True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Union Minister for Border Affairs, State Chief Minister on tour of Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe and officials visited Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw today and met departmental officials and townswelders.

They also cordially greeted displaced persons from other regions.

In Ponnagyun, Lt-Gen Hla Min and Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay met displaced persons from other townships at the ordination hall of Lawka Marazein Pagoda.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presented instant noodle packets, clothes, plates and spoons for displaced persons through officials.

Lt-Gen Hla Min and party gave instructions on restoring peace and stability of the region to the township administrator, departmental officials and townswelders.

While in Yathedaung, they met townswelders at the hall of Township GAD. Township Administrator U Zaw Wunna Haing reported on peace and stability of the township and accommodation for the displaced persons at the relief camps.

Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office gives a speech to departmental personnel and townswelders at Yathedaung Township General Administration Department.—MNA

Cash and kind donated to displaced people in Rakhine State

YANGON, 17 June—Companies, sister associations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and wellwishers donated cash and kind to displaced people who are experiencing difficulties for their livelihood in Rakhine State.

At the ceremony to donate cash and kind to the displaced people held at Yangon Region Office here today, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint called on the people to actively cooperate with the government in maintaining the peace and stability in Rakhine State while the government has managed to restore the rule of law there.

The government has established relief camps to give shelter to the victims of the riots which broke out on 28 May and has provided aids to them for their livelihood and health, he said.

Besides, the government will lay down plans for their rehabilitation and have restored peace and stability in Rakhine State, he added.

As part of efforts for fulfilling the livelihood and rehabilitation of the displaced people who lost their property due to the unrest in Rakhine State, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have donated cash and kind to the displaced people.

At the Basic Education High School where the relief camp is being opened, they asked about health, accommodation and food of the displaced persons and presented assistance to them.

Lt-Gen Hla Min and party met departmental officials and townswelders in Kyauktaw and gave instructions on peace and stability of the region.

In the afternoon, they met departmental officials, townswelders and local people at the hall of Pauktaw Township General Administration Department.

(See page 8)

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Greece, Czechs top Group A, through to Euro 2012 quarters

Players of Greece celebrate for victory after the Group A 3rd round match against Russia at the Euro 2012 in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 June. Greece won 1-0.

PAGE 3

Senior UN official praises development of China’s space programme

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr stops Andy Lee in 7th round

PAGE 14

Greece, Czechs top Group A, through to Euro 2012 quarters
NGOs

We now have the constitution that permits the formation of non-governmental organizations in various frontiers as ready players playing their part well in looking after the citizens in various aspects, the natural environment, ancient heritages and traditions and cultures of our kith and kin through multiple operations.

Consequently, many domestic NGOs are emerging in our country in different forms and types as foundations, federations, associations, civil society organizations or groups for specific activities especially for particular communities that need their help. NGOs are difficult to define and classify as they are involving in a wide range of fields from health and education to development work and relief and reconstruction.

Normally an NGO can be called an independent charitable body of volunteers acting in harmony on a firm basis for some common points other than winning government positions, earning money or unlawful actions.

In a more comprehensive way we can say that a non-governmental organization in our country is a non-profit group founded and run by voluntary Myanmar people on a regional or national scale. Steered by people with a common goal, NGOs perform a large array of services and campaigns involving the task of submitting public concerns to the Government, providing the people with political and other necessary knowledge and supporting and monitoring the development projects through information sharing method.

Some NGOs serve as suppliers of analysis, projects through information sharing method. They support and monitoring the development of political and other necessary knowledge and tasks of submitting public concerns to the Government. They also perform a large array of services and campaigns involving the task of submitting public concerns to the Government, providing the people with political and other necessary knowledge and supporting and monitoring the development projects through information sharing method.

As for a country in her democratic transition, the services and campaigns of NGOs will help the government and its offices in one way or another as we believe that they although are independent organizations free from government control are run by the people observing the constitution and laws in force.

**Union Construction Minister receives Japan, Thai businessmen**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 17 June—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint received Mr. Shoichi Satoh, Programme Manager of Marubeni Aerospace Cooperation based in Japan and party at his office here on 15 June.**

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation in the road sector. Also present at the meetings were Deputy Minister U Soe Tint, Managing Director of the Public Works U Kyaw Lin, Director General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Min Hein.

**Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint receives President Mr Premchai Kasamsut of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd.**

**Championship shield to Yangon Region in Pencak Silat event**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 16 June—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan this morning inspected installation of gymnastic devices, modern machines at cantens and Gym and fitness centres at the gym of sports training zone in Lewe Township.**

The Union Minister enjoyed the final matches in the Pencak Silat event of the Champion Challenge Cup at the training hall of the Pencak Silat event.

**Experience on 22nd AGM of MMCWA recounted**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 17 June—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended the ceremony to recount experience on 22nd annual general meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Work Coordination Meeting at Bago City Hall yesterday morning and made a speech.**

He awarded Bago Region Maternal Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Adviser Head of Region Health Department for his first prize winning research paper. Afterwards, Region MCWSC Patron Daw Myint Myint Soe awarded Region MSWSC Chairperson Daw May Thu, model volunteer member awards to members of Bago, Toungoo, Pyay and Thayawady Districts.

After that, he gave cash assistance to be spent on MCWA activities and delivery rooms and membership cards to District Chairpersons of the association.

**Saguing Region Chief Minister attends ASEAN Dengue Day Ceremony**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 16 June—Saguing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye yesterday addressed ASEAN Dengue Day Ceremony of the region and viewed placards and booths at Mya Sanda Hall in Monywa.**

The chief minister and party attended educative talks on prevention against dengue fever in Dawnauchan.

**Quality Palethwe paddy seeds provided to farmers**

**Mohnyin, 17 June—A ceremony to present Palethwe hybrid paddy strain to be grown for the first time was held in Mayingon Village of Mohnyin Township on 10 June.**

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Htin Aung Zaw explained the plan to provide quality paddy seeds and one bag of fertilizer to the farmers who will grow Palethwe hybrid paddy strain in Mohnyin Township.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner U Htin Aung of Mohnyin District General Administration Department and officials.

In-charge of seed section Daw Thet Thet Swe of Kachin State Agriculture Department said that a total of 40 acres of farmlands will be put under Palethwe paddy plantations in Myitkyina District, 40 acres in Bhamo District, 60 acres in Mohnyin District and 10 acres in Putoa District.

395 persons arrested in 319 drug-related cases

**Nav Pyi Taw, 16 June—A total of 319 drug-related cases were exposed across the nation in May 2012.**

The seizures of cases were 227,0266 kilos of opium in 48 cases, 8,8988 kilos of heroin in 78 cases, 4,6536 kilos of opium liquid in 12 cases, 1,3272 kilos of low-grade opium in nine cases, 2,8891 kilos of marijuana in 18 cases, 443,945 stimulant tablets in 163 cases, 46,2462 kilos of opium speciosa in six cases, 100 litres of opium liquid, 0.801 kilo of ice, 2.25 kilos of morphenone in one case, 78 kilos of Caffeine in one case, 467 bottles of morphine in one case, 241,109 tablets of Alprazolam in two cases, 4,344 kilos of Psudo-epephedrine, 241,354 kilos of Ephedrine in two cases, 299 bottles of tramadol in two cases and one case of failure to register.

Action was taken against 395 persons—including 319 men and 76 women—in 319 cases under law.
32 Shiites killed at end of major ritual in Iraqi capital

BAGHDAD, 17 June — Two car bomb explosions killed 32 Shiites pilgrims in Baghdad as millions of them ended Saturday a major ritual at a holy shrine in the Iraqi capital amid tightened security measures. The deadliest attack occurred at about 2:30 pm local time (1140 GMT) when a car bomb hit a procession of Shiites pilgrims near Sanaa Square near the shrine of Imam Kadhim in the holy shrine district of Kadhimiya in northwestern Baghdad, killing 18 pilgrims and wounding 36.

An earlier car bombing took place around midday when a booby-trapped car struck a procession of Shiites pilgrims at an intersection in Shula district in northwestern Baghdad, killing 14 pilgrims and wounding 32 others. The pilgrims were marching on foot to return to their homes after they participated in the observation of one of the major Shiites rituals at Kadhimiyah’s mausoleum of Imam Musa al-Kadhim the 7th of the most sacred 12 Shiites Imams.

During the past few days, large crowds of pilgrims from Iraqi cities and some Muslim countries flocked to Kadhimiyah to observe the annual commemoration of the Imam’s death. Iraqi authorities estimated that total number of pilgrims reached up to six million by the end of the event which culminated on Friday and ended on Saturday. “We have received more than six million pilgrims for past few days until Saturday noon, some came from other countries,” Fadhil al-Azhar, head of Kadhimiyah shrine told Xinhua. — Xinhua

Senior UN official praises development of China’s space programme

JACKSON, 17 June — China’s space programme will be an ideal international cooperation platform and the world is expecting China to escalate its space programme, said a senior official of the United Nations after watching the launch of the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft in the Gobi desert on Saturday.

Dr Marlan Othman, director of the Vienna-headquartered United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), told Xinhua at northwest China’s Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre that the world is “waiting very closely for China’s space station to be completed, which will give another opportunity for international cooperation.”

She said she hopes to see “a great involvement of developing countries” through China’s space programme. “The world is watching China,” she said. Malaysian astronaut, Dr. Azizan Salahuddin Mohd. Hamzah, said China launched the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft on Saturday to test the country’s manual space docking technology. Aboard the craft are three astronauts, including China’s first female astronaut. “I’m excited as I’m also a female,” said Othman, also deputy director-general of the United Nations Office at Vienna. She added that the United Nations promotes gender equality. By 2020, China’s space station could be the only space station, and China’s role is even more important, she said, adding that the world is looking to China for international cooperation in the space sector. Aboard the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft that was launched last November to conduct the country’s first space docking, there was an experiment box containing 17 life science experiments jointly conducted by Chinese and German scientists. — Xinhua

Cuba, Sri Lanka vow to boost cooperation

HAVANA, 17 June — Cuban President Raúl Castro and visiting President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka agreed on Saturday to further strengthen cooperation between their countries. The two leaders highlighted the good state of the bilateral relationship and expressed common willingness to further promote it, the official NNTV news reported.

Earlier in the day, Rajapaksa, who arrived on Friday for a three-day state visit, laid a wreath at the statue of Cuba’s National Hero Jose Marti at Revolution Square and visited other places of historical and economic interests. Rajapaksa also visited the Center of Biological Medicines. Cuba is interested in enhancing collaboration in the field of biotechnology with Havana. The Sri Lanka president is scheduled to leave Cuba on Tuesday to attend the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, better known as the Rio+20 summit.

Cuba and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1959, six months after the triumph of the socialist revolution on the island. The two nations have developed close ties in education, health and sports. Cuba sent a medical brigade with biotechnological drugs to support Sri Lanka immediately after a devastating tsunami hit the country in 2005.

G20 to focus on global economic growth

MEXICO CITY, 17 June — Global economic recovery and growth will be the most pressing topic at the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) summit in the Mexican city of Los Cabos. Around the world, the chronic euro-zone debt crisis, a dismal US economic outlook and the slow-down of economic growth in some emerging markets have prompted G20 leaders to take concrete measures at this time of unprecedented economic hardship.

Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Maria de Lourdes Aranda told Xinhua in an exclusive interview that Mexico will focus on how to maintain economic stability and meanwhile follow the important agreements of previous G20 summits to promote vigorous, sustainable and balanced global economic recovery.

The recovery of market confidence and structural reforms are necessary for further growth and job creation,” she said, adding that “we also know that fostering financial inclusion and improving the international financial architecture are important to prevent similar crisis in the future.”

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai said recently that restoring a strong growth and recovery is at the moment the most urgent task. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said in a joint letter to the leaders of EU members that “we should deliver a strong and credible message on growth at the Los Cabos Summit.” To end the crisis, European countries have adopted a set of measures including strengthening firewalls and reducing bank liquidity risks. — Xinhua

Workers assemble Iranian new car called Rana at Iran Khodro car manufacturing company in Teheran, Iran, on 16 June, 2012. Iran Khodro, the largest car maker in Iran, announced on Saturday it has started mass-production of the third kind of home-made car called Rana. — Xinhua

Two planes spark F-15 scramble during Obama visit

WASHINGTON, 17 June — An F-15 fighter jet was scrambled on two separate occasions Saturday to intercept two single-engine planes that violated a flight ban imposed for President Barack Obama’s visit to his hometown of Chicago, officials said.

Both small aircraft were intercepted “in the vicinity of Chicago,” the first at approximately 10:30 am (1430 GMT) and the second at about 4:45 pm (2045 GMT), North American Aerospace Defence Command said in a statement.

Both planes were escorted out of the restricted area without further incident, NORAD said. No details were give about the type of aircraft. The second was a Cessna 172. Obama was in Chicago to spend the weekend there with his family and to attend the wedding of the daughter of Valerie Jarrett, one of his senior advisers. — Internet

China makes great progress on sustainable development

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — China has made great progress on sustainable development despite difficulties along its development path, a senior UN official said here on Friday.

As a developing country, China has gone through a more difficult development course than developed countries, said Sha Zukang, UN under-secretary-general for economic and social affairs, at an event on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Earth Summit).

Looking ahead, China will face many difficulties and obstacles. At present, China has more than 100 million people living below the poverty line, and China still has to work hard in emission reduction and environmental protection, he said. “But I have full confidence in the road of China’s sustainable development. I believe that China has broad prospects in its participation in international cooperation on this subject, especially in technology transfer and capacity building,” he said. — Xinhua
New device powers gadgets through walking

MOSCOW, 17 June—British scientists have built a novel device that converts body movement into electricity capable of powering small gadgets such as GPS trackers.

The device, unveiled this week in the July issue of the journal Smart Materials and Structures, is designed to be worn on the knee and harnesses the energy produced by walking.

The journal said it could be used by the military to reduce the number of heavy batteries — each weighing up to 10 kg (20 lb) — that soldiers carry on foot patrol.

It was created by researchers at the Universities of Cranfield, Liverpool and Salford, originally with funding from the UK Ministry of Defence. The researchers estimate it could retail for 10 pounds ($16) if produced on an industrial scale.

The "energy harvester" is based on so-called piezoelectric materials that have long been used in sonar sensors and ultrasound scanners and have become the focus of energy generation research in recent years. Scientists at Princeton University and the California Institute of Technology used similar technology two years ago to develop electricity-generating rubber sheets.

The novelty of the British device is that it uses the body’s movements to generate power. An anodised Aluminium joint, which rotates as the knee joint moves, is fitted with 72 piezoceramic elements that transform the mechanical energy of walking into electricity. The vibrations generate the electricity.

Michele Pozzi, who led the development project, said researchers were looking at ways to make the device cheaper and more portable.

"There is an on-going project looking at manufacturing a more compact and truly wearable harvester," the journal’s website quoted Pozzi as saying. "At the moment we are using precise but cost-effective manufacturing techniques for the piezoceramic elements that can be miniaturised," Pozzi said.

The project, supported by the UK’s Technology Strategy Board, is due to release its first prototypes later this year.

A device, designed to be worn on the knee, uses the energy produced by walking into electricity to power small gadgets like GPS trackers in remote locations, is seen in this May handout photo. —REUTERS

New region of sun spitting out flares

GOLDEN, 17 June—An active region on the sun that rotated into view of the Earth on Sunday has fired off two flares and two coronal mass ejections, US scientists say.

The first flare lasted for a relatively long 3 hours, peaking at 9:17 am EDT on Wednesday, the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Centre reported.

The associated CME left the sun at approximately 375 miles per second and is directed toward Earth, although because of its relatively slow speed the effect on Earth is expected to be minimal, the centre said.

The second M-class flare was recorded at 11:07 am EDT and peaked at 10:08 am EDT on Thursday.

The CME associated with this flare is traveling much faster — preliminary analysis at Goddard’s Space Weather Centre indicates speeds of approximately 800 miles per second — and is heading toward Earth and could also affect Mars and the Spitzer spacecraft, the centre said.

The Space Weather Centre models estimate both CMEs will arrive at the Earth on Saturday. —Internet

The Solar Dynamics Observatory captured this image of an M1.3 class flare on 13 June, 2012. The sun is shown here in teal as this is the color typically used to represent light in the 131 Angstrom wavelength, particularly good for observing flares. —INTERNET

US secret space plane X-37B returns to Earth

LOS ANGELES, 17 June—After spending more than 15 months orbiting Earth on a mystery mission, the US Air Force’s X-37B unmanned, reusable space plane finally returned to the ground on Saturday. The space plane, known as the Orbital Test Vehicle 2 or OTV-2, was on its second ever space mission.

It glided back to Earth on autopilot, touching down at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 5:48 am PDT (1248 GMT) on Saturday, the Base announced in a news release.

OTV-2, which was launched on 5 March, 2011, conducted on-orbit experiments for 469 days during its mission. The estimated mission length for the space planes is about 270 days. The OTV-2 mission and its predecessor were both launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The US Air Force is preparing for another launch of the X-37B from the Cape Canaveral station sometime in fall 2012 aboard an Atlas V booster. This will be a flight of the first X-37B OTV, which was successfully recovered at the Vandenberg base on 3 Dec, 2010.

"With the retirement of the Space Shuttle fleet, the X-37B OTV programme brings a singular capability to space technology development," said Lt Col Tom McNiel, the X-37B programme manager. "The return capability allows the Air Force to test new technologies without the same risk commitment faced by other programmes."

The X-37B space planes are built in tight secrecy by Boeing, and look much like NASA’s retired space shuttles, only much smaller. Each X-37B spacecraft is about 8.8 meters long and 4.5 metres wide.

Industry analysts said the spacecraft could be a precursor to an orbiting weapon, capable of dropping bombs or disabling enemy satellites as it circles the globe. —Xinhua

Samsung LCD lines hit by brief power outage

SEOUL, 17 June—Samsung Display, a unit of Samsung Electronics Co, said four flat-screen production lines had stopped briefly on Thursday due to a power outage — a development that may mean sizeable losses.

Although production was only halted for 10 minutes, even a short stop can render some panels obsolete.

"Samsung may have to report some costs, because around 70 percent of panels which were in the process of manufacturing during the blackout become useless," said an analyst who declined to be identified.

Shares in Samsung Electronics, numbled 3 percent in midday underperformance, underperforming a 0.7 percent decline in the broader market.

Samsung, which competes with local rival LG Display and Japan’s Sharp Corp, has since restored 60 percent of production and has said it expects the lines to return to full output later on Friday.

The lost output, mainly large-sized panels for TVs and computer monitors, is unlikely to have major impact on sales of global LCD monitors, where supplies are plentiful due to weak consumer demand.

The plant in Taejon, southwest of Seoul, houses Samsung’s most advanced LCD production lines. The four lines have a combined monthly output capacity of 320,000 panels.

Its parent Samsung Electronics separated out its loss-making flat-screen business in April to combine it with a more promising AMOLED (active matrix organic light-emitting diodes) flat-screen operation, currently used mainly in high-end smartphones. —REUTERS

Students walk out of a showroom at the headquarters of Samsung Electronics in Seoul on 28 October, 2011. —REUTERS

TV maker Vizio enters PC market

NEW YORK, 17 June—Vizio, best known for making televisions, announced its entry into the US computer market with ultrabooks, mid-size laptops and all-in-one desktops.

Vizio helped commoditize the burgeoning flat-panel television market during the last decade, grabbing market share from the likes of Sony and Sharp.

Vizio held an event in New York on Thursday to introduce its new PC systems, CET.com reported.

The systems evoke images of Apple designs, combining high-end components with slick configurations including unibody construction, hidden hinges and full HD displays.

The all-in-one models are especially influenced by Vizio’s TV-making experience, with HDMI inputs for the display, a remote control, and Blu-ray options, CET.com said.

Prices for all three product lines — all based on Intel processors — will start at $899, Vizio said. —Internet
Burger King eyes China expansion

**Burger King signs at a restaurant in Annandale, VA, on 24 August, 2010.**

**INTERVIEW**

**Burger King master franchisee, and Cartesien Capital Group, a global private equity firm.**

The agreement gives the group exclusive rights to expand the Burger King brand in China from 63 units currently.

Burger King, which went private in October 2010 with its $3.26 billion 10% to 3G Capital Management LLC, is scheduled to close its merger with a publicly held shell company this month. When the deal closes, its shares will begin trading.

Yum Brands is the largest US restaurant brand in China, with more than 3,800 KFC restaurants and almost 700 Pizza Hut outlets. Yum executives, who are still building restaurants there, expect China’s middle class to grow from about 300 million people today to 600 million in a decade. McDonald’s has more than 1,400 restaurants in China, which ranks as its third-largest market in the world. The Golden Arches is boosting investment in the country by 50 percent this year, when it aims to open as many as 250 new restaurants.

Starbucks has 570 shops in China and expects to have more than 1,500 by 2015.

**Apple I computer fetches $374,500 at NY auction**

**NEW YORK, 17 June—A rare, still-working Apple I Computer from 1976 sold at Sotheby’s auction house on Friday for $374,500, or more than three times its original retail price. The computer, one of only a handful in full working condition, had been estimated to sell for about $150,000 at the auctioner’s sale of books and manuscripts. The Apple (AAPLO), computer, built by the company’s founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, included the original cassette interface, operating instructions and BASIC computer language user’s manual.**

**BIDDERS**

Two bidders competed for the machine, the first compact computer to allow casual users to type on a keyboard and operate basic programs. An anonymous telephone bidder prevailed for a final cost of just $374,500 including commission.

The Apple founders created the personal computer in 1976 and presented it at a Palo Alto computer club, but there were few takers at the time. Paul Terrell, owner of an archive named Byte Shop, placed an order for 50 of the machines and sold them for $666.66 retail — once Wozniak and Jobs agreed to assemble the circuit boards rather than offer them as kits, Sotheby’s said.

The pair then produced 150 and more.

**Hyundai Heavy wins $600 million orders for oil, gas rigs**

**SEOUL, 17 June—Hyundai Heavy Industries (009540.KS), the world’s largest shipbuilder, has won three orders worth a total $600 million to build oil and gas rigs. Hyundai said in a statement it had won a $400 million order for five FPSOs (floating production storage and offloading) platforms scheduled to be delivered by August 2015. It did not identify the oil major which placed the order.**

**The other two orders are each worth $100 million. One is to build a semisubmersible drilling rig for LLOG of the United States, which has an option exercisable to order another additional structure. The other is for six “land plant modules” capable of producing 200 million cubic feet of natural gas and 10,000 barrels of oil a day for an unnamed US oil major, with scheduled delivery in June 2015.**

**Oil holds near $84 per barrel**

**NEW YORK, 17 June—Crude oil prices held close to their highest level since the start of the year, but the market uncertainty was not enough to push prices higher.**

**OIL MINISTERS**

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries met in Vienna on Thursday. They said demand would grow, but not fast enough to warrant increasing the group’s production quota.

**ONE WOMAN**

One woman motorist with gas cans in hand looks over her $70 final tab for filling her vehicle in Denver on 15 April, 2011—INTERVIEW

**Intermediary crude oil for July delivery lost 8 cents in late trading to reach $83.95 per barrel. Natural gas lost 2.7 cents to finish at $2.464 per million British thermal units.**

**HEATING OIL**

Heating oil gave up 9.4 cents to $2.6371 per gallon. Gasoline moved lower, giving up 0.82 cents to reach $2.6933 a gallon. At the pump, the national average price of unleaded gasoline fell to $3.524 per gallon from Thursday’s $3.532, AAA said. —INTERVIEW

**Cryopreserved cord blood in a cryogenic tank for blood storage**

**bodies and patient groups urged the European Parliament on controlling their weight, getting enough physical activity, smoking and alcohol abuse, and talks to them about what Dr might say.**

**CONDUCT**

Conduct appropriate screening tests such as:

- Blood pressure. Every man 18 or older should have his blood pressure checked at least once a year. Normal is 18.5 to 24.9. Overweight is 25 to 29.9 and high blood pressure is 30 and above.
- Cardiovascular health.
- Dental checkups. Dental disease is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease.
- Blood pressure. Every man 18 or older should have his blood pressure checked at least once a year. Overweight is 25 to 29.9 and high blood pressure is 30 and above.
- Men with risk factors for diabetes should have blood sugar checked.
- Colorectal cancer. Men should be screened beginning at age 50.
- If a patient or his spouse reports a hearing problem, hearing should be checked.
Scientists to strap cameras to Hawaiian seals

HONOLULU, 17 June — Hawaiian monk seals need an image makeover. Some fishermen blame the endangered species for stealing their catch. There are unfounded rumours that they devour and deplete fish stocks. And at least four of them have been killed by humans in Hawaii since late last year. To help correct the misconceptions, government scientists plan to glue submersible cameras onto the seals’ backs, using the footage to prove to fishermen the animals are not harming their way of life. It may even end up on reality TV. “It’s following seals to have them tell their own story,” Charles Littman, lead scientist for the National Marine Fisheries Service’s Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Programme. They expect to see the seals dive for eels and fish on the ocean floor. The “Criticermars,” provided by the National Geographic Society, are the latest tactic to protect a population that is down to just 1,100 in Pacific Ocean waters around Hawaii. The killings were painful blows to a species on course to killings were painful blows to a species on course to extinction. However, the seals were then generally only found among tiny, remote atolls northwest of Hawaii’s main islands. — Internet

Photo taken on 15 June, 2012, shows Salvador Dalí’s work “The City of the Dwarfs” in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan. One hundred works of Spain surrealism artist Salvador Dalí will be shown on an exhibition here since 16 June.—Xinhua

Newly-wed couples wave to their friends and parents at a group wedding ceremony in Shenyang, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 15 June, 2012. A total of 75 couples participated attend the group wedding. — Xinhua

Dutchman seeks birth parents for adopted daughter

NAHASAKUL, 7 June — A Dutchman who visited East China’s Jiangxi province last week in the hope of finding his natural parents of his adopted Chinese daughter has told how the trip was satisfying though ultimately unsuccessful. Jan Steenbergen, 45, said that he wanted to help his daughter — Ju-Ju Yongqian, nicknamed Quanquan — find her birth parents as a Father’s Day gift. Though empty-handed on Tuesday, the night before his return to the Netherlands after two weeks’ searching, Steenbergen said that he would feel better when facing Quanquan since he has done his best for her.

Quanquan, nine, was born in Yongxiu county in Jiangxi province in 2004. Steenbergen and his wife adopted her in January. On Friday, the state court fined him $1,000 and sentenced him to 80 hours of community service for trespassing and harassing the monk seal at a wildlife sanctuary in the eastern city of Qingdao. Archaeological evidence — like monk seal bones in a human trash pit dating back at French Frigate Shoals, Hawaii, one of the outermost islands in the Hawaiian island chain. — Internet

WHO launches tools to help stop abuse of people with mental health conditions

GENEVA, 17 June — The World Health Organization launched a tool kit to assess and stop violations to their rights and dignity. The “WHO Quality Rights Tool Kit — Assessing and improving quality and human rights in mental health and social care” was aimed to ensure that health and human rights standards are put in place in mental health and social care facilities around the world. Shekar Saxena, Director of WHO’s Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, said a “sombre reality for many people living in psychiatric institutions. In many facilities, people are exposed to violence, abuse, harmful treatment and neglect. Many are locked up against their will, overmedicated, put in seclusion cells, restrained, sometimes for years,” said Saxena. The tool kit was designed to help people understanding what they need to be met in all facilities, as well as in social care. It also provided specific guidance on how to conduct a comprehensive assessment of services, and how to report findings and make appropriate recommendations to improve quality of care and human rights conditions. — Xinhua

Cambodia reports trade deficit of 1.1 bln USD in first 5 months

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Cambodia recorded a trade deficit in equivalent to 1.1 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, according to a report of the Commerce Ministry on Saturday. During January-May period this year, the report showed that the country’s total import and export value was 5.16 billion US dollars, up 17 percent from 4.41 billion US dollars at the same period in a year ago. The imports jumped by 18 percent to 3.13 billion US dollars, while the exports rose by 15 percent to 2.03 billion US dollars, resulting in a trade deficit of 1.1 billion US dollars, it said. Cambodia is heavily reliant on international trade. The country’s economy is supported by garment industry, tourism, agriculture and construction.

According to the report, the main products Cambodia exported include garments and footwear, rubber lates, milled rice and cassava. On the import side, the country shipped in products including garment and textile raw materials, petrochemicals, construction materials, automobiles and motorcycles, food and soft drinks, pharmaceutical products and cosmetics.

In the whole year 2011, the country’s trade deficit was 1.73 billion US dollars. The main foreign trading partners with Cambodia are the United States, European countries, China, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Canada. — Xinhua

Photo taken on 15 June, 2012, shows Salvador Dalí’s work “The City of the Dwarfs” in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan. One hundred works of Spain surrealism artist Salvador Dalí will be shown on an exhibition here since 16 June.—Xinhua

Colombia, Costa Rica sign trade agreement

Costa Rica’s President Laura Chinchilla and Colombia President Juan Manuel Santos exchange documents after signing bilateral agreements during a meeting in San Jose on 15 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Santo, 17 June — Presidents Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica and Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia agreed on Friday to start negotiations for a free trade agreement between their two countries asking that agreements with Canada and the United States, European countries, China, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Canada. — Xinhua

Colombia and Costa Rica today will allow us to work towards joint aspirations, such as joining the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development),” said Chinchilla in a press conference after the meeting. The first round of negotiations will be held by 30 July in Colombia and will be headed by trade ministers Sergio Díaz-Granados of Colombia and Angel Gómez of Costa Rica. Trade between the two countries totaled 503.9 million dollars last year and had a annual growth rate of 11 percent from 2002 to 2011, according to report by the Costa Rican trade ministry. Some entrepreneurs in Costa Rica oppose the agreement arguing it will be hard for the Central American nation, which lacks infrastructure and has high energy costs, to compete with Colombia. “With the signing of such agreements we are eliminating the import tariff, which is only protection mechanism the production sector has to face imports from other countries. We should also consider the poor use we made of other free trade agreements so far,” said Mariano Toquía, president of the Chamber of Industries. — Reuters
Two Bayintnaung Overpasses to be completed in one year

KYAIKLAT, 17 June—A plan is under way to build the overpass at Bayintnaung Junction by First Myanmar Construction Co Ltd and TPC Prestressed Concrete (Thailand) Co Ltd under supervision of Yangon City Development Committee within one year, it was learnt. The 1444 feet long overpass will lead from the south to the north along Bayintnaung Road and another one, 1969 feet in length from the east to the west along Thamaing railway station road. The overpass on Bayintnaung Road will have four-way facility and the overpass on Thamaing Railway Station Road, two-way facility. These facilities will be reinforced concrete structures.

In the project area, the Bayintnaung Road will be upgraded to eight-way facility. The west Thamaing Railway Station road section from Bayintnaung Bridge to the junction will be upgraded to the six-way facility and the east section of Thamaing Railway Station road section will be four-way road, according to an official of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC. As the route is in areas of the Overpass is used by container carriers and timber trucks, the Bayintnaung Overpass will be built with withstanding of 75 tons of loads and the Thamaing Railway Station Overpass, 60 tons of loads. It was reported that both overpasses will be constructed with the withstanding of earthquake intensity.— Saw Thein Win

School uniforms provided to students

KYAIKLAT, 17 June—Development Affairs Committee presented school uniforms to 123 offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers at the office of the committee in Kyaiklat on 9 June. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Naing made a speech. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Than Win, the township administrator and Executive Officer U Aung Than Win presented school uniforms to the students. — Myanma Alin

School enrollment day held at local battalion

YANGON, 17 June—The school enrollment day was observed at Basic Education Primary School in the local military unit in Einme Township of Myaungmya District on 29 May morning.

At the ceremony, Major Myo Min Tun of the local station and officials, School Fund Raising Committee Chairman WO-II Kyi Aye (Rtd), Chairman of School Fund Raising Committee and officials, School Fund Raising Committee on 29 May morning.

military unit in Einme Township of Myaungmya District observed at Basic Education Primary School in the local and

The library was built at a cost of K 1 million by the State

Books, cash donated to library in Ingapu Township

INGAPU, 17 June—A donation of cash books and to Pyinnna Beikman Library was held in Gwataukkhaung Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 10 June morning.

U Han Tun and family of Yangon donated K 500,000, U Win Myint and family of Yangon K 500,000 and U Myint Thein and family 200 books to the library. Next, Township Administrator U Hlwam Moe Han, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Soe, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Htun Win, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Win Thein and Village Administrator U Aye Kyaw formally opened the library.

After that, the Amyotha Hluttaw representative and the staff officer of District IPRD explained durability and development of the library and increase of books and publications at the library.

The library was built at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 1.3 million by the people. The building is 24 feet long and 14 feet wide.— Township IPRD

CSC issued to local people in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 17 June—Acc to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to local people was held by Township Immigration and National Registration Department at the Dhammayon in Ward 7 of Kamayut Township in Yangon West District on 13 June morning.

Region Hluttaw representative U Mya Ngwe, Head of Region INRD U Ye Tun Oo, Deputy Director U Yin Htwe and Head of the Township Department U Ko Ko provided necessary assistance to the works.— Myanma Alin

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Kamayut Township

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Livestock breeding knowledge shared to milk production cooperative society

SANAGA, 17 June—An educative talk on livestock breeding was given to members of Milk Production Cooperative Society in Hse Village of Sagaing Township in Mandalay Region on 5 June morning.

Head of Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Hui made a speech. The Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department and the Staff Officer of Township LBVD explained future livestock breeding tasks.

Dr Zaw Lin Aung gave talks on availability of clean milk, Dr Win Myint on infectious animal diseases and Dr Zaw Lin on techniques for giving nutritious feedstuff to animals.

The Staff Officer and staff of Township LBVD checked health of milch cows of the village.

Winners awarded in essay contest

YANGON, 17 June—In commemoration of the International Cooperatives Year, Mayangon Township Cooperative Department held the prize presentation for winners in the essay contest at Basic Education High School No 4 in Mayangon on 14 June.

Head of Yangon Region Cooperative Department Daw Myint Myint Thu, Chairman of Yangon Region Cooperative Syndicate U Myint Naing and Township Education Officer U Tin Tun made speeches. They later presented prizes to the winners. — Myanma Alin

Eye care services given in Penwegon

PENWEGON, 17 June—A ceremony to sponsor eye surgical operation jointly organized Tipitaka Sakkhupala Group and Ga Mone Pwint Co was held at Tawyaygyi Monastery in Penwegon in Bago Region on 2 and 3 June.

Under the auspices of Tipitakadhara Dhammabhadagiri Rakhine Sayadow Ashin Ikkadapala and eye specialist Dr U Aye Tun, Ga Mone Pwint Co owner U Maung Naung and Daw Shu Kyi family repaired buildings of the monastery as the recreation hall for patients and out-patient ward.

At the ceremony, specialists and party checked about 800 out-patients and performed surgical operation at 168 patients. Station Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Swe Lwin of Penwegon and local doctors, youth organizations, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local people contributed to the eye care services.— Kyemon

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Outstanding students awarded, exercise books donated in Hlegu Tsp

YANGON, 17 June—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye addressed ceremony to donate exercise books and award outstanding students at No (1) Basic Education School in Hlegu of Yangon Region this morning.

He highlighted the importance of human resource development while developing the education sector.

Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe and wife Daw Ni Ni donated 5000 dozens of exercise books through Union Minister Dr Mya Aye who returned the certificate of honour to them.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye donated a set of computer and copier through Hlegu Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi who returned the certificate of honour.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye then awarded outstanding students.—MNA

Construction of Pandaing sluice gate No. 2 inspected

NAKPYI TAW, 17 June—Deputy Minister for Agriculture Development Lt-Gen Hla Min, Union Minister for Agriculture Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay and the State Chief Minister explained that peace and stability have been restored in some townships at present. They said that there was no undesirable occurrence in Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships. Therefore, they continued that it is necessary to continuously restore peace and stability and urged them not to believe misinformation.

Later, the Union Minister, the State Chief Minister and the deputy minister presented aids for the displaced persons through officials.—MNA

Medical servicemen give talks on health knowledge at relief camps

NAKPYI TAW, 17 June—Servicemen of local medical battalion in Sittway today gave educational talks on preventive measures for illness, diarrhea and dysentery at the relief camps in Sittway.

Moreover, the medical servicemen provided health care to families at U Ye Kyaw Thu Panhaing sluice gate in Nyaukkyaw Township, the Deputy Minister met officials of Yangon, Ayeayawady and Bago Regions and instructed them to systematically carry out preventive measures against natural disaster in form of flood and inundation in this year’s raining season and emergency tasks.

Medical servicemen from local battalion gave medical treatment to local people at relief camps in Sittway.—MNA

Sports to hail Olympic Day-2012

YANGON, 17 June—Hailing the Olympic Day-2012, Myanmar sports federations organized sports meets at the federations here this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Hwaik and officials concerned arrived Myanmar Wushu Federation in Padonna Sports Ground in Sanyayoung Township here, where Director U Zaw Win of the Sports and Physical Education Department and U Chakay received the first, second and third winners in Taolu event of Wushu (Women), and the Director-General presented prizes to the winners in Taolu (Men) event.

At the training camp of Myanmar Table Tennis Federation on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, the director-general enjoyed the matches and then awarded the winners in the training camp.

Afterwards, he presented prizes to winners in the billiard (individual) after Myanmar Billiard and Snooker Federation President U Tin Maung Win and members praised the winners in the Snooker 100 Up Best of (5) Round Match at Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation at Aung San Stadium.—MNA
projects including roads, values. Such construction as archaeological parks or ancient palaces and ancient forts such as Bagan, Mrauk U, and Luoheingyi and ancient buildings, most of the population being Buddhists, have contributed both to maintaining their original authenticity and preserving cultural values. The donation minister for maintenance in their original authenticity and preserving cultural values.

Inwa region, all-round renovation of pagodas. There was only a limited number of donors who made contribution for maintaining the ruins of pagodas, the departmental techni-cians would supervise the renovating works to make sure that it was in compliance with international policies maintaining their original style.

In repairing religious buildings, most of the populat was usually donated for all-round renovation of pagodas. There was only a limited number of donors who made contribution for maintaining the ruins of pagodas. The pagodas chosen by the ministry for maintaining in their current forms had ancient cultural values. The donation for maintaining such pagodas contributed to both to renovation of religious sites and preservation of cultural heritage. It was aimed to construct ancient cultural heritage sites like ancient temples, palaces, and such historical buildings as ancient palaces and ancient forts as archeological parks or public historical park for public recreation while preserving their traditional cultural values. Such construction projects including roads, renovation, sanitation and MAJA to open Japanese course

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SCG Authorized Dealer Showroom topped in Mandalay

Nav Pyi Taw, 17 June—The opening of ASM Building Showroom as the second ASG Authorized Dealer in ASEAN Region jointly organized by ASG: Asterson International Co Ltd and SCG Trading took place at the showroom at the corner of 64th Street and 37th Street in Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay this morning, formally opened by Regional Minis-ter for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung, Overseas Division Manager of SCG Ms. Akaraphol Dacharux and Managing Director of ASG U Arnt Zaw Maung.

The Mandalay mayor, guests and representatives of companies looked round building materials and interior decoration products such as high quality roofs and related materials, ceilings and walls, heat-resistant products, ready-to-use floors and bathroom accessories imported from Germany, Japan, Singapore, China, and Austria. They also inspected the storage of hybrid Palaweth strain from China and Barsamari strain from India and viewed thriving cultivation of hybrid strains of rice.

During the visit, the union minister also went to the staff quarter in Zababuri Township and presented seeds, plants and agricultural tools to them. —MNA

SCG Authorized Dealer Showroom opened in Mandalay
Farmers preparing for cultivation of monsoon groundnut

**Groundnut produces high yield year after year.**

**Producing better per-acre yield year after year.**

**High yield groundnut produces better per-acre yield year after year.**

**This year, cold season groundnut produces high per-acre yield. Some farmers from Mayoegongot 400-500 baskets of groundnut per acre. In the previous year, the rats destroyed not only groundnut but also paddy plantations. So, the farmers sorrowfully lost their plantations,” said a local farmer. The hills covered with thick foliage become barren hills due to deforestation. Some farmers reclaimed farmland on the barren hills as well as some companies grew Scintalon strain mango plants. Groundnut plantations can be grown not only on the plains but also on the hilly areas. Thus, cattle are very tired in land preparations. Moreover, the land is put under chilli and beans and pulses. In the rainy season, the local farmers focus on ploughing for cultivation of paddy.**

**Kyemon**

**Self-reliant generator launched in Pwintbyu Township**

**HTANTABIN, 17 June—As part of efforts for rural development and poverty alleviation in Pwintbyu Township, the self-reliant generator was launched in Ywahtuang Village of Shwebyabya Village-tract in the township on 29 May morning. Village-tract administrator U Myint Aung and Patron of the village electricity supply committee U Thein launched the generator. Next, the village-tract administrator made a speech.**

**The electricity supply committee chairman explained the efforts to generate electricity to be supplied to the local people. The generator was facilitated to 147 housings of the village with K 7,708,600 by local people.**

**Myanma Alin**

**District News**

**Monsoon tree growing ceremony held in Htantabin**

**HHTANTABIN, 17 June—Htantabin Township Forest Department of Taungoo District held the monsoon tree growing ceremony for establishment of rural housing and village forest on 11 June morning.**

**At the ceremony, Deputy Head of Department of Township General Administration Department U Nay Thwai, Htawtaw representative U Sein Tun, Head of Township Forest Department U Htay Win and staff together with local people grew 660 Eucalyptus plants at Basic Education Middle School in Nat Village, 1,680 Eucalyptus plants and 2352 teak plants in Nat Village.**

**Township Forest**

**Tachiik District Agriculture Department explained Palethwe hybrid high yield paddy. The model plot produced 157 baskets of wet paddy per acre. In 2012-2013 cultivation season, Tachiik District plans to grow 30 acres of Palethwe paddy on model plot.**

**It was attended by Deputy Commissioner of Tachiik District General Administration Department U Thein Lwin, Head of Shan State (East) Township Agriculture Department U Aung Kyaw Myint, Tachiik Township Administrator U Ye Htoo and local people observed the harvesting of paddy.**

**Myanma Alin**

**Cooperative special sales held in Mingala Taungnyunt Township**

**YANGON, 17 June—Organized by Mingala Taungnyunt Township Cooperative Syndicate of Yangon Region, the basic cooperative societies held the cooperative special sales in honour of the International Cooperatives Year, at the place in front of Sanyap Fa Hsa-Pa-La Trading Cooperative Society on 14 June morning. Altogether 22 cooperative societies from 20 wards opened the shop to sell traditional medicines, foreign medicines, personal goods, hard goods and construction materials at fair prices.**

**Officials of Yangon Region Cooperative Department Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint Tha of Planning Department, Staff Officer U Thet Pyin of Township Cooperative Department, Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate Daw Sein Mya and executives attend the Specia Sales.**

**Myanma Alin**

**Smooth transport of commodity discussed in Meiktila**

**MANDALAY, 17 June—With the aim of ensuring secure and smooth transport, a meeting was held at Bandool Passengers and Commodity Transport Service in Meiktila on 7 June. In meeting with owners, drivers, bus conductors of 36 passenger transport services in Meiktila and 15 commodity transport terminals, Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan stressed the need to get registration of vehicles and carry prescribed tons of loads. It was also attended by Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Htay and U Kyaw Aye, Head of District Transport Planning Department U Aye Cho, Chairman of the District Bus- line Supervisory Committee U Khin Maung Myint, Secretary of Bandoola Passenger and Commodity Transport Service U Thein Tun, bus owners, drivers and bus conductors.**

**Myanma Alin**

**Agricultural loans disbursed to farmers in Kyaukpadaung**

**KYAUKPADAUNG, 17 June—Township Manager of Agriculture Development Bank Branch in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region and staff disbursed loans to local farmers for 2012 monsoon cultivation season. On 14 June, they disbursed K 50,000 per acre each to 134 farmers of Aingma Village-tract, amounting to K 10.55 million for 211 acres of farmland. So far, they have disbursed K 12.8 million to the local farmers.**

**Kyemon**

**CASH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: Htantabin Township General Administration Department of Yangon Region gave cash assistance to offsetting of Staff of Township GAD at its hall on 5 June. Township Administrator U Mya Win presents cash assistance to the students.**

**Myanma Alin**

**Talks on progress of geotechnology and future development 23 June**

**YANGON, 17 June—Organized by Myanmar Geosciences Association, Dr. Du Myint Win will give talks on progress of geotechnology, its application and future development at Function Hall of Myanmar Engineering Society building in Hline Township at 9 am on 23 June. Enthusiasts may attend the talk.**

**Aung Aung**

**Essay Contest Held:**

**The essay contest “Endeavour of entire Myanmar women always serving national interest” in commemoration of Myanmar Women’s Day was held at Yangon East University recently. Rector U Kyaw Ye Tun and Chairperson of Yangon South District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Ohnma Nay Tun and part view participation of students.**

**Myanma Alin**
Cuba’s Robles recovered, ready to compete
HAVANA, 17 June — Olympic champion and world record holder Dayton Robles is fit to compete in upcoming international track and field meets, a top Cuban sports official said on Friday. Director of the Cuban Track and Field Federation Jesus Molina said Robles was “fully recovered from the injury” and would soon return to competition.

The 110 hurdles star missed recent Diamond League meets in Eugene, Oregon, and New York after he suffered the “slight” injury. Robles is expected to show up in events in Poland and Serbia. His world mark of 12.87 seconds was matched by China’s Liu Xiang, though in wind-aided condition, at the IAAF Prefontaine Classic event in Eugene.

Robles, 25, is the star of Cuba’s 33-member track and field delegation heading to the 2012 London Olympics in July, though he has participated in only three international events so far and is in seventh place in world rankings. —Xinhua

World has become slightly more peaceful, research body says
UNITED NATIONS, 17 June — New reports released here on Thursday by the international non-profit research organization, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), reveal a slight improvement toward achieving global peace. “The notable thing for this year’s peace index is that the world has become slightly more peaceful,” the vice president of the IEP’s US operations, Michael Shank, said during a press conference.

This is a good, (it is) stopping the trend of the last few years,” he said. Forestry officials have joined United Nations efforts to combat stony deserts. “We are deeply threatened by the stony desert regions,” Dominguez said.

Dominguez said the assailants were three armed men but did not give details about how Baez was killed. Next to the corpse was a note bearing bloodied writing. “Victor Baez’s murderers committed a crime that hurt his family and all journalists,” Dominguez said.

“While the country’s main waterways, such as the Yangtze and Pearl rivers, have been protected, the stony desert regions remain vulnerable,” he said.

In this 13 June, 2012, photo, visitors enjoy the Ferris Wheel and Wave Swinger at the Chicago’s Shirley Temple- old Navy Pier. Admission is free and Navy Pier is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is one of several free activities/things/places visitors can enjoy in Chicago. —INTERNET

26th International Travel Expo opens in Hong Kong
HONG KONG, 17 June — The 26th International Travel Expo (ITE) Hong Kong opened on Thursday at the Convention and Exhibition Centre with over 600 exhibitors attending the four-day event.

The ITE is held concurrently with the MICE Travel Expo, an exhibition for tours of Meeting, Incentive, Conference and Exhibition. Featuring around 30 official pavilions and exhibitors from 54 countries and regions, the ITE and MICE 2012 maintains a highly international profile of exhibitors, said the organizer, TKS Exhibition Services Ltd in a statement. Among the 50 exhibiting destinations, 42 percent are from Asia, 37 percent from Europe, North and South America, 15 percent from the Middle East and Africa and six percent from inland parishes in the Pacific and India Ocean. Some 80 percent of the exhibitors, including tourism boards, hotels, airlines, cruise and golf clubs etc, are from abroad, according to the statistics provided by the organizer.

Reflecting trend that travel fast becoming part of life style, the ITE and MICE highlight themes like cruise, wellness and medical tourism, and new themes this year include honeymooning and travel photography, and study tour. "The Expo is moving with the times," said John Tsang, financial secretary of the city government while attending the opening ceremony. New themes this year include weddings and honeymooning, wellness and health travel, study tours and travel photography.

Tsang said despite that the difficult economic environment globally, Hong Kong’s tourism-related business generated great value in the past year. "Currently around 220,000 people, or over six percent of Hong Kong’s workforce, are employed by the travel industry. "—Xinhua

Kidnapped crime reporter found dead in eastern Mexico
MEXICO CITY, 17 June — Assailants kidnapped and killed a reporter by the Zetas drug cartel in a series of attacks on journalists amid a relentless drug war across the country, Victor Baez, who worked for Mexican daily newspaper Milenio was abducted when he was leaving his home in the morning in the city centre, said Gina Dominguez, spokeswoman for Veracruz state government.

Dominguez said the assailants were three armed men but did not give details about how Baez was killed. Next to the corpse was a note bearing bloodied writing. "Victor Baez’s murderers committed a crime that hurt his family and all journalists," Dominguez said.

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World has become slightly more peaceful, research body says

Dairy giant exposed over mercury in baby formula
BEIJING, 17 June — China’s consumer quality regulator on Thursday said it has found an “unusual amount” of mercury in baby formula produced by Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co., one of China’s biggest dairy companies.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in a statement that the mercury, a metallic element that is toxic in high doses, was detected in several batches of Yili products during a check of baby formula products.

The administration has thus far examined samples from November 2011 and has brought under control and released by the State Forestry Administration. Of the 12 headwater areas of the Pearl River, sediment contributions from the mountainous areas of the source basin are about 99 percent, according to Zhang Xiang, though in wind-aided condition, at the IAAF Prefontaine Classic event in Eugene.

Robles, 25, is the star of Cuba’s 33-member track and field delegation heading to the 2012 London Olympics in July, though he has participated in only three international events so far and is in seventh place in world rankings. —Xinhua

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World has become slightly more peaceful, research body says

Dairy giant exposed over mercury in baby formula

BEIJING, 17 June — China’s consumer quality regulator on Thursday said it has found an “unusual amount” of mercury in baby formula produced by Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co., one of China’s biggest dairy companies.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in a statement that the mercury, a metallic element that is toxic in high doses, was detected in several batches of Yili products during a check of baby formula products.

The administration has thus far examined samples from November 2011 and has brought under control and released by the State Forestry Administration. Of the 12 headwater areas of the Pearl River, sediment contributions from the mountainous areas of the source basin are about 99 percent, according to Zhang Xiang, though in wind-aided condition, at the IAAF Prefontaine Classic event in Eugene.
Pentagon to step up mobile device security

WASHINGTON, 17 June — The US Department of Defense plans to step up security for mobile devices against the “new boundary of the threat,” according to part of its mobile device policy released Friday. The newly released strategy focuses on improving “reliable” and “secure” wireless infrastructure, mobile devices and mobile applications, said the Pentagon.

As part of the mobile device strategy, the Pentagon plans to develop a wireless security architecture that “mitigates the risks of mobile device exploitation” and enable the management of mobile devices, applications and network connections to secure the interfaces between the Pentagon networks and commercial networks. The growing numbers of mobile devices expand the boundary of threat, and make them targets for traditional security risks as well as sophisticated new forms of attack, the Pentagon said in the document. New mobile networks, the Pentagon added, will introduce additional vulnerabilities, said the Pentagon. The Pentagon personnel, becoming increasingly mobile with a wide variety of devices as well as the increasing use of social media, said Teri Takai, Pentagon’s chief information officer.

Takai said the challenge is ensuring the networks can “securely support the information demands” of mobile device users, allowing them to “make informed decisions in the execution of their missions.” — Xinhua

Weak factories, sentiment show shaky US recovery

WASHINGTON, 17 June — A view over the factory floor at a plastics company in New York state this month, along with a drop in household confidence in the economy.

The fall in confidence poses a serious threat to the US economy, President Barack Obama’s chances of winning re-election in November. It could also lead consumers to cut back on spending, which would reduce economic growth. “Consumers are scared,” said Sharon Stark, managing director at Sterne Agee in Birmingham, Alabama. US consumer sentiment fell in early June to a six-month low. A gauge of household confidence in the economy’s future also dropped to its lowest since December. — Reuters

Arab women cheer for China’s first female astronaut

DUBAI, 17 June — China’s first woman in space, Liu Yang, who headed off for her mission on Thursday, triggered applause from Arab women, as they see Beijing’s move that women in the Eastern hemisphere are finally on a par with women in the West. “I am really amazed, this is great news for China and for all of us,” said Ibrahim, a 42-year-old Egyptian student who lives in Dubai. Xinhua met the student, who identified herself as Meriem, on the Chinese Court of the famous Ibn Battuta shopping Mall, named after Arab explorer who extensively travelled the Middle East and Asia in the 14th century.

The young Arab lady added that she hoped China would motivate the world also to send a female astronaut to space one day. “There is a stereotype in the Western world that women in the East, whether in the Middle East or in the Far East, have fewer rights than men. We think this space mission proves the opposite,” Meriem said here on Friday. “I am happy that two women colleagues climbed aboard a spacecraft to reach Beijing’s fourth manned space mission. On the 13-days mission, Liu will conduct medical experiments in zero gravity.”

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old Egyptian housewife, who identified herself as Thuraya and is mother of two, said: “Sending a woman in the Arab world to strive for new horizons, despite all obstacles. “Her husband,” whose first name is Mahmoud, added with the typical Egyptian sense of humor: “maybe our nine-year-old daughter will be the first Arab woman in space one day, who knows?” Mahmoud, 52, also said that he remembered well the first Arab manheading off to space. “That was Saud Prince Al Sultan Al Saud in 1985, when he was member of a US NASA mission. After China, I think our countries should really prepare for the first Arab lady in space.” — Xinhua

US commander says no new bases needed in Asia-Pacific

WASHINGTON, 17 June — The US military will not build any new bases in the Asia-Pacific as it relocates its strategic priorities to the region, but will rather rely on allies and partners to pick up the tab, a senior commander said here on Friday. “We’re not really interested in building any more US bases in the Asia-Pacific,” said Pacific Command/Commander, Adm. Sam Locklear during a press briefing at the Pentagon.

“Security officers inspect the blast site in northwest Pakistan’s Landi Kotal on 16 June, 2012. At least 25 people were killed and over 45 others injured when a bomb ripped through a busy market in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Khyber Agency on Saturday, local media reported.” — Xinhua

Lockheed wins $490 million deal to buy F-35 parts

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Lockheed Martin Corp has won a US contract worth $490 million to start buying parts, material and components for a seventh batch of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter planes, the Pentagon announced on Friday. Lockheed, the Pentagon’s largest supplier, welcomed the agreement and said it would help ensure that the $396 billion F-35 programme, which has been restructured three times in recent years, continued to meet its production schedules. “This is an important milestone in paving the way for the acquisition of these aircraft,” said Lockheed spokesman Laurie Quincy. News of the order came as Lockheed continued to hire temporary workers to maintain F-35 production at its plant in Fort Worth, Texas, where 3,500 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers have been on strike for eight weeks over pension and healthcare benefits. — Reuters

The US Marine Corps version of Lockheed Martin’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F-35B test aircraft BF-2 flies with external weapons for the first time over the Atlantic test range at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland on 22 Feb, 2012. — Reuters
Home-brews banned from beer festival

Officials in St. Louis, Mo., said home-brewed beers will be banned at the St. Louis Brewers Heritage Festival, leaving more than 1,000 gallons without a home.

Dan Kopman, chief executive officer of local brewery Schlafly, said he met with St. Louis Excise Commissioner Robert Kraiberg and the official told him state laws forbid home-brewed beer from unlicensed brewers to be distributed at this weekend's paid festival, the St Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

“We discussed the fact that home-brewers’ beers have been available for patrons to sample at the Heritage Festival as well as other area festivals in the past,” Kopman said. “While everyone acknowledges the value to our brewing community of having the home-brewed beers available, the fact is that we have concluded it is illegal for us to serve these beers at the festival.”

Local home-brewing organizations said they have about 1,000 gallons of home-brewed beer that was made for the festival. “It’s unfortunate that this came up so late,” Kopman says. “We’d like to have a private event for home-brewers, friends and families. And we’d like to do it soon — because there’s been a lot of beer brewed for this festival.”

Zoo celebrates walrus’ 30th birthday

A Washington state zoo is celebrating the 30th birthday of its prized walrus ET with three days of walrus-themed events.

Wenatchee Valley College

Walldena completes Niagara tightrope walk


NBC expands Bieber special to 2 hours

New York, 17 June— NBC says it plans to expand its special “Justin Bieber: All Around the World” to 2 hours — broken up into two segments to air on consecutive nights next week.

Combining documentary and music performances, the programme — scheduled to air on Wednesday and Thursday — is the superstar’s first network special. It highlights his new album “My World.”

“The worldwide hysteria surrounding Justin’s album’s launch is unlike anything we’ve seen, and we’re thrilled to share it with our audience over two nights,” Doug Vaughan, the network’s senior vice president of special programmes and late night, said in a statement on Friday. “With added stops in Italy and Mexico, we’ll have even more unprecedented access to Justin’s life and film not only his performances, but his every move on this global tour.” — Internet

Road closed after apple juice spill

Authorities in Ohio said a road was closed in the morning of 12 June when a tractor-trailer overturned and spilled thousands of bottles of apple juice. Hamilton County emergency responders said the truck overturned around 3 am when the driver lost control in the 400 block of Calhoun Road in Arlington Heights after exiting the northbound lanes of Interstate 75, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

The crash spread thousands of bottles of apple juice across all lanes of the road, leaving it closed throughout the morning rush hour. The driver was treated for minor injuries at University Hospital.

First acting like he’d have to go back across the wire to get it. He then produced the document from a pouch he had in his jacket.

“What is the purpose of your trip?” one of the officials asked. “To inspire people around the world,” replied Walldena, the first man to accomplish this stunt.

“I’ve been,” one of the officials said.

His father, Terry, was in communication with him during the crossing, speaking by radio from an ABC-TV production truck. At one point, Terry Walldena asked his son, “How’s the harness?” — Internet

Lohan suffering from exhaustion, dehydration

Los Angeles, 17 June— Lindsay Lohan’s publicist says the actress was treated for exhaustion and dehydration in her room at a Los Angeles hotel on Friday.

Lohan, 25, wasn’t taken to a hospital and emergency workers called to her room left after determining she was OK.

The former child star has been shooting her long-awaited comeback, “Liz & Dick,” a bio-picture about silver screen icon Elizabeth Taylor and Taylor’s husband, Richard Burton.

“She was on set last night at 7 pm and worked through the night until 8 am this morning,” Lohan’s publicist Steve Honig told People.com. “She took a nap before shooting her final scene. Producers were concerned when she didn’t come out of her room and called paramedics as a precaution,” Honig said.

Lindsay was examined and is fine, but did suffer some exhaustion and dehydration. She is resting now and is hoping to be back on set later this afternoon.”

Lohan has a history of drug and alcohol addiction but has said in recent months she is committed to her sobriety. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 18 June, 2012 13
Players of Greece celebrate for victory after the Group A 3rd round match against Russia at the Euro 2012 football championships in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 June, 2012. Greece won 1-0. — Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Ambrose takes Sprint Cup pole at over 203 mph

Famer was on hand to put the accomplishment in perspective. Ambrose posted a speed of 203.241 mph, the first time since 1987 the 200 mph mark was broken during Sprint Cup qualifying. “I can’t hardly remember that fast back,” Petty said. “To be able to do it on a flatter race track, not Daytona or Talladega, that is unheard of. “Ambrose made his first Sprint Cup pole a memorable one on a day 19 drivers surpassed 200 mph on the newly paved surface at MIS.

Speeds have been soaring since drivers began testing sessions, and NASCAR decided to alter the left-side tires for the race Sunday. The cars slowed down significantly at a practice session after the switch, but the change didn’t affect qualifying. The last pole winner to break 200 mph in this series was Bill Elliott, a quarter-century ago at Talladega. Ambrose had the 11th-fastest pole-winning speed in series history.

Chinese bags first gold medal at 3rd Asian Beach Games

The rounds were played on three courses: the Seaworld course, the New Brighton course and the Oceanic course. The round was played on the Seaworld course.

Furyk, McDowell share the lead as Tiger tumbles

Furyk said. “I began by studying him,” Chavez said. “I saw he had nothing, and I dove in.” Chavez (46-6, 32KOs) tentatively began, not even throwing his first punch until

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr celebrates his victory over Andy Lee in their WBC middleweight title bout on 16 June, 2012, in El Paso, Texas. — Internet

75 seconds had elapsed in the first round, and was initially outboxed by Lee (28-2), a much taller challenger than Chavez had previously faced. But as the next two rounds passed, the Mexican champion began to stalk his opponent, building up a series of right-cross counterpunches. “He’s strong, he’s young, he’s big,” Chavez said. “Lee gave me everything he had, but he couldn’t do anything to me.”

In the fifth round, Chavez openly taunted Lee’s knees. “I looked into his eyes and said, ‘You don’t have what it takes.’ ” Chavez said. “I saw he had nothing, and I dove in.” Chavez (46-6, 32KOs) tentatively began, not even throwing his first punch until

Tiger Woods lets go of his club after hitting a shot on the 14th hole during the third round of the US Open Championship golf tournament in 2012. — Internet

It’s effect on a bunch of people. And the guys that go out there and deal with the conditions and the uphill struggle, they are the ones that are going to have it the best.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Ambrose takes Sprint Cup pole at over 203 mph

Driver Marcos Ambrose, of Australia, poses with the pole sitter flag after qualifying for Sunday’s NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Quicken Loans 400 auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich, on 16 June, 2012. — Internet

Brooklyn, (Mich), 17 June — The last time anyone was this fast in qualifying for NASCAR’s top series, Richard Petty was still driving. He’s a how-mover, but when Marcos Ambrose won the Sprint Cup pole at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday for Richard Petty Motorsports, the Hall of Fame was on hand to put the accomplishment in perspective. Ambrose posted a speed of 203.241 mph, the first time since 1987 the 200 mph mark was broken during Sprint Cup qualifying. “I can’t hardly remember that fast back,” Petty said. “To be able to do it on a flatter race track, not Daytona or Talladega, that is unheard of. “Ambrose made his first Sprint Cup pole a memorable one on a day 19 drivers surpassed 200 mph on the newly paved surface at MIS.

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Chinese bags first gold medal at 3rd Asian Beach Games

HAIYANG, 17 June — Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk, it wasn’t going to get any easier on the US Open two years ago down the stretch in San Francisco feel a lot longer. “It’s effect on a bunch of people. And the guys that go out there and deal with the conditions and the uphill struggle, they are the ones that are going to have it the best.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Ambrose takes Sprint Cup pole at over 203 mph

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HAIYANG, 17 June — Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk, a pair of US Open medalists, finished runner-up in the lead in the final lap. “I can’t hardly remember that fast back,” Petty said. “To be able to do it on a flatter race track, not Daytona or Talladega, that is unheard of. “Ambrose made his first Sprint Cup pole a memorable one on a day 19 drivers surpassed 200 mph on the newly paved surface at MIS.

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Greek wildfire rages unabated near Athens

ATHENS, June 16 — A wildfire near Athens raged unabated on Sunday, burning rural land and sending some residents fleeing their homes, but firefighters said they expected to bring it under control within hours.

More than 140 firefighters with dozens of engines battled the flames, aided by seven aircraft and four helicopters. Politicians from the country’s main parties visited the region just hours before a national election that may determine Greece’s future in the euro zone.

The fire broke out on Saturday from sparks at a site where workers had been welding, and, fanned by strong winds, it quickly spread to engulf the settlements of Palia Fokaisa, Keratea and Leagraina near the southern coast of Athens.

“It destroyed at least 10 small warehouses and two deserted homes. It is still burning but winds have calmed down,” a fire brigade official said. “It should be contained by the afternoon.”

Police said the blaze, the first of Greece’s wildfire season, was not threatening homes, though some residents in the area were evacuated as a precaution.

Four firefighters were taken to hospital with breathing problems, the fire brigade said. Wildfires are frequent in Greece during the summer, often due to soaring temperatures and strong winds, drought or arson.

Hot and dry summers mean forests are more frequently brought to the tinder-box conditions that allow fires to spread devastatingly. — Reuters

Drogo non-committal on Shanghai deal

NEW DELHI, June 15 — Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba said on Sunday that an announcement on his future was due shortly as he side-stepped questions about whether he will stay with China’s Shanghai Shenhua. — Internet

Mumbai, June 15 — The Ukrainian football club Dynamo Kyiv on Sunday, signed an agreement with youth academy and national coaching institute by the state government.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Sports Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and other dignitaries.

Droga non-committal on Shanghai deal

NEW DELHI, June 15 — Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, seen here in New Delhi, said that an announcement on his future was due shortly as he side-stepped questions about whether he will stay with China’s Shanghai Shenhua. — Internet

Ivy Coast striker Didier Drogba, seen here in New Delhi, said that an announcement on his future was due shortly as he side-stepped questions about whether he will stay with China’s Shanghai Shenhua. — Internet

Taleban ban anti-polio drive in Pakistan tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 16 June — Pakistan’s military and Taleban in a Taleban-infested tribal region Saturday banned anti-polio vaccination teams, to protect US drone strikes saying the attacks were killing civilians. “Anti-polio vaccination teams will not be allowed to administer polio drops among children in North Waziristan,” local warlord Gul Bahadar said in a statement.

Bahadar, who is allied with Afghan Taleban fighting US-led troops across the border, said the ban will remain effective until the US stops drone attacks in the tribal region. “On the one hand they are killing innocent women, children and old people in drone attacks and on the other they are spending millions on vaccination campaign,” the statement distributed in the region’s main town Miran Shah said.

It said “the day and night US drone flights in Waziristan are causing mental illness in the local population which is more dangerous than polio.”

Residents said people would respond to the call as Bahadar commands influence in the region.

Pakistan’s northwestern tribal region, known as a hotbed of Taleban and al-Qaeda militants, is witnessing increasing drone strikes amid a stalemate in US-Pakistan talks to end a blockade on NATO supplies crossing into Afghanistan.

Pakistan shut NATO supply lines in anger over US air strikes on a border post on 26 November that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

Blake runs Olympic trials

EDMONTON, Alberta, 17 June — Reigning 100-metre world champion Yohan Blake of Jamaica won the 100m crown at the Donovan Bailey Invitational on Saturday in 10.05 seconds.

With no wind recorded, Blake produced a solid performance in Canada only a week after winning a Diamond League 100m race in New York in 9.90 seconds, serving notice he will be a contender at the Jamaican Olympic trials.

Blake defeated American Trell Kimmons by .06 of a second with Jamaican Jerome Clerk III in 10.13 and Norway’s Jaaysa Naidhu fourth in 10.15.

Blake will be tested by reigning Olympic 100m and 200m champion and world recordholder Usain Bolt as well as Asafa Powell and a host of other Jamaican sprint stars in his homeland’s Olympic trials at the end of the month, all of them fighting for berths at the London Olympics athletics events in August. — Internet
Union Border Affairs and MID Minister inspects situation in Buthidaung, Maungtaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay inspected relief camps in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State and Aungthabyay Village near Bangladesh border.

During the meeting with 828 displaced people sheltering relief camps at Basic Education Middle School No 1 and Shwekyin Monastery in Buthidaung Township, the union minister asked about the wishes of the displaced people from eight villages in Buthidaung Township and urged officials concerned to take measures for safety of the people and to assist them in returning back to their homes and in their works at a time when they wish to go back.

The union minister presented K5 million, 20 bags of rice, 20 sacks of edible oil, clothes and food to the displaced people for their current livelihood.

Afterwards, the union minister proceeded to Ganghpyin Model Pagoda and met with local people. During the meeting, he explained the aim of establishing villages and called on villagers for working hard to gain higher living standard and gave instructions of creating jobs for young local people.

He also presented cash assistance to the villagers.

The union minister and his entourage went to Aungthabyay model village and met with villagers from seven villages at No. 1 Office of the Border Areas Immigration Control Headquarters and called on them to continue to maintain the peace and stability of the area, living under the rule of law.

During the meeting, he said the area is rich in natural resources though it is a far-flung area. He also expressed his delight that youths are playing a leading role in the education and administration sectors and there was no unrests broke out in the area.

He also asked views of the representatives of the villages and discussed with them about peace and stability and went back to Sittway.

The union minister held a meeting with Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin and Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing over situation of the state and inspected damages and refugee camps in Sittway.—MNA

Union Information and Culture Minister addresses donation ceremony for renovation of ancient pagodas in MraukU, Inwa areas

YANGON, 17 June—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan addressed cash donation ceremony for renovation of ancient pagodas in MraukU and Inwa areas held at National Theatre (Yangon) on Pyu Road here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Finance and Revenue Minister Daw San San Nwe and Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, departmental heads of ministries of culture and information and donors.

The Union Minister, in his speech, said that MraukU in Rakhine State and Inwa in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region were the regions of rich culture in the history of the country. Ancient buildings in those regions were cultural heritage reflecting the dignity of the country. However, those heritages were damaging due to their long lifespan and prolonged exposure to the elements.

As regards MraukU of Rakhine State, King Min Saw Mon established the First MraukU in AD 1430 and King Min Bagyi the Second MraukU in AD 1530 according to the history of Rakhine. MraukU Period lasted 154 years from AD 1430 to 1784 during which a large number of pagodas and stupas made of sandstones were built, but now there remained only 537 on the ground according to the recent field survey.

Old Ava (now Inwa) City was built in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region during the reign of King Thadoe Minpya in AD 1364. It lasted over 400 years until the time of King Bagyidaw in Konbuang Period in AD 1840. A considerable number of palace chambers, city walls and religious buildings were built during the period, but there remained only 496 ancient pagodas, stupas and buildings now according to the field survey.

If the remaining pagoda, stupas, monasteries, lakes and ancient buildings in MraukU and Inwa were not preserved in our time, such valuable ancient cultural heritage would not survive down to our next generations. Ancient religious buildings and palace chambers and city walls in those regions were preserved as much as possible with the fund of the State and contributions of the individual wellwishers. Wellwishers were invited to make contributions for all-round renovation of 12 pagodas and stupas and maintaining the current condition of the eight ruined pagodas in MraukU, and all-round renovation of 29 pagodas and stupas and maintaining the current condition of the 45 ruined pagodas in Inwa. So, wellwishers donated K 79.3 million for all-round renovation of 6 pagodas in MraukU and 29 pagodas in Inwa and for maintaining the current 16 ruined pagodas, totaling 51 pagodas. The Union Minister then expressed his heartfelt thanks to the wellwishers for all their contributions.

The Union Minister noted that the government had adopted two policies regarding the preservation of ancient buildings. The first point was focusing on maintaining the ruins in their original form and the second was all-round renovation of pagodas and stupas out of ancient buildings

Feasibility study for maintenance and utilization of Ayeyawady, Chindwin river courses to be made

YANGON, 17 June — The signing ceremony of MoU on conducting feasibility study for maintenance and utilization of Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers between Directorate of Water Utilization and Improvement of River Systems of the Ministry of Transport and Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening, with an address by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

Director-General of the department U Tun Lwin Oo explained maintenance and utilization of river courses. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd U Chi Ohn spoke words of thanks.

Forever Chindwin Ayeyaw Director U Kyaw Myint of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd explained matters related to the process and Green Growth Programme Managing Director U Thein Khin over regional development tasks along the water course.

Next, Director-General of DWUIRUS U Tun Lwin Oo and Chairman of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd U Chi Ohn signed the MoU and Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung gave the permit to Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd.—MNA