Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends to needs of Kungyangon, Dedaye, comforts victims, greets volunteers

NAY PYI TAW, 5 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 together with Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman of the NDPCC Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thita 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 the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Myint Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, the NDPCC member ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the director-general of Government Office and departmental heads flew to Yangon from Pathein by helicopter yesterday morning.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left for Kungyangon by car and they were welcomed by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials.

At the control office of Kungyangon relief camp, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, who is making close supervision in reconstruction tasks of Kungyangon Township, reported on losses and damage in the township caused by the storm, relief works, donations of companies at home and abroad and wellwishers, implementation of works in accord with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his visit to Kungyangon Township, supply of drinking water, participation of Asia World Co in rehabilitation tasks of Kungyangon Township and requirements to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions and greeted departmental officials and those who are taking part in reconstruction tasks.

(Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Yangon and neighbouring area: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Mandalay and neighbouring area: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made arrangements to facilitate reconstruction works carried out under the close supervision of two ministers in Kungyangon and Dedaye.

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Swedish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden which falls on 6 June 2008.—MNA

Air Force continues to participate in rehabilitation and reconstruction of storm-hit regions

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Servicemen of the Air Force continued to participate in the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Tatmadaw helicopters transported relief supplies to storm-hit regions such as Ottwin, Hainggyikyun, Pyinsalu, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Yangayan, Kanikyi, Kanaung, Phoeinya (East), Lagarat, Kazaungma, Phoeinya, Myauungma and Kanbe on 3 June.

Tatmadaw helicopters have already transported 424.79 tons of relief supplies in total to storm-hit regions up to now.—MNA

Obstacles not to prevent

Prime Minister General Thein Sein has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden which falls on 6 June 2008. He said:

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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

Naval vessels take part in rehabilitation tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Naval vessels headed for the hardest-hit village-tracts in Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale and Labutta townships and took part in rehabilitation tasks with locals and in security and transport tasks with responsible personnel.

On 1 June, Tatmadawmen from stations and naval vessels under the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command cleared debris and fallen trees at Yangon East Division Hospital and on 3 June at Tooth Relics Pagoda in Mayangon Township together with Yangon City Development Committee.

Robes and provisions donated to storm victim monks and nuns in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 5 June — A ceremony to donate cash and kind to storm victim monks and nuns in Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Division was held at Htamin Monastery in the township yesterday, attended by wellwishers.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Vichit Yathip (Retd), Commander of No 66 LID Brig-Gen Maung Aye, wellwisher Chairman of Zaykaba Co Ltd Dr Khin Show and departmental officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted robes, rice and other provisions worth K50 million donated by the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kyauktithsaung Sandawshin Monastery, robes, rice, blankets, medicines and other provisions worth K 47.3 million at the ceremony. Zaykaba Chairman Dr Khin Show provided expenses on holding the ceremony.
Obama leads McCain

However, the survey found that 12 percent of Democrats said they would support McCain — a higher number than the 8 percent of Democrats who voted for President George W Bush in 2004. McCain has an eight-point lead over Obama among registered independent voters, the poll indicated.

Fifty-nine percent of Democratic primary voters said Obama should choose New York Sen Hillary Clinton as his running mate.

The survey found Bush’s approval rating at its lowest level yet — 25 percent — while his disapproval rating hit 67 percent, his worst showing in a CBS News poll.

One-third of those surveyed said the economy was their top concern. Almost 70 percent said the economy is getting worse while 3 percent said it was improving.

Eighty-three percent said the country is on the wrong track. That’s the highest wrong-track number since CBS began asking the question 25 years ago.

The poll of 1,038 adults was conducted 30 May through 3 June. — Internet

Detained journalist sues White House

WASHINGTON, 5 June— Lawyers for a Canadian television journalist being held as an enemy combatant in Afghanistan filed a lawsuit Wednesday accusing the Bush administration of holding him illegally and demanding his release.

Afghani native Jawed Ahmad, 22, has been held in Bagram, Afghanistan, for more than six months without being charged, according to the complaint filed in US District Court in the District of Columbia.

Ahmad was working for CTV, a Canadian television network, when he was detained in October 2007. Authorities accused him of being in contact with Taliban leaders, including having videos of them and possessing their phone numbers, according to the complaint. — Internet

Baghdad truck bomb kills 18

BAGHDAD, 5 June— A truck packed with rockets blew up Wednesday in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 18 people in the deadliest single blast in the city in more than three months. Three US soldiers were killed by gunfire north of the capital.

A US military spokesman said the blast appeared to have been an accident that occurred as Shiite militiamen were transporting the weapons through a densely populated neighborhood of northern Baghdad — possibly to fire at a nearby American base.

Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber had targeted the house of an Iraqi police general, who was not at home but whose nephew was among those killed.

The force of the blast crumbled several two-storey buildings, buried cars under rubble, sheared off a corrugated steel roof and left a large crater on the residential street. — Internet

Japan space lab锚ed to ISS

HOUSTON, 5 June— A team of astronauts has attached a $1bn (£500m) Japanese laboratory to the International Space Station (ISS).

The 15-tonne Kibo lab was delivered by the shuttle Discovery. It will be the station’s biggest room, for the study of biomedicine and material sciences.

Astronauts Akihiko Hoshide and Karen Nyberg manoeuvred Kibo into place, using the space station’s robotic arm.

The lab was anchored after two crew members had made preparations during a spacewalk lasting more than six hours. Discovery docked at the ISS on Monday after a twoday voyage. Its return to Earth is scheduled for 14 June. — Internet

Four on 2016 Olympics short-list

ROME, 5 June— Chicago, Madrid, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro are the cities shortlisted by the International Olympic Committee to host the 2016 Olympic Games.

Doha, Prague and Baku were eliminated from the nominal list of potential hosts by the IOC executive board. IOC president Jacques Rogge said: “All bids were of a high standard. It’s a tribute to the health of the Olympic Movement that the field was so strong.”

The IOC will select a winning city at a secret ballot on 2 October 2009. The strongest contender in terms of infrastructure, support and money is Chicago, which is bidding to host the first summer Olympics in America since Atlanta in 1996.

The Americans will however have to improve the technical aspect of their bid after an IOC evaluation report ranked Tokyo and Madrid higher than Chicago, with Rio in fourth place. Chicago’s bid chairman Patrick Ryan said there was plenty more work to be done to improve their bid. “Four cities is better than five,” he said. “Three would have been better than four. But we’re very proud to be one of the four.” — Internet

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Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber had targeted the house of an Iraqi police general, who was not at home but whose nephew was among those killed. US officials said 75 people were wounded, and police said they included the general’s elderly parents.

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“Three would have been better than four,” he said. “Three would have been better than four. But we’re very proud to be one of the four.” — Internet

There are a few things we’ve learned—don’t assume anything, be humble, and work, work, work. And we’re going to work right to the end.” — Internet
Brazil wins over US in WTO cotton controversy

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 June — Brazil expressed on Monday its satisfaction with a ruling of the appeals court of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on US cotton subsidies, which Brazil claimed to be protectionist.

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body ruled on Monday that the United States had failed to remove its illegal cotton subsidies in compliance with an earlier WTO verdict.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that once the decision was made in the ultimate phase of that process that analyzed the matter, it expects Washington to carry out the necessary changes in its legislation in order to follow the demands from the WTO appeals court.

The US Government’s measures considered insufficient by the Brazilian government were the elimination of a program to subsidize the purchase of cotton and the implementation of administrative adjustments in its credit insurance programmes for exporters.

Brazil first questioned the US cotton subsidization policies in 2002.

Ban urges immediate lift of restriction on food exports

ROME, 5 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for immediate lift of restriction on food exports on Tuesday as world leaders opened a three-day summit here in a global response to soaring food prices.

“Some countries have taken action by limiting exports or by imposing price controls… They only distort markets and force prices even higher.” Ban told the summit, hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

“I call on nations to resist such measures and to immediately released exports designated for humanitarian purposes,” he added.

Ban also urged developed countries to open markets for agriculture products from developing countries and eliminate subsidies to farmers, a thorny issue hindering the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s Doha Round negotiations.

The international community must act for longer resilience and contribute to global food security by eliminating trade and taxation policies that distort markets, not least through rapid resolution of the Doha Round,” he said.

US urges Israel to stop building new Jewish settlements

WASHINGTON, 5 June — The United States reiterated on Monday its call for Israel to stop building new Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, warning that such construction will “exacerbate the tensions” with the Palestinians.

“Our position on the settlements is that, you know, we don’t believe that any more settlements should be built. And we know that it exacerbates the tensions when it comes to the negotiations with the Palestinians,” said White House spokeswoman Dana Perino.

In her remarks, Perino attached great importance to the renewed peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, noting that the Middle East peace was “bigger than just any one person.”

The spokeswoman made the remarks two days before US President George W. Bush is to meet at the White House with embattled Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Israeli Housing Ministry published a bid on Sunday for the construction of more than 800 apartment units in East Jerusalem.

Turkey sends troops to border with Iraq

ANKARA, 5 June — Turkish General Staff has sent a large group of troops to the region bordering Iraq to fight against the banned Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) on Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The report said the General Staff sent the Turkish troops to Besta region and Cudi and Gabar mountainous areas in Sincak province along the neighboring country early Tuesday.

Last Thursday, Turkish jets launched an air strike against 16 PKK targets in the north of Iraq.

The Turkish military has periodically bombed and shelled suspected PKK positions in Turkish-Iraqi border area during the past few months after it launched an eight-day ground incursion into Iraq in February.

The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in the southeast.

Investigators identify cause of Universal Studios fire

LOS ANGELES, 5 June — Investigators concluded on Monday that the blaze at Universal Studios’ back lot was sparked by studio workers who were repairing a New York street scape.

Meanwhile, the theme park reopened after the massive fire forced it to close on Sunday.

The fire, which started Sunday morning, was ignited by repairing tools used by workers who are veteran Universal employees, the Los Angeles Times said, quoting sources close to the investigation.

It appeared the workers followed all protocols to prevent fire, the report said.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman said earlier that the fast-moving fire was an accident.

The investigation has ruled out any deliberate actions on the part of anyone,” Freeman said.

Studio spokesman Eliot Sekular said no filming was going on when the fire broke out.

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The international community must act for longer resilience and contribute to global food security by “eliminating trade and taxation policies that distort markets, not least through rapid resolution of the Doha Round,” he said.

All Items from Xinhua News Agency
Russia, Saudi Arabia sign protocol on WTO accession

MOSCOW, 5 June—Russia and Saudi Arabia signed a protocol Tuesday on the completion of bilateral talks on Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Russian news agencies reported.

The protocol was signed during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Alexei Kudrin, who is the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. The just-ended round of talks was the seventh since May 2007, when Saudi Arabia said it was interested in bilateral consultations with Russia over the terms of its entry to the WTO. The talks encompass the markets of goods and services. Earlier, the two countries agreed on some positions regarding agriculture, the protection of geographic and religious names and manufacturing.

Russia, the only major economy outside the WTO, has been seeking membership of the organization since 1993. So far, Moscow has concluded talks with over 60 states. It has not yet concluded negotiations with Georgia and Ukraine. Under WTO rules a candidate country must reach agreement with the entire WTO membership.

Shell CEO, like OPEC, sees no oil shortages now

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 June—Royal Dutch Shell Chief Executive Jeroen van der Veer said on Monday he did not see any shortage of physical oil supplies, echoing the view of many OPEC ministers who say the world market is well-supplied.

Oil prices have risen more than fourfold since 2004 and gained about a third this year, partly on increased fears among investors that producers will struggle to produce enough oil to meet demand in a decade’s time. “There are no physical shortages in the world. We don’t have ships waiting in the Middle East, no people queuing up for gasoline,” van der Veer told reporters in the Malaysian capital, where he was briefing on Shell’s Asian business plan.

“From a stocks point of view the whole value chain works well... It (the price) has a lot to do with psychology.” US crude prices hit a record high of 135.09 US dollars a barrel last month before retreating to below 126.00 US dollars on Monday.

Ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries have blamed the falling dollar, geopolitical tensions and factors beyond their control for the price spike. Most recently US politicians have put pressure on regulators to stem the influx of investment funds into the market. “Oil prices, like many other commodities group, have relatively high volatility. That is difficult to manage,” van der Veer said.—MNA/Reuters

B’desh amends policy for import of iron scrap’ old ships

DHAKA, 5 June—The Bangladeshi caretaker government has opened up the door of import of iron scrap and old ships for all through bringing an amendment to the country’s existing import policy in a bid to boom the construction sector.

The Commerce Ministry said Monday the amendment takes immediate effect. Earlier, the import of iron and steel scraps was allowed only by owners of steel plants. The move came after the rising prices of mild steel (MS) rod in the local market affecting the construction sector.

On Monday, prices of best quality rod ranged between 70,000 taka (1,000 US dollars) and 72,000 taka (1,030 US dollars) a ton, up from around 40,000 taka (about 570 US dollars) in January.

Brazil’s trade balance shows signs of recovery

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 June—Brazil’s trade balance showed a recovery in May, reaching a surplus of 4.07 billion US dollars, up from 3.85 billion in May of last year and the best since April 2007, the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade reported on Monday.

According to the ministry, Brazil’s exports totalled 19.27 billion dollars last month, and imports amounted to 15.2 billion. However, the surplus accumulated in the January-May period this year was 8.65 billion dollars, down from 16.76 billion in the same period last year.—MNA/Xinhua

HK launches to mark its design industry

LONDON, 5 June—A series of events showcasing Hong Kong’s creative industry was launched on Monday night at Harvey Nichols Department Store in central London to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Economic Region.

The events scheduled to last till 12 June are supported by Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London. They are comprised of Hong Kong Creation9707 products in-store display organized by the Hong Kong Design Center, which feature 10 new products by 10 international brands, designed by 10 renowned HK designers.

A one-day conference —Creative Business Forum —will be held on Tuesday at the London Business School to explore Hong Kong’s global influence on design and business from both the economic and creative perspective.

In addition, there will be a special exhibition on Contemporary Hong Kong Design at the Design Museum which incorporates the Creation 9707 products to show a total of 100 examples of Hong Kong Designs. Exhibits covering graphics, communications and fashion to environments, product and interactive design help depict the broad scope of creativity that exists in Hong Kong today.
Foreign Minister felicitates Swedish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden which falls on 6 June 2008. —MNA

India to contribute US$200,000 for Shwedagon

YANGON, 5 June—India has decided to contribute US$200,000 to repairs and renovation work at Shwedagon Pagoda, here.

During the visit of Honorable Minister of State for Commerce and Power Shri Jairam Ramesh to Yangon on 24-25 May this year, he visited Shwedagon Pagoda and witnessed the damage to some of the structures at the pagoda hit by the storm.

Giving the close and friendly bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly India’s ancient civilization and spiritual links with Myanmar and in keeping its commitment to assist Myanmar in the rehabilitation phase, India will contribute US$200,000 for renovation of the pagoda. —MNA

Relief supplies from abroad arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Relief aids donated by Thai-based WFP arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Medicines, equipment donated to MoH

YANGON, 5 June—Myanmar Medicine and Medical Equipment Dealers’ Association donated medicine and medical equipment to Ministry of Health for the second time on 2 June to be used in providing medical care to storm survivors.

The ceremony to donate medicines and medical equipment worth K23,319,470 was held at Yangon General Hospital. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo accepted the donation presented by Chairman of the association Dr Win Sithu.—MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo accepts the donation presented by Chairman of MMMEDA Dr Win Sithu.—MNA

Power tillers and bags of rice donated by Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan Co Ltd seen in Kyemyingyegyi Village, Bogale Township. —N.M

Relief aids donated by Thai-based WFP arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

MMCWA relief aids for storm victims

YANGON, 5 June—Myanmar Medical and Child Welfare Association on 3 June donated uniforms and stationery to students in storm-hit areas and relief aids to survivors in storm-hit townships in Yangon Division.

At the ceremony held at the Education College in Yankin Township, MMCWA donated K2.5 million, medical equipment, 1,600 bars of soap, 300 mosquito nets, 500 bodices for women, 2,000 sets of uniforms for primary students and 500 dozens of exercise books and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee K200,000 to the storm-hit townships in Yangon Division. Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint handed over stationery and relief aids to Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon East District; CEC Member of MMCWA Daw Khin Mya Win relief aids to Twantay Township and CEC Member of MMCWA Daw Tin Tin Mya relief aids to Dalla Township. —MNA

Relief supplies donated from abroad have been sent to storm-hit regions by helicopter, car and ship.—MNA

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents stationery and relief aids to storm survivors in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. —MNA

Relief aids donated by Thai-based WFP arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo accepts the donation presented by Chairman of MMMEDA Dr Win Sithu.—MNA
The people have opened the democracy door to Myanmar (2)

(Continued from yesterday)

The ballot boxes put on the stage in the polling stations were readily visible to those watching from outside the station. Voters had to put their ballot papers into the boxes, and any Unauthorized persons were not allowed to get near the ballot boxes. The polling station officer put his signature on each ballot paper to prevent counterfeit ballot papers. According to the law, ballot papers without polling station officer’s signature, ballot papers with no marks, ‘yes’ or ‘no’; ballot papers torn into pieces, and ballot papers with names on them were designated as cancelled ones. When marks on some ballot papers were not properly written, such ballot papers were not designated easily as cancelled ones, and a common consent was sought to confirm them if the desire of the voters was clear.

After the polling station was closed, the polling station officer invited the last 10 voters into the station. He opened the ballot boxes, took the papers out of the boxes, and turned the boxes upside down and shook them to make it clear that no ballot papers were left in the boxes. The 10 voters could check the boxes. The polling station officer and members classified the papers into three groups—‘yes’ votes, ‘no’ votes and cancelled votes in the presence of the 10 voters. Then, they counted one group after another before the witnesses, and recorded the figures in the ballot list.

Those responsible signed the list. The three groups of the papers were put into three separate bags and the bags were sealed before the witnesses. Next, the polling stations officer entrusted the bags together with some ward dwellers to the ward sub-commission. The bags with the list were delivered to township, district and state/division sub-commissions on the same day. The state/division sub-commissions delivered the bags to the central commission as soon as possible.

Arrangements were made for the convenience of those who were not in their home wards, townships, states or divisions and for those who were abroad on duty to cast vote at the Myanmar embassies and consulate-generals to the nations concerned, or at the polling stations in the regions at home where they stayed, to cast votes in advance, or cast votes at the nearest polling stations. The names of those voters had to be removed from the voting lists concerned to avoid inflated lists and in order that the name of a voter could not be stated in two polling stations.

Those arrangements had to be made according to the Referendum Law that said a voter shall cast only one vote at the specific polling station.

The names of those aged above 18 years were collected in the ward/village constituencies concerned with the help of the Immigration and National Registration Department, and the lists were put on boards for public information in the ward/village concerned seven days ahead of the referendum. Then, it was announced with the use of loudspeakers or by crying out that unlisted names would be added to the lists. The names of the colonialists, axe-handlers at home, and those who walked out of the National Convention at the instigation of their foreign masters after attending it for three years. Facts about those saboteurs and their aims have come to the knowledge of the people. So, I do not want to present many points about them.

The root cause of their opposition to the constitution and the referendum is that the constitution does not favour the colonialists, neo-colonialists and their lackeys and traitors.

However much radio stations under the influence of the colonialists such as BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB were airing special programmes designed to mislead the people into misunderstanding, the people without hesitation voted ‘yes’ to approve the constitution.

The Announcement No 10/2008 of the Commission for Holding the Referendum dated 15-5-2008 stated the results of the referendum held in 278 townships on 10 May as follows:

The population of the Union now is 57,504,368 and the population of those who have attained the age of 18 years and who are eligible to vote is 27,369,957.

The following are the results of the referendum held in 278 townships on 10 May as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Number of eligible voters</td>
<td>22,708,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Number of those who cast vote</td>
<td>22,496,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Number of those who cast ‘yes’ vote</td>
<td>20,786,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Number of those who cast ‘no’ vote</td>
<td>1,357,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Number of cancelled votes</td>
<td>334,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of voters</td>
<td>99.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of ‘yes’ votes</td>
<td>92.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The weather was fine on 24 May. The referendum was held in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division on that day. The people cast vote with nationalistic spirit.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| According to the Announcement No 11/2008, the results of the referendum held in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division were as follows:
| (a) Number of eligible voters | 4,580,393 |
| (b) Number of those who cast vote | 4,280,015 (93.44 per cent) |
| (c) Number of those who cast ‘yes’ vote | 3,977,526 (92.91 per cent) |
| (d) Number of those who cast ‘no’ vote | 256,232 (5.99 per cent) |
| (e) Number of cancelled votes | 46,255 (1.08 per cent) |

Of the 4.5 million eligible voters of the 47 townships, 92.93 per cent voted in favour of the constitution.

Announcement No 12/2008 stated the aggregate results of the referendum held in the whole country after combining the results of the referendum held in 278 townships on 10 May and that held in 47 townships on 24 May as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Number of those who went to the polling stations to case vote</td>
<td>22,154,970 (82.74 per cent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Number of those who cast ‘yes’ vote</td>
<td>20,215,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Number of those who cast ‘no’ vote</td>
<td>1,575,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Number of cancelled votes</td>
<td>364,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Number of those who cast vote in advance</td>
<td>4,621,705 (17.26 per cent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Number of those who cast ‘yes’ vote</td>
<td>4,548,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Number of those who cast ‘no’ vote</td>
<td>56,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Number of cancelled votes</td>
<td>16,763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, 26,776,675 voters out of 27,888,827 eligible voters cast their votes in the referendum held in the Union of Myanmar, accounting for 98.12 percent. Out of 26,776,675 who cast their votes, 24,764,124 cast ‘yes’ vote. So, 92.48 percent of the voters approved the State constitution.

When the referendum was in progress the length and breadth of the country, diplomats of foreign embassies to Myanmar and representatives and staff of UN agencies observed the voting processes at the polling stations in wards, townships, states and divisions. Some of them made remarks of praise when they witnessed the people casting vote. The visitors also found the referendum free and fair.

I enjoyed a unique opportunity of participating in the process of drawing a new constitution that can guarantee perpetual existence of the Union and emergence of a democracy nation. I attended the National Convention from 1993 to 2007 (from the beginning to the end). I also participated in the compilation of the State constitution (draft) based on the principles adopted at the National Convention from 3 December 2007 to 19 February 2008. That was not all. I also took part in the process for approval of the State constitution (2008) from 26 February 2008 to 24 May 2008. I was proud to carry out such a national duty. When I learnt that 92.48 per cent of the voters approved the State constitution, I was proud more of my active performance of the national duty.

Be it as it may, I would say that the great majority of the voters, surmounting the disruptions of internal and external saboteurs, have opened the democracy door to Myanmar since May 2008.

Translation: MS
Take preparedness and preventive measures against natural disasters by building combined offices, schools and government buildings with high level of foundations

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye makes arrangements for reconstruction of storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady, Yangon Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 5 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 held a meeting with officials including regional in-charge ministers and national entrepreneurs on reconstruction of storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions including Kungyangon and Dedaye townships, at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that he, accompanied by the Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee the Prime Minister, the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee the Secretary-1 and Central Committee member ministers, provided necessary assistance for storm-hit regions after inspecting relief and rehabilitation tasks being carried out by regional in-charge ministers and national entrepreneurs. He said that they met storm victims at the villages of two townships a day out of Kungyangon Township of Yangon Division and seven townships of Ayeyawady Division. He continued to say that he fulfilled the requirements of the storm-hit regions he had visited in the morning in meeting with the officials in Pathein in the afternoon.

He added that he was pleased with the utmost efforts of the ministers led by the Prime Minister in cooperation with the local people, national entrepreneurs and social organizations in undertaking relief and reconstruction tasks in respective storm-hit regions. He said that as soon as the storm hit, the entire people, industrialists, merchants and social organizations from all States and Divisions provided foodstuffs, purified drinking water, vegetables, clothes and other personal goods to the storm-hit regions. The health care services being given by Red Cross members, specialists, doctors and nurses of States and Divisions to the victims at the grassroots-level reflected the spirit of unity of the country and the people, he said. Therefore, he said, the government put on record and honoured their concerted efforts in carrying out the relief and rehabilitation tasks in unison with the national spirit and Union Spirit. He stressed the need to make arrangements for uplifting the standard of living and livelihood of the storm victims in the storm-hit regions more than that of the past in carrying out the reconstruction tasks.

In doing so, modern hospitals, better departmental offices and schools are to be reconstructed to enhance the health care standard, he said. He pointed out that it is required to take preparedness and preventive measures against the 

(See page 9)
Take preparedness and preventive ... 

As soon as the storm hit, the entire people, industrialists, merchants and social organizations from all States and Divisions provided foodstuffs, purified drinking water, vegetables, clothes and other personal goods to the storm-hit regions.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends to needs ...

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye heard reports on rehabilitation tasks in Dedaye Township presented by Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min. — MNA

Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo reported on reconstruction of the storm-hit regions and development tasks to be undertaken.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi also submitted a report on matters related to Kungyangon Township, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min on Dedaye Township, providing assistance for basic needs, farming and fisheries requirements of the storm victims and reconstruction of hospitals, dispensaries and schools. The ministers concerned explained the programmes of the respective ministries.

The ministers presented reports on requirements of Bogale, Kyauklat, Pyapon, Ngapu-daw, Mawlamyinegyun (See page 10)
New roads to be constructed in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—Ministry of Construction held a meeting on drawing a plan for construction of roads linking the areas in the delta region and implementation of the project at the ministry here today.

At the meeting, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, new roads will be constructed to provide links between the delta regions and embankment of the roads would be from 20ft to 30ft high for emergency evacuation. New roads will be constructed and the old ones will be upgraded in the areas which were hit by the storm, he added. He also urged officials concerned of the road construction special groups to draw projects and to implement the projects as soon as possible and to coordinate with authorities concerned.

Afterwards, participants of the meeting reported on matters related to searching axis for roads, transportation of machinery and tasks for construction of roads, bridges and sites chosen to construct bridges.

Officials concerned also reported to the minister on plans for construction of Maubin-Yelelay-Shwayaungmaw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyne-gyun Road, Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu Road and Bogale-Kyeing-yaung-Kadonkani Road. In his concluding remarks, the minister stressed the need for constant vigilance against natural disaster when the projects are being implemented in the delta region and to start the projects immediately.

MNA

Take preparedness...

Water purifiers donated to storm victims

YANGON, 6 June—Sein Yan Sayawd and Kawtont Sayadaw of Dharma Drum Mountain and donors donated five sets of water purifier and accessories for storm victims to Fire Services Department (Head Office) near Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials concerned accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Wellwishers hand over water purifier and five sets of equipment worth K 60 million to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at a ceremony to mark World Environment Day 2008.

World Environment Day 2008 observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—The World Environment Day 2008 organized by the National Committee for Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Forestry was observed at the ministry, here, this morning. Chairman of NCWA Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an address.

On behalf of the UNDP Resident Coordinator, Deputy Resident Representative Mr Shahrokh Mohammadi of UNDP read the messages of UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and Executive Director Dr Achim Steiner of UN Environmental Conservation Programme.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the open article contest, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe three consolation prizes to the respective winners. UNDP Deputy Resident Repre-sentative Mr Shahrokh Mohammadi also presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the open essay contest and Leader of the Working Group for Environmental Conservation Daw Nilar Thaw of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, three consolation prizes to the respective winners.

After the ceremony, they viewed the booths displayed in commemoration of the World Environment Day. The MWAF and the NCEA will organize the collective tree planting ceremony to mark the World Environment Day at Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No 5 tomorrow.—MNA
French Parliament debates law to modernize economy

PARIS, 5 June — French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde has launched a parliamentary debate regarding the proposed law on the modernization of the economy that has been threatening to tear down the ruling Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), the French media reported on Tuesday.

The debate, which started in the national assembly on Monday, according to keen political observers, was made possible after Prime Minister Francois Fillon and ruling party lawmakers agreed on a compromise that helped diffuse growing tensions over the matter.

“I could summarize the proposed law in a few figures, including 30 measures contained in 44 articles, at least 0.3 per cent growth per annum from 2009 and 50,000 additional jobs per year. All this at cost of only 300 million euro (about 450 million dollars),” the minister told the parliament.

A few hours earlier, franked by senior UMP officials and prominent lawmakers, Fillon had announced a compromise on an issue that was slowly dividing the party, forcing President Nicolas Sarkozy to launch a tirade against “a section of parliamentarians opposed to reforms.” — MNA/Xinhua

UAE president’s brother dies in air crash

DUBAI, 5 June — The brother of the United Arab Emirates president died when his helicopter crashed into the Gulf overnight, the official WAM news agency said on Tuesday.

Sheikh Nasser bin Zayed al-Nayahan will be buried later on Tuesday, it said. Officials declined to immediately say what caused the crash or how many people were on the aircraft.

Sheikh Nasser did not hold public office and there will be no closure of public or private sector institutions during the three days of official mourning, an official said.

Sheikh Nasser was the brother of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nayahan, the president of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi emirate. He was the son of Sheikh Zayed, the Gulf Arab country’s first president who is widely regarded as its founding father. MNA/Reuters

UNSG concerned on building plans in East Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, 5 June — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday he was “deeply concerned” by an Israeli Government plan to build hundreds of new homes in disputed areas of East Jerusalem.

Ban, in a statement issued by his spokesperson, said he was “deeply concerned at the recent announcement by the Israeli government to invite new tenders for construction in Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem.”

“The Government of Israel’s continued construction in settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory is contrary to international law and to its commitments under the Road Map and the Annapolis process,” the statement said.

On Sunday, Israel announced plans to build approximately 884 housing units in an area of the occupied West Bank the government considers part of Jerusalem.

The two areas are Pisgat Zeev and Har Homa, an area Palestinians refer to as Jabal Abu Ghneim. MNA/Reuters

Iraq says likely to miss deadline for US pact

BAGHDAD, 5 June — A July target for negotiating an agreement on future relations between Iraq and the United States is likely to be missed, an Iraqi Government spokesman said on Tuesday.

US and Iraqi officials began talks in March on twin agreements on the status of US military forces in Iraq after 2008 and a strategic framework agreement that defines long-term bilateral ties.

Washington has said it aims to wrap up the talks by July, but Iraqi Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said that was unlikely to happen.

“I don’t think that we can meet this date. There is an important difference in viewpoints between Iraq and the US. I don’t think that time is enough to end this gap and to reach a joint understanding. Therefore, we are not committed to July as a deadline,” he told al-Arabiya television.

He also said Iraq was looking into possible alternatives if it could not reach agreement with the United States on their long-term relations, but he gave no details. — MNA/Reuters

Algerian rescuers collect a suicide bomber’s body parts from the top of a tree near a military barracks in Bordj El Kiffan, about 25 km (15 miles) east of central Algiers on 4 June, 2008.— Xinhua

Poor nations demand climate funds, West views jobs

BONN (Germany), 5 June — Rich and poor countries argued over how the West can deploy know-how to fight climate change in developing countries but not lose jobs at a UN-run climate conference in Germany on Tuesday.

Poorer nations want the West to help them cut their emissions of planet-warming gases and prepare for climate change such as rising seas and more extreme weather because historically the rich are most responsible for those emissions.

Bangladesh still faces serious food shortages after last year’s floods and on Tuesday demanded help from the West to improve coastal defences and fund technology to predict storms and deal with fall-out on its food and water supplies. “Technology transfer from North to South should not promote transfer of old aged and inefficient technologies,” the Bangladesh delegate told officials from more than 170 countries. — MNA/Reuters

Five children die playing with mortar in Pakistan

QUETTA (Pakistan), 5 June — Five children died when a mortar shell they were playing with exploded in the southeastern city of Quetta, while a landmine killed four people in Pakistan’s Kurram tribal region on Tuesday, officials said.

Aside from the five children killed, five others were wounded. They all belonged to an Afghan family living in Quetta. Police said they found three more mortars in the children’s home.

“We’re investigating where they got them from,” senior police officer Rematullah Nazi said.

Children were also killed when a passenger van hit a landmine on a road about 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Para-chinar, Kurram’s long main town. — MNA/Reuters

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 6 June, 2008

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MCP ROTTERDAM VOY NO (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP ROTTERDAM VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

US provides $50,000 in aid to storm-ravaged Nicaragua

MANAGUA, 5 June—The US Agency for International Development (USAID) on Monday donated 50,000 dollars toward relief efforts in western Nicaragua, hit by tropical storm “Alma” over Thursday and Friday.

The money will be used to buy zinc sheets to repair roof around 130 to 150 houses damaged in the storm, which developed into a Category 1 hurricane before making landfall Thursday, US Ambassador to Nicaragua Paul Trivelli said.

He said that the donation will be channeled through the Nicaraguan organization of “Save the Children” to a programme in the western provinces of Leon and Chinandega.—MNA/Xinhua

Briton arrested after 15-year-old girl stabbed

LONDON, 5 June—A man in his 30s was being questioned by police on Tuesday after a 15-year-old schoolgirl, who was found stabbed in a lift, became the 16th teenager to die violently in London this year.

Officers found the girl, who has not been named by police, on Monday suffering from multiple stab wounds to the neck and chest and being questioned by detectives.

A police spokesman said on Tuesday he was still in custody and being questioned by detectives.

MNA/Reuters

Portugal calls for Int’l aid for poor countries

LISBON, 5 June—Portuguese Agriculture Minister Jaime Silva said Tuesday that the international community should extend effective “structural aid” to poor countries hit by hunger.

Silva also proposed special cooperation between Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries to face the international food shortage. It is necessary an answer to the hunger problem instead of a theoretical discussion of the problem, Silva told the Press after meeting with fishermen.

Silva made these remarks before traveling to Italy to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which began on Monday and ends Thursday in Rome, Italy. “The FAO and its members must give an answer today because hunger has already come,” Silva said.—MNA/Xinhua

Thunder storms cause damage in N-W Europe

BRUSSELS, 5 June—Thunder storms swept across northwestern Europe Monday night, causing flooding and lightning damage in cities, towns and villages.

Heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning hit the Netherlands overnight, causing damage in the south, east and central Netherlands, Dutch media reported Tuesday.

In several municipalities, lightning struck houses and power was cut or television cable signals were disrupted. Some 700 houses were left without electricity due to lightning in a village in the southeastern province of Limburg.

In the southwestern province of Zeeland, water flooded the Vlakte tunnel. Fire brigades received many calls requesting assistance in cases of flooding and lightning strikes on buildings.

Lightning also set trees afire, while strong winds caused other trees to fall, damaging cars and homes.

Excessive rains also caused problems on highways, with some tunnels flooded and in some cases cars overturned. In Belgium, the first thunder storms hit at around 05.00 pm local time (1600 GMT) in the northern provinces of East Flanders and West Flanders, Belgian broadcaster VRT reported Tuesday.

In Ghent, capital of East Flanders, lightning struck a signal box, disrupting rail traffic.

The storms moved across Brussels and through the provinces of Flemish Brabant, Antwerp and Limburg. The southern part of the country was also hard hit by the storms, with road and rail traffic seriously disrupted.

Large amounts of drugs seized in S-E Turkey

ANKARA, 5 June — Turkish Security Forces confiscated 97 kg of heroin and 216.5 kg of hashish in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday.

The Security Forces confiscated 97 kilos of heroin in an operation launched in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir on Tuesday, said the report, adding that four people were arrested in connection with the illegal drug smuggling. On Monday, the police seized 216.5 kilos of hashish in separate operations conducted in southeastern provinces Urfa and Hatay and five people were detained. Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in western Europe. — MNA/Xinhua

Boost funds or forget bigger world role, EU told

BRUSSELS, 5 June — The European Union must boost its foreign policy funding if it wants to play the wider global role envisaged under a new EU treaty yet to be adopted, a senior member of the European Parliament said on Tuesday.

The Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee chairman said the 2007-2013 budget of 1.74 billion euros (2.71 billion US dollars) was inadequate for the broader role foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty that will take effect on January 1 if ratified by member states.

“Either we have to beef up foreign policy financially, or we have to rethink whether we really want to be a global player,” Jacek Saryusz-Wolski told a news briefing.

He said he would go to Paris with colleagues next week to discuss the issue with France, which will take over the rotating EU presidency on July 1.

“We ask why nothing ready, prepared for the events that will happen (the treaty) goes into force, and we haven’t had an answer,” he said.

“We are asking this question also: do you have any hidden reserves? What’s your view? How to finance the new set up? No answer.”

He said the delegation would meet French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, Defence Minister Herve Morin and Europe Minister Jean-Pierre Jouyet.— MNA/Reuters
Nearly 3 million receiving antiretroviral therapy

Geneva, 5 June — Nearly three million people are now receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in low- and middle-income countries, marking an important step in the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

The year 2007 saw the British- made antiretroviral therapy (ART) brought to almost three million people (950,000) receiving ART, bringing the total number of recipients to almost three million, the Geneva-based UN agency said in a report on progress in HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

According to the report, the rapid scale-up of ART can be attributed to a number of factors, one of which is the increased availability of drugs, in large part because of price reductions. Another factor is the improved ART delivery systems that are now better adapted to country contexts. A third factor is increased demand for ART as the number of people who are tested and diagnosed with HIV climbs.

An Indonesian National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) chief Sugiri Syarif said on Tuesday Indonesia’s population is now recorded at 262 million, which meant that Indonesia has turned the fourth most populous country after China, India and the United States.

Syarif said the increase of Indonesian population was relatively big but the growth rate was relatively slow thanks to the implementation of the national family planning programme. In order to make the family planning programme successful, Indonesia has applied two family planning programme systems, namely the use of contraceptive devices and the appeal on young couple to delay their marriages.

Indonesia, after launching its family planning programme, was ranked 50th in the list of countries with fast population growth.

UK confirms H7 bird flu outbreak at poultry farm

London, 5 June — An outbreak of bird flu has been confirmed at a poultry farm in southern England although tests indicate it is not the virulent H5N1 strain, Britain’s Farm Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement chicken on a farm in Oxfordshire had an H7 strain of bird flu, adding further tests were needed to determine whether the virus was highly pathogenic.

All birds on the farm had been slaughtered as a precautionary measure.

The strain involved in the outbreak is not the deadly H5N1 virus, which has killed more than 230 people since 2003 and resulted in the deaths of millions of birds. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesian military jet skids off runway

Jakarta, 4 June — An Indonesian Air Force jetfighter ran out of the runway after completing a training session in Riau Province Tuesday, but the pilot was unhurt.

The British-made Hawk-100 broke its left landing gear when landed on the Sultan Syarif Kasim Airport in the provincial capital Pekanbaru and skidded off the runway reported the national Antara news agency.

Tainted cooking oil kills 8 in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, 5 June — Authorities closed 16 cooking oil factories in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Tuesday after eight people were killed and scores sickened by food cooked with contaminated oil.

In a statement, the Health Ministry said 94 people were in hospital with suspected poisoning, and urged the public to only buy cooking oil marked with government safety stamps. “Study indicated that a highly toxic oily fruit, unfit for human consumption, had been mixed with other ingredients by the factories processing edible oil,” the statement said. — MNA/Reuters

Japan urges households to save energy

Tokyo, 5 June — The Japanese Government on Tuesday called on households to conserve energy as part of the efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the face of climate change.

Although Japan’s household carbon dioxide emissions are comparatively lower than those in the United States and Europe, its household energy consumption registered a 44 per cent surge over the 15 years between 1990 and 2005, said a government white paper released Tuesday.

But household energy consumption in Japan surged 44 per cent in 2005 from 1990, said the white paper on the environment and recycling. Energy consumed for hot water accounts or 30 percent of the household overall energy consumption, said the government document on the environment and recycling, urging Japanese households to shorten showers by 1 minute a day and introduce solar power and energy-efficient water-heating systems.

MNA/Xinhua

Six year old Zachary Villeneuve, who is autistic, uses the ‘Zac browser’ at his home in Saint Remi, Quebec, on June 1, 2008. The Web browser was developed by his grandfather John LeSieur for use by autistic children.—INTERNET

A field sample of mosquitoes. Scientists have blocked the sexual development of the malaria parasite in the laboratory, opening the possibility of a drug that could sharply reduce the disease’s spread, according to a new study.—INTERNET

A visitor views art pieces at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London on June 4, 2008. British artist Tracey Emin has “sezzed” up the Summer Exhibition at London’s Royal Academy, bringing graphic images to an annual event traditionally seen as a strait-laced celebration of art.—INTERNET
Spain labour to 1-0 Euro 2008 warm-up victory over USA

SANTANDER, (Spain), 5 June — Spain laboured to a 1-0 Euro 2008 warm-up victory over the USA here on Wednesday night, badly missing injured striker David Villa and midfielder Andres Iniesta.

Xavi Hernandez scored the only goal of the game in the 78th minute for a side which lacked ideas, particularly in the playmaking role in which Iniesta excels and up front where Valencia’s Villa would have made a difference.

Villa is suffering from a right quadriceps injury after a training ground incident on Tuesday and tests revealed a major bruise. Iniesta missed the match because of food poisoning.

Aragonese almost fielded the same side which had trouble beating Peru 2-1 last Saturday, though Santiago Cazorla and Cesc Fabregas came in for Iniesta and Villa against Bob Bradley’s American side.

As for the USA, Kansas City Wizards striker Eddie Johnson caught the eye with a shot and a headed chance before and after the break.

Liverpool’s Fernando Torres, who was playing despite ankle problems, had a great chance midway through the first half though American keeper Tim Howard was up to the task.

Torres eventually came off for Dani Guiza, the Spanish league’s top scorer, which gave the attack more pace. —INTERNET

British team plan to beat the heat with special chamber

BISHAM ABBEY (England), 5 June — The British Olympic team plan to beat the heat at the Beijing Olympics with the help of an environmental chamber that simulates the Chinese capital’s stifling temperatures and humidity.

The seven-metre by seven-metre room filled with exercise machines is the largest non-military chamber of its kind in Britain and unique in that it can simulate different temperatures and humidity as well as altitude.

"Medals are separated by very tiny, tiny amounts," Scott Donner, a scientist at UK Sport whose organisation supports British Olympic athletes, told a news conference on Wednesday. "So it is crucial we cover every base we can.” He said officials monitored athletes in the chamber, set to around 30 degrees Celsius and about 70 per cent humidity, to see how their bodies responded to the heat and humidity during exercise.

Dawer said some athletics might need a cooling vest before an event while dipping feet into a bucket of cold water or drinking certain amounts of liquids might work better for others. — MNA/Reuters

Small host cities facing big weather challenge

BERNE, (Switzerland), 5 June — Euro 2008’s small host cities are likely to face a big challenge on the tournament’s opening weekend with bad weather forecast to disrupt the organizers’ open air plans.

Room has been made for tens of thousands of supporters at outdoor fan zones in the eight host cities across Austria and Switzerland but organizers said many would struggle to provide covered alternatives in the case of storms or heavy rain.

“I would not go as far as to call it a disadvantage but the small, compact nature of the Swiss and Austrian host cities would certainly present us with a challenge if the weather was bad,” said Swiss tournament director Christian Mutschler.

“It was similar in Germany, though, before the 2006 World Cup with bad weather right up until the start of the tournament and then a month of almost constant sunshine. So we’re hoping history will repeat itself,” he told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Format means group rivals cannot meet again in final

VIENNA, 5 June— Three of the last five European championship finals have been played between teams who had already met in the group phase but it cannot happen at Euro 2008 after UEFA changed the format of the draw.

Jautzy “see you again in the final” fulltime handshakes will now be replaced by the less appealing “Auf Wiedersehen until the last four”.

It is particularly bad news for France, Italy, Netherlands and Romania, who face off in a tough Group C, with the two successful sides having to meet again in the semi-finals if they both get through their respective quarters.

That means there is no chance of a repeat of the 2006 World Cup final, when the Italians beat France on penalties, or the Euro 2000 final, when the French beat Italy with a golden goal.

The disappearance of the system where anyone could play anyone in the final has also skewed the betting. — MNA/Reuters

Russia’s Svetlana Kuznetsova jubilates after defeating Estonia’s Kaia Kanepi during their quarterfinal match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on 4 June, 2008. —INTERNET

Russia’s Elena Dementieva returns the ball to Russia’s Dinara Safina during their quarterfinal match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on 4 June, 2008. —Internet

Santos ignore Pele’s advice and name new coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 June — Santos have ignored the advice of their most famous former player Pele and named Cuca as their new coach.

Pele, who has no official role at the club but often watches home games, said Monday that he wanted caretaker coach Marcio Fernandez to be given the job on a long-term basis. "He showed that he knows the job in the game against Sao Paulo," said Pele, after Fernandez took charge of the team for Sunday’s goalless draw with the Brazilian champions.

"He changed the team formation and got a draw. Everyone deserves a chance to get a foot in the door. I would leave Marcio in charge."

But Santos said on their website (www.santosfc.com.br) on Tuesday that Cuca, who quit last week as coach of Botafogo, had been named as the replacement for former Brazil coach and goalkeeper Emerson Leao, who resigned one week ago.

Cuca, 44, has already coached Guaia, Gremio, Sao Paulo, Parana, Sao Caetano and Flamengo as well as having two stints with Botafogo.

Brazil has one of the world’s highest turnover of coaches. Fifteen coaches have either resigned or been sacked at the 20 first division clubs since the season began in January, with seven falling in the last three weeks alone. — MNA/Reuters

Swiss police nabbed in T-shirt blunder

ZURICH, 5 June — Police officers in Geneva who unwittingly commissioned hundreds of counterfeit T-shirts and caps carrying the official Euro 2008 logo have been found out by their own special anti-fraud unit set up for the tournament.

Officers had 500 shirts and 250 caps made with the Geneva police and Euro 2008 logos, with the order worth around 10,000 Swiss francs (6,200 euros), Geneva police spokesman Jean-Philippe Brandt said on Tuesday.

However, when colleagues from the anti-fraud unit investigated the company that made them they found it did not have permission from organisers UEFA to use the tournament logo as it had claimed, he added.

Police immediately stopped selling the items to the public and are waiting for a decision from UEFA before deciding what to do with them, Brandt said.

"We might just give them away at a sports event we are planning in September," he said.

The tournament being co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland gets underway on Saturday and ends on 29 June. — MNA/Reuters

The Beijing 2008 Olympic torch relay kicks off in Xiangtan City, central China’s Hunan Province on 5 June, 2008. —Xinhua
Weather for Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 6-6-2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Chin, Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Shan State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (1.41) inches, Pinlaung (3.15) inches, Thandwe (2.87) inches, Yangon (Central) (2.68) inches, Ann (2.40) inches, Yamethin (2.36) inches, Bhamo, Sittway and Bago (1.93) inches, Pyay (1.46) inches and Myingyan (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 4-6-2008 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 5-6-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-6-2008 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 4-6-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 5-6-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.75) inch at Kaba-Aye and (2.68) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (3.32) inches at Mingaladon, (37.80) inches at Kaba-Aye and (49.84) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 4-6-2008.

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

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

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at time off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Central Myanmar areas.

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

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

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

7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:45 am
4. Musical programme
8:00 am
5. Dance of national races
8:45 am
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
8:30 am
7. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. Cute little dancers
4:25 pm
3. Song of yesteryear
4:40 pm
4. Song to uphold national spirit
5:05 pm
5. Musical programme
5:20 pm
6. News
5:35 pm
7. Myanmar movie
6:00 pm
8. Evening news
6:30 pm
9. Weather report
6:35 pm
10. Myanmar movie
7:05 pm
11. Irrawaddy "Mingaladon" (Nay Pyi Taw)
8:00 pm
12. News
13. International news
14. Weather report
15. Myanmar movie
8:30 pm
16. Myanmar movie (Mandalay-Myeik)
9:00 pm
17. Myanmar movie (Mandalay-Mawlamyine)
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.

- Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centered persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies the stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.

- Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centered persons and unscrupulous elements.

Self-seekers, unscrupulous elements selling video tapes featuring invented stories to foreign news agencies

People find acts of self-seekers exploiting storm victims abominable

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—Some self-seekers and unscrupulous elements in collusion with internal and external elements are shooting video films featuring made-up stories in the storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady Division such as Labutta and Bogale, and sending the video tapes to foreign news agencies. It is learnt that in the process, they are luring naïve storm victims, asking their hard-cores planted in advance leading questions, and exaggerating the news stories on living conditions of the victims, sanitation and meals in negative views. They are sending the created and exaggerated stories to foreign news agencies for their self-interests. Those foreign news agencies are issuing such groundless news stories with the intention of tarnishing the image of Myanmar and misleading the international community into misunderstanding that the storm victims are helpless.

The people who are in touch with the situations feel that the despicable and inhuman acts of local and foreign anti-government groups and self-centered persons and their exploiting of the storm victims are absolutely obnoxious to them. Similarly, those who are contributing their voluntary services to humanitarian tasks feel that the acts of the self-seekers and unscrupulous persons insult their goodwill and services.

The people have opened the democracy door to Myanmar (2)

When the referendum was in progress the length and breadth of the country, diplomats of foreign embassies to Myanmar and representatives and staff of UN agencies observed the voting processes at the polling stations in wards, townships, and states and divisions. Some of them made remarks of praise when they witnessed the people casting vote. The visitors also found the referendum free and fair.