Aim to be set for gaining greater progress in reconstruction of storm-hit regions

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye tours relief camps in Ngapudaw, Hainggyikyun, Pyinsalu, Labutta

NAY PYI TAW, 4 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, accompanied by Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman of the NDPCC Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members 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 the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, NDPCC (See page 8)

Storm victims are our own people and the government will fulfill their requirement for rehabilitation tasks.
Conserve environment for longer existence of all living things

Our environment of all living things is surrounded by atmosphere, water, land, trees, mountains and natural resources including human beings. Nowadays, global warming is generating climate changes. There are storms, floods, drought, heat waves in various parts of the world. There occur dense fog and dry soil due to the climate change. They are causing damages to the environment.

Every nation in the world is giving priority to environmental conservation. Every year the World Environmental Day is observed on 5 June and nations of the world hold educative talks on environmental conservation and prevention of danger caused by damage to environment.

Experts say that 90 per cent of the global warming is caused by human beings. Beginning 1990 the world has become warmer and 2008 is the hottest year according to the world temperature records.

Increase of the greenhouse effect is one of the reasons that make the world warm. Therefore, increase in the greenhouse gas must be reduced in order to lower the volume of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Regarding the reduction of production of carbon dioxide, tasks such as lesser use of fuel-powered vehicles, production of bio-fuel and conservation and protection of forests that can absorb carbon are to be implemented.

In Myanmar the National Commission for Environmental Affairs was formed and the commission undertakes measures on cultivation of trees and conservation of forests and biodiversity, wildlife and flowers. Pollution of air, water, ground and forest depletion cause damage to the environment. All the people hand in hand with the government need to participate in environmental conservation tasks for longer existence of all living things.
Obama, first US African-American presidential nominee

WASHINGTON, 4 June—US senator Barack Obama clinched the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday night, becoming the first African-American presidential nominee of a major US party. Barack Obama is a first-term senator from Illinois. Previously, he served in the Illinois state legislature and worked as a civil rights attorney.

Obama has proposed legislation that would create a new employment eligibility system for companies to verify if their employees are legal residents. Obama, whose father is from Kenya, is considered by experts to be the first African-American candidate with a reasonable chance of winning the presidency.

Obama was born 4 Aug, 1961, in Hawaii and has lived in many places, including Indonesia. Obama attended Columbia University in New York and earned a law degree at Harvard University in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters.

S Korea launches latest high-tech submarine

SEOUL, 4 June—South Korea on Wednesday launched the third and latest of its 214-class submarines to be commissioned by the end of next year, bringing the total number of submersibles in the country to 12.

The latest submarine, named “Ahn Jung-geun” after the late independence fighter under Japan’s colonial rule of Korea in the early 20th century, was officially launched in a ceremony at the dockyard of Hyundai Heavy Industries in the southeastern city of Ulsan.

The ceremony was attended by some 100 Hyundai and military officials, including Gen Kim Tae-young, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Navy Chief of Staff Adm Jung Ok-keun. The 1,800-ton submarine will be commissioned and deployed late next year, along with two other 214-class submarines that were launched in 2006 and 2007, Navy officials said.

“Our 214-class submarines are the latest of their kind with no match among existing diesel submarines,” the Navy said. “They will operate as the main axis of our future maritime force in succession to 209-class submarines.”

McCain welcomes Obama with fresh criticism

NEW ORLEANS, 4 June—Republican John McCain welcomed Democrat Barack Obama to the fall campaign for the White House on Tuesday with a blistering attack on his judgment and a charge that he “voted to deny funds to the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job” in Iraq.

“Americans ought to be concerned about the judgment of a presidential candidate who says he’s ready to talk, in person and without conditions, with tyrants from Havana to Pyongyang, but hasn’t travelled to Iraq to meet with General (David) Petraeus, and see for himself the progress he threatens to reverse,” McCain said as his rival wrapped up the Democratic nomination.

McCain cast Obama, a first-term Illinois senator, as lacking the experience and discretion to be a wartime commander in chief, and he argued the Democrat’s calls for a troop withdrawal from Iraq would imperil the United States.

The Arizona senator mocked Obama’s promise of change for a country weary of the status quo, uttering the word “change” no fewer than 33 times.

Australian soldier injured in Afghanistan fire

CANBERRA, 4 June—An Australian soldier in Afghanistan was seriously hurt while trying to extinguish a vehicle fire. Australian defence spokesperson Brigadier Andrew Nikolic said here on Wednesday that the injured soldier received immediate medical assistance at the incident site near the Australian base at Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan Province on Tuesday.

Thai southern bomb attack kills one, injuring four

BANGKOK, 4 June—A bomb planted under a motorcycle was triggered Tuesday night in Thailand’s southernmost province of Yala, fatally injured a woman and wounded another four, local news network The Nation said on Wednesday. The explosion occurred at about 9:10 pm (1410 GMT) on Tuesday in front of Yala’s Muang Municipality in Muang district.

Police said five people were injured during the blast and one of them, an official of the municipality, died later at the Yala Hospital.

Brazilian Minister of Tourism Marta Suplicy enjoys the dancing of famous local cartoon character Monica in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, on 3, June 2008. Brazilian Tourism Ministry decided on Tuesday to nominate the popular cartoon figure Monica family as the representative of the country’s tourism.
Karzai says Western forces bungled war on Taleban

**NEW DELHI, 4 June—** International forces in Afghanistan have mismanaged the fight against the Taleban, leading to a rise in violence, and now risk losing people's goodwill, President Hamid Karzai told an Indian news channel.

Karzai has often criticized the Western conduct of the war in Afghanistan, saying civilian casualties must stop.

In turn, the president, who wants to stand for re-election next year, is often criticized at home for being overly influenced by the United States and Britain.

In an interview to be aired on Indian television on Monday, he said foreign troops had failed to go after “the sanctuaries of the terrorists” which Afghan officials say exist over the border in Pakistan.

Karzai did not directly mention Pakistan but the Afghan Government has said that the West should have done more to crack down on Taleban and al-Qaeda bases in Pakistan.

“It was serious neglect of that, in spite of our warning,” he told CNBC TV 18, adding that other former members of the Taleban who had give up arms were unfairly hunted down within Afghan territory.—MNA/Reuters

US detains terror suspects on ships

**WASHINGTON, 4 June—** The United States has been secretly detaining terrorism suspects aboard floating “prison ships”, a British legal charity charged as inaccurate.

The charity Reprieve, citing sources including US military officials, parliamentary bodies and former prisoners, said it believed the US Government had operated as many as 17 shipboard prisons, particularly in the Indian Ocean region.

“Prisoners have been interrogated under torturous conditions before being rendered to other, often undisclosed locations,” Reprieve said, adding that it would issue a detailed report later this year.

Department of Defence spokesman JD Gordon called the report “inaccurate and misleading”.

“We do not operate detention facilities on board Navy ships. DoD detention facilities are in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo,” he said.

The United States has denied torturing terrorism suspects, but a Justice Department report last month cited FBI agents as warning that some CIA questioning techniques were “borderline torture.”—MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills nine in Iraqi city of Mosul

**MOSUL, Iraq, 4 June — A suicide bomber killed at least five policemen and four civilians in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Monday, police said.**

They said the bomber blew himself up while driving a car towards the provincial police headquarters in the centre of the city, 390 kilometres (240 miles) north of Baghdad. Two children were among the dead.

At least 46 people were wounded, including eight policemen.

The US military says violence in Iraq is at a four-year low following crackdowns by US and Iraqi forces on Shi’ite militias in southern Basra and Baghdad and on al-Qaeda in Mosul, its last major urban stronghold.

MNA/Reuters

Indian Maoist rebels destroy railway tracks, buildings

**PATNA (India), 4 June — Maoist insurgents blew up railway tracks and three government buildings in eastern India on Monday, police said.**

A section of track was damaged in Bihar state, derailing a train and disrupting the eastern rail network, a senior police officer said.

“We have dispatched forces to provide security to people and the railway workers who are restoring the damaged lines,” Vinay Kumar, a senior police officer said from Jamui District, where the incident took place.

No one was injured, he added.

Officials said on Monday that in another district, Maoist rebels used powerful explosives to blow up three government buildings.—MNA/Reuters

Death toll reaches 52 in heavy snowstorm in Mongolia

**ULAN BATOR, 4 June — The death toll from a heavy snowstorm that swept across seven provinces in Mongolia since last Monday rose to 52, authorities said Monday.**

Fourteen children were among the dead and more than 130 yurts were blown down, said the Mongolian General Authority for Emergency Management (GAEM).

It added that more than 200,000 livestock were frozen to death and another 200,000 went astray in the snowstorm. The snowstorm has also caused damage to power supply and communication systems in the affected areas.

MNA/Xinhua

China experts warn of expanding space arms race

**BEIJING, 4 June—** Chinese military experts have warned of an expanding arms race in outer space as Beijing and other rival powers seek to counter US ambitions to dominate the heavens.

The United States and other Western nations have criticized China’s efforts to build a presence in space, especially a test in January 2007 when it shot down one of its own aged satellites.

But in a book issued by the state-run China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, two People’s Liberation Army experts said Washington’s bid for enduring security domination in outer space was pressing Beijing and other powers into competition, even confrontation.

“Strategic confrontation in outer space is difficult to avoid. The development of outer space forces shows signs that a space arms race to seize the commanding heights is emerging,” wrote Wu Tianfu of the Second Artillery Corps Command College.

The Corps controls China’s nuclear arsenal.

MNA/Reuters

China’s nuclear arsenal.

South Korean protesters clash with riot police as they protest against US beef imports recently. President Lee Myung-Bak has announced that South Korea will not accept imports of US beef from cattle more than 30 months old as he negotiates his biggest test yet since taking office 100 days ago.—INTERNET

Hundreds of zebra statues are placed at a shrine in Bangkok on 4 June, 2008. Many Thais believe that the zebra is the favourite animal of the deity that resides in the shrine.—INTERNET

Police officials carry a man from a flooded home after Tropical Storm Arthur passed nearly in Pucte, Mexico, on 2 June, 2008. Tropical Storm Arthur weakened to a tropical depression after soaking the Yucatan Peninsula over the weekend.—INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua
Jiangnan shipyard makes way for Shanghai Expo 2010

BEIJING, 4 June — China’s oldest shipbuilder, the Jiangnan Shipyard Corp, completed the move to a new home on Tuesday to make room for World Expo 2010.

The shipbuilder, a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp (CSSC), moved from its Huangpu River site in Shanghai to Changxing Island on the mouth of the Yangtze River, which is set to become the world’s largest shipyard. Work on the 16-billion-yuan (2.3 billion US dollars) new shipyard started in 2005.

It’s the first phase of the Changxing base and has a production capacity of 4.5 million deadweight tons (DWT), with a 3.8-kilometres coastline, four docks and three production lines. Work on the second phase, with a 3.5-billion-DWT capacity, is to start in 2009 and finish in about 2012. CSSC chief economist Guo Xiwen told Xinhua.

Construction of the Changxing base was a major step in China’s goal of becoming a leading world shipbuilder, said CSSC general manager Chen Xiaojin. — Xinhua

IAEA team to be allowed to visit Syria on N-reactor

VIENNA, 4 June — The UN atomic watchdog said Monday that Syria will allow its inspectors to probe an alleged secret nuclear reactor in the country.

“The IAEA team is to be allowed to visit Syria on N-reactor on June 22-24,” chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamed ElBaradei told a meeting of the agency’s 35-nation board of governors.

The IAEA chief also expressed regret that information concerning the installation was not provided to the body in time for it to establish the facts.

The alleged reactor site was destroyed in an Israeli air raid last September. — Xinhua

OAS annual conference opens in Colombia

BOGOTA, 4 June — The 2008 conference of the Organization of Americans States (OAS) kicked off Sunday in the Colombian city of Medellin.

OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe inaugurated the opening ceremony, which was attended by officials and representatives from 94 countries and some international organizations.

During the three-day meeting, 34 members of the bloc are expected to discuss such issues as reinforcing democracy, improving the competitiveness of the young people, fending off the global food crisis and cracking down on terrorism and drug-trafficking. — Xinhua

13 killed in bus accident in Venezuela

CARACAS, 4 June— Thirteen people were killed and 14 others injured Sunday in a serious bus accident in middle Venezuela, said the local police. The accident occurred in the state of Anzoategui, when a long-distance passenger bus departing from the state of Guarico rolled over and caught fire after suddenly losing control.

A total of 13 passengers were killed at the scene of the accident. All the injured people were hospitalized, said the police.

Investigation of the causes of the accident is underway.

15 killed in bus accident in Bolivia

Lima, 4 June—At least 15 people were killed, 15 others injured and three went missing on Sunday after a bus fell off a cliff in western Bolivia, said reports reaching here from La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital. The accident took place in the vicinity of the town of Villa Barrientos in the region of Los Yungas, when the passenger bus heading to La Paz lost control and fell off a 200-metre deep cliff.

The highway police and firefighting division have sent rescue teams to help the bus accident victims. Investigation of the causes of the accident is underway.

Two road accidents kill 16, injure 14 in Egypt

CAIRO, 4 June— Two separate road accidents on Sunday left 16 dead and 14 others wounded in Egypt, the official MENA news agency reported.

A collision of three vehicles in Beni Suef governorate, some 120 kilometres south of the capital of Cairo, killed 12 people and injured 12 others seriously. Beni Suef security chief Samir Awad was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and two others injured when three trucks and two cars collided on Sunday in Beheira governorate, some 130 kilometres northwest of Cairo.
NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — An opening ceremony of Monein dam was held at the dam near Monein village in Namtu Township of Kyaukme District, Shan State (North) on 31 May, attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Director-General U Khin Zaw of Irrigation Department and officials, senior military officers of the command, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, national race groups, traditional cultural troupes and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut delivered an address at the ceremony. In his address, the commander urged the local farmers to strive for development of agriculture works with the use of water from dams and reservoirs in the region. Monein dam will supply drinking water, generate hydro power and will irrigate farmlands, he added. He also stressed the need for durability of the dam.

Next, the director-general explained purpose of opening of the dam and a member of township, USDA spoke words of thanks. Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut pressed the button to unveil the stone inscription of the dam and the commander and the director-general sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, the commander and the director-general opened the dam. Afterwards, the commander and party viewed the entertainments of cultural troupes and presented cash awards to them. They also looked into conduit, control tower and spillway of the dam. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on facts related to the project, progress of the project and irrigation system of the dam to the commander and party.

Monein dam is 21st dam of the State and the third one for the Shan State (North). It is situated on Namsum creek near Monein village in Namtu Township. The dam is 1700 feet in length and 100 feet in height. The storage capacity of the dam is 28420 acre-feet. The dam is earth embankment type. The government has spent K 1690 million on construction of the dam to irrigate 2600 farmlands in the township the whole year.

Survivors in Maubin receive dental care

YANGON, 4 June — A medical team comprising dentists of International College of Dentists, Myanmar dentists and dentists of Directorate of provided dental care to storm victims in Maubin. The team comprises 22 dentists and seven staff and gave dental treatment to 144 survivors at People’s Hospital in Maubin.

Donors contribute relief aid to storm victims

YANGON, 4 June — Well wishers donated relief supplies to victims at the Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township today. Mother Teresa Children’s Foundation (MTCF), World Children’s Fund, Myanmar Medical Mission International (MMI) presented Yuan 120,000 worth of bed sheets, candle, soap and slippers to the victims in the storm-hit areas.

Similarly, Miss Dr Thanyaluk Piitsettakarn and Solex International (Thailand) Co Ltd also contributed 16,000 tins of canned fish worth K 72 million to the victims in the storm-affected regions. Director UM Myint Thein and officials of the Social Welfare Department accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks.

DMS teams participate in health care services

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — The State is carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in the storm-hit regions. Special Medical team-1 from Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence carried out spraying of pesticide, pesticide blowing, check on sample of drinking water and sanitation tasks in Yadana Dipa sports ground, 3rd mile and 5th mile camps yesterday.

In Htinponseik village, special medical team-1 together with Belgian medical team carried out prevention of diseases and medical treatment. Similarly, the special medical team together with Indian and Thai medical teams, and the medical team of the Ministry of Health undertook health care services in Bogyale and Myaungmya.

The special medical teams continued to carry out health care services in cooperation with officials in Kungyangon, Kawmu, Dedaye, Ngapudaw and Hainggyyun.

Guess who’ll be Euro champ

YANGON, 4 June — Euro 2008 Football Championship will be held in Austria and Switzerland from 7 to 29 June 2008. Football fans not only on the planet but also in Myanmar can’t wait to see the event. To make it more alive, T-Home electronic sales centre, one of the branches of TMW, plans to hold a match.

T-Home has made an arrangement for the football enthusiasts to forecast the champion team. T-Home will present one 29” Super Slim TV for the first prize, two 21” Super Slim TV for the second, three 21” Pure-Flat TV for the third, one Water Cooler for the fourth and three DVD for the fifth to the winners.

Detail programmes will be stated in journals. So do the names of the winners after holding the ceremony to pick them.
The people have opened the democracy door to Myanmar (1)

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Myanmar has regained independence for more than 60 years and four months. The people of an independent nation have sovereign power, which is of three branches—legislative, executive and judicial powers. Under the sovereign power, the people have the rights to draw and promulgate freely the laws to be able to lead a peaceful life and improve their living conditions, exploiting own natural resources. The people have the rights to exercise the administrative mechanism designed to ensure security, peace and prosperity of the Myanmar society or the rights to elect best governments. Opposing, disrupting and disturbing these laws mean opposing, disrupting and disturbing the entire people. The three sovereign powers also prescribe the rights (jurisdiction) to hand down punitive sentences to such violators. The three sovereign powers are termed people’s sovereign power or independence.

If a country is occupied and its natural resources are exploited and taken away in an unfair way, the people of the country will fall under alien subjugation. Then, the people no longer own lands and farms or sovereign power. It is because the colonials have taken the sovereign power (independence) of the people by force. So, the people of every colony risked life and limb to help their motherland regain independence. They are opposed to any patterns of colonialism. Myanmar is one of those countries.

In Myanmar that regained independence in 1948, the 1947 constitution known as the State constitution was formulated in haste before independence was regained. In consequence, there was a section of secession from the Union, and the Union was on the verge of collapse in early March 1962. So, that constitution became defunct 14 years after its birth. Myanmar was without a constitution for 12 years from 1962 to 1974. The nation drew and practised another constitution based on Socialism in 1974. The second constitution met its end after it had come into force for 14 years due to the 1988 unrest.

The nation again has been without a constitution since then. In 1992, the government held talks with representatives of various parties to write an enduring constitution that can guarantee perpetual existence of the Union, home to more than 100 national races, taking lessons from the defects and loopholes of the previous two constitutions. Under the agreement reached among the parties including NLD, the National Convention was held in 1993 and principles were laid down.

About 100 NLD representatives attended the National Convention held from 1993 to 1995 and participated in laying down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. The National Convention was adjourned in 1996 and it was resumed in 2004. After adopting all the fundamental principles and detailed principles, the convention was over on 3 September 2007. The Commission for Drafting the State Constitution made up of 54 members compiled the State Constitution (draft) from 3 December 2007 to 19 February 2008.

A constitution (draft) is approved by parliament. In some countries, it is approved by authorities. Some constitutions are approved by the vote of the people through referendum, but the number of such constitutions is very few. Myanmar has seen two referendums for approval of the State constitutions in 1973 and in 2008.

A constitution prescribes who, on behalf of the people, will exercise the sovereign powers, how they will have to be exercised, and which ways and disciplines will have to be exerted in the process. It also stipulates the fundamental rights and duties of the citizens. People’s representatives (members of the parliament) have to practise the sovereign powers on behalf of the people in the framework of the State constitution. The people have to entrust them with powers to exercise legislative, executive and judicial powers through the State constitution. That is why a constitution is defined an agreement (to bestow powers to exercise sovereign powers) reached between the people and the government (authorities exercising sovereign powers on behalf of the people).

The 45-member Commission for Holding the Referendum was set up for approval of the State constitution (draft) (2008) through a referendum, which is the most democratic way. Sub-committees at state/division, district, township and ward levels were formed across the Union. The sub-committees consisted of thousands of members. In each sub-committee, among the members were scholars, experts and those who were held in high esteem by the people. Hundreds of thousands of polling station officials and members took responsibilities throughout the country.

Initially, the 10th May was designated to hold the referendum in all the 325 townships of the nation, and arrangements were made thoroughly. However, a severe storm nagged Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago divisions and Kayin and Mon states on 2 and 3 May. The regions were thus announced the natural disaster-hit areas.

The survey conducted in the aftermath of the storm showed that the storm brought heavy death toll and destruction to only seven townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships in Yangon Division. Therefore, Bago Division and Kayin and Mon states were removed from the list of the disaster-affected areas.

On 6 May, the Commission for Holding the Referendum issued Announcement 8/2008 which said that the referendum to take place in the seven townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships in Yangon Division was postponed to 24 May. On 10 May, the referendum for approval of the State constitution (draft) was held in 278 townships including five towns in Yangon Division and 19 in Ayeyawady Division. It was also held in seven townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 in Yangon Division, totaling 47 on 24 May.

It can be said that a referendum lays down principles that designate who will have to exercise the sovereign power on behalf of the people and the processes to do so. The representatives (MPs) the people have elected by voting in the elections shall carry out tasks in accordance with the State constitution. They shall not do as they please in the processes. So, a constitution has to be drawn first so that there have been firm principles the people approve. In many countries, big and small, the people do not approve the constitution concerned. The referendum is an occasion when people cast vote for approval of the State constitution and thus it is the most democratic way.

Myanmar is among a few countries where the State constitution is approved through a referendum. So, the Commission for Holding the Referendum organized the referendum with all seriousness in May 2008 in order that all the citizens aged above 18 years (except members of the Sangha, those who are serving their prison terms, and those with unsound mind) enjoyed the rights to vote.

In that regard, the Commission at the central level supervised the processes to ensure that the referendum was held in line with the referendum laws and rules and it was a free and fair one.

The commission also took measures for ensuring that all the citizens who had attained the age of 18 years on 10 May to be in the list of voters. It turned the spotlights on the upcoming referendum in advance through TV plays and discussions, songs, and articles. It distributed copies of books on the State constitution (draft) on 9 April for public knowledge. It made arrangements for polling station officers and members to study referendum laws, rules and work guidelines and conducted courses for them. At the courses and meetings, commission members repeatedly urged the attendees to make sure that the referendum would be held in conformity with the law and rules, and every citizen aged above 18 years would enjoy the right to vote, and the referendum would be a free and fair one.

Arrangements were made to set up polling stations in the places that were easily accessible for the voters of wards and villages, lay polling boxes in the sites that were easily visible even from outside the polling stations, thoroughly cover the polling booths in order that the voters could express their desire freely.

At 6 o’clock in the morning, the polling station officer invited five people who arrived at the station and opened the boxes for their witness. He also turned the boxes upside down and shook the boxes in the presence of the people outside the polling stations. The purpose was to prove that the referendum was free from any dishonest acts that have taken place in the world and in Myanmar, for example some organizers put ‘yes’ ballot papers into the boxes in advance. (The book “To Ensure Free and Fair Multi-party Democracy Election” by member of the previous multi-party democracy general election Saya Che states dishonest acts of rigging in the past with profound evidences.) Taking lessons from the past events in the parliamentary democracy time, systematic arrangements were made to enable the voters to express their desire (as they wanted to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’).

Polling hours was from 6 am to 4 pm and the period was 10 hours or 600 minutes. It would not be convenient for the voters if only two persons—one for checking voters list and another for issuing ballot papers—were assigned duties for a polling station for 1000 voters.

In that regard, the Commission at the central level supervised the processes to ensure that the referendum was held in line with the referendum laws and rules and it was a free and fair one.

The people have opened the democracy door to Myanmar (1)

Opposing, disrupting and disturbing laws mean opposing, disrupting and disturbing the entire people.
Aim to be set for gaining greater progress in...

(from page 1) member ministers, the director-general of the Government Office, departmental heads, flew to Ottwin Village of Ngapudaw Township from Pathein by helicopter yesterday morning.

First, they viewed damages of Ottwin Village and its surrounding areas and reconstruction tasks by helicopter.

They, accompanied by Commodore Myo Myint Than of the local station and officials together with those of Shwe Thanlwin Co and AroyonU Co inspected the relief camp in the village.

At the relief camp, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to 3rd-mile relief camp in Labutta.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to 3rd-mile relief camp in Labutta Township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party together with Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut who is making close supervision in rehabilitation tasks of the township and officials comforted the storm victims.

Next, they greeted Japanese medical team and observed giving medical treatments to storm victims. They also greeted specialists, doctors and nurses of 300-bed Teaching Hospital in Mandalay.

Medical teams of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence are giving health care to storm victims at 3rd-mile relief camp.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected equipment for storm victims to be used in fisheries arranged by Myanmar Fisheries Federation entrepreneurs under the arrangement of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Next, they proceeded to Labutta. After hearing reports on losses and damage in Labutta caused by the storm, (See page 9)
**State puts on record efforts and contributions of…**

The people from other States and Divisions are making cash and kind donations to the storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions with sympathy, national spirit and Union Spirit. Therefore, the State put on record the efforts and contributions of the well-wisher people, members of the Red Cross Society, entrepreneurs and social organizations to the relief tasks.

He added that in reconstructing the storm-hit regions, it is necessary to render assistance to change the conventional method to the agricultural mechanization that is one of the aims of the State in the agricultural sector. He stressed the need to grow the crops on the full sown acreage and to make the plans for increasing the per-acre yield in the fertile areas. He said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had given guidance that the arrangements are to be made for ensuring sufficiency of the staple food such as food, edible oil and salt in the respective regions and for ensuring some regions to become the basic food producing regions of the State. As the all-round arrangements had been made for the long term in accord with the guidance, the region that is facing the emergency condition can overcome the anxiety.

Concerning the agriculture sector, the number of acres of rain-fed paddy and irrigation water-fed paddy reached 19.99 million in the country last year including 4.95 million acres in Ayeyawady Division. A total of 0.18 million acres in Ayeyawady Division was destroyed by the storm. The number of destroyed acres in Ayeyawady Division is equivalent to 0.009 per cent of the cultivation acreage of the country and 0.036 per cent of the cultivation acreage of the Ayeyawady Division.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left Labutta for Pathein by helicopter. — MNA

**Aim to be set for gaining greater progress in...**

(refer to page 8)

rehabilitation works in the township, contributions of Max Myanmar Co, Ayar Shwe Wah Co, Zaykaba Co and Wai Wai Win Co in rehabilitation works, progress of repair of schools, hospitals, clinics, religious buildings and departmental buildings, arrangements being made for cultivation of monsoon paddy and requirements by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on rehabilitation tasks.

Afterwards, they looked into progress of rehabilitation tasks in Labutta in a motorcade. They also inspected completion of repair works of the township hospital.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party greeted health staff of the hospital and specialists and nurses of 300-bed Mandalay Teaching Hospital and comforted the patients.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left Labutta for Pathein by helicopter. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye consoles storm victims in Pyinsalu.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye consoles storm victims in Ottwin relief camp in Ottwin and Phonetawpyae villages. —MNA

**If the government fulfills the requirement and local people in the division make efforts for growing paddy, the acreage in Ayeyawady Division will reach nearly the previous level.**

The NDPCC and ten subcommittees fulfilled the requirements of the storm victims effectively and speedily, he said. He said the government successfully carried out relief, health care services and rehabilitation works in damaged areas in cooperation with the people, the Tatmadaw, social organizations and national entrepreneurs.

Endeavours are to be made for more development of the storm-hit regions than before and improvement of living standard of the storm victims in accord with the guidelines of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

He said it can be seen that the storm victims are farmers, those engaged in fisheries, salt-makers and traders. They also inspected completion of repair works of the township hospital.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left Labutta for Pathein by helicopter. — MNA

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and ministers concerned briefed on conditions of regions, accommodation, food, agricultural services, breeding tasks and assistance for regeneration of businesses of the storm victims in Ngapudaw Township and so did Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut in Labutta Township.

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APEC trade ministers end meeting in Peru

LIMA, 4 June — Trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation (APEC) forum Sunday ended their 14th meeting in Peru's southern city of Arequipa with a draft Declaration on Doha Agenda for Development.

The two-day meeting discussed how to contain the hiking prices triggered by the recent food crisis as well as the ways to push forward the stalled Doha Round of global trade talks. In the declaration signed after the plenary session, the ministers agreed that the Doha Round negotiations within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) would serve as an important tool to overcome the current food crisis. The document will be presented to the APEC summit in Lima in November.

Peruvian Trade Minister Mercedes Araoz said that the draft document aimed to give a political boost to the negotiations in the WTO to bring down trade barriers.

He added that once the agricultural issues of the Doha Round talks are solved, it will encourage agricultural investments and expansion of new projects to improve the productive quality of the agricultural sector.

The WTO negotiations are meant to lower trade barriers around the world and allow free trade among different countries.

Representatives from the bloc's 21 members attended the meeting. MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Japan start EPA implementation

JAKARTA, 4 June — Indonesia and Japan have effectively started bilateral economic cooperation under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) framework after the weekend's exchange of plenary talks. In the declaration, the two parties signed after the plenary talks.  In the declaration, the two parties agreed to bring down trade barriers.

The start of the EPA will be marked further by a deployment of a thousand Indonesian nurses and housekeepers to help look after the elderly in Japan, reported English-language The Jakarta Post, citing Foreign Ministry officials. Signed by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Japan’s former prime minister Shinzo Abe on 20 August, 2007 in Jakarta, the EPA is a comprehensive economic agreement involving cooperation in several economic sectors.

Development in trade, energy, mining and intellectual property rights are just among the key issues arranged in the EPA. MNA/Xinhua

Coca Cola, Lufthansa slapped notices by Indian Govt

MUMBAI, 4 June— The Indian Government has slapped demand notices amounting to about 180 million US dollars on nine companies, including soft drinks major Coca Cola India, German airline Lufthansa and Era Infra Engineering for evading service tax.

The Anti Evasion Wing of the Commissionerate of Service Tax slapped demand notices Monday on soft drinks major Coca Cola India and German airline Lufthansa for service tax evasion, totalling around 35 million US dollars. Besides Coca and Lufthansa, the wing also issued notices to seven other companies, including a tax demand for 83 million US dollars on construction company Era Infra Engineering Ltd.

Coca Cola was issued a 20 million US dollars demand notice on non-payment of service tax on the “out of pocket expenses,” the service tax commissionerate said. Out of pocket expenses include expenses over and above the contract amount, which is not inclusive of reimbursements for man and machinery supplied during providing consultancy or other services. MNA/Xinhua

Microsoft executive hints change of “Live” brand

BEIJING, 4 June— A senior Microsoft executive Tuesday hinted a possible change of the company’s “Live” brand for search and online services, according to media reports. Microsoft’s marketing team is working on fixing the company’s “Live” brand image to gain on Google’s “search instead of fix it,” Microsoft’s marketing team is working on fixing the company’s “Live” brand image to gain on Google’s search engine.

The scientists conducted a study into the way fingerprints can corrode metal surfaces. The technique can enhance a fingerprint that has been deposited on a small calibre metal cartridge case before it is fired.

New method to track even removed fingerprints

LONDON, 4 June— British forensic scientists have developed a method that could be used to track fingerprints even after the print itself has been removed, the science news website of AlphaGalileo reported on Monday.

The method of taking fingerprints from a crime scene, developed by forensic scientists at the Forensic Research Center at the University of Leicester and the Northamptonshire Police’s scientific support unit, enables scientists to “visualize fingerprints” even after the print itself has been removed, the report said.

The scientists conducted a study into the way fingerprints can corrode metal surfaces. The technique can enhance a fingerprint that has been deposited on a small calibre metal cartridge case before it is fired. MNA/Xinhua
US lawyer charged in Singapore for insulting judge

SINGAPORE, 4 June— A US lawyer was charged in a Singapore court on Monday for allegedly insulting a judge in an email and on his website, court documents showed.

Gopalnair Nair, who runs a law firm in California and was previously a Singapore citizen, was arrested last Friday and charged on Monday for “threatening, abusing or insulting a public servant” in an email he circulated and posted on his blog, singaporeissident.blogspot.com, official documents showed.

Nair was not sentenced and will be held in custody for 7 days pending further investigations, his lawyer Chia Ti-Lik said.

Under this charge, Nair faces a maximum fine of 5,000 Singapore dollars (3,671 US dollars) or a jail term of one year if he is found guilty.

“He is feeling okay, but he is worried about his job situation in the US,” Chia told reporters.

Nair was in Singapore last week to attend a 3-day hearing presided over by Judge Belinda Ang.

The hearing was to determine defamation damages to be paid by the leader of an opposition party to the city-state’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father, former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Bomb explosion kills deputy dean of Iraqi college

Mosul (Iraq), 4 June— A bomb explosion killed a deputy dean of a college in Mosul University in northern Iraq on Monday, a local police source said.

Professor Faris Younis, deputy dean for scientific affairs in the college of agriculture, was killed when an explosive charge planted in his car detonated in the afternoon, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast took place while Younis was leaving home from his college in northern city, some 400 kilometers north of Baghdad, the source said.

A guard of the college was also wounded by the blast, he said, adding that an investigation on the incident is under way.

Hundreds of high-profile academics and professionals have either been killed or kidnapped by militants across Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003.

13.2 kilos of heroin seized in Austria

VIENNA, 4 June — Austrian police have seized 13.2 kilos of heroin in the southern city of Villach, the Austrian News Agency reported Tuesday.

Police found the drugs in a car Sunday when it passed a railway station aboard a car train from the Turkish city of Istanbul to Hamburg, Germany, Helmut Jannig, a spokesman for the Klagenfurt District Attorney Office, was quoted as saying. The driver of the car, a 30-year-old Turk, was arrested, Jannig said.

“The they all suffered from heat suffocation,” the driver of the car told the police, according to a report. He传动s the heat to be the main cause of death.

Nine die in soccer stadium tragedy

MONROVIA, 4 June— Nine people died of heat suffocation before Liberia’s match against Gambia on Monday, according to an AFP report.

“He was quoted from heat suffocation,” Dominic Worlu, the chief mortician at Monrovia’s JFK government hospital, was quoted by the paper.

More than 50,000 people crammed into a stadium built for 35,000 spectators, he told the AFP.

The hearing was to determine defamation damages to be paid by the leader of an opposition party to the city-state’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father, former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Bird flu hits one more Vietnamese locality

HANOI, 4 June— Bird flu has recently hit Vietnam’s southern Kien Giang Province, raising the total number of localities currently affected by the disease to five, according to local newspaper Vietnam Agriculture on Monday.

Specimens from 1,000 chickens raised by a household in Tan Hiep District were tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, the paper quoted head of the provincial veterinary bureau Dinh Cong Than as saying.

Now, bird flu is hitting the two central provinces of Ha Tinh and Nghe An, and the two southern provinces of Tra Vinh and Kien Giang, and southern Can Tho City, according to the country’s Department of Animal Health.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, starting in December 2003, have killed more than 117 highway sections, 100 bridges and 1,170 aqueducts, 100 bridges and 117 highway sections were damaged in the gale.

The National Commission for Emergencies (CNE) was quoted as stating by the local daily "La Nacion".

Tropical storm "Alma" has caused damage worth over 30 million US dollars in Costa Rica, authorities said Monday. This preliminary figure does not include losses in the agriculture sector, the National Commission for Emergencies (CNE) was quoted as stating by the local daily "La Nacion".

"Alma" causes over $30m of damage in Costa Rica

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"La Nacion"

Tropical storm "Alma", which hit Costa Rica on Thursday, caused widespread ad damage in 372 communities and directly affected some 19,000 people, the CNE said. Some communities are still isolated, and without electricity and drinking water.

A total of 22 rural aqueducts, 100 bridges and 117 highway sections were damaged in the gale.

CNE president Daniel Gallardo said the districts of Perez Zeledon and Parrita were the hardest hit and they are still on maximum emergency alert.

Bomb explosion kills deputy dean of Iraqi college

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A guard of the college was also wounded by the blast, he said, adding that an investigation on the incident is under way.

Hundreds of high-profile academics and professionals have either been killed or kidnapped by militants across Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003.
### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (TGA-383)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (TGA-383) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2008 and cargo will be discharged on the Claims Day.

The Claims Day Notice will be sworn by the Port Master, and in accordance with byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Transport</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Estimated Onset</th>
<th>Estimated End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. 315 KVA Transformer</td>
<td>1 Set</td>
<td>4.6.2008</td>
<td>7.7.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Dump Truck 17 Tons (FE)</td>
<td>2 Unit</td>
<td>4.6.2008</td>
<td>7.7.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Excavator 1.7 m³ (FE)</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>4.6.2008</td>
<td>7.7.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Spares for Quarry Equipment and Heavy Machinery</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>4.6.2008</td>
<td>7.7.2008</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**ROAD TRANSPORT**

UAE grants 500,000 tons of wheat to Syria

**BEIRUT, 4 June—** The United Arab of Emirates (UAE) has granted 500,000 tons of wheat to Syria, aiming to help Syrians cope with the rise of wheat prices on global market, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported Tuesday. The report said the grant, which made by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is a token of the “strong brotherly ties and solidarity” between the peoples of the two countries. The wheat will be bought from the international markets and will be directly shipped to Syria, it said. During a meeting between the UAE President and visiting Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad held on Tuesday, they discussed cooperation in various areas and explored joint Arab action after the recent Arab Summit in Damascus, the report said. Al-Assad arrived in the Gulf country on Monday, starting a three-day official visit to the UAE as part of his tour that will take him also to Kuwait. A WAM editorial described his visit to UAE as “will substantially boost the decades-long relations between UAE and Syria,” and will strengthen the joint efforts by the leaders of both countries for restoring Arab solidarity and pushing forward the joint Arab work.”

**Brazil to not plant sugar cane in Amazon**

**BRASILIA, 4 June—** Brazil has no intention of planting sugar cane in the Amazon Region, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in Rome, Italy, on Sunday, local media reported. Non-governmental organizations have accused Brazil recently of planning to use its territory in the Amazon Region to plant sugar cane, a move which they say will lead to more severe deforestation in the region.—MNA/Xinhua

**Turkey’s first high-speed train begins test runs in June**

**ANKARA, 4 June—** The head of Turkish State Railways (TCDD) said on Monday that the country’s first high-speed train will begin test runs in June, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

“The high-speed train service would start in 2008 if the tests run between capital Ankara and central Antalya Province of Eksekir were conducted successfully,” said the report, quoting TCDD’s Director General Suleyman Karaman. Karaman noted that the Ankara-Eskisehir line was completed, and the TCDD planned to start the construction of Eskisehir-Istanbul line this year.—MNA/Xinhua

**IEA head urges “revolution” to fight oil crisis**

**LONDON, 4 June —** An “energy revolution” to cut demand is necessary to combat the world’s third energy crisis in 35 years, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Monday.

IEA Executive Director Nobuo Tanaka said the current oil price shock was unique because demand has remained robust despite oil prices climbing to 135 US dollars a barrel two weeks ago.

In contrast, global consumption fell after the 1973 Arab oil embargo and the Iranian revolution of 1979 as countries turned to more energy efficient transportation and power plants.

“We are in a third energy crisis,” he said during the Reuters Energy Summit.

“Our response should be an energy revolution. If we have to change dramatically the demand side by efficiency and new technologies.”

The IEA sees an increase in world oil demand this year as consumption in emerging economies outweighs a slowdown in the United States and Europe.

— MNA/Reuters
Food price “catastrophe” feared on eve of Rome summit

ROME, 4 June — Soaring food prices could trigger a global catastrophe, with the world’s poor unable to feed their families, human rights activists said on Monday.

The warning came as world leaders arrived in Rome for a UN summit to tackle a food crisis that is pushing 100 million people into hunger, provoking food protests and could aggravate violence in war zones.

“The current food crisis amounts to a gross violation of human rights and could fuel a global catastrophe, as many of the world’s poorest countries, particularly those forced into import dependency, struggle to feed their people,” said ActionAid analyst Magdalena Kropiwnicka. MNA/Reuters

“Phoenix”lander samples Martian dirt

WASHINGTON, 4 June — NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander has scooped up a little dirt, scientists said on Sunday, a first step towards sampling the planet’s soil for ice — and the potential for life.

The lander then took a picture of the footprint-shaped impression its robotic arm left on its trial run, NASA said.

“This first touch allows us to utilize the Robotic Arm accurately. We are in a good situation for the upcoming sample acquisition and transfer,” David Spencer, Phoenix’s surface mission manager from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said in a statement.

Phoenix’s Robotic Arm Camera also took a number of images of what appears to be exposed ice under the lander.

Phoenix, which touched down on Mars one week ago on Sunday after a 676-million-kilometer (420-million-mile) journey from Earth, will bore into the ground and study water and soil samples to determine if conditions were ever suitable to support life.

“What we see in the images is in agreement with the notion that it may be ice, and we suspect we will see the same thing in the digging area,” said Uwe Keller of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Katlenburg-Lindau, Germany. MNA/Reuters

Imported high-grade “ice” flooding Philippines

MANILA, 4 June — High-grade, crystal-clear “ice” (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from abroad is now being sold in the Philippine black market, the chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said on Monday.

It is a sign that illegal drug syndicates have penetrated the country’s defences, said PDEA chief Dionisio Santiago.

“The shabu (local name of methamphetamine hydrochloride) that is circulating in the market right now is 98-per-cent pure,” Philippine TV network ABS-CBN citing Santiago reported.

Vaccine doubles survival of deadly brain cancer

CHICAGO, 4 June — A cancer vaccine more than doubled the survival time of people with the most common and deadly type of brain tumour, US researchers said on Monday.

The vaccine, made by Avant Immunotherapeutics Inc and licenced by drug giant Pfizer Inc, enlists the help of the immune system to attack the tumour.

Researchers treated 23 patients with a type of brain tumour called glioblastoma multiforme. They have lived, on average, 33 months, said Dr John Sampson of Duke University, who presented the study at a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago. “That is almost unheard of,” Sampson said in an interview.

“We have one woman who has gone on to have two babies now,” Sampson said.

Patients given standard therapy alone lived on average 14 months. —MNA/Reuters

Brazil to defend biofuels at UN summit in Rome

ROME, 4 June — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Sunday he would seek to convince world leaders gathering in Rome this week that ethanol is not to blame for global food inflation threatening millions with hunger.

Brazil is the world’s largest ethanol exporter and a pioneer in sugar-cane based biofuels, making it a target of critics who say ethanol is behind increases in world commodity prices.

Lula said the UN summit on food security which begins on Tuesday would give Latin America’s biggest economy an opportunity to shape the debate about biofuels — and hopefully win over some sceptics. “This gathering that the (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) is promoting will be a great opportunity for Brazil,” Lula told reporters in Rome ahead of the 3-5 June summit.

“T’m convinced that we’re at the beginning a debate.... It’s up to Brazil, a centre of excellence in ethanol production, to prove that it’s fully possible to make ethanol output compatible with the production of food.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has set up his own task force to find answers to the food security crisis, is expected to hold private talks with Lula in Rome on Monday ahead of the 3-5 June summit.

The leaders of France, Spain, Japan, Argentina and some African nations are attending. MNA/Reuters

Contestants compete in the WE tv network’s “Bridezilla” contest in New York’s Times Square on 3 June, 2008. The cable channel gave away a 25,000- US dollar - prize to kick off the fifth season of their “Bridezillas” series. —Xinhua

India’s sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik adds the final touches to a sand sculpture of “a polar bear being crushed by a shoe” ahead of World Environment Day on the Puri beach in the eastern state of Orissa on 3 June, 2008. The event was organized by PETA to illustrate the environmental harm caused by the leather industry, a Press release of the PETA said. —INTERNET
**Sports**

**Ivanovic versus Jankovic in Serb showdown at French Open**

*Paris, 4 June* — It’s Serb against Serb in the women’s semi-finals at the French Open on Thursday, the first time that has happened, for either of the sexes, in Grand Slam history.

Second seed Ana Ivanovic will start favourite against third seed Jelena Jankovic.

The winner will be one match away from delivering a first female Grand Slam title to the Balkan country.

It’s Serb against Serb in the women’s semi-finals at the French Open on Thursday, the first time that has happened, for either of the sexes, in Grand Slam history.

The more powerful Ivanovic is the younger at 20 and will be bidding for a third Grand Slam final in the past year having lost to Justine Henin here last year and to Maria Sharapova in the Australian Open in January.

French forward Thierry Henry (R) vies with Colombian defender Cristian Zapata during their friendly football match France vs. Colombia ahead of the Euro 2008 tournament at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. France won 1-0.—INTERNET

**Serbian duo, Nadal race into semifinals**

*Beijing, 4 June* — When Ana Ivanovic hits an especially good shot, she celebrates with a combination leg-kick fist-pump, and she’s doing it a lot at the French Open.

The No 2-seeded Ivanovic beat No 10 Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-2 yesterday to become the first semi-finalist at Roland Garros.

“I am really happy the way I’m playing” said Ivanovic, who has yet to lose a set in five matches. “I just want to keep this level.”

Fellow Serb Novak Djokovic advanced by beating childhood friend Ernest Gulbis 7-5, 7-6 (3), 7-5. Djokovic reached his fifth consecutive grand slam semifinal, joining Roger Federer, Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker as the only men to accomplish the feat in the Open era.

In a late match, three-time champion Rafael Nadal after their quarter-final match at the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 3 June, 2008. Nadal won 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.—XINHUA

**Mourinho arrives at Inter, Sven departs City**

*Beijing, 3 June* — Jose Mourinho has been appointed coach of Inter Milan for the next three years, the Italian champion said Monday.

Former Chelsea and Porto boss Mourinho succeeds Roberto Mancini, whose dismissal was confirmed on Thursday, 11 days after he led the side to their third consecutive Serie A title.

“FC Internazionale announce the arrival of Jose Mourinho,” read a statement on the club’s Website (www.inter.it). “The Portuguese coach has signed a three-year contract.”—INTERNET

**Ribery gives Henry a victorious 100th in final Euro warm-up**

*Paris, 4 June* — A first-half penalty by Franck Ribery managed not to ruin Thierry Henry’s 100th international appearance and give France a 1-0 win over Colombia in their final warm-up match before Euro 2008.

The 25-year-old Bayern Munich star slotted home the penalty after Henry was fouled in the 23rd minute for his fourth goal in 27 international appearances while coach Raymond Domenech will be delighted that his side has not conceded a goal in their last four matches.

However, the lack of goals up front will cause him some worries, though, the sphinx like coach didn’t seem too concerned by that afterwards.

“Two wins and one draw, I will settle for that,” said Domenech, referring to the three warm-up matches all against South American opposition.

“It is not the results that are important, its the style of the performances, “I prefer three matches unbeaten than three defeats.”

Domenech admitted that he was going to have a selectors nightmare ahead of their opening match on 9 June against Romania.

“That will give me a few sleepless nights, mind you it is something that I don’t mind, better than sleepless nights because of an injury crisis,” added Domenech, who has a major worry over captain Patrick Vieira who has a left thigh injury.—INTERNET

**Cannavaro injured in Italy training**

*Vienna, 3 June* — Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro was taken to hospital after suffering an ankle injury in Italy’s first Euro 2008 training session in Austria on Monday.

The defender collided with Giorgio Chiellini and was carried off on a stretcher.

“We will have to see but it is not nothing. It will take at least 12 hours to assess the injury,” national team doctor Paolo Zeppilli told reporters.

“At times there is a lot of pain but then the situation doesn’t seem so serious. The thing that we need to know is whether or not the bone has been injured.”—MNA/Reuters

**Vieira sets fitness deadline**

*Midfielder still hopeful of recovering in time*

*Paris, 4 June* — France skipper Patrick Vieira has given himself until the end of the week to prove his fitness for Euro 2008.

The International star has been ruled out of France’s opening Group C match against Romania in Zurich next Monday with a left thigh injury.

Vieira was expected to participate in the Euros. "If by the end of the week I am not fit, then I will not be going to the tournament," Vieira told TF1.

"It is nothing serious, but unfortunately it has happened at a bad time - because every day counts now and the tournament is approaching," Vieira told French television station TF1.

“Now, what I have to do is try to recover as quickly as possible. I’m not training, that would mean I will not be participating in the Euros. But I am still optimistic.”

Milan-bound midfielder Mathieu Flamini is on stand-by to replace Vieira in the France squad if he is forced to pull out through injury. —INTERNET

**Spain’s Nicolas Almagro (L) greets compatriot Rafael Nadal after their quarter-final match at the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 3 June, 2008. Nadal won 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.—XINHUA**
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST. During the past 24 hours rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Magway Division, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mon State and Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Central) (4.96) inches, Kyaukme (4.25) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.99) inches, Thaung and Dawei (2.64) inches each, Pynnoolin (2.33) inches, Bago (2.09) inches, Taungu (2.05) inches, Hpa-an (1.89) inches, Kengtung (1.49) inches, Tharrawady (1.41) inches, Sittwe (1.38) inches. Myingyan (1.18) inches and Aunglan (0.78) inch.

Maximum temperature on 3-6-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 4-6-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-6-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 3-6-2008 was (1.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-6-2008 was (1.49) inches at Mingaladon, (2.99) inches at Kaba-Aye and (4.96) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (30.55) inches at Mingaladon, (37.05) inches at Kaba-Aye and (47.96) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South-west at (12:30) hours MST on 3-6-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay, Magway, and lower Sagaing Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-6-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
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.

State puts on record efforts and contributions of wellwisher people, Red Cross, entrepreneurs, social organizations to relief tasks

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye fulfils requirements of rehabilitation in Ngapudaw, Labutta townships

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 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 gave instructions to officials including ministers and national entrepreneurs concerning rehabilitation tasks in Ngapudaw and Labutta townships at Mya Eya Hall in Pathein yesterday afternoon.

In his instructions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that when storm "Nargis" hit the regions of Myanmar, the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee that had already been formed commenced to run its functions. Due to concerted efforts of the ministries concerned, the people and private entrepreneurs, the relief task for the first phase has been completed in a short time and the rehabilitation task is in progress for the second phase.

(See page 9)

As the all-round arrangements had been made for the long term in accord with the guidance, the region that is facing the emergency condition can overcome the anxiety.

The people have opened the democracy door to Myanmar (1)

A constitution prescribes who, on behalf of the people, will exercise the sovereign powers, how they will have to be exercised, and which ways and disciplines will have to be exerted in the process.

Tekkatho Myat Thu