Lt-Gen Kyaw Win supervises development tasks in Tachileik, Mongphyat Townships

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence comforts a patient receiving treatment at People’s Hospital in Mongphyat. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials, met departmental personnel and local people at Aung Myat Hall in Tachileik on 16 June.

Chairman of Tachileik Township PDC U Thein Myint reported on progress of local food sufficiency, agriculture and rural development tasks. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented uniforms, exercise books and stationery to members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Red Cross Brigade and students.

In his instruction, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win expressed thanks for cash and kind donations of the local people for storm victims. He said that as Tachileik is a border town, departmental personnel and local people are to focus on cementing friendship of the two countries and enhancing prestige of the nation, and efforts are to be made for regional development.

In Mongphyat, they met officials and local people at Bayintnaung Hall. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on matters related to the township presented by the chairman of the Township PDC.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented uniforms and gifts to members of the USDA and Red Cross Brigade and students and gave necessary instructions.

In meeting with USDA members, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on their participation in regional development tasks in cooperation with the local people presented by Mongphyat District USDA Secretary U Tun Shwe.

At Mongphyat People’s Hospital, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win comforted the patients and presented cash assistance and gifts to them.

Later, they visited the hospital.—MNA

Beware of rats that are trying to make holes in the walls of the granary

The people should not consider that the baseless accusations will subside one day. We should consider that the accusations are particularly designed to break up Myanmar where there are plenty of crops, as though rats are making holes in the walls.

MAUNG DE DOH

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Relief aid provided to storm victims in Kungyangon

YANGON, 18 June—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Col Than Naing Oo of No. 77 LID, Managing Director U Sein Tin Win of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and donors of Asia World and IGE Companies on 16 June went to Yetain Village in Kungyangon Township by boat. They donated provisions to the Sayadaw of the village and the minister presented household goods, personal goods and stationery to the victims.

Next, the minister and donors met with the victims of Thayet Thonebin Village and provided foodstuffs, personal goods and stationery to the victims.

The minister and party yesterday inspected repair of the lake and lamp-posts in the township and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

MAUNG DE DOH
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 19 June, 2008

Speed up development tasks for storm-ravaged regions

Loss and destruction is great whenever a nation or a person encounters natural disaster and rehabilitation tasks are to be carried out speedily.

A severe cyclonic storm hit some areas in the country during early May and there was a great deal of destruction and lots of lives were lost. Rescue operations were carried out in no time and reconstruction of towns and villages is being undertaken.

Rehabilitation tasks in the storm-ravaged areas are very huge and extensive. As it is not an ordinary task, the government is making efforts for regional development on priority basis.

The respective companies have rebuilt the damaged schools and monasteries in Haingyikyun including a basic education high school (branch) in Kyaukkalat Village in Ngapadaw Township, one of the storm-hit regions. The government has formulated education and health care promotion programmes for the whole region and is implementing them while carrying out the rehabilitation tasks for the local people in the storm-hit regions.

In implementing the reconstruction task of Kyaukkalat Village the village basic education high school (branch) was to be upgraded to a high school with the aim of making long-term socio-economic progress of the local people and turning out human resources in the region. Moreover, the people in the region can enjoy better health care services as Pyapon People’s Hospital was upgraded to 200-bed one and hospitals in Bogale, Mawlamyinekyun and Labutta Townships were upgraded to 100-bed ones.

The government is undertaking the rehabilitation tasks of the storm-hit areas in accord with the requirements of the region. It is necessary for the entire people of such regions to undertake the tasks for improvement of economic, education and health conditions.

A& I Minister meets Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 18 June—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huy Oo met Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa at the meeting hall in Irrigation Department in Yankin township here on 16 June.

At the meeting, they discussed the matters related to the agricultural assistance to be provided by Japanese government for storm-hit areas.—MNA

Electric Power No. 1 Minister meets Thai Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 18 June—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min met Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag at the meeting hall of the Minister’s office in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

They discussed matters related to hydropower projects.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and directors-general, managing directors and officials of the departments under the ministry.—MNA

Rehabilitation tasks resume in Sarkyin village

YANGON, 18 June—Rehabilitation tasks are being carried out in storm-hit Sarkyin Ywama and Sarkyin villages of Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division.

Wa Wa Win company rendered assistance to repair damaged schools in the villages. The students are pursuing learning at temporary tents and village Dhammayons with the minimum delay.

Myanma Agriculture Service distributed 58 power-tillers, 60 cattle and 1800 baskets of paddy to farmers and now they are engaged in the farming work. Sarkyin village has over 9000 sown acreage. Power-tillers, cattle and paddy strains have been distributed to the farmers.

Rice, edible oil, blanket, mosquito net, tarpaulin, aluminium pot and wears were distributed to each rural people.

NLM staff donates blood for 47th time

YANGON, 17 June—Rehabilitation tasks are being carried out in storm-hit Sarkyin Ywama and Sarkyin villages of Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division.

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MNA
Iowa. Rising waters burst through an overtaxed levee on the Mississippi River, sending gushing torrents into an Illinois town as the sodden US midwest reels and Missouri.

Obama rejects McCain terrorism criticism

WASHINGTON, 18 June—Democrat Barack Obama rejected any lectures from his White House rival John McCain on fighting terrorism Tuesday, in a scornful riposte to a day-long onslaught from the Republican’s camp.

"Let’s think about this: these are the same guys who helped to engineer the distraction of the war in Iraq at a time when we could have pinned down the people who actually committed 9/11," Obama told reporters on his plane. "In part because of their failed strategies, we’ve got (Al-Qaeda chief Osama) bin Laden still sending out audiotapes. So don’t think they have much standing to suggest that they’ve learned a lot of lessons from 9/11," he said.

McCain supporters had lashed out at a call by Obama for suspected extremists to be prosecuted, in light of a Supreme Court ruling last week allowing Guantanamo Bay detainees to challenge their detention in the courts.

McCain foreign policy aide Randy Scheunemann said militants had to be fought on the battlefield and not in the courts, and accused Obama of "a perfect manifestation of a 10 September mindset," from a day prior to the 2001 attacks.

"If Obama did receive that 3:00 am phone call, I guess his response would be to call lawyers at the Justice Department," Scheunemann added, referring a campaign ad on national security by Obama’s primary opponent Hillary Clinton. —Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 447

WASHINGTON, 18 June—As of Tuesday, 17 June, 2008, at least 447 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures on 7 June at 10 am EDT. Of those, the military reports 310 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 65 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, two were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantamano Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death. —Internet

US soldiers killed in Afghanistan: 106

LONDON, 18 June—Four UK soldiers, one believed to be a woman, have been killed in Afghanistan after their vehicle was caught in an explosion, the MoD has said.

The explosion happened east of Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province. Prime Minister Gordon Brown praised the dead soldiers’ “bravery, dedication and professionalism”. The dead soldiers’ next-of-kin have been informed. The deaths take the number of British soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2001 to 106.

Three of the soldiers were killed in the blast and another was pronounced dead at the Camp Bastion medical base. One of the dead soldiers was a member of the Intelligence Corps, the MoD said. —Internet

This video frame grab image shows onlookers observing smoldering rubble near a destroyed building after a car bomb tore through a market area in the northwestern Hurriyah neighbourhood of Baghdad, on 17 June, 2008. The bombing, the deadliest such attack in more than three months, has killed more than 50 people and wounded dozens. —Internet

Iran says uranium enrichment is a “red line”

TEHERAN, 18 June—Iran said on Tuesday uranium enrichment was its “red line” and would continue, despite an enhanced offer of incentives from big powers to stop activity the West fears could yield nuclear bombs.

The EU’s top diplomat, Javier Solana, presented Tehran on Saturday with an adjusted package of economic benefits designed to persuade it to curb its nuclear work, and said Iran should stop enrichment during negotiations to implement the offer.

“We have repeatedly said our red line and we should enjoy this technology. The work will be continued,” deputy foreign minister Alireza Sheikhhattartold reporters, according to the state news agency IRNA.

The incentive package agreed by the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany last month and delivered by Solana is a revised version of one rejected by Iran in 2006. Western powers have warned Iran it will face more sanctions if it spurns the offer. Iran has shown no sign it will change its position, and suggested it was in no hurry to respond to the incentives proposal, saying it is being reviewed.

“We will give our answer as soon as possible. But we do not know exactly when it will be,” the Iranian official said. —Internet

Four soldiers die in Afghanistan

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British terrorism suspect is confined to home

LONDON, 18 June—A Jordanian who defeated a British government attempt to deport him as a “significant international terrorist” was freed from prison on bail Tuesday but confined to his home for 22 hours a day.

Omar Mahmoud Othman, known as Abu Qatada, was among the highest profile terrorism suspects in a string of military reports 310 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 65 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, two were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantamano Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death. —Internet

Mississippi River breaks through Illinois levee

GULFPORT, 18 June—The rising Mississippi River broke through a levee Tuesday, forcing authorities to rescue about a half-dozen people by helicopter, boat and four-wheeler as floodwaters moved south into Illinois and Missouri.

But even as the water jeopardized scores of additional homes and businesses, officials said the damage could have been worse if the federal government had not taken steps to clear flood-prone land after historic floods in 1993.

On Tuesday, the flooding halted car travel over two bridges linking Illinois and Iowa and covered tiny Gulfport and the surrounding area with 10 feet of water.

“I’m not going back after this one,” 83-year-old Lois Russell said as she watched water surrond her house near Gulfport. It was the third time she had fled her home because of flooding since 1965. —Internet
**Brazil to build four new nuclear power plants**

*Rio de Janeiro, 18 June — The president of Brazil’s state-owned Electronuclear enterprise said on Monday that four more nuclear power plants will be built in Brazil.*

Ata seminar on nuclear power held in Rio de Janeiro, Othon Pinheiro da Silva said two of the new plants will be constructed in the northeast of the country, one in the southeast while the fourth’s location has yet to be decided.

The details of the projects would be discussed next year, he added.

The four new plants are designed to have a minimum combined generating capacity of 6,000 megawatts, accounting for about 70 per cent of the nation’s nuclear power, and is thus fundamental to guaranteeing the supply of electricity in Brazil in the next two decades, Silva said.

Currently, the joint generating capacity of Brazil’s two operating power plants, Angra I and Angra II, is 2,000 megawatts. Angra III, which will be constructed in the next half of this year, is expected to have a capacity of 1,350 megawatts.* MNA/Xinhua

**India plans to establish 43 new “IT” cities**

*New Delhi, 18 June — India is planning to build 43 new information technology cities across the country to retain its top status in the business and to be in a position to tap the huge surge in demand for IT-enabled services over next 10 years.*

The move comes at a time when the rising infrastructure and employee costs in big cities is threatening to blunt India’s crucial cost advantage, according to the Times of India Monday.

While India has held on to its pre-eminent position, its IT companies are losing their global cost advantage with the emergence of countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, which offer similar services at cheaper rates and are threatening India’s status as the world’s back office. — MNA/Xinhua

**Death toll from Japan earthquake**

*Tokyo, 18 June — Search teams Wednesday recovered another body from the wreckage of a hotel destroyed by a landslide following an earthquake in northern Japan, bringing the quake’s death toll to 11, media reports said.*

According to Kyodo News agency and national broadcaster NHK, the body was the fifth pulled from the site, which was inundated by mud, rocks and fallen trees when the hill behind the two-story inn was sent crashing down by the force of the 7.2-magnitude quake on Saturday.

The reports said about a dozen people were missing and more than 250 injured. Officials could not immediately confirm the reports.

Two more people were believed to have been at the inn when the quake struck, but efforts to find them have been slowed by the volume of mud that has covered the site.* Internet

**Cambodian minister urges ban on old-cars import**

*Phnom Penh, 18 June — Cambodian Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh has called for banning on import of the cars and trucks made before 2000, afraid that Cambodia could become a trash bin for used vehicles, English-Khmer language newspaper the Cambodian Daily said on Tuesday.*

“I am going to propose a ban of cars and trucks (made before 2000) to Prime Minister Hun Sen,” he said at an inauguration ceremony of the national distribution branch of the Hino Motors Ltd of Japan here on Monday.

“Now it is time to encourage our people to use brand-new motors and cars because they have the latest technology,” he added.

The country has long relied on used vehicles that are often sub-standard and the proposed ban would help optimize the country’s vehicle market, he said.

“We can not forbid the import of used cars and trucks (entirely), but we need set a threshold (such as setting their production year at 2000),” he added.

Also on the occasion, Senator Sy King Triv, whose KT Pacific Group jointly established the branch with Hino Motors Ltd, said that Hino will soon fit in with the truck market of Cambodia and upgrade the current situation that second-hand trucks are dominant, hence generating problems like high cost of fuel, low efficiency and frequent maintenance. — MNA/Xinhua

**Venezuelan RCTV journalist stabbed to death**

*Caracas, 18 June — Venezuelan anchorman Javier Garcia of Radio Caracas Televisión Internacional (RCTV) evening TV news has been found dead in his apartment in Colinas de Bello Monte, in southeast Caracas. This was the second slaying of a journalist this early June.*

Garcia, 37, had been missing for two days and was found dead Sunday by his brother in his apartment in Colinas de Bello Monte, in southeast Caracas.

As many Venezuelan families that receive the news of the death of a loved one, today it is our turn to regret the painful and premature departure of a dear coworker and friend, a very respected journalist of this house”, RCTV said in a communiqué.

The Public Prosecutor and the scientific police are early June.

**Rescue workers remove mud as they search for survivors around an inn that was swept away by a landslide in Kuribara, Miyagi prefecture.**

Internet

**A fisherman returns from shopping as idle squid vessels are moored at Niigata Port in Niigata, northern Japan, on 18 June, 2008. Around 3,000 squid vessels halt operations across Japan on Wednesday and Thursday due to soaring fuel costs.**

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Russia becomes 5th largest importer of Turkish autos

ANKARA, 18 June — Turkey’s exports of automotive products to Russia rose by 116 per cent to 687.8 million US dollars in the first five months of 2008, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Monday.

Turkey’s total exports from the automotive sector increased by 46.1 per cent to 11.3 billion US dollars in the same period, said the report.

In recent years, exports from Turkish automotive sector to Russia increased considerably. After Turkey’s automotive exports to Russia hit record high, Russia became the fifth largest importer of Turkish motor vehicles and spare parts. — Xinhua

Son killed, mother injured by lightning in W Canada

OTTAWA, 18 June — A 29-year-old man was killed and his mother injured when they were struck by lightning in Canada’s Saskatchewan Province, reports reaching here said Monday.

The accident happened Saturday when the man was helping his parents build a deck on their cabin in a village located 170 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon, the biggest city in the province.

The son and the mother were down the deck sawing up lumber, when suddenly came one crack of lightning and one sound of thunder, hitting the two, the mayor of the village told reporters. — Xinhua

Indonesia appoints Pertamina to develop Natuna oil field

JAKARTA, 18 June — Indonesian Government has officially appointed the state-owned oil-and-gas company Pertamina to develop Natuna oil field in Riau Province after the failure of extension contract with US-based oil-and-gas company ExxonMobil, the country’s Mines and Energy Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said here Monday.

The minister said that currently Pertamina and the ministry had discussed about the term and condition of the product sharing contract.

“We have appointed Pertamina,” he said at a hearing with the Parliament at the Parliament building here. — Xinhua

Chinese online shoppers spend 16.2b yuan in first half

BEIJING, 18 June — Online Chinese shoppers spent 16.2 billion yuan (2.3 billion US dollars) in 19 major cities in the first half of 2008, China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC) said on Monday.

The findings were based on a survey carried out in four municipalities directly under the central government — Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing — and 15 developed cities such as Changchun, Dalian, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Jinan and Guangzhou, among others.

About 8.4 billion yuan, more than half of the total, came from male consumers, while 3.1 billion was attributed to students. — Xinhua

Photo taken on 16 June, 2008 shows a tourist’s boat sails under a rainbow formed near the Iguazu Falls in Iguazu, Brazil. Iguazu means big water in its Guarani origin. The waterfall, located on the border of the Brazilian state of Parana and the Argentine Province of Misiones, consists of 275 falls with the longest drop height reaching 90 metres. — Xinhua

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US inspector says Army probe of “Reuters” death tainted

WASHINGTON, 18 June — A senior Oil Ministry official, Hosniatollah Ghanimifard, warned the Foreign Office of Pakistan that gasoline rationing launched by the world’s fourth-largest oil producer last year was “unfair” and caused a “massive uproar”. He told the daily Tehran-e Emrooz newspaper that gasoline was estimated at 80 million litres in Iran, above a figure of roughly 75 million litres given by officials when rationing was introduced for motorists in June 2007.

Officials had previously said both consumption and imports fell sharply after Iran launched rationing to curb soaring consumption which had risen well beyond its ability to refine crude, forcing the government to rely on expensive imports.

Pakistan summons Afghan ambassador over Karzai’s statement

ISLAMABAD, 18 June — The Foreign Office of Pakistan Monday summoned the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan regarding Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s recent statement, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported.

Karzai Sunday told a news conference that Afghanistan had the right to self-defence, and because militants crossed over from Pakistan “to come and kill Afghans and kill coalition troops, it exactly gives us the right to do the same”. Strong protest has been lodged to Afghanistan’s ambassador over Karzai’s statement about sending Afghan troops in the Pakistani territory, according to DAWN NEWS.

Responding to Karzai’s statement, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani Sunday told a private TV channel that Pakistan would not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs.

“We will neither interfere in the internal affairs of any country, nor allow anyone to interfere in our affairs,” said Gilani.

Boat sinks off Libya, over 120 missing

CAIRO, 18 June — A boat carrying 180 African migrants en route to Europe sank off the Libyan coast and the Libyan authorities have recovered one survivor and 21 bodies, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said Monday.

The boat sank on 7 June after sailing from the Libyan town of Zuwara, close to the Tunisian border, and was heading for Italy, a ministry spokesman said.

The Libyan Government informed the Egyptian Government of the incident on 13 June because they believe that 12 of the passengers were Egyptians, he added.

The bodies were in such poor condition that it has not been possible to identify them, he said.

The spokesman was reading from an incident report and had no other details.

Iran Govt to ask for $7b for fuel imports

TEHRAN, 18 June — Iran’s Government plans to ask Parliament for 7 billion US dollars Iran withdraws to pay for increasingly expensive fuel imports, a newspaper said on Monday, despite gasoline rationing launched by the world’s fourth-largest oil producer last year.

A senior Oil Ministry official, Hosniatollah Ghanimifard, warned the Foreign Office of Pakistan that gasoline rationing launched by the world’s fourth-largest oil producer last year was “unfair” and caused a “massive uproar”. He told the daily Tehran-e Emrooz newspaper that gasoline was estimated at 80 million litres in Iran, above a figure of roughly 75 million litres given by officials when rationing was introduced for motorists in June 2007.

Officials had previously said both consumption and imports fell sharply after Iran launched rationing to curb soaring consumption which had risen well beyond its ability to refine crude, forcing the government to rely on expensive imports.

Saudis to pump oil at fastest rate in decades

DUBAI, 18 June — The world’s top oil exporter Saudi Arabia will boost output next month to the fastest rate in decades to help keep prices down and tame what it sees as unacceptably high fuel prices.

Riyadh plans to lift output to 9.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in July, United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon said on Sunday after meeting Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi.

That would be a rise of 550,000 bpd or over 6 per cent since May and would take Saudi crude output to its highest monthly rate since August 1981, according to US Energy Information Administration data.

“9.7, that is what he (Naimi) said,” on July output, the Abu Dhabi-based The National newspaper quoted the UN Secretary-General as saying on its website.

The Saudi output plan comes to light a week before the kingdom hosts an unprecedented meeting of producers and consumers to tackle market instability.

A relevant rise in oil prices to well above 130 US dollars a barrel has sparked fuel protests from Asia to Europe and roiled financial markets as policymakers fear higher inflation will slow the global economy.

Saudai King Abdullah told Ban that Riyadh would do its utmost to bring the price down. Saudi Arabia has already increased supply by 300,000 bpd this month from May to meet demand and from buyers primarily in the United States.

UN says Israel restricts its Palestinian staff

JERUSALEM, 18 June — Israel has tightened rules for Palestinian staff of the United Nations who travel in and out of the occupied West Bank, increasing tensions with the world body, internal UN emails and aid workers said on Sunday.

The Israeli Army informed UN officials in Jerusalem that Palestinians using the main checkpoint for the West Bank city of Ramallah were required to cross on foot through a terminal for inspection rather than drive through in their UN vehicles, a UN email said.

The message, sent to employees last week and obtained by Reuters on Sunday, directed Palestinian staff members to use another crossing.

UN Palestinian staff have also been asked at three checkpoints to sign a form used by police in conducting searches and making arrests.

Another internal UN email told staff not to sign the form. Israeli officials had no immediate comment.

An aid worker said the tightened restrictions had “ratcheted up tensions between Israel and the NGO (non-governmental organization) community”.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is visiting Israel and the West Bank this week, criticized Israel for not doing enough to ease restrictions on Palestinians in the West Bank. Several thousand Palestinians work for UN agencies in the West Bank.

Thousands more work in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

Lee Byung-chun (2nd L.), a professor at Seoul National University’s School of veterinary medicine, poses with his assistants and the four cloned puppies at his laboratories in Seoul on 16 June, 2008.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

INTERNET

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INTERNET

INTERNET
Beware of rats that are trying to make holes in the walls of the granary

Maung De Doh

A rat is an animal of destruction. Rats in a forest destroy paddy fields, while rats in towns and villages destroy granaries and barns, steal dried fish from the kitchen, and destroy the clothes in the cupboard. A rat is good at disturbing people. In the process of stealing an egg, a rat grips firmly with its teeth the tail of its fellow rat that is firmly putting its arms around the egg and drags the fellow rat. A rat has a sharp nose and can enter the room through a very small hole of the floor and the walls of a house. If the floor or the wall of the house has no hole, it bites the floor or the wall to make a hole in it. It also digs a hole in the earth to get inside the house.

Underground and aboveground saboteurs at home and from abroad who are desperate to destroy Myanmar are like rats. Their characters are so identical to that of rats, I think they were the reincarnations of rats.

They are such persons who know no regard whatsoever if their fellow members will come to power. Instead of mourning for hundreds of thousands of victims who lost their lives during the storm ‘Nargis’ that rocked the nation, they are happy with the situation of the nation with the thought that the country has got into crises, and they will soon be able to overthrow the government. Frankly speaking, they are like thieves and robbers who want to rob a sick person in bed.

They are also like rats because they are finding ways and means to exploit the consequences of the storm ‘Nargis’ in their bid to attack the government.

Taking advantage of Myanmar people’s interest in omen and astrology, they, in the aftermath of the storm told international news journals that the storm was omens that gods did not want the referendum that would be held a week later, and the storm meant that the heaven would not give mandate to the military government.

They are good at spreading rumours designed to create public panic. A rumour spread with the intention of provoking a public panic in the aftermath of the storm said that the nation would face a storm that would be more destructive than Nargis, and a strong earthquake would happen soon. The rumours still have adverse effect on the people. A rumour said that on 16 May, tidal waves that were as high as a four-storey building would reach Yangon because the lion statues in front of the Shwedagon Pagoda were thirsty. However, some believed. The prices of life jackets and statues in front of the Shwedagon Pagoda were thirsty.

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stated that the nation would face a storm that would be more destructive than Nargis, and a strong earthquake said that the nation would face a storm that would be more destructive than Nargis, and a strong earthquake would happen soon. The rumours still have adverse effect on the people. A rumour said that on 16 May, tidal waves that were as high as a four-storey building would reach Yangon because the lion statues in front of the Shwedagon Pagoda were thirsty. However, some believed. The prices of life jackets and statues in front of the Shwedagon Pagoda were thirsty.

According to the political strategies, only when there was a public panic, they could incite mass riots and they could panic the people into buying rice and edible oil. Then, commodity prices would go up sharply and the people would be dissatisfied with the government and there would be political movements. They were like rats that make holes in the floor or the wall when they did not find any holes in them.

Moreover, they tried to spread rumours about relief and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas.

As the first phase, they drove a wedge between the government and international community. In the plot, they claimed that the government did not accept the international assistance at the expense of the lives of the victims. They also said with a straight face that if necessary, international community would have to use force to enter the nation considering humanitarian assistance. They said so because a naval fleet was being anchored at the entrance to the nation.

When the government refuted the allegation and said that the nation was accepting international assistance, they claimed as though relief officials were misappropriating the supplies.

In their attempt to sow misunderstanding between the government and the people, they claimed that the relief supplies did not reach the storm-hit areas; that the supplies hardly flowed to the storm-affected areas; that the government was forcing the victims to return to their home places that had not been regenerated, and did not render assistance to the victims for their living. They also said that the victims had no cattle or paddy seeds to grow crops. And the farmers would die of hunger due to the fact that the farmlands were flooded by sea tidal waves. The State-owned media had spotlights on the efforts the government, the people, the Tatmadaw and departments concerned had been making in collaboration. So, their accusations did not yield any fruit.

In desperation, they drove a wedge between the servicemen and the people, and among the people. There was an accusation that in sharing the relief supplies in Hainggyikyun, families of the servicemen took more share than the people. In fact, servicemen had their rations. They did not need to rely much on the relief supplies because departments concerned had made arrangements for reconstruction of the ravaged buildings. It had come to the knowledge of local people of Hainggyikyun that a medical team made up of military doctors, and servicemen were participating in the relief and rehabilitation works.

An accusation said that relief camps were set up in the villages, the majority of whose populations were Buddhist Bamar s, whereas the government did not pay enough attention to the villages of Christian Kayin nationals. They also tried to sow discord and suspicions among the national brethren of the Ayeyawady delta by mentioning old incidents such as the Kayin-Bamar conflicts that took place in World War II, and the delta region armed revolt in the internal insurgency period.

In reality, they should not rekindle such incidents or exploit the victims for political gains. The people witnessed on TV that relief and rehabilitation works were being carried out for welfare of the victims, irrespective of race and religion. Similarly, measures were being taken to reconstruct monasteries, Churches and mosques. In safeguarding the people, the government took measures considering itself to be the parents and the people to be its children without discrimination against or in favour of particular persons. Maybe, internal and international donor organizations and private donors will come to lose their generosity gradually. However, the government stand and attitude will remain unchanged and will continue to take care of the people. It will never ignore the interests of any particular citizen under any reasons.

The people should not consider that the baseless accusations will subside one day. We should consider that the accusations are particularly designed to break up Myanmar where there are plenty of crops, as though rats are making holes in the walls. Rats by nature destroy whatever they see as soon as they have got inside the room.

Today, the world has come under various threats such as food shortage, oil shortage, economic decline, battles and terrorism. Onus is put on every citizen to work hard to ensure peace and security of the motherland. Therefore, I would like to urge the people to equip themselves with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit in order that the rat-like saboteurs will not be able to get into the nation.

It had come to the knowledge of local people of Hainggyikyun that a medical team made up of military doctors, and servicemen were participating in the relief and rehabilitation works.

Translation: MS
**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Thursday, 19 June, 2008

**DMS gives medical treatment in Labutta**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June**—A special medical team of Directorate of Medical Services under the Ministry of Defence carried out chlorination and spraying of insecticide at 3rd-mile camp, 5th-mile camp and Yadanadipa Sports Ground in Labutta Township on 16 June. Similarly, the special medical team performed preventive measures and health care services in cooperation with the employees of Ministry of Health and officials in Myaungmya, Bogale, Pyapon, Pathein, Haingyikyun and Ngapadaw townships. —MNA

**37th Directors’ Meeting of Asian Clearing Union-ACU held**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June**—The 37th Directors’ Meeting of Asian Clearing Union-ACU hosted by Myanmar was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

It was attended by Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, governors and vice-governors and delegates to ACU from member countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Secretary-General of ACU and members, delegates from Belarus as observers and officials of Central Bank of Myanmar.

First, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that ACU was first formed over the past three decades. The ACU carried out the tasks in order to improve trade and financial matters among the member countries. It is crucial to gear up cooperative measures in performing trade and ways for payment among the member countries during the meeting.

The ACU was first formed in 1974. Myanmar became a member country in 1977. Cooperative measures were taken in the financial matters including payment and budget in accord with rules and regulations of the ACU and that brought benefits in trade among the member countries.

**PBANRDA Minister performs rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamynegyun Township**

**YANGON, 18 June**—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 16 June met with departmental personnel led by officials of General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs and seven teams comprising members of USDA before their departure for Mawlamynegyun Township to carry out rehabilitation tasks in 16 storm-hit village-tracts in the township. The minister urged them to take part in tasks with strenuous efforts for improvement of rehabilitation tasks effectively and fulfilled the requirements.

The teams will give helping hands in reconstruction of villages, distribution of paddy seeds and ploughing of farmlands in time and fishery sector.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt together with Joint Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Shein and members, social organizations members, Orthopedists and nurses left Mawlamynegyun for Ngwezinayaw village by Shwe Htay Myint vessel and presented rice, edible oil, salt, personal goods, 12 power-tillers and 2496 baskets of paddy seeds to the storm victims of Shaukchaung village-tract and its surrounding villages.

Medical teams provided health care to patients on board Shwe Htay Myint vessel.

Next, the minister and party went to Ngatantaya village and presented rice, edible oil, salt and personal goods to storm victims and K 200,000 for village BEPS to the headmistress. The medical team gave medical treatment to patients on board.

Agricultural and fishery works in the township have returned to normalcy and cultivation of monsoon paddy is being carried out. —MNA

**Man loses leg in KNU insurgent-planted mine blast in Kyaukkyi 1Sp**

**YANGON, 18 June**—A man lost his left leg in a mine explosion in Bago Division on 13 June. On his way to Binbye region to gather bamboo shoots, U Kyaw Nge, 36, son of U Boe Thaw, of Thapyaygon Village in Kyaukkyi Township, stepped on a mine planted by KNU insurgents. The mine explosion blew off the victim’s left leg. He was rushed to Kyaukkyi People’s Hospital in the township. —MNA

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**Fishermen at work in Ngatantaya River in Mawlamynegyun Township. — MNA**

—The 37th Directors’ Meeting of Asian Clearing Union-ACU in progress. — MNA
YANGON, 17 June—
Shwe Toe Aung and Moe Hsan Pan Vessels carrying 5250 baskets of paddy strains arrived in Labutta Township to be able to cultivate monsoon paddy in the villages this morning. Myanma Agriculture Service will distribute paddy strains to the farmers as soon as possible. MNA

International relief supplies keep on flowing to Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 18 June—
International relief supplies are continuously flowing to Yangon International Airport for the storm-hit regions. Two IL-76 planes and two AN-12 planes from Thailand-based WFP carrying one life boat, a package of lift jackets, one engine, 134 coils of rope, 5092 plastic buckets, 80 packing of alum, 84 packages of mosquito nets and 1111 tinned fish weighing 39.645 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8.43 am, 9.56 am, 2.22 pm and 3.25 pm; a C-130 plane from the USA carrying one box of rice, two boxes of tinned fish, 240 boxes of dry noodle, three boxes of cookie, eight packages of blanket weighing 7.463 tons at 8.58 am; a AN-12 plane from Malteser of Germany carrying 628 packing of emergency items weighing 7.117 tons and a C-130 plane from Thailand carrying 23 packing of towel, 342 packing of varieties of foodstuff, 347 packing of medicine, 342 packing of bottled drinking water, 18 packages of blanket and 54 packing of nutritious powder weighing 11.395 tons at 12.22 pm. MNA

Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association donates relief supplies

YANGON, 17 June—
Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association held a ceremony to donate relief supplies to the storm-hit regions at the lounge of Yangon International Airport this morning. It was attended by Director-General of Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Myint Tun, Director U Zaw Win and departmental officials, chairperson of Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association Daw Kyi Kyi Win (a) Mrs Shirin Niazi, Acting Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Habibur-Rehman, Military Attaché Col Muzammil Hussain Shah and officials. First, Daw Kyi Kyi Win explained the purpose of the donation and handed over relief supplies to Director-General U Myint Tun. Today’s donation of Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association was rice, sugar, foodstuff, clothing, shoes and medicines weighing 0.6 tons. So far Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association has donated 3.52 tons of relief supplies.—MNA

Private vessels re-run in Mawlamyinegyun Township

YANGON, 17 June—
Some private vessels which were damaged in the storm start re-running their daily trips in Mawlamyinegyun Township. Private ships in Mawlamyinegyun Township are eight double-decker ships, two ships with Yangon licence and five double-decker ships with Ayeyawady licence.

In addition to their normal route, the ships are also taking part in rebuilding work of the villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township. MNA

Paddy strains arrive in Labutta Township

YANGON, 18 June—
Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association donates relief supplies

Chairperson of PMFA Daw Kyi Kyi Win (a) Mrs Shirin Niazi hands over relief aids to U Myint Tun. — MNA

People’s Hospital in Pyapon seen after being repaired. — MNA

Photo shows tents set up at a relief camp in Pyinsalu. — MNA

Paddy strains arrive in Labutta Township

Farmers plough fields in Ohnpinsu Village in Labutta Township. — MNA
To present the objective conditions of providing health care services to storm victims in Labutta Township of Ayeyawady Division to the people of the whole nation, we made a trip to the 5th-mile relief camp and the 3rd-mile relief camp at the entrance to Labutta on 7 June.

The storm victims were being accommodated systematically with tarpaulin tents at the relief camps. The dispensary of the Ministry of Health and medical teams of the Myanmar Medical Association (Central), the Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence, Zay Gabar Company and the medical team from Japan were giving health care services to the victims. Moreover, the water tank and water purifier were installed to supply clean drinking water to the victims the whole day.

### Photo shows a dispensary of Ministry of Health.

In an interview, Township Medical Officer U Hla Kyaing said, “After repairing the damaged parts of Labutta People’s Hospital within three days, the storm victims are being provided with health care services. In the emergency period, the hospital gave treatment to 500-600 patients. In addition, special care was given to expectant mothers. During the emergency period, surgical treatment was performed on 62 patients.”

Furthermore, Director U Soe Lwin Nyein of Infectious Disease Control of the Ministry of Health revealed, “Emphasis is being placed on taking preventive and control measures against diarrhoea, dysentery, measles and lockjaw, in addition to chlorinating wells and lakes and fumigating.”

He continued to say, “One specialist team from Yangon arrived here to participate in health care services. In the maternal and child welfare tasks, iron medicines were given to the mothers and children. Moreover, health staff from the regions free from the natural disaster were sent to provide health care services to the storm victims who went back to their native villages. Furthermore, the mobile medical team in the floating hospital Waythantayar also gave medical treatment to the victims. As a result, there was no outbreak of infectious diseases in the villages around Labutta and relief camps.”

We made an interview with Project Manager Dr U Than Hein Win and asked him vaccination tasks to guard against outbreak of infectious diseases. He said, “A total of 2,180 children from nine months to 10 years of age were vaccinated against measles at relief camps.”

In the interview, Assistant Engineer U Aung Myint Soe (Environmental Sanitation Department) said that the authorities carried out building of fly-proof latrines and supply of clean water for the victims. At present, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the UNICEF built 50 fly-proof latrines at the relief camp of Yadanaipha Sports Ground in Labutta, 110 latrines at the 3rd-mile relief camp and 110 latrines at the 5th-mile camp. To supply purified drinking water, the water purifiers were installed at the relief camps. In addition, garbage pits were dug and fixed with covers for prevention against outbreak of diseases there.

Translation: TTA Kyemon; 17-6-2008

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**Health care services speeded up in Labutta Township**

Article: Myo Nyunt (Kyemon)
Photos: Htay Aung (Kyemon)
Fall of Nepal monarchy leaves royal cows in limbo

KATHMANDU, 18 June—After the king, it is now the turn of his cows to face removal from Nepal's royal palace, two days after it was turned into a museum, a government official said on Tuesday.

Gyanendra, the last king of Nepal, left the main palace last week after a special assembly voted in May to abolish the 239-year-old monarchy and turn the Himalayan nation into a republic.

But Gyanendra's 60 cows still graze in the sprawling grounds of the Narayanthi Palace in the heart of Kathmandu. He used the cows for fresh milk but authorities say the animals, considered holy by Hindus, must also leave.

"We can't keep them there and no decision has yet been taken about what to do with them," said Govinda Prasad Kusum, a senior bureaucrat in charge of preparing an inventory of palace contents.

Nepal, a mostly Muslim country, a news-paper said. "It is un-Islamic. It was required to sign a "legal guardian" — her husband — to allow her to drive again, it said. He was not immediately clear if she was released or would face legal action. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that forbids women from driving on the basis of fatwas, or religious opinions, from clerics who say it is un-Islamic.

Ahmadinejad says market full of oil, price trend "fake"

ISFAHAN, Iran, 18 June—The oil market is plentifully supplied and the rally to record high prices is "fake and imposed". Iran's President said on Tuesday, blaming a weak US dollar which he suggested was being pushed lower on purpose.

"At a time when the growth of consumption is lower than the growth of production and the market is full of oil, prices are rising and this trend is completely fake and imposed," he said. "It is very clear that visible and invisible hands are controlling prices in a fake way with political and economic aims," he said when opening a meeting of the OPEC Fund for International Development in the central city of Isfahan.

With high fuel prices sparking protests worldwide, Ahmadinejad hit out at energy taxes in consumer nations. He said there was an "unfair" difference in income between energy exporting and importing countries.

Iraqi TV presenter killed in northern Iraq

MOSSUL, Iraq, 18 June—Unknown gunmen on Tuesday shot dead a presenter in a state-run Iraqi television in Mosul City, the capital of Nineveh Province, a provincial police source said.

The incident took place at dawn when the US troops stormed a house in the Mahattah neighbourhood in southwestern Mosul.

"It is unclear why the US troops raided the house and killed four males, who were the father of the family and three of his sons, along with detaining four of the family members," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Police stop Saudi woman flouting driving ban

RIYADH, 18 June—Saudi police have detained a woman for violating rules banning women from driving in the conservative Muslim country, a newspaper said on Sunday.

The woman from Buraida north of Riyadh was stopped by a police patrol after driving 10 kilometres (6 miles) to collect her husband, al-Hayat newspaper said.

"Women's "legal guardian" — her husband — was required to sign a declaration that he would not allow her to drive again, it said. It was not immediately clear if she was released or would face legal action. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that forbids women from driving on the basis of fatwas, or religious opinions, from clerics who say it is un-Islamic.

Singapore seizes 10.8 kilos of heroin

SINGAPORE, 18 June—Singapore officials said Tuesday that narcotics officers seized about 10.8 kilos of heroin No 4, the largest seizure of such drug in the last 10 years, in an operation on Monday.

The drug courier is a 24-year-old Malaysian man. He will be investigated for the offense of trafficking in a controlled drug.

Members from the Korea Dairy and Beef Farmers Association stage a rally against US beef imports in Seoul. The United States and South Korea resumed talks Tuesday on a US beef import agreement that has stoked massive protests rocking the new Seoul government.—INTERNET

Singapore forces backed by air power support of foreign troops have killed 30 Taleban fighters in Afghanistan's eastern Khost Province, a local official said Tuesday.

Some 200 Taleban fighters raided police checkpoints in Tanai District Monday night and police responded, killing 30 rebels in a three-hour clash, Badrul Zaman, Tanai's District chief, told Xinhua.

He said international troops had provided air support to Afghan police in the battle.

This killing came as Afghan security forces backed by foreign troops had killed over 60 militants on 14-15 June.

A Rainbow Lorikeet, a parrot native to South-east Australia, perches on a tree in central Sydney on 16 June, 2008. The brightly coloured bird, which is a common sight in most parks and gardens in Sydney, feed mainly on pollen and nectar using a hairy appendage on the end of its tongue.—INTERNET

A 24-year-old Malaysian man was arrested in Singapore on Monday on a charge of preparing an inventory of palace contents. Nepal, a mostly Hindu country, a newspaper said. "It is un-Islamic. It was required to sign a "legal guardian" — her husband — to allow her to drive again, it said. He was not immediately clear if she was released or would face legal action. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that forbids women from driving on the basis of fatwas, or religious opinions, from clerics who say it is un-Islamic.

"We can't keep them there and no decision has yet been taken about what to do with them," said Govinda Prasad Kusum, a senior bureaucrat in charge of preparing an inventory of palace contents.

With high fuel prices sparking protests worldwide, Ahmadinejad hit out at energy taxes in consumer nations. He said there was an "unfair" difference in income between energy exporting and importing countries.

Iraqi TV presenter killed in northern Iraq

MOSSUL, Iraq, 18 June—Unknown gunmen on Tuesday shot dead a presenter in a state-run Iraqi television in Mosul City, the capital of Nineveh Province, a provincial police source said.

"Unknown gunmen shot dead Muhiiddin Abdul-Hameed al-Naqeeb, a presenter working for the government-owned Nineveh television and radio, near his house in the al-Zarae neighbourhood in northern Mosul," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Naeqeeb, 50, was killed at about 8:00 am (0500 GMT) while he was heading for his work in Mosul City, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source said.

The international watchdog Reporters Without Borders listed Iraq as the most dangerous country in the world for journalists and media workers with at least 235 killed in the country since the start of US-led war in March 2003.—MNA/Xinhua

Nokia's new E66 mobile phone is seen in an undated handout image released on 16 June, 2008. INTERNET

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The New Light of Myanmar

Thursday, 19 June, 2008

Ministry of Finance and Revenue
Internal Revenue Department
Commercial Tax Directorate

Reminding to furnish the Annual Return

1. Any Individuals, Partnerships, Joint Ventures, Companies, other taxable business enterprises, Cooperative societies, State economic enterprises, State-owned mills, factories, trading and service enterprises, who have taxable sale proceeded or receipt from services in the financial year 2007-2008 (1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008) are reminded that they are according to the law, to fill up, sign and furnish an annual return to the respective Township Revenue Office or Company Circle Tax Office, by hand or by registered post not later than 30th June, 2008.

2. If its production business apart from salt production, whose sole sale proceed in a financial year is kyat 240001 and above, or the sale proceed of Trading business during the financial year that is kyat 300001 and above, the receipt from Passenger transportation that is kyat 180001 and above, Entertainments, Hotel and lodgings, Restaurants, Travel and Tours (including tour guide only), Motor vehicle servicing, Insurance (excluding life insurance), Hair dressing and beauty saloon, Body fitness centres, Printing, Computer desktop and design services (excluding photo copying) are responsible to file the Annual sale or service Return attached with annual accounts to the respective offices. Those returns will be accepted by opening the offices up to 18:00 hrs in the evening on the last date of 30th June 2008 (Monday).

3. If there is failure to file return without any sufficient cause, a sum not less than 10% of the tax due will be fined by way of penalty according to the Commercial Tax Law, section 21.

4. The prescribed Annual Return forms will be provided at the respective Township Revenue Offices or the Company Circle Tax Office, free of charge. If it is filed by hand, the concerning office will issue the acknowledgement slip instantly.

5. Enquiries can be made for further details at the Township Revenue Offices or the Company Circle Tax Office concerned.

Sun Lwin
Director

Commercial Tax Directorate

“South Pacific” wins big at Tony Awards

NEW YORK, 18 June — “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s South Pacific” dominated Broadway’s top honours, with five wins.

“South Pacific,” nominated for 11 Tonys, picked up leading actress (Deanna Dunagan), scenic design and sound design awards.

South Pacific” dominated Broadway’s top honours, winning Tonys for best play, best featured actress (Rondi Reed), best dramatic performance (Bartlett Sher), best leading actor in a musical (Paulo Szot), scenery, costume, lighting and sound.

“Rodgers and Hammerstein’s August: Osage County,” the Tracy Letts play that won the Pulitzer Prize for drama this year, won Tonys for best play, best featured actress (Blanche Soloman), best featured actor (Jay Tavare), best direction (Anna D Shapiro).—

NEW YORK, 18 June — “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s South Pacific” dominated Broadway’s top honours, with five wins.

The reception was completely overwhelming,” Sher said audiences seemed to find contemporary resonance in the show’s themes of racial tension at a time of heightened interest in the US presidential election campaign with black candidate Senator Barack Obama winning the Democratic nomination.

The government has six months to prepare anti-graft courts, a very daunting task given that the government only has six months to complete the regulation, said the Indonesian-language daily, citing Vice-President Jusuf Kalla.

With six months of the remaining time, the government is confident that the anti-graft court will be materialized,” Kalla said over the weekend.

“Not in all 470 regencies, but in stage starting from 33 provinces,” he said.

The judge for the particular court must have skill and knowledge to deal with bank frauds and money laundering, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran withdraws $75 b from Europe

TEHERAN, 18 June — Iran has withdrawn around 75 billion US dollars from Europe to prevent the assets from being blocked under threatened new sanctions over Tehran’s disputed nuclear ambitions, an Iranian weekly said.

“The part of Iran’s assets in European banks have been converted to gold and shares and another part has been transferred to Asian banks,” Mohsen Talaie, Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of economic affairs, was quoted as saying.

Iranian officials were not immediately available to comment on the report in Shahrvand-e Emrouz, a moderate weekly, which did not specify the time period for the withdrawals which it said were ordered by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.— MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to set up anti-graft courts in all provinces

JAKARTA, 18 June — The Indonesian Government is drafting a regulation to support the establishment of the anti-corruption court in all 33 provinces and the recruitment of specialized judges, local Press said Monday.

The initial plan was to set up anti-graft tribunal in all 470 regencies but the government had too little time for the huge projects and decided to concentrate on the provincial level, reported major national newspaper Kompas.

It takes more than 2,000 specialized judges to set up 470 anti-graft courts, a very daunting task given that the government has only six months to complete the regulation, said the Indonesian-language daily, citing Vice-President Jusuf Kalla.

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MNA/Xinhua

Nuclear designs found with smugglers spur US fears

WASHINGTON, 18 June — A nuclear watchdog’s report that sophisticated warfare designs were found on the computers of Swiss smugglers has spurred fears in the US that the moves were being planned in the Islamic Republic.

The report on Monday raised particular speculation over the significance of a US intelligence finding last year that Iran had suspended a nuclear-weapons design programme in 2003 — which slowed a Bush Administration drive to confront Iran.

If the Islamic Republic had access to detailed warfare designs on a nuclear black market, that could free it from having to develop its own blueprints for a weapons programme.

“That’s a question to be studied,” a senior US official said. But he said he had little information beyond the public accounts of the report, issued by the Institute for Science and International Security.— MNA/Reuters
Astronomers find batch of “super-Earths”

WASHINGTON, 18 June — European researchers said on Monday they discovered a batch of three “super-Earths” orbiting a nearby star, and two other solar systems with small planets as well.

They said their findings, presented at a conference in France, suggest that Earth-like planets may be very common.

“Does every single star harbour planets and, if yes, how many?” asked Michel Mayor of Switzerland’s Geneva Observatory. “We may not yet know the answer but we are making huge progress towards it,” Mayor said in a statement.

The trio of planets orbit a star slightly less massive than our Sun, 42 light-years away towards the southern Dorado and Pictor constellations.

A light-year is the distance light can travel in one year at a speed of 186,000 miles (300,000 kilometres) a second, or about 6 trillion miles (9.5 trillion kilometres).

The planets are bigger than Earth — one is 4.2 times the mass, one is 6.7 times and the third is 9.4 times.

They orbit their star at extremely rapid speeds — one whizzing around in just four days, compared with Earth’s 365 days, one taking 10 days and the slowest taking 20 days.

B’desh cuts half of child mortality in past 18 years

DHAKA, 18 June — Bangladesh has cut half the number of under-five child deaths in the past 18 years, said UNICEF here Monday.

In 1990, under-five child mortality was 150 per thousand, and the figure came down to 68 per thousand in 2008, a UNICEF official said.

“Today Bangladesh is on track to reach MDG-4 on child mortality reduction,” UNICEF representative to Bangladesh David Bassiouni said when launching its report titled “The State of the World’s Children-2008: Child Survival”. He said among other developing countries, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress as only six countries in Asia have achieved such a rapid reduction.

Bassiouni said this was even more understanding considering that South Asia, as a home to world’s one-fifth population, has the second highest number of child deaths in the world.

He said, simple and cheap oral saline therapy and better sanitation practices have contributed to reducing the child deaths in the country.

Over 2,000 trapped by flood in Russia’s Ural regions

MOSCOW, 18 June — More than 2,000 people were stranded in villages of Russia’s Ural regions due to heavy rainfall and rising flood waters, ITAR-TASS reported on Monday.

Water levels in the rivers of Tura and Nita, crossing the Sverdlovsk Region, had risen by eight to 12 centimetres for the past few days and traffic with the besieged villages were disrupted, the local emergencies department said.

Local authorities established communication with those settlements by ferryboats, and all the flood-trapped people were provided with food and medicine, local officials said.

UN finds 89 bodies in disputed Sudan oil area

KHARTOUM, 18 June — The United Nations has so far found 89 bodies in the disputed oil-rich Abyei Region of Sudan from fighting that erupted last month, a senior UN official said on Monday.

A joint north-south force is due to be deployed there this week after the clashes, which raised fears of a return to all-out civil war. Both north and south covet the central region, home to one of Sudan’s two main oil fields.

The UN official, who declined to be named, said 89 bodies had been found in Abyei. “Dead military are 68,” the official said.

A joint north-south force had been due to deploy on Monday but that has now been put back to Tuesday because of administrative delays in flying them in on UN planes, said the force’s commander, Valentino Tokmac. The force was still waiting for tents, vehicles and uniforms from the northern and southern armies, he said.

“The problem of vehicles will not stop us,” he said. All 639 soldiers are due to be on the ground by 18 June and they will get 10 days of training before they fully take control of Abyei.

Guangdong faces danger of serious flooding

GUANGZHOU, 18 June — South China’s Guangdong Province was facing the threat of serious flooding as two swollen rivers converged in the Pearl River Delta on Monday, resulting in a flood equivalent to a worst in 50 years.

The runoff in Xijiang River was 46,800 cubic metres per second and in Beijiang River 15,200 cubic metres per second before they met each other in Foshan City, according to the Guangdong provincial headquarters of flood control and drought relief, which said this was far higher than normal.

The danger of serious flooding is made worse by the pull from the moon, which is rising to its most powerful point in the month on Wednesday, posing a threat for river embankments across the delta, experts said.

More rains were forecast in the upstream areas of Xijiang and Beijiang Rivers in next two days.

The Guangdong provincial flood control headquarters on Monday ordered local governments to reinforce river embankments in nine cities, including Guangzhou and to prepare to evacuate people in danger.
Mutu’s miss will give Romania nightmares
BERNE, 18 June — Adrian Mutu’s penalty miss against Italy will haunt Romania for a long time, said defender Cosmin Contra after his team’s elimination from Euro 2008 on Tuesday.

“This penalty is the reason we are going home. We had an opportunity to beat the World Cup winners in the 81st minute and didn’t take it,” Contra told Reuters after Romania lost 2-0 to Netherlands in their final Group C game.

“We will think about this penalty a lot. We will think about it when we go home, we will think about it in our sleep,” he added, referring to their 1-1 draw with world champions Italy last Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Italy victorious after Group C showdown
BASEL, 18 June — Italy came out on top in a tense three-way tussle for a place in Sunday’s Euro 2008 quarter-final against Spain as the world champions beat 10-man France 2-0 and Romania lost by the same margin to Group C winners Netherlands.

Andrea Pirlo put Italy in front from the penalty spot in the 25th minute of Tuesday’s eagerly-anticipated repeat of the 2006 World Cup final after Eric Abidal clattered into Luca Toni and was dismissed by Slovenian referee Lubos Michel.

Abidal’s sending off was a second hammer blow for the French after inspirational playmaker Franck Ribery was carried off on a stretcher at Zurich’s Letzigrund stadium with a knee injury.

After France’s elimination from the tournament was sealed, defender Lilian Thuram, 36, and midfielder Claude Makelele, 35, announced their international retirements.

With Netherlands already lead-

Austrian officials defend decision to skip ceremony
SYDNEY, 18 June — Australian Olympic officials have defended their decision to ban dozens of athletes from marching at the opening ceremony in Beijing because of concerns about pollution in the Chinese capital.

Although it is not unusual for Australian athletes competing in the first few days to skip the ceremony to save their energy, Athletics Australia has ordered the entire team to stay away from Beijing for as long as possible because of concerns about air quality. — MNA/Reuters

Forlan scores hat-trick in Uruguay rout of Peru
MONTREVIDE, 18 June — Diego Forlan scored a hat-trick to help Uruguay rout a shambolic Peru 6-0 in their World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

Forlan’s striking partner Carlos Bueno scored two goals and substitute Sebastien Abreu added another in the final minute. Peru striker Paolo Guerrero was sent off after 39 minutes for furiously protesting the penalty which led to the second goal.

Uruguay, who had drawn their last two home games in the South American group, moved on to eight points from six games while Peru, beaten 5-1 in Ecuador in November, remained on three after another heavy defeat. Peru also lost 4-0 to Mexico a friendly 10 days ago and the latest setback is widely expected to cost coach Jose del Solar his job.

“Turkeys booked their place in Fri-
day’s match in Vienna after coming from behind to beat Switzerland 2-1 with a stoppage-time winner and de-
feating Czech Republic 3-2 after trail-
ing 2-1 with 87 minutes on the clock in their final Group A game.

“Our comebacks in those two games were quite remarkable and showed they are a force to be reck-
oned with,” Bilic told a news confer-
ce.

“Turkey are quick and aggressive and have several very skilful players, so I am really not surprised that they progressed to the quarter-finals.

“We will take nothing for granted although I would certainly like to score first because they are by no means invincible. Like all teams in the tournament, they have weaknesses too.” — MNA/Reuters

Olympic torch relay in Tibet rescheduled for 21June
BEIJING, 18 June — The Olympic torch relay in Tibet has been reschedu-
uled for 21 June, an-
ounced the Beijing Or-
ganizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) here on Tuesday.

According to the previous plan, the torch would arrive in Tibet on Thurs-
day and leave on Satur-
day. However, the BOCOG made changes after the 12 May earth-
quake that jolted the south-
west part of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia’s Roman Pavlyuchenko (L) shoots to score past Sweden’s Fredrik Stoor (2ndL) during their Group D Euro 2008 soccer match at Tivoli Neus stadium in Innsbruck, on 18 June, 2008. — INTERNET

Gambia says Algeria players made “terrorist” threats
BANJUL, 18 June — Gambia has accused Algerian soccer players of calling themselves “terrorists” of threat-
eening Gambian players at a World Cup match that they would blow up their hotel with a bomb on the return leg in Algiers.

Algeria’s Football Federation dismissed the accusations as “baseless”.

Gambia beat the North African side 1-0 on Saturday in the group qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup Finals to be played in South Africa. The matches also serve as qualifiers for the African Nations Cup finals.

“We regret to inform you that during The Gambia/Algeria match played on June 14, 2008 at the Inde-
pendence Stadium, several threats were made to our players by certain Algerian players who claimed to be “terrorists”,” Gambia Football Association (GFA) secretary general Jammeh EK Bojang said in a letter to soccer’s world body FIFA. — MNA/Reuters
1. To be healthy
7:00 am

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**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 18 June, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2008 was 88ºF. Minimum temperature on 18-6-2008 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-6-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 17-6-2008 was 0.2 hour approx. Rainfall on 18-6-2008 was 0.12 inch at Mungadon, 0.23 inch at Kaba-Aye and 0.16 inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (36.02) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (1.77) inches, Sittway (3.54) inches, Machanbaw (2.86) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.52) inches, Pato (2.40) inches, Pinlaung (1.97) inches and Homa Lwin (1.81) inches.

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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