Without a constitution, democracy cannot be shaped. The public approval of the constitution means opening the way to achieving democracy speedily.

Lu Thi (Padauk Mye)
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, 16 June, 2008

PERSPECTIVES
Monday, 16 June, 2008

Make concerted efforts for speedy development of storm-hit areas

The government is providing agricultural equipment and farm implements for speedy implementation of rehabilitation and development tasks in storm-ravaged areas.

Over 10,000 tons of sawn timber and logs were distributed to those areas to help rebuild towns and villages. Moreover, paddy strains and farm implements were delivered to the farms for timely cultivation of paddy in the monsoon. Farmers are now undertaking their cultivation works.

Destroyed schools and government offices were rebuilt in Mawlamyinegyun Township, one of the storm-hit areas, and all may witness development there in a short time. All the schools in the towns and villages were reopened in the school season as usual and students are studying there.

Phone calls can be made within the region and also with other parts of the country as communication links and CDMA telephones have been installed for public convenience. Up to 90 percent of the task of erecting lamp-posts and installing power lines has been completed.

Offices have also been rebuilt in Bogale and communication systems are operating normally. Achievements have been made in construction and development tasks in no time as the national entrepreneurs and the people are undertaking rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas under the leadership of the government.

Making concerted efforts for nation and community welfare services in the respective role, the national entrepreneurs and the people on their part are cooperating with the government in implementation of the rehabilitation tasks with greater momentum. With their endeavours, the regions will certainly develop together with improvement of socio-economic life of local people.

Industry-1 Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 15 June—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, together with officials, inspected damaged main buildings of No. 19 garment factory of Myanma Textile Industries in Thanylin Township on 13 June. The minister heard the report presented by Factory Manager U Win Myint Tun and officials and urged them to increase the factory production.

The minister also inspected completion of repair for damaged buildings and warehouses of No. 18 garment factory, packing plastic factory, No. 2 footwear factory, packing paper factory, No. 18 garment factory, (Thanylin) and glass factory (Thanylin) of Myanma Ceramic Industries and gave necessary instructions.

Monsoon paddy cultivation commences in Boetiluk Village of Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

YANGON, 15 June—Member (1) of Boetiluk Village Peace and Development Council U Tin Htay on 13 June said that paddy strains provided by the government had been cultivated on 200 acres of farmlands in storm-hit Boetiluk Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township.

There are 141 farmers in the village, and the government has distributed 121 baskets of paddy strains to them. The arrangements are being made to deliver more paddy strains to the local farmers as soon as possible.—MNA

Relief aids to be supplied to the storm-affected regions.

MNA

Peoples’ Desires

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

Maj Maung Maung (Red)-Daw Myint Myint Win and family of U Tun Nytein Street at ward 10 in Mayangon Township donated K 100,000 to Hunzizgon Home for the Aged in memory of the late parents recently.

U Tin Maung Win of the Home accepting the cash donation.—MNA

Power-tillers to be delivered to farmers of Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA
Hamas delegation arrives in Cairo for Gaza truce talks

CAIRO, 15 June — A Hamas delegation arrived here Saturday evening to hear from the Egyptian side about Israel’s response to a Cairo-mediated ceasefire in the Gaza Strip now under Hamas rule.

The Hamas delegation reached Cairo via the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, said the Egyptian new agency MENA. According to MENA, Egypt’s intelligence chief Omar Suleimani is scheduled to hold talks with the four-member Hamas delegation led by senior leaders Khalid al-Haya and Jamal Abu Hashem.

Earlier, another Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo from Damascus, Syria for the same purpose.

Egypt has been acting as a mediator between Israel and Gaza militant groups to broker a ceasefire in Gaza.

Israel wants Gaza militants to stop rocket attacks on southern Israel in exchange for opening the closed Gaza border crossings. It also insisted that any truce with Gaza militant groups should include the release of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli corporal who was captured by three Hamas militant groups two years ago.

However, Gaza-based Hamas spokesman, Sami Abu Zuhri, has insisted that his movement rejects the Israeli conditions to include Shalit in the truce talks as they are two separated issues.

After Hamas movement took control of the Gaza Strip in June last year, Israel imposed a tightened blockade on Gaza, closed down all the border crossings and branded the coastal enclave a “hostile entity.”

Internet

Afghan roadside bomb kills four US Marines

KABUL, 15 June — A roadside bomb exploded near a US military vehicle on Saturday, killing four Marines in western Afghanistan in the deadliest attack against US troops in the country this year, officials said.

The bomb in the western province of Farah targeted Marines helping to train Afghanistan’s fledgling police force, said US spokesman LtCol David Johnson. One other Marine was wounded in the attack.

Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment based in Twenty-nine Palms, California, arrived in Afghanistan earlier this year and were sent to southern and western Afghanistan to train police.

“The mission of the 2-7 Marines was to train and advise and mentor the Afghan National Police as part of the overall police reform strategy being employed here,” said Johnson. “They’re down there dedicating themselves to help create an institution that serves and protects the people of that region.”

The bombing comes one day after US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told his counterparts in Europe that for the first time, the monthly total of American and allied combat deaths in Afghanistan exceeded the toll in Iraq during May.

The four deaths bring to at least 44 the number of US troops killed in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count.

No more than two US personnel had been killed in any one attack in Afghanistan this year, according to the AP tally.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,098

WASHINGTON, 15 June — As of Saturday, 14 June, 2008, at least 4,098 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,338 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is one more than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

Internet

Female suicide bomber wounds 29 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 June — A female suicide bomber targeting a police patrol blew herself up and wounded 29 people in a northern Iraq village on Saturday, local police told Xinhua.

Twelve of the injured, including four policemen, were in serious conditions, said the police.

The attack took place in Qra Taba village, some 70 km east of Baquba, capital of the restive Diyala province.

Internet

Two killed, 12 wounded in Nepal bomb blast

KATHMANDU, 15 June— A bomb exploded at a busy bus station in south Nepal, killing two people and wounding 12 officials said Sunday.

The bomb exploded as passengers waited for a bus at the station Saturday night at Chandraganeshapaur town, about 150 miles south of the capital, Kathmandu.

Rautahat district’s chief official Durga Bhandari said two of the injured were in critical condition and 10 others were in serious condition and getting treatment at local hospital.

“We have stepped up security in the area and have mobilized dozens of policemen to hunt for the assailants,” he said.

A little-known armed outfit calling themselves Tarai Army called the local newspaper to claim responsibility.

Internet
54 tourists dead in China earthquake

Chengdu, 15 June — The 12 May earthquake killed 54 tourists in southwest China’s Sichuan Province but there were no reports of foreigner deaths, the provincial tourism bureau said on Friday. Zhang Guo, the bureau’s head, told a Press conference here that 10,668 tourists had been stranded after the quake, and more than 20 flights and 100 vehicles were used to evacuate them. Vice governor of Sichuan Huang Yanrong said 516 foreigners were stranded. They came from 12 countries, including the Republic of Korea (ROK), 12 countries, including the Republic of Korea (ROK), the United States and Australia. "The number of tourist deaths was reduced to a minimum due to the timely rescue operations," Huang said.— Xinhua

Iran, Iraq reopen their main border crossing

Tehran, 15 June — Iran and Iraq have reopened their main border crossing to facilitate the exchange of people’s visits and regional cooperation, Iran’s English-language Press TV reported on Thursday. The reopening of the crossing at Khosravi of Iran’s western province of Kermanshah took place after a closure of about two years, said the report. The reopening of the crossing would contribute to raising the number of pilgrims to Iraq’s holy Shia cities and boost trade between the two neighbouring countries, the province’s Governor General Abdol-Majid Ghafoori Rozhani was quoted as saying.— Xinhua

60 steel Cos fined in Brazil for producing charcoal illegally

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 June — As many as 60 steel companies in three Brazilian states were fined for producing charcoal illegally, Brazil’s Ministry of Environment and two other institutions announced on Thursday. The penalty will be over 414 million reais (254 million US dollars), and the 60 steel companies will have to plant approximately 2.6 million trees in two regions of the country that badly suffered from environmental destruction caused by the steel companies’ activities. The government also said another 70 million reais (43 million US dollars) will be charged from operators of coal bunkers for extracting charcoal by burning wood. Minister of Environment Carlos Minc said Thursday that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will sign a decree in the next two weeks to issue the deadline for the payment of the penalty.— Xinhua

S’pore, Indonesia end maritime boundaries talks

SINGAPORE, 15 June — Singapore and Indonesia Thursday ended the fifth round of technical discussions on maritime boundaries between the two countries with “substantive progress”. In a joint statement, both sides said that “substantive progress was made towards reaching agreement on the boundary between Singapore and Indonesia in the western part of the Singapore Strait”. The Singapore delegation was led by Arif Havas Oegroseno, Director for Treaties on Political Security and Territorial Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs. After the two-day meeting, the two sides decided to meet again to further their work.— Xinhua

Lebanese Army defuses two roadside bombs in north

BEIRUT, 15 June — Lebanese Army sappers on Thursday safely defused two explosive charges planted on the main highway leading from northern Lebanon to Syria, local Naharnet news website reported. The two bombs were concealed in powder milk cans and linked with a thin wire that allows their simultaneous explosion once fitted with a fuse, a security source was quoted as saying. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bombs were planted along the Abdeh-Homs international highway that leads to neighbouring Syria. Each of the bombs, according to the source, was made up of almost two kilos of heavy explosives that are similar to a bomb that went off at a Lebanese military intelligence outpost in Abdeh almost two weeks ago.— Xinhua

Two bulls square off on a cattle ranch in the remote Southwest corner of Colorado near Durango, Colo, on Saturday, Colo, on 14 June, 2008.—INTERNET

A road destroyed by an earthquake is pictured near Karlahara City, Miyagi Prefecture on 14 June, 2008.—Xinhua

Death toll in Japan earthquake rises to six

TOKYO, 15 June — The death toll in the magnitude-7.2 earthquake which jolted wide areas in northeastern Japan Saturday morning has risen to six as of evening, according to official statistics. At least 11 people remained missing and nearly 200 were injured in the 8:43 am quake, whose epicentre was about eight kilometres underground in southern Iwate Prefecture. The quake, which engendered no tsunami warning, could be felt in almost all areas of the northeastern part of the Honshu Island, including Tokyo, and some part of Hokkaido Prefecture. It was followed by a series of minor and moderate aftershocks.— Xinhua

Looking the other way: Ostriches stand in their enclosure at an ostrich farm near Berlin.—INTERNET

414 million reais (254 million US dollars) will be charged from operators of coal bunkers for extracting charcoal by burning wood. Minister of Environment Carlos Minc said Thursday that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will sign a decree in the next two weeks to issue the deadline for the payment of the penalty.— Xinhua

A road destroyed by an earthquake is pictured near Karlahara City, Miyagi Prefecture on 14 June, 2008.—Xinhua

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Pakistani tribes reach for guns after US attack

GHAZIABAD (Pakistan), 15 June — Fiercely independent tribesmen, angered by a US air strike that killed 11 Pakistani soldiers earlier in the week, vowed to raise a militia to help Pakistan’s Army defend the border with Afghanistan.

Pakistani, a staunch ally in the US-led war on terrorism, denounced Wednesday’s attack on a semi-autonomous tribal region as “unprovoked and cowardly” and said it had undermined the cooperation in the battle against al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Elders from ethnic Pashtun tribes in Mohmand, one of seven semi-autonomous tribal regions, issued a statement late on Thursday condemning the attack as “naked aggression” and said they were ready to raise a “lashkar”, or tribal Army.

“It’s the duty of the government to protect and defend the frontiers and we are ready to raise a lashkar to help our Army in their cause,” the elders said.

“We are ready to fight for our homeland as we fought in Kashmir in 1948,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi says oil meet should seek solution to high prices

RIYADH, 15 June—Top world oil exporter Saudi Arabia said on Friday a meeting of consumers and producers will host 22 June should seek a solution to high oil prices which could hurt the world economy.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi, speaking to state news agency SPA, also reiterated that market fundamentals, such as supply and demand, do not justify current prices, which were trading near 135 US dollars a barrel on Friday.

“The kingdom called this meeting based on its positive role in international relations ... and its commitment to the world economy and a balanced global oil market...,” SPA quoted Naimi as saying.

The comments came on the same day as industry newsletter the Middle East Economic Survey, without identifying a source, said that Saudi Arabia was considering a sizeable boost in production. Oil fell on that report.

Saudi Arabia is considering an increase that could bring its output near to record levels of around 10 million barrels per day (bpd). MEES reported, a move analysts said would dampen prices and lead to rising inventories. “It will have a huge impact,” said Leo Drollas of the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies. “I think we will see large stock-builds.”

MNA/Reuters

2 ISAF soldiers die, one wounded in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 June — Two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) died and another one wounded when they encountered insurgents while on patrol in southern Afghanistan, the ISAF said Friday.

The incident occurred Thursday, the NATO-led military said in a statement, after US attack on a facility of Anxin Coal Mining Co in China’s northern Shanxi Province occurred on Friday morning, when 58 miners were working underground, the official Xinhua agency said.

Fifteen miners had managed to escape, and another nine were rescued, it added.

China, the world’s largest producer and consumer of coal, has the world’s deadliest mining industry.

MNA/Reuters

Drug seizures soar at Australia’s borders

CANBERRA, 15 June — Heroin seizures at Australia’s borders rose to a record high in the last financial year, Australian Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus said on Friday.

The number of heroin import detections increased by 79 per cent in the year to June 2007 to the highest on record, Debus said while launching the Australian Crime Commission’s Illicit Drug Data Report 2006-07 in Sydney.

The number of cocaine busts nationally rose by 68 per cent, and the amount of cocaine confiscated jumped by a massive 1,300 per cent, the report revealed.

Authorities believe most heroin comes from the Golden Triangle in South-east Asia, but there is an increase in supply from Afghanistan. “There are indications that there may be more heroin available from Afghanistan,” Debus said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two militants killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 June — Clashes between militants and Afghan police left two militants dead in eastern Afghanistan while a district headquarters came under rocket attack elsewhere in the east on Thursday, officials said.

Two militants were killed and three others injured as they came in contact with the police in Nadir Shah Kot District, Khost Province at 9:30 am, spokesman of Provincial administration Khyber Pashtun told Xinhua.

He said the firefight took place when the armed rebels opened fire on police van and the police returned fire killing two rebels on the spot.

There were no casualties on police, he stressed.

In the neighbouring Paktia Province, militants Thursday morning fired rocket on Ozai district’s government building but caused no harm, district chief Abdul Wali Zadran told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua

The Audi R10 TDI no 2 driven by Allan McNish of England in the pits to change the driver to Rinaldo Capello during the 76th 24 hours Le Mans motor race, at Le Mans race track, western France, on 14 June, 2008. —INTERNET

Police officers detain Alfredo De Angeli, a prominent farmers’ activist, for blockading the road in Gualeguaychu, on the Argentinean border with Uruguay, on 14 June, 2008. —INTERNET

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China, the world’s largest producer and consumer of coal, has the world’s deadliest mining industry.

MNA/Reuters

Buildings and debris are seen floating in the Cedar River against a railroad bridge on 14 June, 2008, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Days after it rose out of its banks on its way to record flooding in Cedar Rapids, the Cedar River has forced at least 24,000 people from their homes, emergency officials said on Saturday. —INTERNET

27 dead, seven trapped in China coal mine blast

SHANGHAI, 15 June — Twenty-seven miners were killed and another seven remained trapped after an explosion in a Chinese coal mine, state media said on Saturday.

The explosion in a facility of Anxin Coal Mining Co in China’s northern Shanxi Province occurred on Friday morning, when 58 miners were working underground, the official Xinhua agency said.

Fifteen miners had managed to escape, and another nine were rescued, it added.

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
UK restaurants found with unsafe levels of hygiene

LONDON, 15 June — Restaurants run by some of Britain’s largest food chains are failing to meet basic legal hygiene standards, according to an investigation by The Independent published on Saturday. Sushis restaurants did not meet all the legal standards required of them, 20 per cent of Pizza Hut outlets had similar problems according to food safety ratings given by local councils, the survey said. Under law, all restaurants are inspected every two years by environmental health officers and most hand out star ratings of between five and zero. Restaurants with no stars are “very poor” with a general failure to comply with legal requirements. One-star establishments have poor compliance while those with two stars need to make more effort to meet all the legal requirements designed to stop the spread of bacteria that can cause gastro-intestinal diseases. The Independent analyzed the star rating of 1,270 outlets run by 10 of Britain’s best-known restaurant chains, including the likes of McDonald’s, Burger King and KFC as well as some upmarket chains such as Pizza Express, Gourmet Burger Kitchen and Wagamama. Sushi, the Japanese seafood chain, was the worst performer of the 10 chains, with eight of its 23 restaurants in the survey sample receiving two stars or less, the daily said.

French Co to invest $250m to develop resort in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 15 June — A French-financed company will invest $250 million U.S. dollars to develop the Ream Resort Development Company, met with Hun Sen, here Friday. The Premier welcomed the investment and requested of Cambodia to achieve success, it added. Construction of the project will start in late 2008 or less, the daily said.

Arroyo acknowledges int’l partners on economy

MANILA, 15 June — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged the important role of the international community in the development of the Philippine economy, media reports said on Friday.

“It is important to acknowledge the important role that our international friends and allies have made to our national development.”

Three Ohio men guilty in Iraq-linked terrorism case

CINCINNATI, 15 June—Three residents of the state of Ohio were convicted on Friday of plotting attacks on Americans overseas, including the killing of US soldiers in Iraq, the Department of Justice said. A federal jury in Toledo, Ohio convicted Mohammad Amawi, 28, Marwan El-Hindi, 45, and Wassim Mazloum, 27, of conspiring to kill or maim Americans and planning support for terrorists, the department said in a Press release.

Australia to provide 57 mln Australian dollars to ASEAN

JAKARTA, 15 June — Australia would provide 57 million Australian dollars to ASEAN over the next seven years to support the economic integration in the region, the country’s Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said here on Friday.

Microsoft seeks support against Google-Yahoo deal

WASHINGTON, 15 June — Microsoft Corp sought on Friday to enlist support for its opposition to a new advertising collaboration deal between Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc., two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. One day after the companies announced an agreement allowing Google to sell search ads on Yahoo’s website, Microsoft contacted advocacy groups that work to influence policy in Washington.

According to one source who was contacted by Microsoft, the software company said in an e-mail that the Google-Yahoo agreement would “limit choices for advertisers and publishers” and “destroy a competitive alternative”. Specifically, Microsoft takes the view that the deal is akin to a price-fixing agreement, with Google and Yahoo effectively setting a minimum price for advertisements on search engine keyword searches, according to another source familiar with Microsoft’s thinking.

“The effect of that is sitting down and agreeing. ‘We won’t go below (the minimum price),’” this source said. Microsoft also believes the arrangement will lead to the demise of Yahoo’s own search advertising business, eliminating a competitor, he said.

Palestinians throw stones at Israeli Army vehicles during a military operation in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on 14 June, 2008.

INTERNET

Hamas says deadly Gaza blast was an accident

Gaza, 15 June — Hamas’s military wing said on Friday an explosion that killed eight Palestinians in the Gaza Strip was an accident that occurred as militants prepared to carry out a bomb attack.

Hamas initially blamed Thursday’s explosion on an Israeli airstrike, but the Israeli military denied involvement. The blast flattened the two-storey house of Hamas bomb-maker Ahmed Hamouda in the northern town of Beit Lahia, killing six Hamas fighters, a four-month-old girl and a civilian. One of the six men died of his wounds on Friday.

Hamas said Hamouda was not killed in the explosion. —MNA/Reuters
The path leading towards goal

Lu Thit (Padauk Mye)

Today, the number of legal political parties in Myanmar stands at 10, the majority of which abide by the existing laws and engage in the party politics. As is known to all, NLD sticks to the policy of disturbing the State and the people. Maybe it has laid down a policy “Oppose whatever the government does” in addition to the mottoes such as “utter devastation”, “confrontation” and “defy every order”. As long as the party shows negative attitude and makes comments however hard the government is working for national development, the people’s hope for national reconciliation cannot be brought to fruition.

Here, a question may be raised if I am a supporter of the government. If so, I will have to answer “no”. I am not a supporter of any particular group. As a duty-conscious citizen, I will make fair comments on the good and bad deeds of anyone, irrespective of the government, NLD or NUP. I believe every public member has the right to express his opinions with positive attitude.

Of the 10 political parties, NLD is the only party that issues a wide variety of announcements. All the announcements are designed to attack the existing government and harm the interests of the people and jeopardize stability and peace of the nation. They also attempt to prevent the State and the people from marching forward. Anyone can point out, if I’m wrong. To my knowledge, NLD has never made positive endeavours.

NLD issued a special announcement dated 10 June 2008. The theme of the announcement was to oppose the already-approved State constitution (draft) (2008). In the announcement, it said that the government unilaterally drew the State constitution with the persons it had handpicked; that the government did not give any chances to NLD to make reviews; that authorities violated the referendum law by forcing the people to vote “Yes”; that the referendum was not free and fair and the genuine desire of the people could not be sought; and that the constitution was not legal.

The drowning person grabs even a single straw for his survival. Now, NLD is like a drowning person. It collected all possible points for its survival. However, the points it has presented are not more reliable than even a stall. There is not even a grain of truth in their accusations. The accusations were just repeated ones. The party made repeated accusations before and after the referendum. The party is found incapable of quitting such a habit. I think there is something wrong with it.

Moreover, it clings on to the 1990 election results and that rekindled my memories of the last scene of the coloured glass balls seller Jataka. Really, I do not want to see NLD doing so. I do not want the party to act like the greedy glass balls merchant in the jataka.

The State constitution (2008) was approved with the support of 92.48 per cent of the voters or 92.48 per cent approval at all. Without the public consent, government did malpractice, we could not get 92.48 percent approval at all. Without the public consent, there would be no approval of that percentage no mandate of the people. Here, I would like to prove why almost all of the voters supported and approved the constitution.

As the first point, the existing government or the Tatmadaw government since its assumption of the State duties has managed to ensure all-round development of the whole country including hilly regions and border areas. No one can deny that every region has witnessed a large number of infrastructures in the political, economic, social, transportation and health sectors. Today’s people understand well, accept, believe and rely on the government’s all-out endeavours to ensure the long-term interests of the State and the people. As a result, the people unanimously support the national policies of the government, and they voted “yes” for and approved the constitution. It reflected that the people recognized the government’s benevolence towards the nation and the people.

Another point is that national forces such as the Union Solidarity and Development Association and other NGOs are implementing the seven rural development tasks under the guidance of the present government. Rural people notice those rural development undertakings, and cherish, believe and rely on the national forces. The forces and rural residents have been harmonious while working together for rural development. Rural folks absolutely accept the words and organizing measures of the national forces. They also realize and believe the existing government’s hard work for national development. When that was added with the organizing measures of the national forces, rural people unanimously cast “yes” vote for the State constitution. It was largely due to the genuine goodwill of the government.

So, it is not unusual that all the people from cities, rural and hilly regions and border areas approved the constitution in the referendum. Traumatized by nearly cent-per-cent of the people nodding, NLD made various accusations saying it was unfair, the people were forced and threatened and the government abused the power. It tried to guard against the lightning with a toddy palm. In reality, all our people cast “yes” vote in the referendum of our own accord. We had the chance and right to vote freely and peacefully. I never heard from any region where the people were coerced into casting “yes” vote as alleged by NLD. Even if the government did malpractice, we could not get 92.48 percent approval at all. Without the public consent, there would be no approval of that percentage no mandate of the people.

It is fair to say that the people stood by the government as it chose the right way.

Furthermore, our people greatly want democracy. Without a constitution, democracy cannot be shaped. The public approval of the constitution means opening the way to achieving democracy speedily. This is the only wish of our people. NLD’s announcement saying the constitution is not legitimized was in a way to disrupt democratic process desired by the people. In other words, it blatantly opposed the wish of the people. If one cannot represent the people’s wish, one will have to keep away from the people. Blatantly attempting to disrupt democratic process by shouting democracy is indeed very disgusting.

After the constitution has been approved, the people will have the chance to form parties, campaign, canvass and run for elections. I, therefore, assume that getting the approval of the people by standing for multi-party democracy general elections to be held in 2010 will be the best way to democracy transition.

Trying to oppose the process in various ways may cause danger to both the State and the people, I think. Honestly, I would like to warn that resorting to various ways in the interest of one’s own party can lead the nation to run into trouble.

Actually, the approval of the constitution has opened up the way to achieving the goal of democracy. The time will come to try to form parties, campaign and run for elections in accord with the constitution. If one is elected by the people in the election, one will be permitted to have a seat in Hluttaws as a representative and can decide on political, economic and social affairs of the State.

Another point is that prevailing objective conditions are to be taken into account in shaping democracy. If democracy is to be achieved in a quickest and unsystematic way by ignoring prevailing conditions, there would be more disadvantages than advantages. It is totally impossible to forcibly shape democracy that should be achieved in accord with the evolutionary theory. Similarly, we should not forget a saying: “One cannot drink clean water immediately after the start of digging a well”.

So, NLD should choose the way in which the party is to stand for the 2010 election in accord with the already approved constitution so as to continue its survival. This is the best way for the State and the people. In my opinion, this is the best way.

All in all, NLD should change its negative attitude of opposing everything the government does. I also expect its announcements in the interest of the State and the people instead of ones with negative attitude.

No one can deny that every region has witnessed a large number of infrastructures in the political, economic, social, transportation and health sectors.

Translation: MS+ST

*****
Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends rainy season...  

(from page 1)

The commander and wife formally opened the ceremony. Lt-Gen Myint Swe planted a mahogany tree. The commander, the mayor and the patron of Yangon Division WAO grew saplings. They viewed growing of 2,000 perennial trees along the road. A similar ceremony was held at the approach road to Dagon Bridge in Thanyin Township this morning.

Chairman of Thanyin Township PDC U Bo Tun reported on matters related to tree planting ceremony and growing of physic nut.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented saplings to local authorities. Next, the commander, the mayor and the patron of Yangon Division WAO handed saplings to departmental personnel and members of social organizations. Lt-Gen Myint Swe planted a star-flower tree.

The commander, the mayor and the patron of Yangon Division WAO grew saplings.

Afterwards, they viewed growing of trees along the approach road to the bridge.

Likewise, the rainy season tree planting ceremony was organized in front of the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road. Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented saplings to local authorities. Next, he planted a Gangaw sapling (*Mesua ferrea*).

Yangon Division Forest Department started to grow 1,500 acres of teak on a commercial scale in the reserved forests in Hlegu, Hmawby and Taikkyi townships beginning first week of May and 1,200 acres of watershed plantations near the dams in this rainy season. The department will distribute 81,000 saplings to Yangon East District, 53,000 saplings to Yangon West District, 197,000 saplings to Yangon South District and 325,000 saplings to Yangon North District.

158 drug related cases exposed in May

YANGON, 15 June—The Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 158 drug related cases in May.

They seized 76,770 kilos of opium in 36 cases, 1,195 kilos of heroin in 50 cases, 0.2072 kilo of opium oil in five cases, 3,2357 kilos of low-grade opium in 16 cases, 3,4328 kilos of marijuana in four cases, 93,867 stimulant tablets in 33 cases, 61,5658 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, 39 ecstasy tablets in one case, 5,9003 kilos of ice in one case, two Zolant tablets in one case and two other cases.

Action was taken against 245 persons—201 men and 44 women in 158 cases—MNA

Bags of clean water purified with machines by Myanmar Red Cross Society and ICRC for Dedaye Township.—MNA

Cash and kind donation accepted

NAV PYI TAW, 15 June —There were loss and damages in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions due to the severe cyclonic storm, Nargis. Wellwishers may donate cash and kind to the storm victims through the donation centre of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Sub-committee of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee and the respective District and Township Peace and Development Councils in States and Divisions.

Cash donations can be made in person to Col Hla Thien Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue, at No 16/A on Sethmu Road in Yankin Township (telephone: 09-8600109), U Maung Maung Win, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (telephone: 09-8600102), Director U Maung Maung, (telephone 01-543757) and Deputy Director U Kyaw Win Tin (telephone: 01-543765).

Wellwishers may donate relief items to U Than Oo (Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department, Trade Warehouse, No 3 Ward, near Kyaukwaing Pagoda in Mayangon Township (telephone: 09-8600025, 09-8600526 or 09-8600701) and U Aung Tun Khaing (Acting Director-General of Social Welfare Department (telephone: 09-8600702, Fire Services Department (Head Office), near Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township.—MNA

More international relief aid arrives

Yangon, 15 June—Boeing 707 loaded with 40.4 tons of plastic donated by UNHCR at 07:30 am, three IL-76 flight carrying 63.745 tons of packages of mosquito net, 1,667 packages of biscuits, seven boxes of stationery and engine oil contributed by WFP based in Thailand at 08:55 am, 12:45 pm and 14:45 pm, five C-130 aircraft carrying 25.88 tons of eight tents, 464 packages of drinking water bottle, 8,214 plastic containers, 600 packages of rope, 4,040 packages of plastic, 5,000 towers and 2,150 toothbrushes and soaps presented by the United States of America at 09:15 am, 09:30 am, 10:00 am, 10:44 am and 15:50 pm, Boeing 747 loaded with 88 tons of 2,000 packages of personal hygiene items, 10,000 packages of plastic tankers and 10,000 packages of tarpaulin donated by ICRC and Red Crescent at 12:25 pm and IL-76 flight carrying 8,195 tons of 417 packages of plastic tankers donated by Doctors Without Borders based in Switzerland at 12:55 pm arrived at the Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Relief aid contributed by ICRC and Red Crescent arrives at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

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MNA
Deputy Minister donates cash and relief supplies to storm-hit monasteries

YANGON, 15 June—Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko arrived at Dhammikayon monastery in Kyun Aung Township this morning, where he together with Shiwepaya-kyuang Presiding Sayadow of Singapore Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Ven Shi Fa Zhao and lay persons from Singapore and K 2 million by U Pwint Kaung and Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theungi Daw Khin Nwe Yi (Shwebazun) and spoke words of thanks and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

Cash donated for reconstruction of monastery, school building in Pyapon

YANGON, 15 June—Sasana Lincara Shwekyaung Monastery and Basic Education Primary School of Watawgon Village in Pyapon Township were damaged by the storm on 2 and 3 May. Presiding Sayadow Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ratthisara of Mingalayama Pali Monastery in Botataung Township and members of Taunggup Township Sangha Nayaka Sayadaws donated robes, provisions and cash. Director of Asia Express Co Ltd Thu Dhamma Mani Joticadhara Dr Maung Maung Oo – Daw Aye Aye Myint stationery worth K 150,000 for reconstruction of the monastery, school building and for school children to continue their learning.

Those who wish to contribute cash to funds for reconstruction of the monastery and school building may contact the Presiding Sayadow of Mingalayama Pali Monastery on Theinbyu Road in Botataung Township (Ph-01-392543).

Mobile team of National TB Control Project provides medical treatment to patients in Labutta Township.—HEALTH

A specialist of National TB Control Project gives medical treatment to a child in Labutta Township.—HEALTH

Mobile health care team provides medical treatment to storm victims in Labutta

YANGON, 15 June—A 15-member mobile public health care team led by Assistant Director Dr Moe Zaw of National TB Control Project of the Ministry of Health, accompanied by Dr Hans Kluge of TB Control of WHO left for Labutta Township to ensure public health care services to be carried out with added momentum on 11 June. The mobile health care team led by Dr Moe Zaw made field trip to Bikyut rural health centre and Dr Htay Lwin to Gantaik rural health centre. The mobile health care teams provided medical treatment to TB and leprosy patients after searching for them but they also did to pregnant women and infants. In addition, they gave educative talks on TB, malaria, AIDS, leprosy, infectious diseases, environmental sanitation, and self-cleanliness to the local people and distributed pamphlets, journals and posters to them. The team led by Dr Moe Zaw made field trips to Tebinkine and Ihwaza villages in Pyinshu and Dr Htay Lwin to Zinywelgyi, Zinywellay and Ye Wai villages on 13 June. The mobile health care teams will make field trips to the remaining villages in Labutta Township and provide medical treatment to the patients there.

Well-wishers continuously make donations for storm victims

NAV PAYA, 15 June—Well-wishers from States and Divisions continuously donate cash and kind to the storm victims. The people and family members of regiments and units from Sagaing Division donated 10 power-tillers worth K 27,388,200 and personal goods to the Financial Subcommittee today. The Financial Subcommittee today accepted cash and kind worth K 27,494,900 including K 100,000 donated by a well-wisher. So far, the subcommittee has accepted cash and kind worth K 12,418,387,896. — MNA

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Rehabilitation measures being taken at grassroots-level in Mawlamyinegyun Township

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

On arrival at Mawlamyine at 11 am on 12 June, we waited in a boat until the heavy rain stopped. As soon as the rain stopped, we went round the town. In the urban area, we are surprised to witness only very few number of ravaged houses and buildings. It was unbelievable that although Mawlamyine was severely hit by the storm, the rehabilitation measures have been taken there promptly.

Chairman of Mawlamyine Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Khaing made an arrangement to enable, us, the media men to be able to cover the news on rehabilitation tasks in the township. He explained, “The township is set up with 517 villages in 101 village-tracts, and the urban area is formed with 13 wards. The rehabilitation tasks are being undertaken daily. Especially, relief supplies and agricultural equipment provided by the government are being distributed to storm-hit villages for rehabilitation tasks.”

The villages namely Nathmu, Kyahon, Kyetsha, Mabay, Kyunchaung, Shaukchaung and Myatthaywawa were severely hit by the storm in Mawlamyine Township of Ayeyawady Division. Therefore, priority is being given to these villages in delivering rehabilitation items. In addition, the equipment for rehabilitation and farming implements are being distributed to the above-mentioned villages and surrounding villages.

Township PDC Chairman U Aung Kyaw Khaing said, “Power-tillers, buffalos and paddy strains are being distributed to the farmers to regenerate the agriculture tasks. At present, the relief camps have been closed. The storm victims have gone back to their native villages. We are delivering agricultural equipment and fuel provided by the government to them. Due to such contributions of the government, the farmers went back to their regions of their own accord to restart their farming works.”

In repairing the storm ravaged schools and offices in Mawlamyine, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt closely supervised distribution of corrugated iron sheets, nails and rehabilitation equipment. Furthermore, construction companies namely TZN, A-1 and Original Group participated in constructing the buildings. As a result, Mawlamyine has recovered from the storm-hit status in a short time. Due to completion of repairing works, a total of 14 schools in Mawlamyine has reopened in early June. Likewise, all the schools in villages of the township have been reopened as usual in the township.

With regard to the communications sector in the township, in-charge U Tun Tun Oo of Mawlamyineyung Township Microwave Station said, “The ravaged building of the microwave station was repaired in a few days after the storm. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has reinstalled four satellite telephone lines. Moreover, four auto-telephone lines were installed at Myanma Microwave Station for the public calls. At present CDMA telephone lines have been repaired 95 per cent through the concerted efforts of the Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.”

We witnessed that there are public telephones and CDMA terminals at any place and roads of Mawlamyine. All the telephone line-posts have been re-erected.
Three charged over House of Commons protest

LONDON, 15 June — Three protesters who staged a rooftop protest at the Houses of Parliament to demonstrate against Heathrow’s expansion have been charged with trespass, police said late on Friday.

But a parliamentary worker, who was accused of helping protesters stage the climate change protest, will not face charges, a Scotland Yard spokesman confirmed to Reuters.

The unnamed 26-year-old, who had worked for at least one MP and one peer, was arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting the “Plane Stupid group” members to breach Westminster security.

Late on Friday the members were charged with trespass under the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act 2005, police said.

Graham Thompson, 34, from Stamford Hill, Tamsin Omond, 23, from Belsize Park, both in north London and Olivia Chessell, 20, from Cambridge will face Westminster Magistrates’ Court later this month, police said in a statement.

“On Wednesday 27th February 2008 at Westminster SW1A as a trespasser entered or were on a protected site which was a designated site, namely The Palace of Westminster, contrary to Section 128 of the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act 2005,” police said.

MNA/Reuters

WFP says gunman kill driver in Somalia

NAIROBI, 15 June — Gunmen have murdered a driver working for the UN’s World Food Programme in southern Somalia, the humanitarian organization said on Friday.

Hassan Abdi was the third WFP-contracted driver to be killed in the Horn of Africa nation this year. He was taking food trucks delivering life-saving food. Our condition to the family.” Fighting between Somalia’s interim government and Islamist rebels has triggered a humanitarian crisis that aid workers say may be the worst in Africa.

 Theo Wolfe/World Food Programme

South African court bans AIDS vitamin trials

CAPE TOWN, 15 June — A South African court on Friday issued an order banning unauthorized clinical trials of vitamin therapies for AIDS conducted by a team including a former adviser to President Thabo Mbeki.

The Cape High Court ruled against German physician Matthias Rath and US doctor David Rasnick, a former member of Mbeki’s AIDS advisory council, in response to a case brought by the lobby group Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and the South African Medical Association (SAMA).

“The two bodies accused Rath of conducting illegal clinical trials among poor blacks and profiteering by selling and distributing unregistered vitamin treatments among poor communities,”

MNA/Reuters

Space shuttle “Discovery” safely lands in Florida

WASHINGTON, 15 June — The US space shuttle Discovery returned home on Saturday at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, ending its 14-day construction mission for the International Space Station.

Discovery, with seven astronauts aboard, touched down at 11:15 am EDT (1515 GMT) at Kennedy, the space shuttle’s home port, NASA TV showed.

Weather conditions at the landing site were near-excellent for Discovery’s homecoming, with light sea breezes, good visibility and scattered clouds at 3,000 feet.

The shuttle continued to come to a full stop on the runway shortly. “Everything looks very good,” NASA TV commentator announced.

MNA/Xinhua

“Phoenix” lander gets close-up look at Mars dirt

WASHINGTON, 15 June — New observations from NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander provided the most magnified view ever seen of Martian soil, showing particles clumping together even at the smallest visible scale, the mission science team reported on Friday.

In the past two days, two instruments on the lander deck — a microscope and a bake-and-sniff analyzer — have begun inspecting soil samples delivered by the scoop on Phoenix’s Robotic Arm. Images from Phoenix’s Optical Microscope showed nearly 1,000 separate soil particles, down to size smaller than one-tenth the diameter of a human hair. At least four distinct minerals are seen, the team said.

“Atmospheric monitoring of air by Phoenix’s TES instrument were consistent with a warm day and calm wind and no water being observed on the surface,” said Phoenix’s principal investigator, Dr. Steve Squakes of Cornell University. "It is a disappointment that we were not able to fly a small helicopter over the landing site, but it was not possible to achieve the necessary lift-to-weight ratio for a successful flight for our balloon we used as a test flight on Thursday," Squakes said.

A bus splashes through a flooded street in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 14 June, 2008. A dozen people were killed and millions were affected by rainstorms continued to lash south China over the past several days. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

A South African court on Friday issued an order banning unauthorized clinical trials of vitamin therapies for AIDS conducted by a team including a former adviser to President Thabo Mbeki.
G-8 finance ministers meeting opens in Osaka

Osaka (Japan), 15 June — Finance ministers from the Group of Eight (G-8) gathered Friday in the central Japanese city of Osaka to discuss the world economy, global warming and aids to African development in the run-up to the G-8 summit scheduled for 7-9 July in Hakkaido.

Under the chairman-ship of Japanese Finance Minister Fukushiro Nukaga, the G-8 session started with an “outreach” dinner, during which the G-8 ministers discussed such issues as food and other commodity prices with ministerial parti-cipants from Australia, Thailand, Brazil, China, South Korea and South Africa.

The G-8 session will focus on worldwide inflationary pressure that stems from soaring crude oil and food prices and mid- and long-term approaches to improve the supply-demand relations in the field of energy.

The G-8 meeting is also expected to approve in principle the establishment of the Climate Investment Funds, financed mainly by the United States, Japan and Britain, to help developing countries with measures to curb global warming.

European com-mission, the current EU chair Slovenia and International organiza-tions such as the International Monetary Fund are also invited to the outreach meeting.

The issue of climate change is to be discussed Saturday at the outreach breakfast before the G-8 finance ministers begin at 9:30.

Hu pledges to enhance coop with South Africa

BEIJING, 15 June — China will work with South Africa to enhance exchanges and cooperation to push forward the bilateral strategic partnership, said President Hu Jintao here Thursday.

Hu made the remarks in a meeting with Jacob Zuma, leader of the African National Con-gress of South Africa (ANC).

Hailing China-South Africa relations, Hu said the two nations enjoy frequent high-level visits, effective operation of various cooperation mechanisms and fruitful cooperation in various fields.

The two nations also have close coordination in international affairs and safeguard the common interests of all developing countries, Hu said, applauding South Africa’s firm adherence to the one-China policy.

China values the relationship with South Africa and will make concerted efforts with South Africa to increase exchanges between political parties and promote understanding and friendship between the two peoples, Hu noted.

Hu also expressed gratitude for the sympathy and assistance offered by the ANC and South Af-rica after the 12 May earthquake in Sichuan province.

Israele to build houses for Jewish settlers in E Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 15 June — Israeli municipal officials have endorsed a plan to build over one thousand new houses for Jewish settlers in east Jerusalem, local daily Haaretz reported Friday.

The green light for the construction of 1,300 houses in Ramat Shlomo, a neighbourhood in the northern part of Jerusalem, was given on Tuesday by the Jerusalem urban planning commission, said the report, adding that it is one of the most ambitious expansion plans for settler homes in east Jerusalem.

About 2,000 homes have already been built for Jewish settlers in the same neighbourhood, according to the report, though the Palestinians and international com-munity have repeatedly condemned such expan-sion activities by the Jewish state in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

“We firmly condemn this project which reveals the Israeli government’s intention to destroy peace,” Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told reporters, responding to the decision. “The international community must make Israel stop its settlement activity if it wants to give peace negotiations a chance.”

Earlier this month, Israeli Housing Ministry also announced plans to construct 884 new houses in east Jerusalem, a part of the Holy City Israel captured during the 1967 Six Day War and later incorporated into the municipal borders of Jeru-salem in an act not recognized internationally.

The accident occurred at Qitian Fertilizer Plant in Anning, about 10 kilometres from the provincial capital Kunming, at 7:40 pm, a spokesman with the Kunming City govern-ment said.

He said the 28 sickened were still in hospital Friday morning.

Local safety autho-rities capped the gas leak shortly after the accident, and an assessment by the environment watchdog suggested no damage had been done, he said.

The cause of the accident is under investiga-tion.

Sulfurated hydrogen, which smells of rotten eggs, killed 243 people in the December 2003 leakage in a well near Kaixian county of Chongqing Municipality.

Poisonous gas kills six, sickens 28 at S-W China plant

KUNMING, 15 June — Six people were gassed to death and another 28 were sickened when sulfured hydrogen leaked at a chemical plant in south-west China’s Yunnan Pro-vince on Thursday, the local government said.

The accident occurred at Qitian Fertilizer Plant in Anning, about 10 kilometres from the provincial capital Kunming, at 7:40 pm, a spokesman with the Kunming City govern-ment said.

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Sulfurated hydrogen, which smells of rotten eggs, killed 243 people in the December 2003 leakage in a well near Kaixian county of Chongqing Municipality.

The two officials who declined to be named said the Taleban fighters inside the jail.

Deadly escape

KANDAHAR, 15 June — Taleban insurgents blew open the gate of a main prison in the Af-ghan city of Kandahar on Friday, allowing hundreds of prisoners including suspected militants to escape, officials said. Under cover of darkness, nearly all of an estimated 1,150 prisoners, including some 400 Taleban inmates, fled from the jail, two officials in the southern city of Kandahar told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Another official said between 750 and 800 prisoners had managed to escape, adding some prisoners were killed in a gun battle between police and Taleban fighters inside the jail.

“I think scores of others are caught up inside,” he said, adding he suspected the gate was blown up by a suicide bomber driving a truck. Several Taleban fighters entered the prison and started freeing the inmates, he said.

The blast caused an unknown number of casualties among the guards, prison director Abdul Qadir told Reuters.

“They (Taleban) used a truck to blow the gate open and all of the guards (at the gate) have been killed and are under rubble,” he said by telephone. As he spoke, bursts of gunfire could be heard in the background.

The two officials who declined to be named said the Taleban fired several rockets at various parts of the mud-built prison. The province is a stronghold of the ousted Taleban movement. — MNA/Reuters

Taleban attack Afghan jail, hundreds escape

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Counterinsurgency in southwest China earthquake zone were recovered from the remote forest-covered mountains and arrived in Yingxiu Town on Friday morning.

YINGXIU (Sichuan), 15 June — The bodies of five crew aboard the military helicopter that crashed on a mercy mission in southwest China’s earthquake zone were recovered from the remote forest-covered mountains and arrived in Yingxiu Town on Friday morning.

Tang Qiliang, deputy director of the political department of the Sichuan Military Area Command, said rescuers were still trekking on foot, carrying the bodies of three policemen and 10 civilians.

The bodies of the crew were placed in coffins in Yingxiu, and driven in hearses to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, where a funeral would be held, said Tang.

He said the other bodies would be returned to their hometown of Lixian, after their recovery.

Bodies of China’s relief chopper crew recovered

An Afghan policeman looks through the debris of the entrance of the Kandahar prison in southern Afghanistan after a prison break on 14 June, 2008. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

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Hu also expressed gratitude for the sympathy and assistance offered by the ANC and South Af-rica after the 12 May earthquake in Sichuan province.
Study says lung cancer no more common in women smokers

WASHINGTON, 15 June — Women who smoke are no more likely than men to get lung cancer but, among non-smokers, women appear to have a higher risk than men, US researchers reported on Friday.

Women who had never smoked were 1.3 times more likely to develop lung cancer than men who had never smoked, Dr Neal Freedman of the National Cancer Institute and colleagues found.

“We noted slightly higher age-standardized incidence rates of lung cancer in women who had

Rain in S China kills six, delays 130 flights

SHENZHEN, 15 June — A rainstorm in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, claimed six lives and delayed 130 flights at the local airport.

All the victims were from Baotian District. Four died after their houses collapsed in the morning while a couple selling fruit were electrocuted, an official with the district government said.

Another person was injured and was being treated in hospital.

The rainstorm also cut traffic, delayed airlines and caused landslides in the Hong Kong border city. — MNA/Xinhua

UN climate talks seek clearer ideas

BONN, 14 June — A UN climate conference urged governments on Thursday to come up with clearer ideas for a new treaty to slow global warming after criticism from delegates that progress was too slow.

The 2-13 June talks are the second this year in a series meant to end in Copenhagen in December 2009 with a new climate treaty. Debate covered issues such as green technology, financing the fight against climate change and helping poor nations to adapt.

Hoping to speed work on the building blocks of a hugely complex treaty, the 170-nation talks agreed to “invite parties to submit ideas and proposals”, especially in writing to sharpen focus. A next session will be held in Ghana in August. — MNA/Reuters

“Phoenix” delivers first soil sample to microscope

WASHINGTON, 15 June — NASA said images received on Thursday confirmed that its Phoenix Mars lander has sprinkled a spoonful of Martian soil onto the sample wheel of the spacecraft’s robotic microscope station.

“It looks like a light dusting and that’s just what we wanted,” said Michael Hecht of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who is the lead scientist for the Microscopy, Electro-chemistry and Conductivity Analyzer (MECA) instrument on Phoenix.

The delivery of scooped-up soil for inspection by the lander’s Optical Microscope, a component of MECA, marks the second success in consecutive days for getting samples delivered collaboratory instrument Phoenix’s deck.

Some soil from an earlier scoopful by the Robotic Arm reached a tiny oven in another instrument on Tuesday, as confirmed in data received early Wednesday. That instrument is the Thermal and Evolved-Gas Analyzer, or TEGA.

New commands being sent to Phoenix on Thursday include instructions to close the TEGA oven and begin analyzing the sample inside, a process that will take several days, NASA Phoenix team reported. — MNA/Xinhua

UK police arrest 29 environmental protesters

London, 15 June — British police have arrested 29 environmental protesters who occupied a train carrying coal to Britain’s biggest coal-fired power station, British Transport Police (BTP) said on Saturday.

Disguised as railway workers in yellow warning jackets and waving red flags, 40 Camp for Climate Action protesters stopped the train on Friday at Snaith, just south of the Drax plant in Selby, North Yorkshire. “The last person was removed from the train shortly after midnight,” said British Transport Police in a statement.

Drax supplies 7 per cent of the UK’s electricity mostly from burning coal, and as a result is one of Europe’s top five sources of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO2), at 4 per cent of Britain’s total emissions.

The environmental campaigners used an iron girder bridge and climbing equipment to scale the 12ft high truck.

“This was a complex operation as many of those arrested had to be cut free having attached themselves to rail vehicles and the overbridge,” the BTP statement added. — MNA/Reuters

A man is reflected in an artwork as he walks past "Andy Warhol and Members of the Factory" by artist Richard Avedon at the Art 39 in Basel on 3 June, 2008. The international art exhibition is running from 4-8 June, 2008. — INTERNET

A giant sculpture representing a splash of water is seen during the Expo 2008 international fair in the northern city of Zaragoza, Spain, on 14 June, 2008. — INTERNET

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi (L), Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura (C) and South Korean Foreign and Trade Minister Yu Myung-Hwan shake hand prior to their meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on 14 June, 2008. — INTERNET

Women who had never smoked, Dr Freedman and colleagues wrote in the journal Lancet Oncology.

His team looked at a survey of 279,214 men and 184,623 women aged 50 to 71 first questioned in 1995 or 1996.

“The questionnaire asked participants about their past and current smoking status, demographics, alcohol intake, tobacco smoking, physical activity, and included a food-frequency questionnaire of 124 items,” the researchers wrote.

They were watched until 2003.

“During follow-up, lung cancers occurred in 4,097 men and 2,237 women,” the researchers wrote.

Among men who had never smoked, 99 got lung cancer, compared with 152 women who never smoked.
Spain’s Villa snatches late win over Swedes

INNSBRUCK, 15 June — Striker David Villa scored a superb stoppage-time winner to give Spain a 2-1 victory over Sweden on Saturday and a place in the Euro 2008 quarter-finals.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic looked to have earned Sweden a share of the points with a 34th minute equalizer, after Spain had taken a deserved lead on 15 with a clever finish from Fernando Torres. But Villa, who hit a hat-trick in Spain’s opening 4-1 rout of Russia, secured the points with a classy close-range finish on the break in the second minute of stoppage-time.

The result gave Group D leaders Spain six points from two games and Greece’s 1-0 defeat by Russia in the day’s late kickoff assured Luis Aragones’s team a spot in the last eight. Sweden and Russia, both on three points, will contest the other quarter-final place when they meet on Wednesday while holders Greece are eliminated. —MNA/Reuters

Holdlers Greece out after 1-0 loss to Russia

SALZBURG, 15 June — Holders Greece were knocked out of Euro 2008 after losing 1-0 to Russia in their Group D match on Saturday, a result that put Spain in the last eight.

Russia scored the only goal in the 33rd minute when Greece keeper Antonis Nikopolidis ran out to try to clear, leaving Konstantin Zyyyanov free to tap the ball into an empty net after clever Sergie Semak’s overhead pass.

Greece, surprise winners of the European Championship in Portugal four years ago, have now lost their first two matches in the group and are eliminated before their final game.

Coach Otto Rehhagel said: “Unfortunately, we couldn’t make use of the chances we had. But I have always said that the Greek team is not one which scores a lot of goals. I had hoped we could get one, but unfortunately that wasn’t the case.”

“We contributed a great deal to the Russian goal, which was unnecessary,” he added. “I thought if we put on more pressure we could get an equalizer but we have to be satisfied—the team we played were first-class, unbelievably fast and secure.” —MNA/Reuters

Scolari says money only one reason for Chelsea move

BASEL, 15 June — Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Saturday money matters were only one of his reasons for joining Chelsea after Euro 2008.

Scolari, whose appointment was announced by Chelsea on Wednesday, began a news conference by making a statement about his move to the English Premier League. “I would like to close a topic that has already been concluded by both parties,” said the Brazilian. “I have to work with the (Portuguese) federation until the end of the tournament and every decision that has been taken, they were aware of all along. (Federation president) Gilberto Madail looked for sponsors but when none came forward he told me I was free to negotiate (my future) ... with whoever I wanted.”

Asked whether his decision to join Chelsea was financial he said: “Yes, that is one of the reasons”. —MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

COLUGELICAL
UIELRAO
REDRESSANTIC
TEVENTSA
ORTAOMEAL
INTINTY
NEEDDOFFEND
XZLAMER
OPPOSEDRIDGE
ROEVRD
DOUBTEVENING
ENTNF
REDFOHTOR

Swedish blame referee for defeat

INNSBRUCK, 15 June — Sweden blamed referee Pieter Vink for their 2-1 Euro 2008 defeat on Saturday, saying David Villa’s stoppage-time winner should have been disallowed and the Dutch official was pressurized by Spain. “It’s a bitter way to lose. I am standing 20 metres away from (Swe- den substitute) Markus Rosenberg being kicked and then Spain go on and score. I hope the referee is dealt with,” coach Lars Lagerback told reporters.

Rosenberg agreed Sweden should have been awarded a free kick for the foul on him earlier in the move.

“We didn’t get any free kicks in the last 20 or 25 minutes,” said the substitu- tive. “The referee ... cost us the game.”

Captain Fredrik Ljungberg also criticized Spain for pressurizing the referee, notably at halftime after Vink had dismissed a penalty claim for handball.

“They did complain a lot at halftime and put pres- sure on. If that’s allowed then maybe we should do the same,” said Ljungberg. —MNA/Reuters

(15 June 2008)

Switzerland 2 · 0 Portugal

Turkey 3 · 2 Czech Republic

Czech Republic’s Jan Polak, center, shoots the ball past Turkey’s Mehmet Topal, right, during the group A match between Turkey and Czech Republic in Geneva, Switzerland, on 15 June, 2008, at the Euro 2008 European Soccer Champi- onships in Austria and Switzerland. —INTERNET

Portugal’s goalkeeper Ricardo, right, dives to reach for the ball during the group A match between Switzerland and Portugal in Basel, Switzerland, on 15 June, 2008, at the Euro 2008 European Soccer Championships in Austria and Switzerland.—INTERNET

Iraq’s Younos Khalaf (10) and China’s Xu Yunglong fight for the ball during the 2010 FIFA World Cup soccer qualifying match at the Olympic Centre Stadium in Tianjin on 14 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Tiger Woods reacts to his drive off the first tee landing in the rough during the third round of the US Open golf championship at Torrey Pines in San Diego on 14 June, 2008.—XINHUA

Switzerland

Turkey

Portugal

Czech Republic
WEATHER

Sunday, 15 June, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr MIST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagon and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah, State, Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (4.41) inches, Ye (3.66) inches, Hpa-an (2.68) inches, Katha (2.08) inches, Thaton (2.05) inches, Myagok (1.96) inches, Pyapon and Pathein (1.77) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 14-6-2008 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 15-6-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MIST on 15-6-2008 was 100%
Total sunshine hours on 14-6-2008 was (0.3) hour approx.
Rainfall on 15-6-2008 was (0.39) inch at Mingaladon, (0.71) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.22) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (35.39) inches at Mingaladon, (42.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (54.68) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MIST on 14-6-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening 16-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, and scattered to fairly widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (45) to (50) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-6-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-6-2008: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-6-2008: One or two 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.

Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies 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-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation

- BBC lying
- VOA deceiving
- RFA setting up hostilities
- Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers

Witness may inform about misappropriation of internal and international relief funds and supplies

Anyone may dial the following phone numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement if he witnesses or knows that the cash assistance and relief supplies donated from abroad and at home to the storm victims are kept for self-interest, traded, used for particular persons and organizations, or misappropriated for other purposes.

Head of Office Ph: 067 404021 and 067 404022
Deputy Head of Office Ph: 09 860 1002