but also cell phones.

ZTE plans to invest a total of 250 million US dollars in its operations in Brazil. The company expects to employ some 2,500 people in the country by 2014.—Xinhua

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**Top medic operates on emperor penguin in NZ**

BEIJING, 28 June — One of New Zealand’s top surgeons was enlisted to operate on an ailing Emperor penguin, nicknamed “Happy Feet”, found on a beach near Wellington, New Zealand, on Monday.

Only the second Emperor penguin ever recorded in New Zealand, “Happy Feet” was taken to the Wellington Zoo last Friday after it began eating sand in a bid to cool down. Emperor penguins in the Antarctic eat snow when they get too hot.

More used to dealing with sick humans than poorly penguins, surgeon John Wyeth, the head of gastroenterology at Wellington Hospital and a past president of the New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology, performed a delicate two-hour operation on the bird, which has suffered declining health. Assisted by a six-person medical team, Wyeth performed an endoscopy to remove twigs, stones and sand which had been clogging the penguin’s gut, feeding a tiny camera down its throat then looping a line around the debris.

“i wasn’t familiar with the anatomy if I did a similar procedure in a human it would take me 10 minutes,” said Wyeth.—Xinhua

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**Science**

A skeleton of a Prosaurolophus maximus, a dinosaur which measured over 11 metres, is seen near a lorry which transported it in Paris on 25 June, 2011. The dinosaur skeletons will be presented to the public from 1 July through 15 September. Xinhua

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**Technology**

Visitors watch 3D images inside a black box through special glasses at the Sony showroom in Tokyo. Sony chairman and president Howard Stringer on Tuesday apologised to shareholders and customers over a massive data leak, which helped push its share price to a two-year low this month.—INTERNET

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Hospitals in US territories have higher death rates

WASHINGTON, 28 June—Certain groups of patients treated at hospitals in US territories have poorer outcomes and higher death rates than those treated at hospitals in US states, according to a new study.

Nearly five million people live in US territories, which include Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands, according to background information in the study.

Researchers looked at outcomes and death rates for Medicare fee-for-service patients with heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia who were treated at 57 territorial hospitals and about 4,800 stateside hospitals between July 2005 and June 2008.

“Despite the national effort to address health-care disparities through increased public reporting and standardizing hospital performance, hospitals in the US territories have been largely neglected,” concluded Dr Marcella Nunez-Smith, of Yale University School of Medicine, and colleagues.

The study appears 27 June online in the journal Archives of Internal Medicine.

Japanese PM revamps Cabinet lineup slightly

TOKYO, 28 June—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan on Monday revamped his Cabinet lineup slightly, naming Goshi Hosono, his special adviser, as state minister in charge of dealing with the ongoing crisis at the Fukushima No1 nuclear power plant.

Hosono, 39, has played a major role in liaising between the government and the plant’s operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co, since the world’s worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl was triggered by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

Kan also officially appointed 60-year-old Ryu Matsumoto as the minister in charge of reconstruction from the March disasters.

Matsumoto’s position of environment minister will be concurrently filled by Justice Minister Satsuki Eda, 70.

Matsumoto has been in charge of programmes to remove debris and to deliver aid to tens of thousands of people living at evacuation shelters in the disaster-hit areas. Local media said the new position will enable him to continue his humanitarian programmes.

Kan recruited an upper house lawmaker from the country’s biggest opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party, to serve as parliamentary secretary for reconstruction.

The 11 March disaster has left nearly 23,000 people dead or missing in northeast Honshu.

US consumer spending drops 0.1% in May

WASHINGTON, 28 June—US personal consumption drops 0.1 percent in May, a fresh sign of the faltering economic recovery, reported the Commerce Department on Monday.

Nominal personal consumption expenditures (PCE) were virtually unchanged, while the real PCE, consumption after adjusting for inflation, decreased 0.1 percent, the same decrease as in April, according to the report.

Personal income rose 0.3 percent in May, the same pace as in April. Last month, the US savings rate, personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income, edged up to 5 percent from 4.9 percent in April.

It remained well above the 2.1 percent average savings rate for all of 2007.

Apple might launch iPhone 4S, iPhone 5 by September

BEIJING, 28 June—Apple might surprise consumers later this year by releasing two iPhones, according to analysts from two different investment banks.

Some call it the iPhone 5, to run the iOS 5 operating system Apple unveiled to developers three weeks ago. It has been in charge of programmes to remove debris and to deliver aid to tens of thousands of people living at evacuation shelters in the disaster-hit areas. Local media said the new position will enable him to continue his humanitarian programmes.

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“Black economy” costs Ireland five billion euros a year

DUBLIN, 28 June— Ireland is losing 5 billion euros (7.1 US dollars) a year because of a thriving cash-only “black economy” that dodges taxes and abuses the welfare system, the Irish Small & Medium Enterprises Association (ISME) said Monday.

The ISME said the underground market, valued at 25 billion euros (35.5 US dollars) a year, is forcing legitimate companies out of business.

“As the country remains in recession, there has been a noticeable increase in black economy activities, with catastrophic consequences for those legitimate companies,” ISME Chief Executive Mark Fielding said Monday.

He added the culture of illegal trading is especially prevalent in the construction and maintenance sectors.

One of the reasons behind the alleged increase in illicit trading, according to Fielding, is an outdated social welfare system that makes it difficult for individuals to declare temporary work when they are still receiving social welfare.

“With rising costs and taxes, there’s also an incentive not to work, or to work but not to work,” he added. “The system itself therefore offers a significant incentive to operate within the shadow economy, encouraging undisclosed employment without taxes or regulations, while claiming assistance from the state.”

Fielding said.

The ISME has called on the Irish government to introduce tougher measures to tackle the problem, suggesting new steps including harsher penalties on those caught operating the black economy and greater inspection and policing of the social welfare assistance to ensure that all claims are legitimate.—Xinhua

Radioactive water leaks from Japan’s damaged plant

TOKYO, 28 June—Tons of radioactive water were discovered on Tuesday to have leaked into the ground from Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant, the latest in a series of leaks at the plant damaged in a March earthquake and tsunami, the country’s nuclear watchdog said.

More than three months after the disaster, authorities are struggling to bring under control damaged reactors at the power plant, 240 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo.

About 15 metric tonnes of water with a low level of radiation leaked from a storage tank at the plant on the Pacific coast, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said.

Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (Tepco) said it was investigating the cause of the leak which was later repaired.—Reuters

Iran starts major missile maneuver

TEHERAN, 28 June—An Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) commander said that Iran began the major missile maneuver dubbed Piambar A’zam-6 (Great Prophet-6) on Monday, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

Colonel Asghar Qitichkhani, the spokesman for the wargame, said that the first stage of the missile maneuver was started by unveiling the missile launching silos.

The technology and the construction of the silos are totally local and have been developed and built by the Iranian experts, said Qitichkhani. The permanent readiness of the missiles in the vertical position is one of the important features of these silos, the commander said, adding that all the launching stages of the missile are electronic and are remote-controlled.

The silos function as one of the swift-reaction units of the missile commandment so that, permanently in the vertical position, they are ready to hit the predetermined targets, he was quoted a saying.

A ballistic missile is launched during the second day of military exercises codenamed Great Prophet-6, for Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards at an undisclosed location. Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards fired 14 missiles in the exercise.—Xinhua

Brain dead for four months, woman gives birth to boy in S Arabia

MANAMA, (Bahrain), 28 June—In a rare case, a 38-year-old mother who has been brain dead for four months has given birth to a baby boy in Saudi Arabia’s eastern Al Khobar Province.

A Gulf News report said that the baby boy was delivered 28 weeks and two days after conception and is in good condition at the Sa’ad Specialist Hospital. “The mother was transferred to the hospital more than four months ago in a terrible state,” Dr. Samer Qarah, chief medical officer at Sa’ad Specialist Hospital, said.

“She was 11 months pregnant and was artificially fed and was given all necessary antibiotics,” the Sabq news portal quoted him, as saying further. With the mother brain dead, the medical team worked on preserving the baby’s life in compliance with religious and medical ethics.

After 28 weeks, doctors decided to perform a caesarean due to the baby’s condition worsening.—Xinhua

Gas blast injures 12 in Russian power plant

MOSCOW, 28 June—A gas blast injured 12 people Tuesday at a regional power plant in Russia’s Tyumen region, a spokesman for the Urals regional emergencies centre said.

Fire broke out at the premises where repairs were in progress at early hours Tuesday.

It was extinguished one hour later, leaving no impact on the operation of the power plant, the spokesman said.

“Twelve people were burned and hospitalized. Five of them are in serious condition,” the spokesman was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

The accident might have been caused by violations of safety rules during repairs, a local police source said.
President U Thein Sein looks around jewellery shops in the ground floor of Mani Yadana Jade Hall. (News on page 1) — MNA

Japan hands over food aids for Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Maj-Gen Thein Htay attended Handing Over Ceremony of the Food Aid Programme of the Government of Japan to WFP for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held at the meeting hall of Border Affairs Ministry here this morning.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Ministers for Myanmar Industrial Development U Han Sein and U Chan Maung, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, officials from the Ministry of Border Affairs, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar Ms Makiko Kikuta and party. Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and United Nations World Food Programme Resident Representative Mr Carlos Alberto Veloso.

The Japanese Parliamentary vice-minister delivered an address saying that her visit was the new chapter opened by Japan, and handed over documents related to donations to the WFP resident representative who then spoke words of thanks.

And the Union minister expressed his gratitude on behalf of Myanmar people. Japan handed over 1700 tonnes of refreshment and 1625 tonnes of edible oil, and 1000 tonnes of beans, 4164 tonnes of beans and 4164 tonnes of beans, the ceremony. It has been donated 1000 tonnes of refreshment and 4164 tonnes of beans worthy of US$ 5.489 million in 2010. — MNA

Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min receives French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou. — MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister receives Chinese Economic and Commercial Counsellor

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win received Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr Jin Honggen of Chinese Embassy, General Manager Liu Yong of YOIC Company and Country Manager Mr Di Wen at Bago Government Office in Bago Region this morning.

Also present at the call were Region Economic Minister U Kyaw Myint and personnel. — MNA

Deputy Industry-1 Minister meets Filipino, Chinese Ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Deputy Minister for Industry-1 U Thein Aung received Filipino Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Maria Hellen M Barber at the meeting hall of the ministry here at 8 am and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua at the same venue at 4 pm today separately.

They held discussions on investment matters. — MNA

Union Defence Minister receives French and Singaporean Ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min received French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou at the ministry at 10 am today.

The Union minister also met Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert at the same venue at 11 am.

Also present at the calls together with the Union minister were Deputy Ministers for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and Col Aung Thaw. — MNA

SSMNC to meet at Kaba Aye Hill on 9-10 July

YANGON, 28 June — The plenary meeting of Sixth 24-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 9th and 10th Waxing of Waso, 1373 ME (9 and 10 July).

Invitation letters have been delivered to SSMNC member Sayadaws, requesting to arrive at Kaba Aye Hill here on 5 July. The Ministry of Religious Affairs requested the Sayadaws to reach the venue in time whether received the invitation or not. — MNA
Right to make choice still in the hand

Pyae Sone Aung

In fact, the right to renew their party in accordance with the law is still in the hands of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her members. These days, many organizations are applying for formation of political parties that cover the media. If they really want to continue party politics they have the rights to form a party in accordance with the law.

As far as I am concerned, some of the five political parties that failed to renew their registration joined other parties or formed new parties to stand for election. According to the records, of the 32 parties that took part in the 2010 election, 22 won seats. The majority of the parties that stood for election enjoyed the rights to be part of Hluttaw and participate in the talks in Hluttaw sessions. Without participation in the election, any party cannot enjoy those rights.

If they extended a helping hand in the proceedings in the national interests and stood for election in line with the democratic practice to enjoy power in spite of different views and stances, it would be acceptable to the people. Nevertheless, the dissolved party claimed that it was opposed to the 2008 constitution, 2010 election, and both the old government and the new government that was elected in accordance with the constitution by the people. Making unreasonable demands, it proclaimed that national reconciliation was necessary. All they do with total reliance on external elements are contrary to the people’s desire and interests. It stills clings on to its negative attitude.

It is said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will soon make a tour of the country. Her followers and supporters are gushing that the icon must keep in touch with the public. They seem willing to exploit the public. They also propagate that the government is responsible for security of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her members. These days, many organizations are applying for formation of political parties that cover the media. If they really want to continue party politics they have the rights to form a party in accordance with the law.

The entire people including me are keeping their eyes on the new government to see what its formation, concepts, procedures and goals are like. We have recognized that the government is working hard to translate its words into reality in a short period. It is commonly accepted that the first five-year term is the most indispensable for building a modern, developed democratic nation.

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Today, Myanmar has passed through many periods and seen many different policies. All’s concepts, procedures and future programmes have been much different from that in the past due to changes of everything. To be honest, the people of us are very pleased with smooth transformation into a new system that is going in line with the desires of today’s people who are thirsty for reforms.

Now, Myanmar has witnessed a constitution which serves as a foundation for building a modern, developed democratic nation. Legislative, executive and judicial powers have been in force in accordance with the constitution. The people have been bestowed the right to elect representatives to Hluttaw of their own accord and the right to stand for election. They are sound foundations for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy system.

It is therefore required of the government, departments and the people including political parties to have a sense of democratic process to be able to practise democracy correctly, making good use of those sound foundations. In that regard, the entire people are responsible for honouring the existing laws, culture, customs and traditions in exercising their freedom and rights. The Myanmar society will become democratically disciplined only if every citizen is capable of distinguishing between freedom and duty, and discipline.

The entire people including me are keeping their eyes on the new government to see what its formation, concepts, procedures and goals are like. We have recognized that the government is working hard to translate its words into reality in a short period. It is commonly accepted that the first five-year term is the most indispensable for building a modern, developed democratic nation. Without doubt, the nation’s ultimate goal will be brought to fruition in no time if the nation can take giant steps towards the goal in the first five-year term.

In the time of the market economy, every citizen shall have access to jobs. The government shall create job opportunities. Every citizen must work hard. Only if every citizen works, can they earn incomes. And the nation’s GDP will be on the increase. Taking advantages of emerging economic opportunities, the people should do businesses in accordance with the law to improve their socioeconomic status. At the core of this process lies stability and peace. Only with will it be possible for every citizen to do their businesses and become affluent. So, it is safe to say that stability and peace is the most fundamental requirement for shaping the future of the nation and the people.

The people all accept that today the nation is witnessing stability and peace at the unprecedented level. The rule of law and security have prevailed the whole country except some border areas. Every citizen can do their businesses safely and peacefully and has freedom of activities under the protection of the law. Therefore, the people are sensitive to any acts that can harm stability and peace. They cannot bear the thought of seeing stability and peace being undermined for some reason. It is absolutely unacceptable to every citizen that they are in a state of panic instead of leading a comfortable life in stability and peace.

Yet, there are certain persons who are attempting to get the nation in terrible mess the people of us are in fear of. We assume that by misfortune, the nation still sees those anxious to stir up a variety of problems to break up stability and peace. The people of us will be heartrending if constructive forces’ efforts slow down or come to a halt at the instigation of destructive elements. We really feel weary with anxiety whenever we think about the negative impact of such possible disruptions.

From the point of law, NLD is defunct. The Union Election Commission issued Announcement (18/2010) dated 9-4-2010 reminding the 10 political parties that still met Article 25 of Political Parties Registration Law at that time that they could apply to make a tour of the country. Her followers and supporters are gushing that the icon must keep in touch with the public. They seem willing to exploit the public. They also propagate that the government is responsible for security of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her members. These days, many organizations are applying for formation of political parties that cover the media. If they really want to continue party politics they have the rights to form a party in accordance with the law.

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Home Affairs Ministry sends letter to U Aung Shwe, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi informing they are to act in accord with law

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—The Ministry of Home Affairs today sent a letter to U Aung Shwe and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, informing them they are to act in accord with the law.

The letter states that National League for Democracy was permitted to be registered as a party on 27 September 1988 in accordance with Political Parties Registration Law; that the Union Election Commission issued Notification No.18/2010 dated 9 April 2010 announcing that the existing parties, if they wish to remain as political parties, may apply to the commission within 60 days in line with Political Parties Registration Law Section-25 (State Peace and Development Council Law No.2/2010) issued on 8 March 2010; that however, the NLD did not apply for continued existence of a political party and registration; that so, the NLD became null and void according to the law; and that the commission issued Notification No.97/2010 dated 14 September 2010 announcing that the NLD was dissolved together with four other parties by revoking the permit for continued existence of political parties and registration.

In connection with the case, the NLD lodged an appeal to Supreme Court (Yangon) on 5 November 2010 that according to the 2010 Judicial Law Section-5 (a), (b) & (j) and the 1877 Specific Relief Act Section-45 & 55, the dissolution of the party was not legitimate. But the appeal was turned down by Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) on 22 November, 2010.

It is also mentioned in the letter that despite being dissolved as a political party, the NLD is found to have kept opening its party headquarters and branches in states and regions and other towns, erecting the signboards and hoisting flags at some offices, issuing statements, publishing periodicals and videos, meeting with other organizations and holding meetings and ceremonies. Such acts are not only against the law but also tantamount to opposing the hluttaws at various levels formed with representatives elected in accord with the constitution approved by the entire national people in order to build a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation and the government elected by those hluttaws. What’s more, it may lead to more difficulties in national reconsolidation.

If they really want to accept and practise democracy effectively, they are to stop such acts that can harm peace and stability and the rule of law as well as the unity among the people including monks and service personnel.

For U Aung Shwe and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, they should form a social organization if they want to engage in social affairs in team or group. If so, they have to apply to the Ministry of Home Affairs in accordance with the procedures and the ministry will take measures in accord with the law.

MNA

Authorities concerned trying to expose three suspects who plotted to blast bombs in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw and Chanayethazan and PyinOoLwin towns regions of Mandalay Region

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—The 25 issues of daily newspapers have carried the news that explosions occurred in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw and Chanayethazan and PyinOoLwin towns regions of Mandalay Region on 24 June morning, destroying two houses and a car and injuring three people.

Thanks to the investigation of authorities concerned in cooperation with duty-conscious people, it is learnt that the explosion that occurred in a house in Nay Pyi Taw is owned by Daw Than Myint of Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay; and that it was rented by Sai Hsam and Sai Aik for six months for K 650,000 per month on 24 April. Another explosion that occurred in a house in PyinOoLwin is of Daw Saw Sandar Paing and it was also rented by the same persons for six months for K 140,000 per month on 5 May.

According to investigation into the car blast in Mandalay, it is learnt that three men bought a Surf with number plate 3B/1904 (without license) through brokers Hashin and Kyaw Kyaw Htet on 21 June; that one man carried a packet of money; and that the buyers went in the car totalling over ten million kyats. With the aim of test and practise democratic process with heart and soul, Myanmar’s democracy is still in its infancy, so it is to be nurtured for growth. So, it is vivid that they should choose hluttaw politics that can inculcate party members with good habit of exercising democratic processes. Therefore, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her members should take the approach to power through hluttaw politics, standing as a legal party in accordance with the law and honouring the vote of the people.

If a party wants to represent the public, it should try to win public support. To win public support, it needs to fulfil the public’s requirements. If it trusts the public, it should have enough courage to face the public vote. Today’s people favour development and want to lead a peaceful life with high socioeconomic status for which stability and peace is a must. There is public anxiety over the situations that can have effects on restored stability and peace.

The people oppose instability and riots. I wish they would understand that point, ease the public worries and respect public desires. That is the key to survival of a party.

Now, there is still a way out of disruptions for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her group. If they want to stand as party in accordance with the law, there is an opportunity for them to make a good choice. This opportunity is still in their hand, not in the government and the people. Therefore, to choose either ways is up to them.

Translation: MS

PynOoLwin simultaneously. To do so, they spent K 4.74 million on house rentals and K 6 million on the car totalling over ten million kyats. With the aim of causing deaths and panic among the public, they left and blasted the car in front of crowded Mandalay Zaycho Market apartment.

Following are the identifications of the three suspects:

(a) Sai Hsam: Aged 25, 5’ 5” in height, broad forehead, straight nose, fair complexion, a scar by the left eye.

(b) Sai Aik: Aged 25, 5’ 3” in height, short hair, fair complexion, freckles on the cheeks.

(c) Sai Kyaw Myint Oo: Aged 25, 5’ 4” in height, shoulder-length hair, broad forehead, straight nose, fair complexion, strong accent.

Authorities concerned are trying their best to arrest those three at large. Like the previous similar incidents in which the culprits were captured thanks to the duty-conscious people, the people are urged to arrest those three at large. Like the previous similar incidents in which the culprits were captured thanks to the duty-conscious people, the people are urged to arrest those three at large.
President U Thein Sein cordially greets Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Zacarias Albano Da Costa of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. (News on page 16)—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Ms Makiko Kikuta and party. —MNA

Myanmar, Japan encourage bilateral cooperation

NAV Pyi Taw, 28 June—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Ms Makiko Kikuta and party at the ministry here today.

They exchanged views to promote bilateral relations and cooperation.

Also present at the call were officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and embassy staff.

In the evening, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint hosted dinner to the Japanese guests at the Aureum Palace Hotel.—MNA

Forestry Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

NAV Pyi Taw, 28 June—Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua called on Union Minister for Forestry U Win Tun at the ministry here today.

They held discussion on conservation of forest and environment and mutual cooperation in human resources development. It was also attended by Director-General U Sann Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department, and Acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung and Deputy Director-General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw of Forestry Department.

Myanmar Railways will ply a special sleeper train on Mandalay-Myitkyina route for passengers’ convenience.

The special train (33 up or 34 down) will debut on 2 July. The schedule suggests that the 33 up-train leaves Mandalay railway station at 1 pm and arrives at Myitkyina station at 5.10 am and 34 down-train leaves Myitkyina station at 1.50 pm and arrives at Mandalay station at 6 am.

The up-train runs on every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday while the down-train plies on every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. The trains stop at Shwebo, Kawlin, Mohnyin and Mogauk stations en route. The trains comprise of nine upper sleeping cars, one ordinary coach and one crew coach. The trains charge K 15000 for nationals and US$ 45 for foreigners for sleeping cars and K 6300 for nationals and US$ 18 for foreigners for coach.

The Myanma Railways has declared the extension of special train trip in areas and stations concerned.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
Special Meeting (1/2011) of First Sagaing Region Hluttaw held

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 June — Special Meeting (1/2011) of First Sagaing Region Hluttaw was held at Sagaing Region Hluttaw in Monywa today, attended by Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing, the deputy speaker, region ministers and Hluttaw representatives. The Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker announced validity of the meeting as 101 region representatives eligible to attend the meeting were present, and start of the meeting.

With consent of all Hluttaw representatives, he also announced validity concerning the proposal of the President tabled by the Region Hluttaw Speaker to Hluttaw about changing and reforming of ministries in Sagaing Region.


First day’s session of the meeting came to an end at 10:10 am. MNA

Kachin State Hluttaw meets

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 June — Kachin State Hluttaw held its special meeting (1/2011) at its meeting hall this morning. It was attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Nang Hsai, Kachin State Hluttaw Speaker U Ra Wan John, the deputy speaker and members. The chief minister submitted the President’s proposal for reconstitution of Kachin State ministries to the hluttaw, which was then approved unanimously.


Defence Service Personnel Representative Col Than Aung would be appointed as Minister for Security and Border Affairs; U Nyunt Aung of Mohmynin Constituency (1), as Minister for Finance and Revenue; U Bi Htaw Zaung of Chipwe Constituency (1), as Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding; U Aung Naing of Shwegu Constituency (1), as Minister for Forestry and Mines; Dr Khin Maung Tun of Myitkyina Township Constituency (2), as Minister for Planning and Economy; U Ka Man Du Naw of Myitkyina Township Constituency (1), as Minister for Transport; U Sai Maung Shwe of Mansi Township Constituency (1), as Minister for Electric Power and Industry; U Ah Lay Par of Ingyanyan Township Constituency (1), as Minister for Development Affairs; and Daw Bawk Gya of Sumprabum Township Constituency (1), as Minister for Social Affairs.

The nomination was approved with one voice. MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Timor-Leste guests

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 June — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Dr Zacarias Albano Da Costa at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present at the call together with Speaker U Khin Aung Myint were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Hluttaw Committee members and officials at Hluttaw office. — MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan receives Chinese Ambassador

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 June — Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua at his office here this afternoon. They held comprehensive discussions on visit of disabled people’s performing art troupe of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar in order to perform entertainment, bilateral cooperation in construction of National Museum (Nav Pyi Taw) and National Library (Nav Pyi Taw) and producing films and television programmes and boosting cooperation in information and cultural sectors between the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin and departmental heads and officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry. MNA

Special Meeting (1/2011) of First Kachin State Hluttaw in progress. — MNA

Special Meeting (1/2011) of First Kachin State Hluttaw in progress. — MNA
**Two dolphins die at National Aquarium**

BALTIMORE, 28 June—Officials at Baltimore’s National Aquarium said two dolphin calves died within days of each other at the facility, but the cause of death remained unknown. The first had been found dead in the dolphin pool last week and the second died Saturday in the arms of aquarium medical workers struggling desperately to save it, The Baltimore Sun reported. The calves were born in April to Maya and Spirit, half-sisters who are both 10 years old and first-time mothers.

The aquarium has no male dolphins of breeding age, so a male named Chonoolk was brought to Baltimore from Chicago’s Brookfield Zoo just for the purpose of impregnating May and Spirit, the Sun reported.—INTERNET

**US court rejects California ban on violent video games**

NEW YORK, 28 June — The US Supreme Court has struck down a Californian law banning the sale or rental of violent video games to those aged under 18. The court voted 7-2 to uphold an appeals court ruling that the law was needed as violent video games to those aged under 18. The court declared that the law was needed as violent video games to those aged under 18. The court declared that the law was needed to prevent minors from being exposed to violent content. The findings will help researchers select the best individuals to be kept in captivity for eventual re-release. The research is outlined in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The Tasmanian devil, Sarcophilus harrisii, gets its name from its high-pitched, blood-curdling squeal, and is renowned for fighting over access to animal carcases, which it grinds with its powerful jaws. In 1996, a wildlife photographer snapped an image of an animal in the far north-east of Tasmania with a peculiar growth on its face. —INTERNET

**Tasmanian devil genome holds secret to survival**

LONDON, 28 June — Scientists have sequenced the complete genomes of two Tasmanian devils in the hope of finding clues to preserving this highly endangered marsupial. Devil populations have been decimated by a highly contagious facial cancer that is transferred when these aggressive animals bite each other. The findings will help researchers select the best individuals to be kept in captivity for eventual re-release. There is conflicting evidence over the effect of violent games.—INTERNET

**New Orleans police go on trial over Katrina shooting**

NEW YORK, 28 June — Five police officers charged over a fatal shooting in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 have gone on trial in New Orleans. Two unarmed residents were killed and four others wounded in the incident on the Danziger Bridge. Prosecutors say the officers decided to “shoot first and ask questions later” and then tried to cover up what they did. Defence lawyers say their clients feared for their lives and were justified in using deadly force. Most of New Orleans was flooded by the hurricane and there was widespread looting and violence in the storm’s aftermath. Prosecutor Bobbi Bernstein said police plotted to plant a gun, fabricate witnesses and falsify reports to cover up what they had done. He said they tried to use the chaotic conditions created by the hurricane as an excuse for gaps in their investigations.—INTERNET

**Defence lawyers say officers did the best they could in the chaos after the storm.—INTERNET**
**Paula the Octopus in action for women’s World Cup**

During last year’s World Cup in South Africa, Paul the Octopus shot to fame for his accurate match predictions, so for the women’s competition starting in Germany on Sunday, step forward Paula.

The tentacle-wielding sea creature, who is actually a real octopus, was put through his paces on Friday in Konstanz in southern Germany, but made the shock choice that Canada will win Sunday’s opening match against the hosts in Berlin.

The octopus, whose gender is actually unknown, had to choose between two compartments in a plastic box in its tank, one with a Germany flag and one with a Canada one, with each containing a tasty morsel.

**Dog’s Web site raises $14,000 for cancer**

Dozer, the half-marathon-running dog from Maryland, has raised more than $14,000 for cancer research on his Web page.

Dozer is a 3-year-old goldendoodle from Fulton, Md, who ran the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Centre half marathon 15 May, unbeknownst to his owners. Now, he has a Web site where he is raising money for cancer research, www.unmsfoundation.org/dozer.

**Chris Brown sweeps BET Awards**

LOS ANGELES, 28 June—Chris Brown was the biggest winner at Sunday night’s 2011 BET Awards ceremony, as the pop singer took home four awards including best male R&B artist and the viewers’ choice prize.

“All my fans are everything to me,” Brown said when accepting the first award of the night, for best male R&B artist.

“I know it’s been a long road. I just appreciate every blessing that’s been put in front of me.”

The 21-year-old star, who entered this year’s BET Awards race with six nominations, also walked away with the award for best collaboration for song “Look At Me Now” with Lil Wayne and Busta Rhymes. In this category he was vying with ex-girlfriend Rihanna, who was physically assaulted by him in 2009 after a pre-Grammy Award party.

**Jackson house opened on death anniversary**

LAS VEGAS, 28 June—Michael Jackson fans got a quick look on the first anniversary of his death at a Las Vegas house the King of Pop leased from 2006 to 2008.

The house, owned by businessman and philanthropist Aner Iqbal, is on the market with a listing price of $12 million, the Las Vegas Sun reported. That is about $1 million for every thousand square feet or $1 million per bedroom.

The event got off to a odd start Saturday as about 30 people waited outside in the hot sun. A police officer placed Rubio in handcuffs. The report states that Rubio screamed for help and threatened to call a lawyer. She is charged with refusing to obey a lawful command, obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct.

**Deputies sprayed with breast milk**

Authorities in Ohio, responding to a report of a domestic dispute, said a woman sprayed them with her breast milk while they were attempting to detain her.

The Delaware County Sheriff’s Office said they were called to the Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Centre early Saturday on a report of a domestic dispute and a man there told them he had been attending a wedding with his wife, who he said became drunk and struck him multiple times, WBNS-TV, Columbus, reported Monday.

County Sheriff Walter Davis III said the woman, Stephanie Robinette, 30, of Westerville, had locked herself in a car and deputies attempted to coax her out, but she was uncooperative.

“When deputies attempted to remove Robinette from the vehicle, she advised the deputies that she was a breast-feeding mother and proceeded to remove her right breast from her dress and began spraying deputies and the vehicle with her breast milk,” Davis said.

**Singer Paulina Rubio arrested in Miami after crash**

MIAMI, 28 June—Mexican pop singer Paulina Rubio is charged in Miami with refusing to comply with police officers after a traffic accident.

According to an arrest report, Rubio’s BMW collided with another car Saturday near Miami’s Little Havana.

When asked to get out of her car, Rubio allegedly refused, cursed at an officer and said she was nervous and that “all of you Miami cops are abusive.”

The officer placed Rubio in handcuffs. The report states that Rubio screamed for help and threatened to call her attorney. Police say Rubio eventually calmed down and apologized. She is charged with refusing to obey a lawful command, obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct.

**Cowboy Jack Clement’s home burns down**

NASHVILLE, 28 June—Cowboy Jack Clement’s Nashville home burned down, authorities say.

The musician and producer’s home of 40 years burned down Saturday afternoon, Nashville’s The Tennesseean reported.

Clement, his girlfriend, Aleene Jackson, and others escaped the fire unharmed, along with their three cats.

Unfortunately, priceless music memorabilia and Clement’s memories perished in the fire, including unreleased original reel-to-reel recordings of Johnny Cash, Eddy Arnold, John Prine and others, and autographed photos.

The fire started in the attic and took more than 18 trucks and 40 firefighters an hour to put out the flames.
Women’s World Cup: Japan wins, Mexico-England draw

FRANKFURT, 28 June—On a day of wonderful goals and woeful goalkeeping, Mexico had reason to celebrate at the Women’s World Cup. A 30-yard blast from Monica Ocampo gave Mexico a 1-1 draw against England on Monday in Wolfsburg, the biggest surprise so far after two days of the three-week tournament. A superb curling free kick from star player Aya Miyama earlier sent Japan past New Zealand 2-1 in Bochum.

After the first round, Japan leads Group B with three points. England and Mexico have one and New Zealand none. Japan, ranked fourth in the world, did not play like the favorite. The taller New Zealand players put on a physical performance, often smothering the superior skills of Japan. It may not have been the 73,680 sellout crowd of Sunday’s opening game in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium, but Bochum (12,538) and Wolfsburg (18,702) featured stadiums well over half full for lots of cheers, ample sunshine, waves in the stands and tense finishes.

Teenage star Varane signs for Real Madrid

MADRID, 28 June—Highly-rated French defender Raphael Varane signed for Spanish giants Real Madrid from French Second Division side Lens the selling club’s president Gervais Martel told AFP on Monday. The 18-year-old — who has played just 23 Ligue 1 matches in a season that saw Lens relegated — signed a six-year contract after passing his medical, Real announced when they confirmed the signing later on Monday.

“Real Madrid and Lens have reached agreement over the transfer of the French player Raphael Varane, who will wear the Real shirt for the next six seasons,” Real said in a statement.

Worried Nadal to get MRI on injured left foot

WIMBLEDON, 28 June—Rafael Nadal felt something “crush” in his left foot, and the intense pain immediately made him worry that it might be broken. And then, as he hobbled along between first-set points in the fourth round at Wimbledon, came an idea just as scary to contemplate: What if he needed to quit? “I thought I wouldn’t be able to continue playing,” the defending champion and Spain’s Rafael Nadal reacts during the match against Argentina’s Juan Martin Del Potro.

Man Utd’s Nani ‘not going anywhere’

MANCHESTER, 28 June — Manchester United winger Nani has insisted he is “not going anywhere” despite the arrival at Old Trafford of England international Ashley Young and reported interest from abroad.

Messi and co out to stake home claim

BUENOS AIRES, 28 June—Two factors ought to weigh heavily in Argen-
tina’s favour as they embark on the Copa America, Latin America’s answer to the European Championship, from Friday.

First of all, they should be able to count on vociferous support as the host nation — although as players of relegated River Plate will reflect, it is you who are down that the fans will kick you the hardest. Home advantage can be a double-edged sword — as the Argentinians know full well given that they lost out to Uruguay in the 1993 edition under Alfio Basile and are looking to Lionel Messi (pictured, R) to remove that stain as they embark on the Copa America, Latin America’s answer to the European Championship less.

Worried Nadal to get MRI on injured left foot

WIMBLEDON, 28 June—Top-seeded Nadal said Monday night. “That’s the truth, I’m not lying.”

After pulling out a 7-6 (6), 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 victory over 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro, Nadal said he would get an MRI exam on the foot, and couldn’t be 100 percent sure how fit he’ll be for his quarterfinal Wednesday against 10th-seeded Mardy Fish of the United States. “I’m worried, for sure. I’m going to do the MRI. We’ll see what’s going on. Tomorrow, we will see,” Nadal said.

Defending champion and four-time winner Serena Williams was eliminated in the fourth round of Wimbledon on Monday, the first time in five years neither sister will play in the quarterfinals at All England Club.

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VENICE, 27 June—Seventeen-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams was eliminated in the fourth round of Wimbledon on Monday, the first time in five years neither sister will play in the quarterfinals at All England Club.

Venus Williams of the US returns a shot to Bulgaria’s Tsvetana Pironkova during their match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, on 27 June, 2011.— INTERNET
Lisicki downs Bartoli to reach Wimbledon semis

LONDON, 28 June—German wildcard Sabine Lisicki beat French ninth seed Marion Bartoli 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 on Tuesday to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals.

Lisicki will face either 2004 champion Maria Sharapova or Slovakia’s Dominika Cibulkova for a place in Saturday’s final.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Ayeayawady Regions, fairly widespread in Yangon Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (6.61) inches, Bilin (6.18) inches, Maungtaw (6.14) inches, Kyauktaw (5.47) inches, MraukU (3.27) inches, Myeik (2.99) inches and Hpa-nwa (2.84) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw
Maximum temperature on 27-6-2011 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 28-6-2011 was 77°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-6-2011 was (93%). Rainfall on 28-6-2011 was (0.39) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw (Airport)
Maximum temperature on 27-6-2011 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 28-6-2011 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-6-2011 was (79%). Rainfall on 28-6-2011 was (0.12) inch. Rainfall on 28-6-2011 was (0.39) inch at Nay Pyi Taw, (0.08) inch at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (Tr) at Mandalay. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (21.26) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (48.07) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (16.06) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (8) mph from Southeast at (18:30) hours MST on 27-6-2011.

Bay Influence: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 29th June 2011: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kayah State and fairly widespread in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeayawady Regions, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29th June 2011: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29th June 2011: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29th June 2011: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Swedish star Lisicki downs Bartoli to reach semi-finals of Wimbledon

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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

President U Thein Sein receives delegation led by Timor-Leste Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Zacarias Albano Da Costa

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Zacarias Albano Da Costa of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received the delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Zacarias Albano Da Costa of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste at the President Office here at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Director-General of the President Office U Min Zaw, Director-General of the Government Office U Tin Myo Kyi and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA