Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits relief camps in Kyaiklat, Pyapon, Satsan and Kadonkani in Ayeyawady Div

NAI PYI TAW, 2 June—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye together with Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman of the NDPCC Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, member of the NDPCC ministers, senior officials of Ministry of Defence, the deputy ministers, the director-general of Government Office and officials left Yangon for Kyaiklat yesterday morning to inspect rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady Division.

In Kyaiklat, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing who is closely supervising reconstruction and development tasks in Kyaiklat and Pyapon Townships in Pyapon District looked into transportation and repair of houses in the wards in a motorcade.

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented reports on loss of lives and property in Kyaiklat Township due to the storm, repair of houses, offices, hospitals and schools, arrangements for cultivation of mosoon paddy in time, distribution of relief supplies to storm victims, supply of water, disease control, arrangements for telecommunications, power supply, smooth transportation to Yangon through Kyaiklat-Maubin-Yangon highway in addition to waterway, cooperation of Golden Flower Co and Mitharsu Co in rehabilitation tasks at the Shweyatu Hall in town.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye fulfilled the needs.

(See page 5)
Carry out rehabilitation task with added momentum

It is natural that rehabilitation has to be launched in a particular region or nation in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Most recently, towns, wards and villages in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions of Myanmar were struck by the severe storm. So rehabilitation of those regions is being carried out.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on 29 May inspected the relief camps in Hlinethaya, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships in Yangon Division where he greeted storm victims and consoled them.

At Padan Relief Camp of Hlinethaya Township bamboo cottages, 20 x 20 x 11 feet with thatched roofs will be built for storm victims along with fly proof latrines measuring 3 feet x 3 feet x 8 feet.

At present, altogether over 300 families of 40 households in the relief camp are being accommodated in 40 shelter boxes and provided with rice, rations and medicines. Likewise, storm victims of the relief camps in Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) are being provided with meals and medical attention with the opening of a control office.

As the rehabilitation task is huge it has to be carried out by the government, the people and the Tatmadaw with the contributions of well-wishers.

At a time when the rehabilitation work is being carried out with added momentum under the leadership of the government it is incumbent upon companies, intellectuals, technocrats and well-wishers to do their bit in the drive. Only then, will the rehabilitation measures meet with success soonest.

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Relief supplies from abroad continue to arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 2 June—Relief supplies from abroad are flowing continuously to the country.

Four C-130 planes from the USA carrying mosquito nets, soaps, cooking pots, tooth paste, mosquito coils, mug, blankets, water purifiers and its related accessories weighing 28.12 tons landed at Yangon International Airport at 9.02 am, 10 am, 11 am and 11.56 am; three AN-12 and IL-76 planes from Thailand-based WFP carrying personal goods, pillows and tarpaulins weighing 50.066 ton at 11.35 am, 3.04 pm and 4.48 pm; a C-130 plane from World Concern of the USA carrying water purifiers and related accessories weighing 7.86 tons at 12.53 pm; a A-310 plane from DFID of Britain carrying blankets and plastic weighing 32.132 tons; a A-300 plane from Relief Supplies Co Ltd of Britain carrying plastic weighing 37.610 tons at 4.30 pm.

Similarly, an AN-12 plane from Thailand-based WFP carrying mosquito weighing 14 tons arrived at 8.16 pm on 1 June.

Relief supplies from abroad to be donated to the storm victims are flowing continuously to the country by planes. The relief supplies team accepted the items at the airport and transported them to the storm-hit regions without delay.

Contacts for wellwishers to donate cash, kind to storm victims

YANGON, 2 June—Wellwishers at home or from abroad may contact the following persons if they want to donate cash or kind to the storm-hit victims.

Wellwishers who want to make cash donation may directly contact Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue at No 16/ A, Sethmu Road, Yankin Township (Tel; 09-8600109), Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win (Tel; 09-8600102), Director-General U Maung Maung Win (Tel; 01-543757) and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Win Tin (Tel; 01-543765).

Wellwishers who want to donate items may directly contact Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at Fire Services Department (Head Office) near Tooth Relics Pagoda in Mayangon Township (Tel; 09-8600026), U Than Oo (Director-General, Relief and Resettlement Department) at goods sheds near Kyaukwaung Pagoda in Ward 3, Mayangon Township (Tel; 09-8600025, 09-8600526) and U Aung Tun Khang (Acting Director-General, Social Welfare Department) (Tel; 09-8600702, 09-8601003).—MNA

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Relief aids from WFP based in Thailand arrive Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 2 June—A 30-member medical team from Indonesia arrived here by special flight today.

The medical team brought medicines, blankets, kitchen wares, washing machines, generators, water purifying machine weighing 10 tons. The team will camp its base in Kawhmu Township and will provide medical care to storm victims.—MNA

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* 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
Back to the Future.

A large fire has ripped through a backlot at Universal Studios in Hollywood, destroying a set from a backlot at Universal Studios in Universal City, California, 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles before dawn at the 400-acre property, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Michael Freeman said. The fire was contained to an acre property, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Michael Freeman said. The fire was contained to a lot but burned for more than 12 hours before it was extinguished. No one is thought to have been seriously injured.

Roughly 40,000 to 50,000 videos and reels were in the video vault, but there were duplicates stored in a different location, NBC Universal President and Chief Operating Officer Ron Meyer said. “Nothing is lost forever,” he said.

Clinton takes Puerto Rico handily

WASHINGTON, 1 June—Senator Hillary Clinton of New York handily won Sunday’s Democratic presidential primary in the US territory of Puerto Rico, but her rival Senator Barrack Obama of Illinois will soon declare he wins the nomination.

With 91 percent of the precincts reporting back, Clinton led Obama 68 to 32 percent, and beating him soundly in all demographic groups. However, the victory is largely symbolic as Obama is still well ahead of her in the total tally of the delegates going to the August national convention and there is only two primaries left. Going to the Puerto Rico primary, Obama has some

Batlae at Hollywood’s Universal Studios

LOS ANGELES, 2 June—A large fire has ripped through a backlot at Universal Studios in Hollywood, destroying a set from Back To The Future. The blaze also claimed the King Kong exhibit at the popular tourist attraction and a video vault containing more than 40,000 videos and reels.

The fire broke out on a backlot sound stage in a set featuring New York brownstone facades before dawn at the 400-acre property, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Michael Freeman said. The fire was contained to the lot but burned for more than 12 hours before it was extinguished. No one is thought to have been seriously injured.

Roughly 40,000 to 50,000 videos and reels were in the video vault, but there were duplicates stored in a different location, NBC Universal President and Chief Operating Officer Ron Meyer said. “Nothing is lost forever,” he said.

US military death toll in Iraq rises to 4087

WASHINGTON, 2 June—As of Sunday, 1 June, 2008, at least 4,087 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action.

At least 3,330 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The AP count is one more than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Georgia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, twocarch; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each. —Internet

Bomb hits Pakistan Danish Embassy

ISLAMABAD, 2 June—At least six people have been killed and 30 injured in a car bomb attack near the Danish Embassy in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

An embassy worker was among the dead and three were hurt but no Danish citizens were killed or injured. Danish PM Anders Fogh Rasmussen called the act “cowardly” and said it would not change Danish policies.

It was not clear who carried out the attack, as Pakistan’s main militant group recently declared a ceasefire.

Pakistan’s top Taleban warlord Baitullah Mehsud is in peace talks with the authorities in an attempt to end fighting in the country’s north-west.

Damages seen after bomb blast.

A fire rages out of control at the backlot filled with movie sets at Universal Studios in Universal City, California, 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles on 1 June, 2008. —Internet

Bangladesh hotel blasts injure more than 30 people

DHAKA, 2 June—Blasts at a multi-storey hotel in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka injured more than 30 people, police said on Monday. They said two explosions rocked the nine-storey Orchard Plaza hotel at the city’s Nayapaltan area late on Sunday night, setting two upper floors on fire.

Firefighters said the victims included one Sri Lankan national. They said the fire was apparently caused by “gas explosions”. The hotel also had guests from Nepal, Singapore and India, witnesses said. A Nepali hotel guest said the second blast occurred three and half hours after the first one, and it was much bigger. “It’s not a bomb,” one fire official told reporters. The injured were being treated at hospitals for multiple burn injuries.

“We are checking the whole place. Bomb or gas, it’s a serious incident and we are taking it seriously from a security point of view,” said a senior police officer on the scene. —Internet

Spanish troupe Esbart Catala performs in the old city of Damascus on 1 June, 2008, as part of celebrations marking the city as this year’s Arab capital of culture. —Internet

Yves Saint Laurent dies aged 71

PARIS, 2 June—Yves Saint Laurent has died at his Paris home at the age of 71 according to a close friend of the fashion designer.

He died on Sunday evening following a long illness, said Pierre Bergé. The innovative designer has been an institution for decades in the world of high fashion. He was widely considered the last of a generation that included Christian Dior and Coco Chanel and made Paris the fashion capital of the world. —Internet
China, Vietnam to step up trust, deepen friendship

BEIJING, 2 June — Under their new partnership, China and Vietnam will step up mutual political trust, work more closely on various fields and deepen friendship between their citizens, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Saturday.

“The biggest achievement out of your tour is the establishment of an all-round strategic cooperative partnership, which charts a new path for future China-Vietnam ties,” Wen told Nong Duc Manh, general secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee, in Beijing on Saturday morning.

China and Vietnam elevated their ties to an all-round strategic cooperative partnership amid the Vietnam’s Communist Party chief’s visit to China. The visit was Manh’s fourth since he took the CPV helm in 2001.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Manh agreed in their talks on Friday to upgrade bilateral ties from a good neighbour and all-round cooperative relation to a strategic partnership.

In his hour-long talk with Manh, Wen focused on outlining the economic and trade collaboration between the two countries. —Xinhua

Georgia stops drone flights over Abkhazia

UNITED NATIONS, 2 June — Georgian UN Ambassador Irakli Alasania said on Friday his country has stopped drone flights over Georgia’s breakaway region of Abkhazia after a UN report said such flights violated a ceasefire agreement.

“Since the report was issued, the Georgia side (has) stopped the overflights to honour the words of the current report,” Alasania told reporters after attending a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council. “It doesn’t mean that we will not use these military capabilities if the threat will occur in the region,” he stressed.

Alasania said that Georgia has asked the members of the Security Council to pay a visit to Georgia and to talk with both Georgia and Abkhazia so as to “see the situation on the ground themselves”. “I hope that the Security Council will consider the offer from the Georgian side,” he added. —Xinhua

US, S Korea commit 170 cases of aerial spying against DPRK

PYONGYANG, 2 June — The United States and South Korea committed more than 170 cases of aerial espionage against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in May, the official KCNA news agency quoted a military source as saying Saturday.

In a report, the KCNA gave a recent example of the espionage. On 29 May, a U-2 of the US forces stationed in South Korea repeatedly made shuttle flights from the east to the west for a long time to make photographing and electronic espionage on the DPRK, the report said. —Xinhua

Children cool themselves in a fountain in Macedonia’s capital Skopje, on 29 May, 2008. The heat wave in this Balkan country caused people to seek shelter from the heat, as temperatures reached 38 degrees centigrade (100.4 Fahrenheit). —INTERNET

Tourists visit the world famous Sphinx in Giza of Egypt on 1 June, 2008. The Sphinx of Egypt is under the threat of birds settling down on the statue’s head and the shaded northern part and their acidic droppings, which have an erosive impact on the fragile stone. —Xinhua

Latin American, Caribbean countries gather on food crisis

CARACAS, 2 June — Representatives of 26 member states of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (LAES) convened here Friday to discuss how to address the current food crisis.

LAES President Geronimo Cardozo addressed the opening ceremony, saying it is necessary to find the root cause of the current world food crisis, which has seen the prices of as many as 32 agricultural products including rice, wheat and cereal hiking, causing the death of about 25,000 people each day.

The crisis was caused by world economic disorder, Cardozo said.

The LAES president said the meeting aims to help Latin American and Caribbean governments reach a common position for the summit of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to be held in Rome on 3-5 June, with the theme of "food security, climate change and bioenergy".

He said during the upcoming Rome FAO summit, LAES will propose to form a regional alliance to tackle the world food crisis.

Since its establishment 33 years ago, LAES has cooperated with various governments in solving a wide range of issues including energy crisis, demographic problems and water shortage, he added. —Xinhua

Soaring fuel price to push up fish, food prices in Philippines

MANILA, 2 June — A Filipino fishermen’s group Saturday said the continuously soaring fuel price will trigger a vicious spiral by pushing upward the price of fish and the already vert high food price.

The Pamalakaya group, which has some 80,000 members in 36 provinces around the country, said in a statement that the spiraling prices of petroleum products could force many small-time fishermen from abandoning their motorboats and quit fishing altogether.

Pamalakaya said the owners or operators of 177,627 small motorized fishing boats across the country are being badly affected by the fuel price hikes.

It said small fishermen who use 5 to 10 liters of regular gasoline every day and operators of small motorized fishing boats who employ two to three fishermen for each vessel could no longer bear the cost of fuel.

Fishermen will have to reduce hours of fishing from an average of eight to 12 hours to four to eight hours and look for other jobs such as driving tricycles, carpentry, or working on construction sites to earn their living, said Pamalakaya. —Xinhua
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits relief camps...
(from page 1)

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into the office building of Kyaklat Township PDC. Next, they proceeded to Township People’s Hospital and consoled the patients. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye encouraged the township medical officer, doctors, nurses and personnel.
Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the town, Myoma market and its surrounding areas by car and comforted the local people. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party flew to Pyapon. They later inspected the town and Pyapon bridge in a motorcade.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into Tatmadaw medical team led by Surgeon Lt-Col Aung Myat Kyaw giving medical treatment to the locals at the compound near Pyapon bridge.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye looked into medical team from Republic of India giving medical treatment to the locals including monks and nuns and greeted Indian medical team leader and personnel.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presented reports on diseases control in storm-hit areas and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended to the needs.

Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on plans for cultivation of monsoon paddy, cash donations for the storm-hit victims, distribution of relief supplies, contributions of Yuzana Co, Dagon Int’l Ltd and Pyae Phyo Kyaw Co to the victims in Pyapon and their participation in reconstruction tasks, supply of drinking water, progress in telephone reinstallation, power supply, returning of rice mills and resumption of road and water transport.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on rehabilitation of marine workers and fishing equipment to be provided by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye then inspected reconstruction of Pyapon District People’s Hospital and instructed the officials to make arrangements for construction of a hospital building by Dagon International Co in upgrading the hospital into 200-bed one.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party helicoptered to Sathsan relief camp in Bogale Township in the afternoon. They first greeted the health staff treating the locals at the relief camp. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye comforted the storm victims. He also met with the residents of Sathsan and explained plans for providing relief aid.

On arrival at Kadonkani Village in Pyapon Township, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted members of Kachin State Red Cross Society and social organizations participating in the relief work. Next, he inspected the clinic and distribution of relief items. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into setting up of tarpaulin tents for the storm victims of Kyunthaya Village, Bogale Township, and greeted them. He then greeted the locals of Kadonkani Village and explained plans for assistance to be provided for them.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to Pathein by helicopter. Then, from aboard he viewed the storm-hit regions.

In Kadonkani Village, 60 members of Kachin State Red Cross Society and members of local social organizations are taking part in the setting up of tents, providing of health care, distribution of relief goods and relief work.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye comforts a patient receiving treatment at the hospital in Kyaklat.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets medics providing medical treatment to residents in Pyapon.—MNA

Members of Indian medical team provide medical treatment to storm victims.—MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye —

(from page 16)

of 100 million baskets of rice yearly. Relief measures have completed in the first phase to some extent. At the same time, emphasis is to be placed on raising the socio-economic life of the local people while reconstruction tasks are being carried out as the second phase, adding that the storm victims are to be sheltered systematically. The storm victims were to be provided with livelihoods. Township-wise discussions are to be made for taking preventive and preparedness measures against the natural disasters in the future.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted national entrepreneurs at the ceremony. After the ceremony, he discussed matters related to reconstruction and development of Kyai Kat and Pyapon Townships with Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thu Aung Myint Oo and officials concerned.

First, Prime Minister General Thein Sein discussed work on implementation of the instructions given by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Secretary-1 on tasks to be carried out with supplementary reports of the ministers and national entrepreneurs. Regarding the reports, the Prime Minister made arrangements to fulfill the needs and the meeting came to a close. — MNA

General practitioners provide treatment for storm victims

YANGON, 2 June — Under the leadership of General practitioners of Myanmar Medical Association gave medical treatment to the storm victims in Warbalaukthauk village-tract in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Division, in three villages in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Division, in three wards in Shwwpa Akan Myothit, North Okkalapa Township in Yangon, at the relief camps in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division. They also donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, clothes, pure drinking water and kitchen utensils.

In addition, local general practitioners also participated in giving the treatment. They also held educative talks for children at the relief camps. They then donated snacks, soap, tooth brushes and tubes of tooth paste.

The medical team also provided healthcare for the pregnant women and presented pamphlets on health awareness.

The minister and party observed taking of sample water from the wells and observed taking of sample water from the wells and kitchen utensils.

VPANRDA Minister inspects rehabilitation work in Mawlamyinegyun Township

YANGON, 2 June — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and officials professors and associate professors of Yangon University and Yangon Technological University left Mawlamyinegyun Township for storm-hit Kyahon Village on 31 May.

They carried food, blankets, mosquito nets, soap, 32 bio-fuel powered stoves, eggs, canned food, biscuits, gram bags of rice and other personal goods to the villagers.

The minister and party gave medical treatment to the storm victims in labutta. They also held educative talks for children at the relief camps. They then donated snacks, soap, tooth brushes and tubes of tooth paste.

The medical team also provided healthcare for the pregnant women and presented pamphlets on health awareness.

The minister and party observed taking of sample water from the wells and kitchen utensils.

MFVPEA to donate farming equipment

YANGON, 2 June — For the rehabilitation of the socio-economic life of storm-hit peasants, Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association will donate inputs such as vegetables, fruit, seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, agricultural equipment needed for reestablishment of damaged and lost plantations to storm-hit areas.

Members, member companies and wellwishers wishing to donate seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and agricultural equipment may contact Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association Ward (A), 6th floor, Dagon Center, No (262/264), Pyay road, Sanyong township, Ph-(514226). — MNA

Export and Import course in July

YANGON, 2 June — Import and Export procedure course No (33), organized by Directorate of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce will be opened at the ministry (Yangon Branch), here in July. Those wishing to attend the course may register at the administration division (Yangon Branch). — MNA
Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of a 100,000-gallon tank in Dagon Myothit (South). — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects cleaning of downed trees, water supply in Dagon Myothit (North).

Yangon, 2 June — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee inspected repair of pavement and buildings and cleaning of the fallen trees and supply of drinking water.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected laying of pipelines for supply of water in Ward 43 by Dagon Myothit (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association. Joint Secretary U Kyaw Soe reported on laying of 94,375-foot water pipelines and number of houses to which water will be supplied and Lt-Gen Myint Swe left necessary instructions. — MNA

ERAT trains representatives of ministries for Nargis assessment

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 June — Members of ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) today held a meeting with representatives of ministries concerned and explained measures to be carried out for a joint assessment of the Cyclone Nargis.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu delivered an address at the two-day meeting. Fifty-four representatives from 18 ministries of the Myanmar, Robert Chau, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar and Representative of ASEAN to Tripartite Core Group (TCG), Resident Representative and Coordinator of UNDP Mr Bishow Parajuli and representatives of UN agencies participated in the meeting.

The 2nd meeting of Tripartite Core Group (TCG) was held after the meeting. — MNA

Vice-Mayor inspects tax-free markets

Yangon, 2 June — Vice-Mayor Col Hla Thein Swe of the Yangon City Development Committee together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of tax-free markets yesterday morning.

The Vice-Mayor and party inspected tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Thakaya and Tamway Townships. During the inspection tour of the tax-free markets, they looked into shops of personal goods, vegetables, Win Thuza, meat, seasonal fruit and flowers being sold to the consumers at reasonable prices and gave necessary instructions. — MNA
Storm-hit Kamapa Village in Kungyangon Township resumes agricultural work with help of power tillers

**Article by Maung Maung Myint Swe**

In Myanmar monsoon season has already set in. Since rehabilitation measures are being carried out with added momentum in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions farmers of storm-hit regions are able to resume their agricultural work. Therefore, farmers in Kamapa Village of Kungyangon Township where rehabilitation and reconstruction measures are being taken in full swing are now resuming their agricultural work. The start of agricultural work was broadcast by Myawady TV recently.

With regard to starting the agricultural work Chairman of Kamapa Village Peace and Development Council U Zin Thant said that there are 10,445 acres of farmland in Kamapa Village, adding that although the farmland was struck by the severe storm farmers of the village are now engaged in the agricultural work; and that they are able to start their work earlier than that of the previous years. Outside the village collective ploughing for the monsoon paddy cultivation season is being carried out with the use of farm equipment including power tillers. For the region farm equipment is becoming a contributing factor in effective ploughing.

As regards the successful launching of the agricultural work Manager of Kungyangon Township Agricultural work U Soe Myint also said that as the first phase, double cropping is being introduced; that farmers of storm-hit regions have been provided with 90 power tillers—20 donated by Asia World Co and 70 contributed by the government—so that they can resume their agricultural work as early as possible; that the farmers have already obtained rice seeds and arrangements have been made to provide them with more rice seeds from townships in Yangon Division if necessary. There have been rice seeds of Yadana Aung and Thihtat Yin strains which can be used for double cropping. At present, there are about 30,000 baskets of rice seeds are ready and therefore, the rice seeds are enough for the monsoon paddy cultivation season, he disclosed.

Double cropping enables farmers to enjoy rice security before normal rice production has started. Regarding the entry of sea water into farmland due to the severe storm Manager U Soe Myint explained that there were heavy rains two days before the storm with the rainfall of 11 inches. The storm was accompanied by rising tide of sea water that inundated the farmland. As sea water mixed with fresh water and left the farmland together with it, the farmland can be used immediately, for it was not absorbed in soil. Altogether 102,190 acres of farmland in Kungyangon Township will be cultivable as the government has provided farmers of the township with fertilizer. And we hope that paddy output in the township will exceed that of last year as the government and private companies are doing their best in helping farmers, he noted.

Now embankments that prevent in-flow of sea water, sluice gates and reservoirs and other necessary irrigation facilities were built in Kungyangon Township including Kamapa Village while wet land areas were facilitated with water pumps by the government. Now embankments that prevent in-flow of sea water, sluice gates and reservoirs and other necessary irrigation facilities were built in Kungyangon Township including Kamapa Village while wet land areas were facilitated with water pumps by the government. And we firmly believe that they will be able to complete their work in time, she added.

With the help of the government and private companies Kamapa Village will be able to carry out its agricultural work more effectively and conveniently than in the past even though it was hit hard by the severe storm.

(Translation: TS) ****
State constitution, mandate of the entire people

Si Thu Aung

The referendum for approval of the State constitution (draft) has been held successfully despite the disruptions conspired by internal and external elements and caused by natural disaster. According to Announcement 12/2008 issued by the Commission for Holding the Referendum, of 27,288,827 eligible voters of the nation, 26,776,675 or 98.12 per cent cast votes. And of the voters, 24,764,124 or 92.48 per cent voted ‘yes’ and 1,631,712 or 6.1 per cent voted ‘no’, with 380,839 cancelled votes or 1.42 per cent.

So, it is fair to say that more than 9 out of every 10 persons in the nation have approved the constitution (draft). If I may borrow the word of politicians, I would say that the State constitution (draft) has become the mandate of the people, or it has the mandate of the people.

Then, what will those who claimed themselves to have the mandate of the people according to the 1990 election results have to do? Will they have to throw the mandate down the drain?

I would like the people to think it over in practice. Those who cast votes in the 1990 elections were the voters of the 1990 election, which was held 18 years ago. Some of them have passed away. Those who were under 18 in the 1990 election, which was held 18 years ago? The medicine has already been expired by now, so if he takes that medicine, he may even lose his life due to a stomach trouble caused by the expired medicine.

So, the people know whether the mandate about 18 years ago is still appropriate to date or not.

I have heard the complaints of those who cling on to the outdated mandate say that the 1990 election was free and fair; that the recent referendum was not because there were no foreign observers, local authorities violated the referendum law by forcing the people to vote ‘yes’; that so, that was not free or fair; and that therefore, they would request the international community not to recognize the results of the referendum.

The Tatmadaw government took responsibilities for holding not only the 1990 election but also the referendum (2008). No foreign watchdogs were invited to the elections. There was a salient point that the dissident groups won the 1990 election but those who were desperate to disrupt the referendum by voting ‘no’ lost categorically.

Politicians in Myanmar are not alone who put all the blame on the referee if the team they favoured lost in a match. That happens in all the elections that have been held in the world.

In Kenya, for instance, the opposition party provoked a riot by making an accusation that the election was rigged. So, the nation was on the verge of collapse. The party members were satisfied only after creating the posts of the President and the prime minister to share powers. In Pakistan also, opposition party members claimed that President Musharaff would rig the parliamentary elections so that his party could win, and if the party lost, the cause would be due to the rigging of the elections. However, the voices were no more when the party won the elections. And in Georgia, when the opposition party lost in the parliamentary elections, they shouted that President Saakashvili rigged the elections. In that country, there were many election observers sent by OSCE. However, it is natural that the losers cannot accept the election results.

In fact, the approval of a constitution in a country is just a case that is under the jurisdiction of the nation. So, any of the foreign organizations or nations do not have rights to interfere in such a case.

Now, the State constitution (2008) has been approved with the mandate of 92.48 per cent of the nation’s eligible voter population, and it is undeniable according to not only the the prevailing situations but also international and national laws.

I wonder how those who had the mandate of the people by winning 7,934,622 votes of the voters in the 1990 elections overcome the mandate the people gave with 24,764,124 votes in the referendum (2008).

To be exact, 7,934,622 votes they won in the 1990 elections stood only 38 per cent of 20,818,313 eligible voters at that time. So, they needed many more votes to win the majority of the votes. Of the 20 million eligible voters, only about 15 million cast vote. It might be the fact that about five million people did not favour all the 93 parties including the so-called winning party. I do not think it is wise the party won the support of the public if more than seven million people voted for it whereas more than 12 million people were against it.

They were only the population of eligible voters. If it was calculated according to the nation’s population of 42 million at that time, the number of ‘yes’ votes represented just over 20 per cent. Can that be the mandate of the people? Think it over.

Nonetheless, there is a point in this regard that the outdated mandate is something for certain organizations and forces to survive. Now, their hope was washed away along the current of the vote of the people.

Moreover, the persons who claimed themselves to be the parallel government they had set up of their own, asking foreign masters for assistance saying they were the owners of the mandate of the people will be helpless if the mandate was no more. The elderly persons of CRPP and the persons in the building on which an old bamboo hat is hung in Shwegonding, Bahan, will be out of control and restraint because they no longer have mandate of the people.

They may continue to claim to be the owner of the original mandate to console themselves if they want to. However, if they continue to build castles in the air while ignoring the prevailing situations, they will be like a miserable over-70-year woman in a romantic story who had nostalgia on every fullmoon day for the bridegroom who died in the run-up to the wedding reception.

I would like to give them a piece of good advice that they accept the prevailing situations as they really are, and no longer stick to the daunting hopes. And if they want to have the mandate of the people in the new nation with the new system, they should stand for election in accordance with the rules and regulations with discipline and democracy sense in the forthcoming elections. The people are welcoming them.

Translation: MS
Two toddlers dead after suspected stabbing in UK

LONDON, 2 June—British police are investigating the deaths of a five-year-old boy and a four-year-old girl who are believed to have been stabbed in south London, Scotland Yard said on Saturday.

A third child, a six-month-old baby, is suffering from suspected stab wounds and in a critical condition in hospital.

All three children were found at a home in Carshalton on Friday evening after police and the London Ambulance Service were called, but the five-year-old and the four-year-old died later in hospital.

A 39-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman have been arrested and officers from the Homicide and Serious Crime Command and the Child Abuse Investigation Command have launched an investigation.

MNA/Reuters

Filipino families need to earn more

MANILA, 2 June—A Filipino family of five members needs an income of 10,000 pesos (227 US dollars) a month to survive in Metro Manila due to soaring prices of fuel and other commodities, said a revised figure released by the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) Saturday.

This income threshold covers only basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, and transportation and does not include spending for recreation, said the NSCB, adding that families whose incomes fall short of the threshold are considered poor.

The latest NSCB poverty line, drawn according to inflation triggered by the latest increases in fuel prices, means that the minimum monthly income above poverty line has been raised by 16.7 per cent from 8,569 pesos in 2006. The NSCB said the new figure is provisional and an official one will be published next year, as surveys for poverty statistics are conducted once every three years with the last official one produced in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Anti-US beef protests continue despite crackdown

SEOUL, 2 June—Organizers said thousands of South Koreans were to hold another massive protest in downtown Seoul Sunday against the impending resumption of US beef imports despite the police crackdown, Yonhap news agency reported. About 40,000 people gathered in front of City Hall Saturday for the largest rally since candlelight vigils started in early May.

Hundreds who continued protesting until early Sunday morning and tried to march toward the presidential office were forcefully dispersed by the police.

Up to 100 citizens and 40 policemen were injured in the clashes, with a male citizen reportedly suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.

Witnesses said many citizens were seen bleeding and limping after the clashes with police, Yonhap said.

A total of 228 protesters were hauled away by police, with the total number of detainees since the start of the protests reaching over 460. On 18 April, Seoul agreed to permit imports of all beef regardless of the age of cattle, except for high-risk parts such as tonsils, brains and spinal cords, for the first time in almost five years.

Internet

Car bomb kills two near Iranian Embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 June—At least two people were killed and five others wounded in a car bomb explosion at a parking lot near the Iranian embassy in central Baghdad on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A booby-trapped car, parked at a parking lot in front of the Iranian embassy near the heavily fortified Green Zone, detonated in the morning, killing at least two people and wounding five others,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast also damaged several nearby civilian cars, the source said.

Internet

China to build seven industrial bases for new materials

BEIJING, 2 June—China will build seven production bases for new materials to boost the development of high-tech industries, the top economic planning authority said on Friday.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said the bases would be built in Ningsha, Dalian, Luoyang, Jinchang, Guangzhou, Baqiao and Lianyangang. These bases will turn out new materials for industries covering information technology, biotechnology, aeronautics, new energy and environment protection.

The NDRC required that local government departments offer preferable policies for building these bases and create a sound environment for the development of high-tech industries.

MNA/Xinhua

13 kids die of diarrhoea in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 June—At least 13 kids died of diarrhoea and dysentery in Makwanpur District in central Nepal within the last two weeks due to lack of proper sanitation, the National News Agency RSS reported on Saturday.

According to the RSS, the diseases struck kids in the remote Bharta Village, some 30 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

Bhola Chaulagai, senior assistant health worker at the District Public Health Office, said that lack of sanitation and carelessness in food habit was the reason for the disease.
Obama breaks with controversial church

Aberdeen (South Dakota), 2 June — Democratic presidential front runner Barack Obama said on Saturday he will quit his Chicago church after becoming image氕 of inflammatory sermons that could become a lightning rod in the November election.

Obama’s resignation from Trinity United Church of Christ, which he has attended for 16 years, was an attempt to put the nagging issue behind him as he closes in on the Democratic nomination run to against Republican John McCain for the White House.

“This is not a decision I come to lightly and frankly it’s one I make with some sadness,” Obama told reporters during a stop in South Dakota. “Trinity was where I found Jesus Christ, where we were married, where our children were baptized.”

In his sermon, the priest, Michael Pfleger, screamed and imitated Clinton and accused her of espousing “White entitlement”. Pfleger later apologized for his comments and was condemned by Obama and the archbishop of Chicago.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 3 June, 2008

257 climbers reach Mt Everest peak from Nepali side

Kathmandu, 2 June—This year’s Mt Everest climbing season from Nepali side ended Saturday with footprints of around 257 climbers stomping upon the top of the world highest moutain.

An official at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ramesh KC, was quoted on Sunday’s The Himalayan Times as saying that this year’s season ended with lots of new records.

“It is as exciting for the whole year as it has ever been,” he said.

Namgyel Sherpa scaled the tallest peak on 20May, becoming the first to scale Mt Everest this year. As many as 76 people owned atop the peak on 23 May.

The Eco-Everest (Qomolangma) Expedition, aimed at raising awareness about global warming, was a new initiative launched by the climbers this year.

Among the climbers, who returned to the capital of Kathmandu Saturday, the 77-year-old Min Bahadur Sherchan is the oldest Mt Everest climber so far.

“I found Everest smaller than me. I felt myself so big, so high.”

He added he did not face any problem during the ascent and he can scale the peak again. Veteran climber Appa Sherpa broke his Everest for the 18th time.

Blindfolded and handcuffed Palestinian detainees sit in an Israeli Army truck after an Israeli Army operation in southern Gaza Strip on 1 June, 2008. The Israeli military often raids the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip where militants attack southern Israel with rocket and mortar fire almost daily.—INTERNET

British man killed baby who refused feeding bottle

London, 2 June — A man who shook his baby son to death because he was angry at the child’s refusal to take a bottle during feeding was jailed for five years on Friday.

Kitt Wilson, 25, left his three-week-old son Trent with fatal head injuries after the incident at the family home in Boscombe, east Bournemouth, in March last year.

“Trent died at the hands of his father, the one man he should have been able to rely on to protect and care for him,” said Detective Chief Inspector Neil Redstone. Wilson was jailed at Winchester Crown Court after he admitted manslaughter. —MNA/Reuters

Egyptian efforts for truce with Israel fruitless

Gaza, 2 June — A Hamas spokesman said on Friday that Egypt’s efforts to mediate a truce between Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip and Israel “are fruitless” due to Israeli rejection to end the blockade and open the border crossings.

“Hamas presented all needed conveniences to render the truce efforts successful, but Israel is still delaying and rejecting the conditions (for reaching a truce),” Sami Abu Zuhri told a news conference in Gaza.

Egypt has been mediating a six-month truce in Gaza between Israel and Hamas militants group, including Hamas and several minor militant groups.

So far, nothing has been agreed upon between the two sides.

Israel insisted the truce deal should include the issue of the captive Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit and the calm before the Jewish state ends a tightened blockade it has imposed on Gaza since Hamas bloodily took over the coastal enclave last June.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior insurgent leader killed in E Afghanistan

Kabul, 2 June—Maulawi Abdul Malik, a senior insurgent leader, has been killed in eastern Afghanistan province of Logar during an operation led by Afghan troops, the NATO-led military said here Friday.

The operation was conducted on 27 May to disrupt bomb-making cells and operations throughout the region, according to a statement of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

The ISAF said the militante’s group is linked to the burning down of two girls’ schools and threats to locals attending English and computer courses.

The killing of Malik will “deal a significant blow to the insurgent’s capacity to attack Afghan and ISAFsecurity forces”, ISAF spokesman Brigadier General Carlos Branco was quoted as saying in the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crashed while on duty in Sichuan

Chengdu, 2 June — A military transport helicopter engaging in quake relief work near the Yingxiu Township, Wenchuan County in Southwest China’s Sichuan Province crashed on Saturday afternoon, according to military sources.

A crew of four and 10 injured local residents were on board for transfer when the Mt-171 helicopter with the quake relief troops of the Chengdu Military Area Command crashed at 2:56 pm, the military sources said.

The helicopter was returning from a mission to carry epidemic prevention experts to Lixian county when it encountered strong turbulence and fog and crashed.—MNA/Xinhua
In the Medellin neighbourhood, Camilo Zapata, director of the disaster prevention office, reported missing, "We are still carrying out operations to reach the site," he said.

"We have six people dead and at least 20 people reported missing," said Camilo Zapata, director of the Medellin municipal disaster prevention office, told Reuters by telephone from the site.

"We are still carrying out operations to reach the missing people," he said.

Dozens of rescue workers and local residents scoured through mud and wrecked houses for victims after some heard voices of those trapped underneath their burned homes.

\[FOR LOCAL SERVICES ONLY\]

Ministry of Rail Transportation
Road Transport, Yangon Division
Invitation to Tender
Tender No. 001/M/E/2008-2009

1. Sealed tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of following Reconditioned Engine Assy’y & Rear Axle Assy’y. Prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats-

(a) Reconditioned HINO HO 7C/HO7D (56 Sets)
(b) Reconditioned HINO/NISSAN/FSUO Rear Axle Assy’y (35 Sets)

2. (a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Road Transport, No.375 Bogysyo Aung San Sun, Yangon, Myanmar Commencing on the 5-6-2008.
(b) Tender will be closed 18-6-2008 at (16:00) Hours (The Road Transport Reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders)

3. Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department. Phone No. 01-660851

\[MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION INVITATION TO TENDER\]

\[MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED(TENDER NOTICE)\]

TENDER IFB NO. SSILSL-08 (Supply of 500 metric tonnes of Diluent, either SEILLSO 2046 or EQUIVALENT),

CLOSING DATE & TIME: 23rd June 2008 at 12:00 noon.
Tender documents are available at the following address and queries can be made between 10am and 4pm at MCCI Yangon office before the tender closing date.

\[DONATE BLOOD\]

\[MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION INVITATION TO TENDER\]

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\[ROAD TRANSPORT\]

\[200,000 evacuated to safe ground as planned in S-W China\]

Mianyang (Sichuan), 2 June — A total of 197,477 people were evacuated to safe ground as of 8 am Saturday in line with an emergency plan, an official with the quake relief headquarters of Mianyang City in southwest China said.

The plan was drawn up for the contingency of one third of the volume of quake-formed Tangjia Shan lake burst out. Upto 1.3 million people in southwest China’s Sichuan Province have been ordered to evacuate to higher grounds for fear of a major quake lake burst as a result of flooding and strong aftershocks.

Tan Li, Communist Party chief of Mianyang City, on Friday renewed an order that 1.3 million people living downstream from Tangjia Shan must evacuate to higher grounds demarcated by the government.

At 4pm Thursday, Tan issued a No 1 order demanding about 200,000 people living downstream from Tangjia Shan in the main urban districts of Mianyang City should start evacuation by 8 am Saturday. The evacuation must be completed by 8 am Sunday. Two other plans require the relocation of 1.2 million people if half of the lake volume was released, or 1.3 million if the barrier of the quake lake fully opened.

\[Killer elephant “Osama” shot dead in east India\]

Patna (India), 2 June — An elephant named “Osama bin Laden” that has killed more than 11 people and injured dozens over the past few months was shot dead in eastern India, officials said on Saturday.

The wild male elephant, who had been terrorising villagers in two states, destroying their crops and homes.

Obama says his ears too big for Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore Nat’l Monument (S Dakota), 2 June — Even in the middle of a fierce presidential campaign, Barack Obama could not resist the opportunity to go on a field trip.

When the Democratic White House hopeful heard the Press corps and some staff members were planning a late-night trip to see Mount Rushmore National Monument, he decided he did not want to be left out.

So, shortly after arriving in South Dakota after an evening campaign rally in Montana, Obama made the 30-minute car trip to see the monument, of four presidents chiseled into the side of a massive granite outcropping.

After a park ranger gave him a private explanation of the national monument, Obama noted that his daughter Malia had told him she had gone on a field trip on Friday. “I had one too,” he said, as he walked away from the flood-lit monument. — MNA/Reuters

World No-tobacco Day marked in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, 2 June — The World No-tobacco Day was marked Saturday here with the organizers urging to implement the existing law of the island country.

Director General of the Madagascan Tobacco Office Dr. Jacques Mampianinarison encouraged the youth to keep themselves away from smoking, which is the theme of the day worldwide.

He told a gathering that the implementation of the non-smoking law, issued in 2003, would be strengthened.

The law, which set the rules on industrialization, import, marketing and consumption of tobacco product in Madagascar, prohibits the sale of tobacco to minors under 18. — MNA/Xinhua
**Tobacco kills 15,000 Nepalis annually**

KATHMANDU, 2 June — Around 15,000 people die in Nepal every year due to consumption of tobacco-related products, local newspaper The Rising Nepal reported on Saturday. The number of female smokers is higher in Nepal compared to other countries, especially from hilly and Himalayan regions. The trend has picked up in the form of a fad in the urban areas.

Out of the total population, 49 per cent smokers are males and 29 per cent females.

First vice-president of Nepal Cancer Relief Society (NCRS) Edwir Shrestha said there are 4000 kinds of chemicals in tobacco and they cause 25 kinds of diseases. He said that diseases related to the lung, mouth, throat and uterus cancer, baldness, cataract, asthma, weakness, infections of the mouth cavity, weak bone, heart problem and stomach ulcer.

Nepal adopted Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2003 but it has not been implemented, Shrestha said. Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Population Dr Bishnu Prasad Pandit said that Nepali Government has given priority to drafting law related to FCTC and it would be implemented gradually. He said that the parliament endorsed the FCTC in 2006. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Space shuttle carries Japanese lab into orbit**

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 1 June — The start of NASA’s 123rd shuttle mission was as smooth as they come, with no technical glitches and no weather issues as the countdown clock ticked down to 5:02 pm EDT (2102 GMT).

That was the moment when Earth’s rotation positioned the shuttle for its most direct path to the orbiting space station.

The shuttle’s twin booster rockets roared to life, joining the ship’s three hydrogen-burning main engines to catapult the 4.5 million-pound (2.04 million-kilo) ship into the air. The load was especially hefty with Japan’s Kibo lab topping the scales at more than 16 tonnes.

“While we all tend to live for today, Kibo will give us hope for tomorrow,” said shuttle commander Mark Kelly. “Now stand by for the greatest show on Earth.”

Kibo, a complex that cost Japan about two billion US dollars to manufacture, is being installed aboard the space station in three flights. The elaborate complex includes a storage chamber, launched in March, the main lab aboard Discovery and an outdoor porch slated to fly next year. **— MNA/Reuters**

**EU welcomes treaty to ban cluster munitions**

BRUSSELS, 2 June — The European Commission welcomed here on Friday the adoption in Dublin on Wednesday of a multilateral convention to ban all cluster munitions within eight years.

“The convention banning cluster munitions is an important step towards enhancing the security of victims of conflicts in many regions across the world,” said Benita Ferrero-Waldner, commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy.

She expressed her hope that many countries would sign and ratify it. When the convention enters into force, it will be “an important contribution to the Human Security Agenda,” said the commissioner.

She said that the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, “stands ready to assist in implementing the convention,” which will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

The convention will enter into force once at least 30 countries ratify it. It will be officially opened for signature at a ceremony due to take place in Oslo in December. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Record world wheat crop seen easing food prices**

LONDON, 2 June — Global wheat production is set to soar to a record high this year, taking some of the steam out of the food inflation crisis which has caused severe hardship and even rioting in several developing countries. The London-based International Grains Council raised on Friday its forecast for world wheat production in 2008/09 by five million tons to a record 650 million tons.

The inter-governmental body said wheat prices had already fallen by 25 to 50 per cent from peaks set in March, adding that the favourable outlook and India’s successful harvest had helped to ease food supply concerns.

The IGC raised its crop estimate for this year’s harvest in India, the world’s second largest wheat producer after China, to 76.8 million tons, up from a previous forecast of 75.5 million and last year’s 75.8 million. The upward revision also reflected improved prospects in several countries in eastern Europe including Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Romania. **MNA/Reuters**

**Malaysia holds charity night for Sichuan quake victims**

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — Thousands of Malaysians gathered here Friday for a fund-raising charity night and showed their care and concern towards the victims in the deadly earthquake which struck Sichuan Province of China on 12 May.

The participants, mostly from the local Chinese communities, swarmed to a convention centre at Mines Resort City to donate or witness the donation by local communities and people to help the Sichuan earthquake victims.

Watching video footage of the earthquake scenes, listening to memorial songs, chorus and lyric recitation, some people even shed silent tears at the charity event entitled “Earthquake is ruthless, but Malaysians have love.” **MNA/Xinhua**

**A pile of destroyed Nokia mobile phones lies on the ground in front of the Nokia plant in Bochum last month. —INTERNET**
Defoe double helps England to Trinidad victory

PORT OF SPAIN, 2 June — Jermain Defoe scored twice to lift England to a 3-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago in a one-sided friendly in sultry conditions on a bone-hard pitch on Sunday.

The game was played to mark the centenary of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation and doubled as an attempt to win the support of CONCACAF chairman and FIFA vice president Jack Warner for England’s 2018 World Cup bid.

England coach Fabio Capello, in his last game of the season, took the opportunity to look at several fringe players but would have learned little from their stroll against a team ranked 80th in the world.

"I think we played a good game and all the players showed good attitude and good concentration," Capello told reporters. "We vowed to play all the game with good concentration. Every game for me is important. It is important to win games not just have training."

"It was not easy to play here. It is very warm and difficult weather."

The match was over as a contest after 15 minutes as England opened up a 2-0 lead.

Ginepri reaches fourth round of French Open

PARIS, 2 June — Robby Ginepri became the first American man in five years to reach the fourth round of the French Open with a clinical 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win over local hope Florent Serra on Saturday.

Ginepri, the lone American survivor in either singles draw, ran his opponent ragged on an overcast Court One and completed victory in one hour 44 minutes when Serra skewed a forehand wide.

"Last year standing, it’s a good feeling," said Ginepri, who shares his coach, Jose Higueras, with world number one Roger Federer.

"I would definitely like to have a lot of the other Americans still in the tournament, but really not trying to let that weigh on my shoulders as much."

"I know what I have to do, and I’m going to have to do it," added Ginepri, who became the first US male to reach the fourth round since Andre Agassi in 2003.

Ten men and nine women, including the Williams sisters, representing the United States had turned up in Paris searching for glory.

If the average tennis fan had been asked to pick out a potential American champion at the clay-court major, there would probably not have been many people’s top choice. — MNA/Reuters

Top World Cup contenders deliver victories

ABUJA, 2 June — African champions Egypt snatched a late winner to edge the Democratic Republic of Congo 2-1 in their opening World Cup qualifier on a weekend when the top nations delivered victories.

Only Tunisia suffered a surprise reversal, losing at home to Burkina Faso in one of the 22 games played over the weekend.

The other four African representatives in Germany at the 2006 World Cup finals all won, with Ghana looking most impressive in a 3-0 victory over Libya in Kumasi on Sunday.

A hat-trick from Esau Kanyenda helped Malawi thump minnow Djibouti 8-1 in Blantyre in the weekend’s biggest win while the Seychelles managed their first World Cup point in a goalless draw at Burundi.

Egypt had to come from a goal down at halftime to beat the Congolesse in Cairo following their triumph in the African Nations Cup finals in Ghana in February. Amr Zaki and Ahmed Eid Abdelmalk scored the goals.

Norwegian-based striker Yssouf Koue came off the bench to grab two late goals as Burkina Faso created the only real shock of the weekend with their 2-1 win in Tunisia. — MNA/Reuters

Fans boycott Bosnia friendly after coach sacked

SARAJEVO, 2 June — Fans boycotted Bosnia’s friendly against Azerbaijan on Sunday in protest at the sacking of national coach Melho Kodro by the Football Association (NSBII).

According to state television, only a dozen tick- ets had been sold minutes before the match at the Bilino Polje stadium in the central town of Zenica.

However, more than 15,000 fans attended a charity match hosted by Kodro and the country’s leading striker Elvir Bolic in the capital Sarajevo hours before the Zenica friendly.

Fans waved huge banners saying “Association Out” and cheered players who showed up in Kodro and Bolic’s teams in the Kosovo Olympic stadium.

Nineteen players had refused to play in the friendly to express their support for the former coach.

— MNA/Reuters

England’s Steven Gerrard (R) vies for the ball with Khaled Al-Hiyan of Trinidad & Tobago during their friendly football match at the Hasley Crawford stadium in Port of Spain. England won 3-0. — Internet

Fans celebrate Brazil’s first win over Canada

RODEO SANTOS, 2 June — Brazil coach Dunga celebrated his team’s first win over Canada calling it another mile-stone for the five times World Cup champions.

Brazils 3-2 victory in Saturday’s friendly in Seattle was their first over the North Americans. The previous two meetings in 1994 and 2001 ended in draws.

“We only have a short time with the national side and during that time we try to break as many records as we can and leave our mark," the coach said in a video clip on the Brazilian Football Confederation Web site (www.cbf.com.br).

Although Brazil made heavy weather of beating modest opposition, who twice came from behind to level the score, Dunga said it was a good result in the circumstances.

— MNA/Reuters

Players fight with police during match in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 June — A player was arrested after being sent off in a Brazilian championship match and riot police used pepper spray and truncheons in fights with his team mates on the pitch on Sunday.

Botafogo’s match away to Nautico in Recife was interrupted for 12 minutes by the fighting, which ended with Botafogo defender Andre Luis being bundled out of the stadium with his hands behind his back by around 10 officers.

Andre Luis was taken to a mobile police station where he was arrested along with club president Bebe de Freitas. Both were released after questioning.

— MNA/Reuters

Usain Bolt (L) of Jamaica celebrates with Jamaica’s Minister of Sport, Olivia Grange after setting a new world record in the men’s 100 metres race next at the Reebok Grand Prix athletics meet in New York, on 31 May, 2008. Bolt ran a time of 9.72 seconds in the race. — Internet

South Korea’s Seon Hwa Lee hits her birdie putt on the eighteenth green during a play off against Australia’s Karrie Webb of the LPGA Ginn Tribute golf tournament on 1 June, 2008, at Rivertowne Country Club in Mount Pleasant, SC. Lee shot a 67 for her third LPGA title. — Internet
Obituary
Daw Tin Myint
Age (78) years
Daw Tin Myint @ Barbara Simons (nee D’Silva), beloved wife of (U Than Pe) & Dicky Simons, mother of (U Lwin Ko) and Daw Tessa, Amber Nyo Shin, Pamela @ Daw Tin Tin Hay (MRTV), grandmother of six, beloved daughter of (Mr Charles D’Silva and Mrs. Evelyn D’Silva), loving sister of (Reginald D’Silva), Mrs. Minnie Sein Min and (U Sein Min @ Reggie Simons Sr. (MG), (Mr Gerald D’Silva and Mrs Jewel Ba Aung, loving niece of (Miss Maggie D’Silva), (Mr Alfred D’Silva) and (Mr Percy D’Silva and Daw Ma Ma Gyi), loving aunt, grand and great aunt of (24) nieces and nephews, passed away peacefully on 2-06-2008 at her residence No 20, Sizone Street, Sanyang, Funeral services will be held at Yayway Cemetery on 4-06-2008 at 10:00 am. RIP.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Monday, 2 June, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay Division, scattered in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Kawthoung (2.48) inches, Gwa (1.97) inches, Thaton (1.14) inches, Mawlamyine and Central (Yangon) (0.98) inch each and Myitkyina (0.78) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-6-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 2-6-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 2-6-2008 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 1-6-2008 was (3.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-6-2008 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (0.98) inch at Central Yangon, Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (29.06) inches at Mingaladon, (34.02) inches at Kaba-Aye and (42.16) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 1-6-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Mandalay Division and isolated and in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-6-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-6-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-6-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Make donations to the storm victims

- Everybody may make donations freely.
- Everybody may make donations to any person or any area.

However, wellwishers are urged to avoid unsystematic donations and acts that may tarnish the image of the nation and its people.

**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions on reconstruction of Kyaiklat and Pyapon regions**

**Emphasis to be placed on socio-economic progress while reconstruction tasks in full swing**

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with ministers, officials concerned and national entrepreneurs at 3:30 pm yesterday at Mya Ayeya meeting hall in Pathein and discussed reconstruction of Kyaiklat and Pyapon regions he had toured earlier in the morning.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye discusses matters on reconstruction of Kyaiklat and Pyapon at the meeting with officials concerned and entrepreneurs in Pathein.—MNA

At the meeting, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that relief and rehabilitation tasks were in full swing in the aftermath of the storm Nargis. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of the storm-hit regions and fulfilled the necessary requirements. Myanmar was able to successfully carry out the relief and rehabilitation operation in a short time although it was hit hard by the severe storm. This can be largely attributed to the active participation of the dignitaries of the State, the people and national entrepreneurs based on nationalistic spirit. The State expressed thanks for concerted efforts of officials, the people and national entrepreneurs in that regard.

Ayeyawady Division is a rice bowl of the lower Myanmar. Sagaing Division is also a rice bowl of the upper Myanmar. Now Sagaing Division has a surplus (See page 6)

Relief and reconstruction tasks are being carried out effectively and successfully due to the active participation of officials, the people and national entrepreneurs through the national spirit.

**State constitution, mandate of the entire people**

It is fair to say that more than 9 out of every 10 persons in the nation have approved the constitution (draft). If I may borrow the word of politicians, I would say that the State constitution (draft) has become the mandate of the people, or it has the mandate of the people.