Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 64 3rd Waning of Nayon 1370 ME Saturday, 21 June, 2008

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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 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

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

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 2/2008
2nd Waning of Nayon, 1370 ME
(20 June 2008)
Reassignment of Duty of Minister

The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned duties to Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin as Minister for Immigration and Population with effect from today.

By order,
Sd/Tiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Matriculation examination results announced

NAI PYI TAW, 21 June—The results of matriculation examination held in March 2008 were announced at 6 am today.

The examination results were simultaneously announced at the examination centres in respective townships, states and divisions.

Besides, the examination results of the states and divisions except Yangon Division were also announced at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, No. 1 Basic Education High School in Yankin Township, No. 3 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township, No. 1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township, No. 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township and No. 1 Basic Education High School in Thangyangyan Township, it is learnt.—MNA

Power-tillers distributed to villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township

YANGON, 20 June—Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction committee of Mawlamyinegyun Township is providing necessary assistance to storm-hit villages. The committee distributed 10 power-tillers to Natmu village; 5 power-tillers to Kyunchaung village and 8 power-tillers to Kyatshar village by Win Sein (1) vessel this morning.

By order,
Sd/Tiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Let’s nurture the sapling of democracy

It is high time NLD participated in the democracy transition processes to provide impetus for them.

Kya Min Lu (Shwe Pyitha)

PAGE 7
**PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, 21 June, 2008

**Strive for getting schools free from mosquitoes**

Another academic year has started, and students of all basic education schools are now attending classes. Teachers on their part are trying their best for nurturing their students to become qualified human resources.

All are to actively participate in the school health activities while striving for putting the classrooms in place, fulfillment of textbooks and exercise books and supply of potable water to schools.

As mosquitoes breed most in the rainy season, the risk of causing mosquito-related infectious diseases is high. Man can develop Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever if he is bitten by Aedes aegypti a kind of mosquito that usually hides in dark places during day time. Other mosquito species can cause malaria, meningitis and elephantiasis.

Therefore, steps are to be taken to get rid of mosquito larvae in stored clean water. Meanwhile, efforts are to be made to keep wards, compounds of houses and schools and drains always clean.

Moreover, the extensive use of water purifiers, toilets and fly-proof latrines is to be introduced in schools while exercising chlorination in some schools without water purifiers.

We firmly believe that as the Ministry of Health and relevant organizations, teachers and parents are extensively engaged in sanitation activities in order to get rid of various kinds of mosquitoes, each and every school child will be free from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

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**Minister attends cash and power-tillers donation ceremony in Pyapon Township**

_YANGON, 20 June — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing together with Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye and officials inspected progress in repairing religious buildings of Aung Thayar village monastery and offered provisions to the presiding Sayadaw of the monastery on 17 June.

The minister and party looked into ploughing of farmlands by the road in a motorcade. At BEHS in Thamenithaw Kondan model village and No. 2 BEPS in Thein Kon, the minister and party oversaw progress in repair of school buildings and teaching of school children and attended to the needs. So far, 236 schools in Pyapon Township and 196 in Kyaiklat Township have been opened. Next, they inspected durability of bridges and roads along the road in a motorcade and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards they arrived back at the village and attended the ceremony to donate cash to basic education schools and power-tillers to villages in Pyapon Township. Wellwisher Daw Than Than Lay (China Airlines) presented K 5 million for repair of basic education schools in Pyapon township and 30 power-tillers for six villages and U Tin Aye, K 100,000 for repair of village BEHS to officials.

Next, the minister inspected progress in repair of village dispensary and giving health care and fulfilled the requirements. — _MNA_

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**Fisheries Department to build fishing boats**

_YANGON, 20 June — Under the arrangement of Fisheries Department, in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division, those who are expert in shipbuilding from Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and Rakhine State are building 20 fishing boats a day starting from 17 June. A total of 1000 boats will be built and fishermen are to pay for the boats by installment._ — _MNA_
**Chavez threatens to block oil over EU rule**

**Washington, 20 June**—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatened on Thursday to punish European countries that apply controversial new rules for deporting illegal immigrants by denying them oil and blocking their investments.

The EU Parliament passed new guidelines Wednesday seeking to standardize the process by which member nations deport illegal migrants. While the rules do not lay the groundwork for workplace raids like in the United States, they contain contentious measures such as providing for long detention periods.

Chavez said in a televised speech that the measure shows “signs of fascism,” and predicted that countries would have to “build concentration camps” to hold millions of immigrants.

“Our oil shouldn’t go to those countries” that adopt the policy, he said.

Venezuela sells most of its oil to the United States despite political tensions between the two nations, but is only a minor supplier to Europe. Some European companies operate in Venezuela, including France’s Total and Norway’s Statoil.

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**Guantanamo prisoner details sleep deprivation**

GUANTANAMO (Cuba), 20 June—A Guantanamo prisoner testified Thursday that US troops made loud noises, kept the lights on in his cell, and frequently moved him around the prison to deprive him of sleep.

Mohammed Jawad, an Afghan detainee charged with attempted murder, told a military court he was subjected to the military’s “frequent flyer” sleep deprivation program in May 2004, nearly 17 months after he was arrested.

“Day and night, they were shifting me from one room to another,” Jawad said.

His testimony came in a pretrial hearing at the US war crimes court.

Lawyers and human rights groups have accused the military of using sleep deprivation to “soften up” Guantanamo detainees for questioning, but this was the first time a prisoner testified about such treatment.

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**India politician son “kidnapped”**

NEW DELHI, 20 June—The son of a former chief minister of India’s north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh has been kidnapped by unidentified gunmen, officials said.

Getam Apang, son of former chief minister Gegong Apang, was kidnapped from the state capital, Itanagar, early on Thursday. The police said Mr Apang’s car was recovered on the outskirts of Itanagar. They suspect the abductors could be political rivals of Gegong Apang or suspected militants.

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**Afghan suicide attacker kills 10**

KABUL, 20 June—A suicide bomber has blown himself up in southern Afghanistan, killing 10 civilians, Afghan police said.

The attacker detonated his explosives as a convoy of foreign troops was passing through Gereshk district in Helmand province, an official said.

Helmand has seen some of the worst violence of the Taleban-led insurgency.

The attack comes a day after Nato and Afghan forces said they had driven back enemy forces from areas close to the southern city of Kandahar.

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**Survey says 500,000 Iraqis fled fighting in 2007**

WASHINGTON, 20 June—A half-million Iraqis fled their embattled country in 2007, the third consecutive year more Iraqis were displaced than any other nationality, a survey of the world’s refugees reported Thursday.

As before, most went to neighboring Syria, and some fanned out into other neighboring countries, the survey by the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants said. It said the United States accepted few, just over half the 3,000 it had promised to resettle by the end of September.

The report said the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had referred 10,000 Iraqis for US resettlement.

It said the Iraqi exodus “from the violence and instability of their homeland” constituted “the largest refugee crisis of 2007.”

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**Obama gives up public campaign money**

WASHINGTON, 20 June—Democrat Barack Obama said Thursday he was foregoing more than 80 million dollars in public financing for his White House campaign, leaving him free to tap unlimited private cash against John McCain.

The Democrat had pledged last year to work “aggressively” with the Republicans on a deal to preserve public financing, under which candidates limit their spending in return for matching funds from the federal Treasury.

“It’s not an easy decision, and especially because I support a robust system of public financing of elections,” said the Illinois senator, who becomes the first presidential candidate to forgo Treasury money for the general election.

Obama has raised a stunning 265.4 million dollars so far in his bid for the presidency, smashing all records for this stage of the race, fueled by more than 1.5 million small donors who have given repeatedly over the Internet.

There was no immediate comment from the McCain campaign.

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**Hundreds indicted in US mortgage fraud**

WASHINGTON, 20 June—US officials on Thursday indicted more than 400 people in a major operation aimed at derailing mortgage fraud.

The Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced the national crackdown to identify mortgage fraud perpetrators and charge them.

Separately, two senior managers with the Bear Steams Hedge Funds were charged with conspiracy, securities fraud and wire fraud for misrepresenting the value of their funds to stave off investor withdrawal.

“Mortgage fraud and related securities fraud pose a significant threat to our economy, to the stability of our nation’s housing market and to the peace of mind of millions of American home-owners,” said Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip.

The 1 March - 18 June Operation Malicious Mortgage “and our other mortgage-related enforcement actions demonstrate the Justice Department’s commitment and determination to combat these criminal schemes, hold their perpetrators accountable and help restore stability and confidence in our housing and credit markets,” Filip said.

The crisis in the subprime mortgage market — loans to high-risk borrowers with patchy credit histories—has played a key role in fueling the spike in the scams, authorities say.

The International Mone- tary Fund said in April that worldwide losses stemming from the US subprime mortgage crisis could hit 945 billion dollars as the impact spreads in the global economy.

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**Russia urges US to delay missile plan**

Moscow, 20 June—Russia’s foreign minister urged the US on Friday to postpone the planned deployment of missile defense sites in Europe and called for a delay of the US eastward expansion to mend frayed ties.

Sergey Lavrov said the level of trust in Russian-US relations is now lower than during the Cold War. He warned that by ignoring Russia’s objections, the US and its allies would further damage already tense relations.

“It’s very important to take a break and freeze all that,” Lavrov said in a speech at a conference. “All these projects must stay where they are.”

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**Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez, right, greets Paraguay’s President-elect during a meeting in Caracas, on 19 June, 2008.—INTERNET**

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Saturday, 21 June, 2008 3
**First Chinese leisure travellers arrives US**

WASHINGTON, 20 June — First groups of Chinese leisure travellers to the United States arrived Tuesday night at Dulles International Airport in Washington and found themselves surrounded by jazz music, smile and hospitality.

About 40 Chinese visitors walked through airport alley with banners on both sides saying “welcome to the US capital.”

“It is so exciting and makes me looking forward to this tour,” said Mrs Xing, a 70-year-old visitor from the US capital.

Their 11-day tour marked the implementation of a memorandum of understanding to facilitate outbound leisure travellers to the United States arrived Tuesday night at Dulles International Airport in Washington.

Chinese citizens travelling to the US spent more than 6,000 US dollars on average in 2006 according to the US Department of Commerce has arranged special activities for the first six Chinese leisure groups, including a planned meeting with Secretary Carlos Gutierrez at the White House, a tour to the Capitol Hill and a grand reception ceremony at a boat sailing along the Potomac River. —Xinhua

**S Korea to export training aircraft parts to Pakistan**

SEOUL, 20 June— South Korea has reached a preliminary deal with Pakistan to export 1.3 billion (1.2 million US dollars) worth of parts from decommissioned military training aircraft, the Defence Ministry said.

The agreement between the Air Force of South Korea’s military supplies, T-37, a twin-engine jet aircraft, went out of service for over three decades. Pakistan is the only country in the world operating the aircraft, the Defence Ministry said.

A nurse wraps up a newborn baby girl, who was born to earthquake survivor Zhang Xiaoyan, at a hospital in Urumqi, in China’s western Xinjiang region on Thursday, as an alternative energy amid surging oil prices.

S Korea to export training aircraft parts to Pakistan. —Xinhua

**SIA to offer Beijing Olympics news on flights**

SINGAPORE, 20 June— Customers will enjoy the latest news from the Beijing Olympic Games when they fly with Singapore Airlines (SIA) during August this year.

SIA announced Wednesday that starting from 11 August, customers on all flights can relive the excitement of the Olympics, with the key highlights on the latest winners and best moments provided weekly during the Games on KrisWorld, SIA’s advanced inflight entertainment system.

The new KrisWorld inflight entertainment system offers more than 1,000 entertainment options, office productivity applications, and even the option to enjoy the personal audio and video content from their iPods or iPhones.

S Korea to export training aircraft parts to Pakistan. —Xinhua

**Morocco jails US pilot on drug trafficking charges**

RABAT, 20 June— A US pilot, who was arrested in early May in western Morocco as he landed his twin-engine aircraft to pick up drugs, was sentenced Tuesday to seven years in jail on international drug trafficking charges, state MAP news agency reported on Wednesday.

The man, identified as Wilson James Douglas, was arrested on 7 May when the twin-engine Cesna 337 aircraft he was piloting landed in a makeshift airstrip to pick up a load of drugs near the town of Kenitra, 40 kilometres north of Rabat.

Two Moroccans involved in the case were sentenced to six and four years in jail on similar charges, while another two were acquitted. —Xinhua
**Philippines to import 600,000 metric tons of Vietnam rice**

Manila, 20 June—The Philippines is set to import some 600,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam through a government-to-government agreement. Philippine agriculture chief said Wednesday.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap told reporters that his government has "successfully completed negotiations to purchase 600,000 MT rice from Vietnam through a government-to-government basis".

The deal was inked during a meeting of the Cabinet-level interagency committee on rice procurement, chaired by Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Fabia.

According to reports, the freight inclusive price of the rice is set at 940 US dollars per ton, down from the 1,140 US dollars average in April’s rice tender. Yap said the government already has enough rice to fill the domestic production demand gap but intends to import more to augment the buffer stockpile.

He said it is the government’s obligation not only to maintain adequate supplies, but also to make food prices affordable to the public, especially the poor.

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**Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports down 11% in May**

Singapore, 20 June—Singapore’s main exports fell by 11 per cent in May from a year earlier, compared to the 5.3 per cent gain in April, government data showed on Tuesday.

The figures released by International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), Singapore’s trade promotion agency, showed that it was due to a fall in both electronic and non-electronic exports.

Electronics shipments fell 8.5 per cent in May from a year ago, while exports of drugs fell nearly 49 per cent.

While the non-oil domestic exports (NODX) to Indonesia and Chinese Taiwan grew, that to the rest of the top 10 markets decreased in May, said IE Singapore.

The largest contributors to the NODX contraction were the European Union, the United States and Thailand.

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People reach to grab lettuce, as free fruit and vegetables are distributed by farmers on strike, during a protest in central Madrid on 19 June, 2008.—INTERNET

**Hong Kong, Singapore top trade-enabling index**

Geneva, 20 June—Hong Kong and Singapore topped a new index that assesses how successfully economies encourage and assist trade, the World Economic Forum said on Wednesday.

The two East Asian countries were followed by two Nordic economies—Sweden and Norway—then by Canada, and then two more Nordic countries—Denmark and Finland, the business think-tank said in a report.

The survey looked not only at conventional barriers to trade such as tariffs, but at factors such as the time taken to cross borders and transport conditions.

"The index will be particularly useful for policy-makers interested in benefiting from trade," Robert Lawrence, professor of trade and investment at Harvard University and co-editor of the report, said in a statement.

"By integrating and benchmarking the full range of factors that affect trade, both at and behind the border, it provides meaningful guidance on what their priorities should be."

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**Indonesian flag carrier teams up with Turkish Airlines**

Jakarta, 20 June—Flag carrier Garuda Indonesia on Wednesday forged partnership with Turkish Airlines to expand their market network in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Under a agreement signed on Indonesia’s Bali resort island, the two companies will jointly launch promotion to boost

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**GM, Ford sign contracts with China for more exports**

Beijing, 20 June—The US motor giants General Motors Corp and Ford Motor Co signed 1.8 billion US dollar contracts with China for more exports, Xinhua learnt from the two companies’ Beijing branches on Tuesday.

According to the deals separately signed in Washington on Monday, GM will export one billion US dollar worth of component kits, machinery, equipment and fully assembled vehicles including the luxury Cadillac brand to one of its Chinese partners, Shanghai General Motors, through 2010.

Ford will sell more than 30,000 North American-built vehicles and will supply transmission components and parts to its joint venture, Changan Ford Mazda Automobile Co Ltd as of 2009, in a deal worth 800 million US dollars.

The two contracts were signed on the eve of the fourth round of Sino-US Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED), a biannual meeting aiming to discuss long-term strategic issues in bilateral trade relations.

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A woman sits near tomatoes for sale on a roadside in Nairobi, on 19 June, 2008. Africans must unite to demand an immediate end to Western trade barriers that are worsening the impact of a global food crisis on the world’s poorest continent, Kenya said on Thursday.—INTERNET

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A woman holds a candle during a candlelight rally against US imported beef in Seoul, South Korea, on 19 June, 2008.—INTERNET

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A woman holds a candle during a candlelight rally against US imported beef in Seoul, South Korea, on 19 June, 2008.—INTERNET

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China says overly weak dollar bad for world economy

Washington, 20 June—Any excessive fall in the dollar’s value is not in the interests of the United States or the global economy and China hopes the United States will take effective steps to address that issue, a Chinese Finance Ministry official said on Wednesday.

“We hope that the United States will take a responsible stance to the issue of the dollar’s exchange rate. That’s in the interest of the United States and is necessary for the stability of the global system of foreign exchange,” Assistant Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao told reporters.

Speaking after the conclusion of a two-day session of economic talks with the United States, Zhu reiterated that China would continue to carry out reform of its exchange-rate regime, but according to the principles of “self-initiative, gradualism and control.”

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20-6-08 (FINAL) NL 7/31/18, 1:40 AM
YANGON, 20 June — Lay persons are invited to participate in a ceremony to honour Presiding Sayadaw of Pantapwinttaung Monastery in Taikkyi Township Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Paliñasara at Maha Thadithuka Monastery in Tamway Township on 5 July.

An honorary title of Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara was conferred on the Saydaw by the State Peace and Development Council by the notification No 1/2008. — NLM

Pantapwinttaung Sayadaw to be honoured

Educative talks held at Yankin Education College

YANGON, 20 June — The Culture Sub-Working Group of the Social and Culture Working Group of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held an educative talk at Yankin Education College, here, yesterday afternoon.

Leader of the Social and Culture Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung made a speech. Deputy Leader of Organization Department Daw Thein Thein Nyunt gave talks on flourishing cultural heritage.

Principal of the college Daw Cho Cho spoke words of thanks. Later, Leader of the Culture Sub-Working Group Professor Daw Khin Thein presented gifts to Daw Thein Thein Nyunt. — MNA

Trade Fair, Market Festival organized in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLWIN, 13 June — A Trade Fair and Market Festival took place at the town hall of PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division yesterday.

Chairman of PyinOoLwin Station Rector of Defence Services Academy Brig-Gen Zeya Aung and wife Daw Thuza Wai, Commandant of Tatmadaw Administration School Brig-Gen Zani Win and wife Daw Thuza Wai, Commandant of No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed), local authorities and members of social organizations were also present.

opened the trade fair and market festival. Those present viewed the stalls opened there.

Storm survivors in Kungyangon Township receive health care

YANGON, 20 June — A medical team comprising house surgeons of the University of Medicine-2 has carried out health care services in storm-hit villages in Kungyangon Township.

The team was divided into groups and the group-1 was supervised by Dr Saw Kalyar of the Health Department in Kungyangon Township and led by Dr Ye Tun Min of the University of Medicine-2. The 9-member group went to five villages in the township and gave medical treatment to over 300 patients and gave educative talks on infectious diseases.

The group-2 comprising five house surgeons was led by Dr Ohn Ma Nyunt Tin and camped at a basic education primary school in Taunggon Village on 16 June. They provided health care to over 300 storm survivors. — MNA

Express vessels to ply on Monywa-Hkamti route

YANGON, 20 June — Owing to the rise of water level of Chindwin River, Chindwin Branch of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport will run the express vessels named Thalawady, which ply on air by the Nay Pyi Taw Radio Myanmar through 41.75 metre wave, 520 and 505 metres medium waves on 21 June (Saturday) after the news section.

Those examination centres are Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagmon, Phakant, Sumprabum and Chipwe of Kachin State, Papun, Kya-in-Seikkyi and Kamamaung of Kayin State, Momik, Nammsa (North), Mongha, Mongkai, Kunlong, Mongton, Mongpyin, Mongyaung, Maikmei, Mongyaung, Kehsi, Maikmei, Monghthu, Mongpya, Mongkhat, Mongpan, Mongpyat, Maikmei, Mongshu, Tonghon, Mantung and Laukkai of Shan State, Pahtaw, Bokpyin and Pala of Taninthayi Division, Pahtaw, Htilin, Saw, Laungshay, Kyaikkuh, Sedokta and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe of Sagaing Division and Cocogyan of Yangon Division. — MNA

Matriculation examination results of some examination centres with poor transport to be on air

YANGON, 20 June — The matriculation examination results of some examination centres in states and divisions which are of difficult access will be on air by the Nay Pyi Taw Radio Myanmar through 41.75 metre wave, 520 and 505 metres medium waves on 21 June (Saturday) after the news section.

Those examination centres are Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagmon, Phakant, Sumprabum and Chipwe of Kachin State, Papun, Kya-in-Seikkyi and Kamamaung of Kayin State, Momik, Nammsa (North), Mongha, Mongkai, Kunlong, Mongton, Mongpyin, Mongyaung, Maikmei, Mongyaung, Kehsi, Maikmei, Monghthu, Mongpya, Mongkhat, Mongpan, Mongpyat, Maikmei, Mongshu, Tonghon, Mantung and Laukkai of Shan State, Pahtaw, Bokpyin and Pala of Taninthayi Division, Pahtaw, Htilin, Saw, Laungshay, Kyaikkuh, Sedokta and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe of Sagaing Division and Cocogyan of Yangon Division. — MNA
Let's nurture the sapling of democracy (2)

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

(Continued from yesterday)

In the 1990 election, NLD won 392 seats, more than 300 of which were reduced due to transforming themselves into independent representatives-elect, demise, resignation, disqualifications, violation of existing laws, and other reasons. So, the number of remaining representatives-elect of the party stands at only nearly 80. The representatives-elect total around 120 if the number of NLD representatives-elect is added to that of other parties and independent representatives-elect. So, it is safe to say that NLD representatives-elect make up 24 per cent of the total number of representatives-elect.

In the transitional period, the quorum of representatives-elect to call for a hluttaw (parliament) session is one-third of the total number of representatives-elect. The 1974 constitution says, "The Council of Ministers shall convene a session of the Pyithu Hluttaw as soon as possible if 34 per cent of all the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw so requisition". Apparently, the demand made by about 80 remnant NLD representatives-elect for convening a hluttaw session does not meet the norms of our country and other countries. Furthermore, the term of a hluttaw is designated four or five years, so the term has expired for many hluttaw sessions. I wish both NLD and experienced politicians would notice about that point.

Anyhow, NLD should no longer stick to the 1990 election results. It was just in the past. It has to make its history, while trying its best and taking lessons from the past experiences and creating a brighter future.

So, it has to correct its mistakes if it has made some. If it persists in doing wrong instead of correcting its mistakes, it will never escape from consequences of doing wrong. It is impossible that it will not get back on the correct path automatically. There is a saying that goes, "Attah Myo Nsohu Tahto" which means that the person on whom one can rely is he himself. Therefore, NLD has to mend its ways.

Among the political policies, democracy is endangered with essence and it can shape the future of a nation and the people. However, in this regard, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw have to take time till the elections to provide impetus for them.

The approval of the new constitution puts an end to the 1990 election results, however, I do not wish NLD to consider itself to be defeated. In the past, it pointed out lack of timeframe for many times. The 2010 election has a timeframe. Therefore, I would like to suggest that NLD should not take the 1990 election results into consideration and prepare themselves for the 2010 elections. So, if the people vote and support the party, it will rise to power. The Tatmadaw has to support the government under the new constitution. It is impossible that the Tatmadaw will support the government under the seven-step Road Map.

Furthermore, the people have gained much more education, knowledge, concept and stances if compared with theirs in the 1990s. The bases of democracy have been strengthened. Thus, the party should have given up unreasonable demands, sticking to the results of 18 years ago. It is high time NLD participated in the democracy transition processes to provide impetus for them.

As a matter of fact, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw had to sacrifice a lot of time and labour and used good opinions to complete up to the fourth of the seven-step Road Map. So, it is not wise to restart the seven-step Road Map and demand discussions for the Road Map. Moreover, the constitution has bestowed the people with the rights to all eligible persons to participate in the elections. The Tatmadaw and veteran representatives-elect of the NLD and other organizations abide by the law, they will all have the rights to take part in the remaining steps. At a time of very delicate situations for transition to democracy, peace, stability and development are necessary for the nation and the people. So, NLD and veteran organizations have to take great care in addressing any cases that might harm national interests. And they should not accidentally tarnish the image of the nation and the people. Really, I hope win-win solution to the issues without infringing the seven-step Road Map.

Surely, a political party is knowledgeable to an extent about delicate situations in the political and racial affairs. If they give priority to short-term interests, they will face a similar experience in which a stupid crow lost its life riding the carcass of an elephant floating in the sea.

It is easy to destroy things, whereas difficult to build things. It is many times more difficult and complicated to repair and reconstruct the ravaged things. Today, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are working in collaboration in an effort to achieve the common goal. Now, the nation has potential for development. It is imprudent to destabilize the nation on the basis of the strong potential for development. It is imprudent to lose the great opportunities.

As mentioned above, approval of the constitution means creating a good opportunity for all political parties. They should not miss this golden opportunity. NLD has risen constantly against the government, but the government has been showing its benevolent attitude and understanding them. So, it has made clear that it is not too late for NLD to grab the golden opportunity.

So, they should have reduced the momentum of a hluttaw session. They should no longer try to launch political attacks on the government under the seven-step Road Map. They should no longer urge for cooperation instead of releasing anti-government announcements. Why should not they make preparations to stand for election in accordance with the approved constitution in the 2010 multi-party general election? What I expect is all positive situations.

To put it in a nutshell, the new constitution has been approved by the mandate of the people. The 2010 multi-party democracy general election is waiting to provide seats to the winning party. When hluttaw sessions at different levels are formed with the people’s representatives to be elected in the elections, the genuine discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic nation has come into shape. So, the democracy goal aspired by the people is within our reach. We are now close to our goal and our efforts make good progress. Making preparations for the forthcoming elections is the best and most appropriate choice.

The election is the most suitable path with minimum harms for the nation and the people. I expect they will mend their ways as soon as possible before it is late to choose the correct path.

As for me, I would very much like to see NLD and its followers getting on the correct path and the sapling of democracy growing bigger. Making preparations for the forthcoming elections is the best and most appropriate choice. The election is the most suitable path with minimum harms for the nation and the people. I expect they will mend their ways as soon as possible before it is late to choose the correct path.

Translation: MS
**Ministry of Health, Organizations under UN rendering health care service in Ayeyawady Div**

**Yangon, 20 June**

Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Department (Disease Control) under the Ministry of Health and party encouraged speciallists led by Dr Ni Ni Hlaing who are rendering medical treatment to storm victims at Bogale People’s Hospital in Ayeyawady Division on 16 June.

They went to Kyonku village in which FXB, an NGO which is renovating lakes destroyed in the storm and building intake structures in collaboration with Health Department and gave advice to them.

Next, he proceeded to Pyapon People’s Hospital where he condoled the patients and looked into storage and distribution of medicines donated by Ministry of Health, organizations under UN and other donor countries and coordinated work. In the evening, he coordinated supply of purified water and environmental conservation jointly carried out by organizations under UN and NGOs, health care service and immunization tasks being carried out by the head of Dedaye Township Health Department and staff in their assigned wards and villages. At Dedaye People’s Hospital, mobile medical team led by Dr Thet Thet Tun and other volunteer specialists are giving health care to the storm victims.—MNA

**Women costume show on 26, 27 June**

**Yangon, 20 June**

As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, Myanmar women costume show will be held at the National Theatre in Dagon Township on 26 and 27 June. Under the supervision of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Yangon Division Women Affairs Organization will organize the show. Actors, actresses and artistees will present creations and tickets for the show can be bought at the National Theatre in advance. — MNA

**Health care for domestic animals, rehabilitation of livestock breeding work**

**Yangon, 20 June**

In order to facilitate the recovery of agriculture sector in the storm-hit regions, draught cattle from states and divisions are being provided and up to 19 June, 803 heads of cattle were distributed to Labutta, 296 to Pyapon, 321 to Bogale, 175 to Dedaye and 60 to Mawlamyinegyun totaling 1655.

One hundred and twenty tons of cattle feedstuff donated by WSPA is being distributed under the arrangement of FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Eighteen special teams of veterinary surgeons from states and divisions of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with veterinary surgeons of WSPA and local staff are carrying out vaccination against animal disease. Over 17000 heads of cattle have been vaccinated and over 1200 have been given treatment. In addition, tonic for animals donated by Fortune International Ltd is also being distributed.

Under the arrangement of FAO and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, cattle, pigs and poultry and medicines and feedstuff for animals will be provided and a cattle breeding zone will be established in Ayeyawady Division.

**Managing Director of Polymer Co Ltd U Maung Maung Thaung presents 100 beds and 20 pillows to Dr Hla Hla Kyi, Head of Bogale Township Health Department. Those beds and pillows donated by Polymer Co Ltd will be used at People’s Hospital in Bogale Township. — NLM**

**Power-tillers and paddy seeds to be distributed to farmers in Ngwezinyaw Village. — MNA**
Work coordination meeting for printing and publishing text books held

YANGON, 20 June — The committee for printing and publishing text books held the work coordination meeting No 1/2008 at the Ministry of Information here today. Chairman of the committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address at the meeting.

In his address, the minister said the meeting was held to assess the printing and publishing of text books for the 2008-2009 academic year and to discuss matters on preparation for printing and publishing of textbooks for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Head of State gave guidance on the printing and publishing of textbooks. According to the guidance, officials concerned are to make efforts for distributing textbooks to students timely, sales of text books at reasonable prices, improvement of the quality of text books, minimizing of loss and wastage in printing the textbooks, printing textbooks at the State-owned press and encouraging the practice of handing down text books from one student to another, the minister said. The minister also discussed matters related to circulation and distribution of textbooks.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses work coordination meeting of the committee for printing and publishing text books.—MNA

More relief supplies arrive

YANGON, 20 June—International community has been providing relief aid to storm-hit regions. A total of 35,864 tons of relief supplies donated by Thailand-based WFP, 32.77 tons by the US and 40.4 tons by UAE-based UNHCR arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Sony introduces Smile Shutter Function

YANGON, 20 June—TMW Enterprise Ltd organized a ceremony to introduce Smile Shutter Function of Sony Cyber-shot camera at Traders Hotel today.

Firstly, Managing Director of TMW Enterprise Ltd U Wai Lwin extended greetings and Mr Spencer Low of Sony Singapore explained facts about Smile Shutter Function and they unveiled the display of Sony Cyber-shot cameras and accessories. Next, they explained innovation of advanced technologies, applications of different kinds of cameras, technologies of Sony Cyber-shot cameras and demonstrated process of applying Smile Shutter Function to those present.

Smile Shutter Function is a significant invention of Sony, which can automatically take pictures of smiling faces facing the camera without escape. Smile Shutter Function-installed cameras such as DSC-T 300, T70, T2, W300, W170, W 150, W130, W120, W110,H 50, H10, S 750 and S730 models are available at Sony showrooms in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi.—MNA

Prescribed book for translation genre on sale

YANGON, 20 June—Manuscripts have already been invited for the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2007. The book entitled Manuscript Award for 2007. The book entitled

Nepali Ambassador presents cash donation for relief and rehabilitation works

YANGON, 20 June—On behalf of the Government of Nepal Federal Democratic Republic, Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal, presented USS 40,000 for the relief and rehabilitation works to the people and regions affected by the cyclone Nargis, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today. Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group (TCC) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu accepted the donation and conveyed the message of thanks to the ambassador.—MNA

Ms. Guna Laxmi Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal, presents US$ 40,000 for relief and rehabilitation in storm-hit areas to Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu.—MNA

Managing Director of TMW Enterprise Ltd U Wai Lwin extends greetings at ceremony to introduce Smile Shutter function of Sony Cyber-shot camera.—MNA

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Members of Bago Division (East), Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division USDAs taking part in reconstruction tasks in Dedaye Township

On arrival at Dedaye, we met members of Bago Division (East) USDA who were carrying out sanitation tasks in the downtown area. In an interview, Group Leader of Bago Division (East) USDA Joint-Secretary U Aye Win of Kawa Township USDA, said, “Our group comprises 100 USDA members from 14 townships of Bago Division (West). We arrived at Bogale on 8 June and at Dedaye on 11 June. After coordinating with the township authorities, we performed necessary tasks such as carrying of agricultural equipment sent by the Agricultural Mechanization Department to the respective places and undertaking of sanitation and proper flow of water at drains daily. We all are actively taking part in the reconstruction tasks with sympathy for the people of storm-hit Ayeyawady Division.”

Group Leader of Kachin State USDA Joint-Secretary U Myo Win of Mohnin Township USDA explained, “Our group is formed with 60 members and arrived at Dedaye on 14 June. Beginning 15 June, we undertook sanitation task in Dedaye and carried 3,000 baskets of paddy provided by the USDA members.”

Mohnin and Bhamo District USDAs. By showing sympathy for storm victims of Ayeyawady Division, we will make our utmost efforts for timely completion of reconstruction tasks there.”

Group Leader of Ayeyawady Division USDA Reserve Executive U Tin Hla of Danubyu Township USDA said, “Our group formed with 30 members arrived at Dedaye on 13 June. Members of our group are from Nyaungdon, Pantanaw and Danubyu Township USDAs and they all are farmers. Therefore, we are participating in reclamation of farmlands of storm victim farmers of Dedaye in addition to driving power-tillers and ploughing work. Up to 19 June, we have ploughed 45 acres of farmlands. The farmers are pleased with our works.”

In the evening, we left Dedaye. On our return, we witnessed progress of rehabilitation tasks being undertaken along both sides of the road. The River Ayeyawady is always flowing. Likewise, the participation of USDA in public welfare tasks joining hands with the government will be going on.
Floods leave 300,000 homeless in India’s east

Bhubaneswar (India), 20 June — Indian soldiers evacuated thousands of stranded people from submerged villages on Wednesday, as floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept across the country’s east and northeast.

More than 300,000 people have lost their homes so far, and are scattered between camps, highways and makeshift shelters on higher ground, officials said. Rising river levels have broken through mud embankments and flooded vast areas. “Floodwaters have submerged thousands of acres of land, disrupted electricity, roads and rail communication in many districts,” S Barai, a senior state government official told Reuters in Bhubaneswar, capital of the eastern state of Orissa.

PM warns of impact of gas crisis in W Australia

Canberra, 20 June — Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Wednesday warned of the impact on the national economy caused by the Varanus Island gas plant explosion.

Western Australia (WA) has been experiencing a gas crisis since the explosion in a Varanus Island gas plant on 3 June.

The accident cut off 30 per cent of WA’s domestic gas supply, causing thousands of workers being either laid off or forced to take annual leave until supplies are resumed.

Rudd said in the Parliament that it was important for the federal government to work closely with its state counterpart to help manage the impact of the gas outage.

The loss of gas supplies in the west could also impact on the rest of the Australian economy, he warned.

“There is a significant impact on WA economic activity and on growth, and on exports in that state,” Rudd said.

Several WA mining and industrial companies, including exporters, have been forced to scale back production because of cuts to gas supplies.

PM/Reuters

Picasso painting breaks Australia art sale record

Sydney, 20 June — An abstract portrait by Pablo Picasso on Wednesday smashed the record for an artwork sold in Australia, netting 6.9 million Australian dollars (6.1 million US dollars) at an auction in Sydney.

The 1954 painting “Sylvette”, which clearly showed the young face of model and later successful artist, Sylvette David, amid bright swathes of red, yellow and green, was sold to an unidentified phone bidder. “Sydney is the New York of the art market in the southern hemisphere,” Deutscher-Menzies Galleries spokeswoman Marie Geissler told Reuters, adding the sale proved Australian galleries could sell works internationally.

The Picasso easily broke the country’s previous record of 3.48 million Australian dollars, paid for a work last year by Brett Whiteley, the late wild-haired bad boy of Australian Art. — MNA/Reuters

California’s economy expected to remain weak

Los Angeles, 20 June — Mainly due to the housing market slump, California’s economy will remain weak through the end of the year and into 2009, according to a report published on Wednesday.

Overall, California “will weather the slowdown of economic growth based on its diversified economy, its Pacific Rim export orientation and surging agricultural industry”, said the report presented by the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

But the Los Angeles area’s strength in exports of goods and services will help counter the housing industry slump, the report said. “Though you still hear talk of recession these days, it does not appear that California will exhibit the kind of job loss that typically goes with a national recession,” economist Jerry Nickelsburg of the UCLA Anderson Forecast wrote in the quarterly assessment.

MNA/Xinhua

Laos strives to ensure economic stability

Hanoi, 20 June — Amid global economic difficulties, Laos is trying to maintain its economic stability, and ensure that production will increase, electricity expansion continue, and petroleum prices remain affordable, Lao newspaper Vientiane Times reported on Wednesday.

The future rice bank will improve infrastructure like irrigation networks, boost food production and establish a rice bank to ensure food security.

The rice bank can also be used to help control price fluctuations by releasing rice into the market during time of shortages.

Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh said the government had encouraged farmers to grow rice on 94,500 hectares throughout the country, and the current rice crop was now being harvested with expected output of 400,000 tons.

MNA/Xinhua

PM/Reuters

Barge traffic sits on the Mississippi River in Missouri on 19 June, 2008. The Mississippi River surged past levees and spilled into farms, small towns and parkland on Thursday, adding to billion-dollar losses that have ignited global food inflation fears. — Internet

A motorcyclist passes through a checkpoint on 19 June, 2008 between Kandahar and Argbandab district. Canandan and Afghan forces pounded Taliban fighters back from villages along the Argbandab river with the help of aircraft and superior weapons on Wednesday. — Internet
Hotel explosion injures 11 in Mexico  
MEXICO CITY, 20 June—An explosion that occurred at a hotel in the eastern Mexican city of Cancun injured 11 people on Tuesday, police said. The explosion took place at the kitchen of the Royal Caribbean Hotel early in the morning. A preliminary investigation showed that the blast was caused by the accumulation of natural gas in workers’ dining-room near the kitchen.

**Official thinktank says quake costs China $73b**

BEIJING, 20 June—Direct economic losses from last month’s Sichuan Province earthquake could reach 400 to 500 billion yuan (58 to 73 billion US dollars), according to a major state thinktank.

The overall impact on the national economy, however, was likely to be minor, said the State Information Centre, a thinktank under the National Development and Reform Commission, the country’s top planning agency.

The centre said in a report published Wednesday that the quake might reduce China’s economic growth by just 0.1 percentage point. And the losses well might be offset by the huge costs of rebuilding, which could raise fixed asset investment growth by 1.1 percentage points and help the economy grow 0.4 percentage points faster.

Most of the damage wasn’t covered by insurance, as awareness of such products is low in remote areas, analysts said. Indeed, as of Sunday, insurers had paid out only 316 million yuan for 249,000 quake-related claims, according to the China Insurance Regulatory Commission.

Of that amount, 179 million yuan was for life claims and 137 million yuan for property claims, the industry regulator noted.

It cited preliminary statistics showing that 16,500 life-insurance policyholders were killed in the magnitude 8.0 quake on 12 May, with another 2,474 injured. Further, 149,000 insured houses collapsed in the quake.—MNA/Xinhua

**Afghans say start anti-Taleban offensive in south**

ARGANDAR (Afghanistan), 20 June—Helicopter gunships and troops with small and heavy arms blasted a valley in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday as local and NATO forces launched a huge offensive against hundreds of Taleban insurgents, many of whom broke out of jail last week.

Some 600 Taleban fighters on Monday took over villages in Argandar, on the northern outskirts of Kandahar City, days after freeing hundreds of inmates in an attack on the city’s main jail, according to the Taleban and an Afghan official.

A Taleban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said militants had set their sights on Kandahar itself, the movement’s birthplace, which lies about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Argandar.

After massing troops, Afghan Army and NATO-led forces have now started an offensive to flush out the Taleban from the villages, while stepping up security in Kandahar City and imposing a night curfew. The developments in Kandahar come amid rising violence in the past two years, the bloodiest period since Taleban’s removal from power in 2001 in Afghanistan.—MNA/Reuters

**Iran says demand to halt enrichment “illegitimate”**

TEHRAN, 20 June—Iran will never surrender to an “illegitimate” demand by major world powers that it halt uranium enrichment, Iran’s state radio on Wednesday quoted the country’s envoy to the UN atomic watchdog as saying.

“Iran will never give in to the illegitimate and illegal pressure of the West to freeze its uranium enrichment,” said Ali Asghar Soltanieh in a speech in London about the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The EU’s top diplomat, Javier Solana, presented Teheran on Saturday with a new package of economic incentives designed to persuade it to curb its nuclear work, which the West fears is aimed at building a nuclear weapon.—MNA/Reuters

**EU Parlt endorses tougher vehicle safety standards**

BRUSSELS, 20 June—The European Parliament on Wednesday endorsed the European Commission’s proposal for tougher vehicle safety standards aimed at safeguarding pedestrians.

The new standards relate to a number of performance tests that vehicles are required to pass, and the compulsory introduction of brake assistance systems (BAS).

The proposal will now be discussed by the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers. The European Commission, the EU’s executive body, welcomed the Parliament’s endorse-

ment. “The agreement in the Parliament’s endorse-

ment is a big step forward in ensuring and increasing the safety of all road users, especially vulnerable groups like pedestrians and cyclists. Now the EU member states will have the final say and I hope for their support,” said European Commission Vice President Gunter Verheugen.—MNA/Xinhua

**Turkey seizes 102.8 kilos of heroin**

ANKARA, 20 June—Turkish Customs police confiscated 102.8 kilos of heroin at Pendik and Ambarli ports in Turkey’s biggest city of Istanbul, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday.

In another operation staged at Pendik Port in Istanbul on Tuesday, the police found 44.4 kilos of heroin when searching a truck which was going to leave for Germany by a ro-ro ship, it said.

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**Thailand, Cambodia sign communique on Preah Vihear Temple**

BANGKOK, 20 June — Thailand and Cambodia on Wednesday signed a joint communique on the ancient Preah Vihear Temple to pave way for Phnom Penh’s application to list it as a World Heritage Site. The Thai-Cambodian Joint Communique was signed behind closed doors on Wednesday after Thai Cabinet endorsed on Tuesday a new map drawn by Cambodia delineating the historic site of the disputed temple, Thai News Agency reported.

Cambodia will present the new map as a key document to experts of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at a meeting in Quebec, Canada next month.

Thai Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama and other senior officials told reporters after the signing that the new map delineating the temple ruins, as well as its application to UNESCO to list it on the World Heritage List “did not affect each country’s rights on surveying and demarcating the common border.” — MNA/Xinhua

**China, US sign 10-year energy, environment framework**

WASHINGTON, 19 June — China and the United States signed a 10-year energy and environment cooperation framework here Wednesday after the two nations concluded their fourth round of Strategic Economic Dialogue, or SED.

Speaking to reporters before the signing ceremony at the US Treasury Department, visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan said the deal was “a major achievement of the meeting”, which will influence future bilateral economic cooperation and contribute to the sustainable development of the world.

The framework also highlights the great importance and strategic influence of the SED mechanism, he added.

US Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson said through the framework, “we will address some of the most important and difficult challenges facing our nations and the world today — energy security, environmental sustainability and climate change”.

He said interests of China and the United States in this area are “very aligned”.

“We seek energy security — which is so vital to our economic security — while taking the necessary steps and making the necessary technological advances to preserve the health of our planet,” said Paulson. — MNA/Xinhua

**Study says 1 in 3 Australian diabetics dead in 10 yrs**

CANBERRA, 20 June — Alarming new diabetes research predicts almost one-third of Australians with diabetes disease will die in the next decade, Australian Associated Press reported.

The figures, presented at an international diabetes conference on Tuesday in Sydney, are the first to forecast the mortality and morbidity in Australia due to type two diabetes, and the picture is grim.

From a nationally-representative sample of diabetics, 13 per cent would die in the next five years and 31 per cent would be dead within a decade.

One in five will have a heart attack by 2018, and one in 12 will suffer stroke or other complications like amputation, blindness and renal failure.

About 700,000 Australians have diabetes, with about 85 per cent diagnosed with the type two, a lifestyle form of the condition which is triggered by poor diet, lack of exercise and resulting weight gain. — MNA/Xinhua

**Eight feared drowned as bus plunges into river in B’desh**

DHAKA, 20 June — Eight passengers were feared drowned as a bus plunged into the Jamuna River, one of the three major rivers in Bangladesh, in northwestern Pabna District Tuesday afternoon.

Witnesses were quoted by private news agency UNB as saying the bus tumbled into the river at about 5:15 pm local time as its driver lost control over the steering while taking a turn.

Locals said the bus had some eight passengers when it plunged into the rain-fed river as its other passengers got down from it earlier.

But police said the bus only had its helper and the driver when it went down the river. — MNA/Xinhua

**UK claims top position in global arms trade**

LONDON, 20 June — Britain was the world’s biggest arms seller last year, accounting for a third of global arms exports, the government’s trade promotion organization said on Tuesday.

UK Trade and Investment said British arms exporters had added 19 billion US dollars in new business last year, giving them a larger share of global arms exports than the United States.

“As demonstrated by this outstanding export performance, the UK has a first class defence industry, with some of the world’s most technologically sophisticated companies,” the government’s minister for trade and investment, Digby Jones, said.

UKTI said the British figures were boosted by orders for Eurofighter Typhoon jets from Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest arms buyer, which imported 31 billion US dollars in weapons over the last five years.

The United States still tops the world for the last five years with 63 billion US dollars in total arms exports. — MNA/Reuters

**Cyprus battles huge forest fire**

NICOSIA, 20 June — A raging forest fire forced the evacuation of six villages in southwest Cyprus on Wednesday and the water-starved island sought aid from Greece.

Facing one of the worst droughts on record, the island had to use scarce water reserves to battle a blaze which destroyed at least three holiday homes and burned orchards and farms. Authorities said it was difficult to calculate the extent of the fire as thick plumes of smoke covered the semimountainous region between the cities of Limassol and Larnaca.

“It’s an environmental disaster,” said Neoclis Syllikitis, the Cypriot Interior Minister.

Six sparsely populated villages were evacuated as a precaution. — MNA/Reuters

**Cars drive along a road in central Brussels. Insurers are developing new ways to help commercial customers adapt to emerging climate change risks, a panel of experts said on 18 June, 2008.** — INTERNET
Italy’s Donadoni defends tired strikers
BADEN, 20 June — Strikers are finding Euro 2008 more difficult than defenders because of the demands of a long season, Italy coach Roberto Donadoni said on Wednesday.

The world champions beat 10-man France 2-0 in their final Group C game on Tuesday to set up a quarter-final with Spain on Sunday in Vienna.

So far none of Donadoni’s strikers have scored but the coach is refusing to come down hard on Luca Toni, Antonio Cassano, Alessandro Del Piero or Antonio Di Natale.

“I believe we are in the period of the season where it is not easy. After a long, hard season, it is a lot easier for defenders than attackers,” he told a news conference. The 44-year-old acknowledged that his assertion may not hold true for Spain, whose forwards have been flying with David Villa scoring a hat-trick in their opening 4-1 win over Russia. — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo says strong chance of joining Real
BASEL, 20 June — Cristiano Ronaldo said on Thursday there was a strong possibility he would leave European champions Manchester United for Real Madrid.

“The possibilities (of going to Real) are big but it doesn’t depend on me and because of that I don’t want to talk about it,” the 23-year-old winger told reporters after Portugal’s 3-2 quarter-final defeat by Germany at Euro 2008.

Asked if there had been an offer from Real, he said: “I think so, I don’t know. In the next few days we’ll see if we reach an agreement.”

“Everyone knows what I want. But in the next two or three days you’ll have something new.”

Asked when he had made the decision about his future he said: “Some time ago, before this competition. I didn’t want to say anything because we were in competition and these are important decisions.”

Ronaldo also revealed he had been playing with a foot injury for three months and would need an operation to correct it. — MNA/Reuters

Woods to have more knee surgery, out for season
LOS ANGELES, 20 June— Tiger Woods will have reconstructive surgery on his left knee that will sideline him for the rest of the 2008 season, the American world number one said on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old defied jabbing pain all week before clinching his 14th major title at the US Open on Monday, winning a 19-hole playoff against compatriot Rocco Mediate.

It was his first tournament in two months since having surgery to clean out cartilage in the knee two days after the US Masters in mid-April.

Woods outlined that he would have reconstructive surgery on his anterior cruciate ligament, which he tore 11 months ago after last year’s British Open at Carnoustie. — MNA/Reuters

Turkey’s Hakan Balta, left, and Croatia’s Darijo Srna challenge for the ball during the quarterfinal match between Croatia and Turkey in Vienna, Austria, on 20 June, 2008. — MNA/Reuters

Croatia’s Ivica Olic, left, hits the bar during the quarterfinal match between Croatia and Turkey in Vienna, Austria, on 20 June, 2008. — MNA/Reuters

Croatia’s Rakitic fit and raring to go
VIENNA, 20 June — Midfielder Ivan Rakitic is fit to return after a knee injury for Croatia’s Euro 2008 quarter-final with Turkey on Friday.

“I am 100 per cent. I came through training without any problems and I can’t wait for the match to begin,” he told reporters on Thursday. “We know what we are capable of and we want to prove our worth against the Turks,” added Rakitic, 20, who shone in the 2-1 win over Germany and the 1-0 victory over Poland after being left out of the opening 1-0 Group B triumph over Austria.

“We are looking forward to a historic chance of emulating the success of the 1998 squad that finished third in the World Cup in France and we are very confident we can do it.”

Coach Slaven Bilic declined to name his team but with Rakitic and winger Darijo Srna back to full fitness, Croatia are likely to use the 4-4-2 formation they employed against Germany before nine regular starters were rested against Poland. — MNA/Reuters

Germany reach semis after thrilling win
BASEL, 20 June— Germany finally gave notice they are serious contenders to win a fourth European Championship by beating Portugal 3-2 in a captivating quarter-final on Thursday to match their billing as pre-tournament favourites.

Bastian Schweinsteiger, returning after suspension, scored the first goal and set up two more as the Germans stepped up a gear after some unconvincing performances in the group stage.

It was another outstanding match in an already excellent tournament and Germany, having failed to get past the group stage since they were crowned European champions 12 years ago, have now clawed their way into the semifinals.

“I’m so happy we won,” said man of the match Schweinsteiger. “We’re in the top four. We’ve got the world champions beat 10-man France 2-0 in a captivating tournament favourites.

But Portugal, who were leading 1-0 at halftime, are serious contenders to win a fourth European Championship.

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Croatia 2 - 4 Turkey

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Cristie Kerr waves to the gallery after finishing the first round on the ninth hole of the LPGA Wegman’s International golf tournament at the Locust Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY, on 19 June, 2008. Kerr was tied for the lead after shooting a four-under-par 68. — MNA/Reuters
Weather Outlook for the Week of June 21-27, 2008

Rainfall on 20-6-2008 was (1.14) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (16:40). Relative humidity at (09:30) hours on 20-6-2008 was (32%) hours (approx.). Rainfall on 20-6-2008 was (1.14) inches at Mingaladon, (1.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.86) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (37.91) inches at Mingaladon, (46.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (57.16) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (16:40) hours.

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

Forecast valid until evening 21-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Rainfall will be isolated in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States and fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-6-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather Outlook for forth weekend of June 2008: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be in fairly widespread in Yangon Division, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

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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