

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 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

Rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks including relief work have met with success due to cooperation of State, people and Tatmadaw

Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee addresses coord meeting on reconstruction of towns and villages in storm-hit regions in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divs



Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting on rehabilitation of towns and villages in storm-hit regions of Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—A coordination meeting on reconstruction of towns and villages in the storm-hit regions in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions took place at Yangon Command Headquarters, today with an address by Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, NDPPC member ministers, the Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials, volunteers participating in the rehabilitation work, responsible persons of donor companies and guests.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Thein

Sein said relief and resettlement works could be carried out speedily in the storm-hit regions in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions thanks to the cooperation of the government, the public and national entrepreneurs. It is necessary to build durable houses for the homeless storm victims. Necessary assistance is also to be rendered for them to resume their business of agriculture and fishery.

In accord with guidance of the Head of State, in the implementation of rehabilitation and reconstruction works, the State is working ambitiously to improve the living conditions of the survivors more than ever. This is why arrangements are being made to build houses measuring 16ft x 20ft with post shoes, zinc roofing and wood. The Prime Minister said with the assistance of the government, construction entrepreneurs are beginning to build such houses in the hardest-hit regions.

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Marching on toward the set national goal

PAGES 6+7

A MEMBER OF MWAf

Remaining schools in Ayeyawady Div upgraded Textbooks to be distributed end of June

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Most of the basic education schools in Ayeyawady Division were reopened in June, the school season. A few schools remain to be opened in the Division.

All the remaining schools have been upgraded and they will reopen at the end of June and textbooks will be distributed in time.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 June, 2008

Entire people to cooperate in drug eradication task

Narcotic drugs pose grave danger to the entire mankind. A drug addict usually brings social problems to his society.

Trying drug, a person can be easily addicted to it and the abuse can destroy his social conditions and even his life. If one uses drugs through injection, one may be infected with fatal diseases such as HIV/AIDS and one may lose one's life suddenly.

Myanmar has been implementing the 15-year Narcotics Elimination Plan since 1999-2000. In this regard, the nation is taking effective measures with the participation of local people to achieve the targets of reducing drug production, prevention and control of drug trafficking, and eradication of drug abuse.

Committees for Drug Abuse Control at state and division, district, and township levels have been formed to step up addressing drug related cases and giving educative talks and rehabilitating drug addicts for enabling them to return to normal life free from drugs.

Now, the abuse of stimulant tablets such as ATS, Ketamine, ICE and Ecstasy that are produced with chemicals is spreading throughout the world. So, steps are being taken with added momentum to prevent and control the use of those modern drugs.

Myanmar is applying all possible means locally to ward off the menace of narcotic drugs, and in the meantime, it is exposing drug-related cases and taking action in collaboration with international organizations, and neighbouring and regional countries. Therefore, the onus is upon the government and the entire people to continue to work together in implementing the drug abuse and illicit trafficking undertakings to wipe out the dangers of narcotic drugs.

14th Test of Proficiency in Korean in Yangon and Mandalay on 21 Sept

YANGON, 27 June — The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar will hold the 14th Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) both in Yangon and Mandalay on 21 September (Sunday) simultaneously.

TOPIK is classified into three grades: Elementary (Level 1,2), Intermediate (Level 3,4) and Advanced (Level 5,6). Each test is made up of vocabulary and grammar, writing, listening and reading.

Application forms can be obtained at Korean Embassy from 1 July 2008 onwards. Application form together with application fee K10,000 should be submitted to Korean Embassy not later than 15 July, 2008. The test venue will be announced on 1 July 2008. For more information, contact Korean Embassy, No. 97, University Avenue, Bahan Township, Ph 527142~4. —H

People's Desire

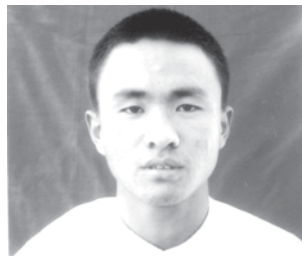
- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements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

Training Course No. 7 of NYRDDC (Mandalay) concludes



Minister Col Thein Nyunt speaking at conclusion ceremony of the training course No. 7 of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay).—MNA

YANGON, 28 June — A conclusion ceremony of the training course No. 7 of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) was held at the college in Amarapura Township, Mandalay



Naga National
Maung Kyaw Thet
Lin.

Division yesterday.

On behalf of the Secretary of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. He said in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the two degree

colleges were established to produce intellectuals and intelligentsia, who would carry out regional development and to develop human resources in the border areas. Today's ceremony was the 7th occasion of its kind. The border areas have borne fruit of developments thanks to the concerted efforts of the State during the period of 18 years. The government has spent over K 178,789 million on development of the border areas.

Regarding the



Chin National Maung
Tam Naing Hone.

transport sectors, earth, gravel and tarred roads and bridges have been upgraded. Concerning the education sector, there are 641 schools built and 462 upgraded and, 241,258

students are pursuing their education in this academic year. To enable the needy students to pursue the education for free, 27 Border Areas and National Races Youth Development Training Schools have been opened. Degree



Kayah National
Maung Nar Ye.

holders have emerged from the two degree colleges. In addition, Technical Training Schools have been set up in some townships in

border areas, he noted.

In conclusion, he urged the trainees to redouble their efforts for the development of border regions.

After that, Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented prizes and completion certificates to the outstanding trainees.

A total of 93 trainees obtained BA, BSc and AGTI diploma from NYRDDC (Mandalay) in 2007-2008 academic year.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, the deputy ministers, the directors-general, faculty members, the trainees and their parents.—MNA

Earthquake Report

A strong earthquake of intensity 6.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar (Andaman Island, India Region) about 500 miles southwest of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory, was recorded at 19 hrs 24 min and 50 sec MST on 28 June 2008.

Millionaire gets 40 months for enslaving maids

NEW YORK, 28 June — A Long Island millionaire was sentenced Friday to 40 months in prison for enslaving two house maids, a day after his wife was sentenced to 11 years in prison for the same crime, United States Attorney Robert Nardoza told CNN.

The modern day slavery case began when one of Mahender and Varsha Sabhnani's house maids was found in a Dunkin' Donuts store in Syosset, New York, bruised and wearing rags, allegedly making the motion of hitting herself and repeating what sounded like the word imaster, authorities said.

The bizarre incident set off an investigation by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement who found the second house maid in Sabhnani's mansion, hiding in a closet under the basement stairs, according to the statement.—Internet

UK soldier killed in Afghanistan

London, 28 June—A British soldier has been killed in Afghanistan after his patrol vehicle rolled over, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has said.

A defence spokesman said the soldier was from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps.

Two other soldiers were injured in the same incident on Friday night but their injuries are not life threatening.

Next of kin of the dead soldier have been informed. Since 2001, 109 British personnel have died in Afghanistan. The latest fatality follows the deaths of two members of the Parachute Regiment, who were killed on Tuesday.

Sgt Maj Michael Williams, 40, died in a fire fight, and Pte Joe Whittaker, 20, was killed while checking for mines.

A total of 11 British personnel, including the first woman, Cpl Sarah Bryant, 26, have been killed in Afghanistan since 8 June. —Internet

Two vessels collide in Philippines without resulting in casualties

MANILA, 28 June — Only one week after a sea tragedy took place in the Philippines, two vessels collided with each other in the country early Saturday but no casualties have been reported, said Philippine Coast Guard.

The vessels bumped into each other off the Camotes Island in central Philippines but reached their respective destinations, said the Coast Guard Cebu station commander Elpidio Gunio in an interview with local radio dzRH.

This took place exactly one week after the superferry MV Princes of the Stars sank 100 meters off an island in Romblon province, also in central Philippines, because of typhoon, in which only 56 people are known to have survived.

Internet



Lebanese soldiers patrol the streets of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli on 26 June, 2008. Two people were injured, one of them critically, in a grenade explosion in Tripoli, where sectarian clashes earlier this week left nine people dead, a security official said. —INTERNET



A woman in a traditional dress walks up stairs that are decorated with alphorns, during the Federal Yodelling Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland, Friday June 27, 2008. The festival that takes place every three years, is expected to attract over 200,000 people. More than 12,000 yodelers, alphorn players and flag swingers will take part in different contests from 26 to 29 June, 2008. —INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,113

WASHINGTON, 27 June — As of Friday, June 27, 2008, at least 4,113 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,350 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers, last updated Friday at 10 a m EDT.

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

Five killed in sport plane crash in Moscow region

Moscow, 28 June — Five were killed in the crash of an Antonov An-12 sport plane near the town of Pushchino in Serpukhov district in Moscow region on Friday, the Russian Emergencies Ministry's central division said.

The plane crashed in the woods at around 5:50 pm Moscow time (1350 GMT), a source in Moscow regional law enforcement agencies was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying. The aircraft had taken off from the Bolshoye Gryzlovo airfield near Pushchino for a training sortie. It crashed, caught fire, and, according to eyewitnesses, burnt down completely. Police and prosecution officers are working at the scene to identify the victims and the aircraft's owner. — Internet



A man works to launch a boat from a car trailer on a flooded part of a road following a break in the town's levee on 27 June, 2008, in an already flooded area of Winfield, Mo A section of an earthen levee broke Friday morning, releasing Mississippi River waters that officials predicted will 'ultimately inundate' part of the small town. —INTERNET

Bombings in Mosul, near Baghdad kill 41

BAGHDAD, 28 June — A suicide bomber attacked a meeting of pro-government Sunni sheiks west of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 23 people, including three US Marines. At least 18 more people died in a car bombing in the northern city of Mosul.

Both attacks happened in Sunni Arab areas where Al-Qaida in Iraq has been active. They appeared to be part of a campaign by both Sunni and Shiite extremists to undermine US efforts to shore up local administrations and secure the security gains achieved since early last year.

The target of the Mosul blast appeared to be the provincial governor, who was near the explosion but escaped injury.

The US military announced that Al-Qaida's top leader in Mosul, known by his nickname Abu Khalaf, was killed in a raid two days earlier. US officials say Mosul is the last major Iraqi city where Al-Qaida in Iraq has a significant presence.

Thursday's other bombing took place at a building in Karmah, 20 miles west of Baghdad, where dozens of sheiks had gathered for a meeting attended by US officials, said Col Fawzi Fraih, civil defense director of Anbar province.—Internet



Pro-government activists demonstrate in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires, Friday, June 27, 2008. Argentina's Congress is debating the new grain export tax hike after Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez increased export taxes last March by presidential decree, triggering a conflict between farmers organizations and her government.—INTERNET

Obama shows lead in battleground states

WASHINGTON, 28 June —A latest poll released on Thursday showed that US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama was leading his Republican rival John McCain in four battleground states that are expected to play key roles in the November general elections.

According to the

Quinnipiac University pool, Obama was more favoured than McCain in Colorado (49 per cent to 44 per cent), Michigan (48 to 42), Minnesota (54 to 37) and Wisconsin (52 to 39). The Illinois senator also enjoyed strong leads among women, minorities, political independent and young voters, it showed,

adding that about 75 per cent of interviewees said they have made up their minds.

The four states are all considered by campaign strategists and political analysts as swing states where McCain and Obama would have neck-and-neck battles on the election day.

MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese police seize six tons of hashish

LISBON, 28 June — The Portuguese Judicial Police (PJ) seized six tons of hashish hidden in a fishing boat off the south Lisbon coast on Thursday, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The hashish, a resin extracted from the leaves of the Indian hemp, was found hidden in some 200 packets inside the ship.

Police also arrested four drug traffickers. The anti-drug operation, named “Relampago”, was

unleashed earlier Thursday and constituted one of the largest campaigns against drugs this year, said Joao Figueira, chief inspector of the Central Direction of Narcotics Trafficking Investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

Five abducted by bandits in S Philippines

MANILA, 28 June — Five civilians were abducted by a bandit group in the Philippines' southern province of Basilan, the country's military said on Thursday.

The five employees of the Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc were kidnapped on Thursday morning by suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf group, said Romeo Brawner Jr, spokesman for the Philippine Army.

Philippine TV network ABS-CBN News reported that the employees were conducting metre reading when the abduction took place. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Nigerians executed in Indonesia for drugs

CILACAP (Indonesia), 28 June — Two Nigerians convicted for drug smuggling have been executed by firing squad in Indonesia, officials said on Friday. Samuel

Iwachekawu Okoye and Hansen Anthony Nwaoyisa were executed before midnight on Thursday on Nusakambangan prison island, which is off the coast of central Java.

“The executions were conducted at 00:00 last night” the Attorney General's spokesman, Bonaventura Daulat Nainggolan, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

UN chief urges rich nations to act on global crisis

UNITED NATIONS, 28 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday called on developed countries to take concrete measures to tackle the challenges of food crisis, climate change and development.

Ban made the appeal on the eve of a three-nation tour that will be followed by his participation in next

month's Group of Eight (G-8) summit in Japan.

“If ever there were a time to act, together as one, it is now,” Ban told journalists at the UN Headquarters.

“Seldom has the global community been under such stress. The ties that bind us, as humankind, are fraying. We must work especially hard to preserve

them, at this critical juncture, in the interests of our common future,” he said.

Ban said it was “no exaggeration to say that we face three crises, all interrelated and demanding our immediate action,” with the problems caused by soaring food prices the most pressing.

MNA/Xinhua

Gates to step down from Microsoft



Bill Gates

LOS ANGELES, 28 June—The chairman of Microsoft and one of the world's richest men, Bill Gates, is stepping down from his job running the world's largest software company.

Mr Gates, who made his fortune through developing software for the personal computer, plans to devote his time to charity work.

As a teenager Bill Gates had a vision of a personal computer on every desk in every home.

He says he caught sight of the future and based his career on what he saw.—Internet

Sri Lanka fighting kills 43

COLOMBO, (Sri Lanka) 28 June—Government troops captured a Tamil Tiger rebel-held town in war-ravaged northern Sri Lanka while infantry clashes across the region killed 40 rebels and three soldiers, the military said Saturday.

Fighting has escalated in this Indian Ocean island in recent months as government forces try to fulfill a pledge to crush the insurgents by the end of this year.

In the latest fighting, army troops took control of Andankulam town in Mannar district after a battle that killed 28 rebels and one soldier Friday, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Nanayakkara said the capture of the base and town were strategically important for government troops to gain control of rebels' northern strongholds.

Other battles on Friday killed 12 rebels and

one soldier in the Welioya region, while in the northern Jaffna peninsula a soldier died in a roadside bomb blast blamed on rebels, Nanayakkara said.

The military says fighting over the past week has killed 220 rebels and 22 soldiers. Analysts accuse both sides of exaggerating enemy losses and underreporting their own casualties.

Internet



Lost at sea : Would-be immigrants wait before being seen by police in Malta after an Italian patrol boat rescued 70 clandestine immigrants lost some 30 miles (50 kilometres) west of the Mediterranean island.

INTERNET

ROK police clash with protesters over beef imports

SEOUL, 28 June — At least one person was injured Thursday as police tried to remove protesters who blocked a road to prevent the distribution of US beef stored at a pier in Busan of South Korea, according to *Yonhap* news agency.

The clash came as hundreds of South Korean activists and

unionists carried out protests to stop the shipment of US beef imports at piers nationwide, after the government issued a legal notice earlier in the day to officially resume the importation of US beef.

“Some 150 protesters occupied the road leading to the pier in the south-eastern port city where

roughly 3,300 tons of US beef are stored.

At around 10:30 a.m. local time, about one-and-a-half hours after the protest started, police started to remove the demonstrators, but met strong resistance.

One civic activist was injured from a fall while struggling with a police officer,” the news agency said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



South Korean protesters march toward the presidential house as police block them after a candlelight rally against US beef imports in Seoul, South Korea, on 27 June, 2008. South Korea began inspecting US beef Friday as hundreds of labor activists blocked customs storage facilities for a second day in a row to prevent American beef from reaching consumers.—INTRNET



Thai villagers and marine officials try to rescue some of false killer whales that are stranded ashore at the beach on Phuket island. Thirty false killer whales swam ashore on a beach near the Thai resort isle of Phuket, local residents and hotel staff saved all but one of them, a marine official said.—INTERNET

Briton sentenced to life in prison for US murders

BOSTON, 28 June — A British computer engineer was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on Thursday for murdering his American wife and infant daughter in a crime that a Massachusetts judge called incomprehensible.

Neil Entwistle, 29, will serve two life terms to run concurrently. As she delivered the sentence,

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Diane Kottmyer said he would never be released. “These crimes are incomprehensible,” the judge told the court in Woburn, Massachusetts, a day after a jury found Entwistle guilty of shooting to death his wife Rachel, 27, and daughter Lillian Rose as they lay in bed.

The judge also said Entwistle should not profit

by writing a book about the killings or selling his story to other media.

Prosecutors said they believed Entwistle was despondent after sinking deep in debt and dissatisfied with his sex life when he turned a .22-caliber gun on his wife and daughter at their home in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, in January 2006.

MNA/Reuters

Israel keeps Gaza crossings closed for second day

JERUSALEM, 28 June — Israel said it would keep its border crossings with the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip closed for a second day on Thursday, prompting the Islamist group to warn that the move could wreck a week-old ceasefire

agreement.

Israel closed the crossings on Wednesday in what it said was a response to rockets fired by Islamic Jihad militants. Islamic Jihad said the attack was retaliation for the Israeli Army’s killing of one of its

commanders in the occupied West Bank. The truce, brokered by Egypt, does not cover the West Bank.

Israeli military liaison official Peter Lerner told *Reuters* the crossings would remain closed on Thursday and no date had been set for their reopening.

“It depends on the assessment of the situation following Tuesday’s rocket attack,” Lerner said. *MNA/Reuters*

US embassy in Venezuela says receives bomb threat

CARACAS, 28 June — The United States Embassy in Venezuela received a bomb threat on Thursday, an embassy spokeswoman said, though the embassy has only closed the parking lot and not the principal installations.

“Someone called in (a bomb threat) and said there was something in the parking lot. We are just checking the cars that are there,” said spokeswoman Robin Holzhauer in a telephone interview.

“People have not been able to come into that parking lot, but the embassy itself is open,” she said. *MNA/Reuters*

Iran arrests 10 terrorists

TEHERAN, 28 June — Iran’s security forces have detained 10 terrorists who were planning bombings and assassination within the Islamic Republic, Iran’s Press TV satellite channel said on Thursday.

The arrests took place after Iranian forces recently smashed three terrorist groups in recent days, Brigadier Gholam-Ali Nekoui, the police chief of Iran’s southeastern province of Sistan-va-Bluchestan was quoted as saying. The terrorists armed with missile launchers, semi-automatic rifles and RPG-7s were trained abroad to carry out attacks in Iran, Nekoui said, adding that they were arrested in the cities of Sarbaz and Iranshahr after entering the country from neighbouring Pakistan.

MNA/Xinhua

Powerful earthquake hits Indian Ocean

NEW DELHI, 28 June — An earthquake of 6.7 magnitude has struck the Andaman Islands of India’s east coast at 1140 GMT on Friday, Indian Meteorological Department said.

The epicentre, at 11.031 degrees north latitude and 91.906 degrees east latitude, is 115 kilometres southwest of Port Blair in Indian’s Andaman Islands and 975 kilometres southwest of

Thailand’s capital Bangkok, US Geological Survey said.

No tsunami alert has been issued and there is no immediate reports of casualties.

A powerful quake in the region in December 2004 triggered tsunami in the Indian Ocean, killing more than 200,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua



Investors watch an electronic board showing stocks index at a securities exchange in Shanghai, June 27, 2008. Chinese shares plummeted on Friday as investor sentiment was hurt by weak overseas markets and concerns about new share offerings. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index trimmed 153.42 points, or 5.29 percent, to close at 2,748.43 points. The Shenzhen Component Index dropped 563.45 points or 5.63 percent to 9,436.21.—XINHUA

Marching on toward the set national goal

A member of MWAF

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation made up of Myanmar women has turned nearly 5 years. Born as the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs since 3 July 1996 with a view to forming it as the National Mechanism, it has turned about 12 years. Looking back to its history, Myanmar women attended the Fourth World Women's Conference held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, in 1995 and were able to form the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs in 1996 in line with the rules set up by the conference to keep pace with global nations.

The 3 July 1996 on which the government formed the MNCWA with the aim of enhancing socio-economic life of the entire Myanmar women and of carrying out the future work programmes of the association was a milestone for both Myanmar and the mass of Myanmar women. The designation of 3 July as Myanmar Women's Day is of great significance. The 3 July is a day worthy of great honour in the history of Myanmar women as it represents the entire mass of Myanmar women. The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF) was formed on 20 December 2003 as an NGO with the aim of enabling women to become a strong national force, of ensuring security of Myanmar women's life and of enabling them to keep contact with their congenial NGOs.

The MWAF consists of six departments and six work groups in order to ensure development of economic, health and education status of women in addition to uplift of the role of Myanmar women, to make them value the culture and traditions of diverse national races and know the rights of Myanmar women and to enable them to cooperate with the national community. The six departments are the

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has come into existence just for five years, but it has been able to stand firmly as a non-governmental organization on the basis of the fact that state/division Women's Affairs Organizations and work groups are carrying out social welfare services with correct concepts and conviction in the interests of the nation.

Organization Department, the Administration Department, the Discipline Enforcement Department, the Financial Department, the Information Department and the International Relations Department. The six Working Groups are the Working Group for Rehabilitation and Reintegration, the Social and Culture Working Group, the Working Group for Economy, the Nationalities Affairs Working Group, the Legal Studies and Advisory Working Group and the Environmental Conservation Working Group.

Furthermore, the state and division women's affairs organizations, the district women's affairs organizations, the township women's affairs organizations and the ward and village women's affairs organizations were formed under the federation. In the meantime, four subcommittees, namely, the subcommittee for prevention of women against violence, the subcommittee for prevention of trafficking in persons, the nurturing and rehabilitation subcommittee and the young women work subcommittee were formed under the Working Group for Rehabilitation and Reintegration. In the same way, the education subcommittee, the health subcommittee and the culture subcommittee were formed under the Social and Culture Working Group. All the work groups are in the process of implementing their respective objectives in line with rules, regulations and procedures set by the Women

Affairs Organizations at different levels.

In implementing its work programmes, the MWAF in cooperation with its congenial organizations, is receiving and holding discussions with representatives of the international organizations, cooperating with the ministries concerned, giving educative talks, holding ceremonies to donate cash and kind, conducting roundtable discussions, timely holding workshops, sending its representatives to international workshops, accepting membership applications, accepting, scrutinizing and addressing complaints in the interests of the entire Myanmar women in accord with the motto "Strive in unison for development of Myanmar women".

Of the ongoing projects being implemented the length and breadth of the nation for ensuring security and improvement of Myanmar women, the micro credit scheme is a significant and reliable programme. The programme can strengthen the household's economy so that they can generate their income with peace of mind. The micro credit scheme is being widely introduced in the states and divisions. For development of human resources among Myanmar women training courses such as the Women Leadership Development, the Entrepreneurship Development, the Computer and Internet Course, the Basic Accounting Course, the Flower Arrangement Course, the Communicative English Language Course, the Secretarial Practice and the Basic Office Skill Course are being opened.

Making up more than 50 per cent of the population of the nation, women are a strong national force. So, MWAF members constitute a reliable force of the nation. It is found that in organizing women as members, the federation has given priority to qualitative improvement, rather than quantitative improvement. Therefore, it is required to organize a growing number of those who are interested in social welfare services, those who gain influence over social organizations and many people, entrepreneurs, and those who are held in high esteem by others. It is also intended to increase the number of members who have positive outlook on the nation and the people.

(See page 7)

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Marching on toward the set national goal

A member of MWAf

(from page 6)

Myanmar has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) since 1997. It has formed national level organizations in accordance with the Beijing Declaration to implement the tasks. Moreover, it is following the international conventions by submitting reports according to the principles of the convention it has signed, thereby showing its respect, duty-consciousness, activeness and enthusiasm. So, it could occasionally rebut the one-sided accusations made by certain international organizations.

Myanmar holds International Women's Day commemorative ceremonies every year. As Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, MWAf is serving as the focal point of the ASEAN Women's Affairs Committee. Myanmar women representatives are attending the meetings of the ASEAN Women's Affairs Committee, related courses and workshops and participating in plans. Furthermore, it hosted the 3rd ASEAN Committee on Women Meeting from 29 November to 1 December 2004.

In pursuance of Millennium Development Goals – MDG, the federation is making efforts to achieve the objectives such as to ensure sustainable development of women, to fulfil the requirements of the women who need protection, to materialize the strategy of equal rights between men and women, and to become an international organization capable of effectively improving efficiencies of women.

Now, the government is addressing the problem of trafficking in persons that poses dangers to the world and the region. So, in line with the tasks for anti-human trafficking movements stated in the seven objectives, the Women's Affairs Organizations at all levels are implementing the four major

tasks of prevention, prosecution, protection, and rehabilitation and reintegration according to the National Plans of Action.

In addition, the annual general meeting of the federation takes place once a year according to its principles. At the meeting, the central executive committee submits the annual report; the departments and work groups report on the performances they have implemented in a year and future plans; state and division Women's Affairs Organizations submit and review annual reports, pass resolutions, and lay down work programmes to be based in implementing the future plans. The annual general meetings bring so many benefits that state and division Women's Affairs Organizations can report on difficulties they face in implementing women's affairs tasks, hold cordial discussions about the work progress of last year and exchange experiences, and make suggestions to solve the difficulties.

As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women's Day that falls on 3 July, commemorative activities are organized such as holding paper reading sessions, costume shows, essay competitions and extempore talks, airing songs, writing articles, holding photo contests and article contests, and setting up commemorative billboards. In the ceremonies to hail Myanmar Women's Day, prizes are presented to Myanmar women who are outstanding in the sector concerned.

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has come into existence just for five years, but it has been able to stand firmly as a non-governmental organization on the basis of the fact that state/division Women's Affairs Organizations and work groups are carrying out social welfare services with correct concepts and conviction in the interests of the nation.

Translation: TS + MS



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MYANMAR WOMEN'S DAY

3rd July 2008

Hailing Myanmar Women's Day

Graceful life of Myanmar women

- * Civilized and natured is Myanmar lass
Hard working, active and hospitable
Well brought up physically and spiritually
Of good character
- * Myanmar housewife with fine qualities
She has high regards for spouse and sons
Takes good care of their earnings
To lead a secure and meaningful life
- * Myanmar women are systematic
Prepared and willing to do duty
All are the same
Look after welfare of community.

Dr Than Oo (Trs.)

Prize winners announced

YANGON, 26 June— A list of prize winners of article contest to mark Myanmar Women's Day was announced today.

Ma Saw Einda Thet Maung (Saw Einda Thet Maung) stood first, House Surgeon Chan Nyain Thu (House Surgeon Chan Nyein Thu), Dr Cho Cho Tint (Ma Tint-Myanmarsar) and Dr Nwe Nwe Soe (Nwe Lay-Myanmarsar), second and U Tun Tun Win (Khun Hti Nge-History) and Ma Myat Thiri Maung (Myat Thiri Maung), third in the contest.

Prize winners may contact MWAf at No. 132, Than Lwin Street, Bahan Township, Ph (01-501773) and Committee for Holding Article Contest at No. 228, Theinbyu Street, Botahtaung Township, Ph (01-371342), not later than 28 June.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts variety of Bata brand slippers worth K 15,947,700 from Managing Director U Aung Myat Khine of Best Myanmar Co Ltd at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township on 28 June.—H

Rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks including relief work ...

(from page 1)

As the first phase, more than 6,000 houses will be built and donors are invited to contribute to the construction of houses. To ensure low cost, the State will provide corrugated iron sheets, roofing nails, nails and cement. If there is cooperation of volunteers, donors and timber and construction entrepreneurs, the construction of houses will be completed in a short time. All can witness that rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks including relief work have met with success due to the cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. Again, wellwishers are invited to render assistance to economic rehabilitation of the storm victims, said the Prime Minister.

Next, the ministers who are supervising reconstruction tasks in storm-hit regions reported on rehabilitation for storm victims. First, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on number of houses needed for storm victims in ravaged villages in Ngapudaw Township and progress on regeneration of agriculture and fisheries of local people.

Next, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint reported on reconstruction and rehabilitation of Labutta Township, Kungyangon Township, Pyapon and Kyaiklat Townships, Bogale Township, Dedaye Township and Kawhmu Township and requirement for construction of houses for storm victims.

Afterwards, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on providing fishing gear for fishermen in storm-hit regions, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, on arrangements being made to provide post shoes and cements for construction of houses.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence reported on arrival of fresh water and sea water fish and prawn from delta region to Yangon and Chairman of towns and villages rehabilitation and reconstruction committee Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, on plans for construction of houses for storm victims.

Prime Minister receives Member of House of Representatives of Japan



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Member of the House of Representatives of Japan Senior Vice Minister Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI and party.—MNA

YANGON, 28 June – Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Member of the House of Representatives of Japan Senior Vice Minister for Ministry of Environment Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI and party at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here, this evening.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Deputy Director-General of Protocol Department U Soe Win.

The Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and party were accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.

MNA

Afterwards, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on donations for storm-hit regions and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, on transportation of construction materials.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association U Sein Lwin reported on sawing of timber logs for building of boats and houses, Chairman of Tawwin Family Co U Ko Ko Htwe, on construction of houses for storm victims, Chairman of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association U Khin Shwe, on collaborative efforts of entrepreneurs in reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit regions.

National entrepreneurs also reported on cooperation in rehabilitation and reconstruction

works in storm-hit regions, continued contributions towards the building of schools and houses and regeneration of economies.

NDPCC Chairman Prime Minister General Thein Sein gave a concluding remark. He said those who entered the affected regions after the storm together with National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee member ministers were national entrepreneurs. The Prime Minister said the committee expressed thanks and has put on record the contributions of the national entrepreneurs.

As relief works as well as reconstruction and development tasks are being carried out simultaneously, national entrepreneurs are to continue their cooperation and participation, the Prime Minister said.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets Member of the House of Representatives of Japan Senior Vice Minister Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI.—MNA

Member of House of Representatives of Japan calls on SWRR Minister, A&I Minister and UMFCCI President

YANGON, 28 June – Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Member of the House of Representatives of Japan Senior Vice Minister for the Ministry of Environment Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI at the hall of Fire Services Department

(Head Office) in Mayangon Township this morning.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa and officials.

Japanese Senior Vice Minister Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI later called on

President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint at the office of UMFCCI in Lanmadaw Township at 1 pm and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at the hall of Irrigation Department in Yankin Township at 3 pm.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the meeting of Central Body for the fourth conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.—MNA

Central Body for Fourth Conference of MWJA meets

YANGON, 28 June — The Central Body for the Fourth Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association met at Karawaik Palace, here, this morning.

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presided over the meeting and Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) acted as MC.

The Chairman of MWJA made a speech on the occasion.

The report of CEC of MWJA was read out. Central Body members made suggestions related to the report of the CEC of MWJA.

In the afternoon, Vice-Chairman-1 of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) presided over the meeting.

The financial statement and audit report were submitted by a member of the Central Body.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman-2 U Than Maung (Than Maung) reported on the submitted-suggestions of the members of the Central Body of MWJA.

Members of the Central Body participated in the discussions.

Joint-Secretary-3 U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Htaik-Thone Se) made suggestion to put record on deceased MWJA members.

The meeting approved two items, passed three resolutions and put record on five items.

After the meeting, 84 donors contributed K over 1.1 million to the meeting of the Central Body and storm-victim members of MWJA.

Also present on the occasion were literati and guests.—MNA

Meeting of Central Body for the fourth conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held

YANGON, 28 June—The meeting of Central Body for the fourth conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at Karaweik Hall in Kandawgyi this morning, with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Present were the directors-general of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Information, Chairman and Vice-chairman of MWJA, members of Central Body of MWJA and guests.

The minister said the central body of MWJA formed 14 working groups and achievements have been made in organizational, fund-raising, publishing, welfare and international relations sectors. He said he was sorry to learn the death of some

literatis and members of MWJA. He spoke of the need for the association to make efforts for perpetuation of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award.

He said the association

increase of knowledge in the service of the national interest. He said arrangements are to be made for cultivation of reading habit among the rural people, the majority

order to realize the constitution in the interest of the people. That was why the constitution was approved by the unanimous support of the people, he added.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of MWJA and CEC members pose for documentary photo.—MNA

is to build strength for progress of literary world and literary workers,

of the country. Now libraries have been opened in over 57,700 villages and there are over 30,000 permanent libraries. Those living abroad read journals and magazines published in Myanmar, he said.

He urged the literary workers to seek ways and means for producing fine literature and to translate the works in international languages.

The literary workers sponsored by the MWJA provided assistance and supplies to the storm victims and they organized the wellwishers through the media. Moreover, they reported poems and articles regarding the national referendum in

In conclusion, the minister urged the literary workers to inculcate the people with correct outlook and knowledge, to safeguard the national interest, to discharge the duties bestowed by history in efforts for emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation and to realize the objectives of the association.

Next, the minister posed for documentary photos with chairman of MWJA, CEC members and members of central body. The minister cordially greeted those present at the meeting and observed the documentary photos of the association.—MNA

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) speaking at Central Body meeting for the Fourth Conference of MWJA.—MNA





Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo cut the ribbon to open Khabaung Dam.—A&I

Khabaung Dam inaugurated...

(from page 16)
Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min said Khabaung reservoir and hydro-power station were opened on 23 March 2008 and the power station

generates 17 to 25 megawatts daily. The dam was built in order to supply water to the farmlands through the canals. In the open season, the dam can irrigate 10,000 acres of summer paddy. The dam is 212th one for the State and 46th one for Bago Division, he

said. He said in Bago Division over three million acres of monsoon paddy have been grown and the dam supplies water for cultivation of over 400,000 acres of summer paddy. Cultivation acreage in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions has decreased due

to the natural disaster. This is why efforts are being made for boosting production per acre yield and extended cultivation of summer paddy.

He said it is Bago Division that produces rice, beans and pulses, cotton, sugarcane and oil crops, the major crops of Myanmar agricultural economy. The government has been implementing irrigation projects for supply of water for agricultural purposes as the division is an important region in production of crops, he added.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said Myanmar is a country with a lot of fertile lands. Agriculture sector represents 37 per cent of the national economy. Out of 56 million people, 22.43 million are employed and 61.3 per cent of the workforce are engaged in the agriculture sector.

He spoke at length on arrangements for boosting production, reclamation

of new land and provision for production of high quality new crops and more job opportunities after completion of multi-purpose dam projects.

He said there were 2.5 million of irrigated acres in 1988-89 and now there are over 5.6 million of acres. Paddy production also increased up to 1,500 million baskets of paddy. Due to the cyclonic storm farmlands were flooded. Now efforts are being made for re-cultivation of paddy in those affected areas. Moreover, rehabilitation tasks are being undertaken with the assistance of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, UN, neighbouring countries, ASEAN nations and NGOs.

U Than Htaik, on behalf of the local people, thanked the government for construction of the dam.

Next, the commander formally unveiled the stone inscription to mark the dam and sprinkled scented water on it. The

commander and the minister formally opened the dam and inspected the canals and other structures.

Director-General of Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw and Director U Myint Than of construction-5 reported on the project.

The commander and the minister met service personnel and members of township agricultural coordination committee and discussed boosting production.

The reinforced concrete dam lies five miles downstream of Khabaung reservoir. It is 25 feet high and 150 feet wide and can supply water to 100, 000 acres—40,000 in Toungoo and 60,000 in Ottwin Townships.

Khabaung Diversion Dam is the 212th facility of its kind in the entire nation and the 46th in Bago Division. Thanks to construction of the dam, water can be supplied to 10,000 acres of summer paddy.—MNA

Cash donations for storm-victims

YANGON, 28 June —Wellwishers from local and international community continuously donated cash to the storm victims.

At the Central Bank of Myanmar

(Yangon Branch) under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Yankin Township, Chairman of Financial Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe accepted

cash donations from the wellwishers.

Today's donations amounted to K 548,000, US\$ 144,583.39, 80,000 FECs and 29,075,730 Euro.

MNA

World No Tobacco Day 2008 commemorative ceremony held

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization, a ceremony in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day 2008 was held at the meeting hall of

the ministry, here, this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, the minister said that State Peace and Development

Council promulgated the Tobacco on Law 4 May, 2006. By laying down this law, it can result in getting rid of habit of using tobacco among the people including youth and children thereby enhancing health, economic and social standard of the people.

Next, Resident Representative of WHO Professor Adik Wibowo read out the message of World Health Organization (Southeast Asia).

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, WHO Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo and the directors-general presented awards to winners in basic education level essay contest to mark World No Tobacco Day 2008.

The motto for World No Tobacco Day 2008 is: "Tobacco-Free Youth". — MNA



Orange Supermarket and shoppers donated water purifier, steel can and generator to No. 12 Basic Education Primary School in Pyapon on 24 June. More water purifiers will be donated to the schools in the storm-hit regions.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents certificate of honour to Dr Sit Naing of Marie Stopes International Myanmar Co Ltd who sponsored soft drinks at the MWJA Central Body Conference. — MNA

Information Minister hosts dinner to mark successful conclusion of meeting of central body for fourth conference of MWJA

YANGON, 28 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hosted a dinner to mark the successful conclusion of the meeting of central body for fourth conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Ottaya Hall of Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi, here, this evening.

It was also attended by the directors-general and the managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, the chair-

man, the vice-chairmen, the secretary, the joint secretaries, CEC members, members of central body of states and divisions, literary workers and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted a documentary photo presented by Vice-Chairman (1) U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and CEC member U Myat Khine (Myat Khine).

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented certificates of honour to Deputy General Manager

U Thein Han of Karaweik Palace, U Maung Maung Aye (Alinkarwutyi) and Alinkarwutyi Band, U Tin Aung Shwe of the Ministry of Industry-1 and Dr Sit Naing of Marie Stopes International Myanmar Co Ltd.

Afterwards, MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) spoke words of thanks and those present were served with dinner. Alinkarwutyi Band entertained those present with songs.

MNA



An artistic representation, created from simulations, of the impact that gouged out a hole 5,200 miles (8,500km) across and 6,500 miles (10,600km) long in Mars. The giant crater made by an asteroid or comet explains why Mars is so lopsided, with a basin on one hemisphere and high terrain on the other, three separate teams of scientists said on 25 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Philippine imports up 11.8% in April

MANILA, 28 June — The import bill of the Philippines grew 11.8 per cent in April from a year earlier amid surging food and crude oil prices, the government said Wednesday.

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office, total imports of the month hit 4.855 billion US dollars, bringing the country's trade deficit to 531 million US dollars.

Trade deficit from January to April reached 2.6 billion dollars, compared with 179 million in the same period last year. The value of imported food items increased significantly, the data showed, with bill of cereals and cereal preparations shooting up 222.9 per cent year-on-year to reach 239.95 million US dollars.

Imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials in April increased 13.7 per cent to 1.037 billion US dollars year-on-year, data showed.

Xinhua

Vietnam needs \$2b to boost aquatic products industry

HANOI, 18 June—With half of the processing capacity left idle, Vietnam needs to import raw materials worth two billion US dollars for aquatic products industry every year, said a local industry association here.

In a report by the Vietnamese Aquatic Products Processing and Export Association to the government, the association said Vietnamese aquatic products factories are now hungry for raw materials to meet international orders, the Vietnamese Economic Times reported here Thursday.

If the target is met,

Vietnam could reap in six to eight billion US dollars from aquatic products export each year, surpassing Thailand, United States and Canada to become world second largest aquatic exporter after China, said the report. The association proposed to the government to reduce the import tax for raw materials to less than 0.5 per cent.—*Xinhua*

Villagers offer prayers for the victims of the sunken ferry Princess of the Stars during a mass on a beach on Sibuyan island, central Philippines on 26 June, 2008. Hundreds of corpses are believed trapped in the seven-storey Princess of the Stars, which ran aground and flipped over with 865 passengers and crew on board during Typhoon Fengshen on Saturday.—INTERNET

China, Yemen to explore new channels for cooperation

SANAA, 28 June — Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping met with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Wednesday afternoon, with the two leaders pledging to explore new channels of bilateral cooperation in the future.

During the meeting, Xi said China is ready to expand mutually beneficial

cooperation with Yemen, so as to continuously add new vigor to the traditional friendly, cooperative relations between the two countries.

He said China-Yemen relations have withstood the test of changes in the international situation and developed steadily. The two countries trust, support

and cooperate with each other, and have forged an all-weather friendship.

The Chinese leader thanked Yemen for its long-term support to China on such issues as Taiwan. He said China will always support Yemen in its efforts to safeguard unification, sovereignty and stability of the country. — *Xinhua*

All Items From Xinhua News Agency

Miss Vietnam Nguyen Thuy Lam (C) waves to audiences onstage at the Ambassadors' Gala Dinner at a hotel in Hanoi on 26 June, 2008. The 57th annual Miss Universe pageant will be held in Vietnam's central Nha Trang resort city on 14 July, 2008.—INTERNET



B'desh expects \$2b from pharmaceuticals export by 2011

DHAKA, 28 June — Bangladesh expects to earn two billion US dollars from pharmaceuticals export by 2011 as the country's leading manufactures are preparing to export medicines to more lucrative world markets.

Some 30 Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals companies, enjoying the benefit of intellectual property rights provided by World Trade Organization (WTO) to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), manufactured over 200 drug items and exported to

more than 50 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.

President of Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceuticals Industry (BAPI) Nazmul Hasan told Xinhua on Wednesday that "Bangladesh's large drug manufacturers are ready

for manufacturing medicines for many potential export markets, which would require at least 20 billion pieces yearly".

"If one tablet sells at 10 cents on average we are ready to earn two billion US dollars by 2011," he said.

Xinhua

China's mobile phone users reach 592 mln by end of May

BEIJING, 28 June — The mobile phone subscribers in China soared to 592 million by the end of May, nearly half of its 1.3 billion population.

The number rose by 44.8 million in the first five months of this year as mobile operators cut phone rates to attract customers, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said Wednesday.

The fixed-line users, however, dropped by 6.5 million to 358 million.

The telecom sector reported a revenue of 330.6 billion yuan (48 billion US dollars) in the five months, an increase of 9.6 per cent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, fixed-asset investment in the telecom industry rose 2.7 per cent to 75.1 billion yuan (11 billion US dollars).

Xinhua



\$30b needed to increase global food supply

VIENNA, 28 June — Jacques Diouf, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), said Wednesday that an annual investment of up to 30 billion US dollars was needed to increase food supply. Diouf told a Press conference in the Austrian

western city Innsbruck that only with this large sum of money could the global food supply be guaranteed till 2050, according to the *Austrian News Agency* (APA). He called for worldwide assistance in agriculture as a rising global population made agriculture a more

significant issue. The FAO chief said the food prices would maintain at a high level, adding that food supply problems would be exacerbated by climate change and limited reserves. The FAO is to launch its 26th European FAO regional conference in Innsbruck on Thursday, which will draw representatives from 44 FAO member states from Europe and Central Asia. *MNA/Xinhua*



An Afghan elderly man sits in front of his shop as he waits for customers on the out skirts of the city of Kandahar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 28 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Helicopter crashes in Afghanistan, no injured

KABUL, 28 June — A helicopter belonging to US-led coalition forces crashed in Afghanistan, but there were no injuries to the soldiers on board and the cause of the crash is under investigation, the US military said on Thursday. But a Taleban spokesman said insurgents had shot down the aircraft and killed everyone on board. The incident happened in the northeastern province of Kunar, which borders Pakistan, on Wednesday. “No coalition forces soldiers were seriously injured and all have been returned safely from the incident,” the US military said in a statement. “The

aircraft has been secured.” A resident of the Wata Pur District said he saw flames and black smoke coming out of a helicopter as it was landing. The 64,000 international troops in Afghanistan are heavily reliant on aircraft to transport troops and supplies around the rugged mountainous country. The Taleban often take pot shots at helicopters, but so far the militants are not believed to have obtained surface-to-air missiles which could alter the balance of the war dramatically. *MNA/Reuters*

Uganda rebel negotiators quit, blame Kony

KAMPALA, 28 June — Eight negotiators for Uganda’s Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels quit on Thursday, blaming their boss Joseph Kony for scuppering the peace process. Two years of talks to end one of Africa’s longest-running conflicts broke down in April after Kony failed to appear on the Congolese-Sudanese border to sign a peace deal agreed by his negotiators and those for the Ugandan Government. In response, Uganda,

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan have threatened a joint attack on his forces, believed to be in northeastern Congo’s lawless Garamba Forest. Kony called this week for a resumption of talks. But eight of the 13-member LRA negotiating team told re-porters in Kampala they were leaving the peace process. “Joseph Kony is the problem, we don’t want to be blamed for the failure of bringing peace to northern Uganda,” said one of them, legal adviser Caleb Alaka, explaining the decision. *MNA/Reuters*

Somalia conflict kills over 2,100 this year

MOGADISHU, 28 June — Conflict in Somalia has killed 2,136 civilians so far this year, bringing the death toll since an Islamist-led insurgency began in early 2007 to 8,636, a local human rights group said on Thursday. The Mogadishu-based Elman Peace and Human Rights Organization said it had also recorded 11,790 injuries since the start of last year, when rebels began attacking the Somali Government and its Ethiopian military allies. The insurgency — the latest in a cycle of civil conflict since the 1991 fall of a military dictator — has compounded the effects of drought and poverty to create what aid workers call one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. *MNA/Reuters*

Bolivia police seize 12 tons of cocaine in first half of ’08

LIMA, 28 June — Bolivian anti-narcotics authorities announced Thursday they seized 12 tons of cocaine and 1,110 tons of marijuana in the first half of this year. In addition, they also seized 1,100 tons of coca leaf and 1.5 million US dollars in cash, 347 vehicles, 164 firearms, 850 items of communication equipment and five light aircraft, according to news reaching here from La Paz, capital of Bolivia. Rene Sanabria, commander of the Special Forces for the Fight against the Drug Trafficking (FELCN), said in a report they detained 2,013 drug traffickers from January to June 2008, 162 of whom were foreigners. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Climate change pushes plants out of their comfort zone

WASHINGTON, 28 June — Due to climate change, mountain ecosystems are experiencing a major mix-up in plant species, according to a new study published online Thursday in *Science*. As Earth heats up the cool alpine temperatures, plant species have begun a slow-motion diaspora to escape, relocating upward an average of 29 metres per decade, the study reported. With plant species migrating at different speeds, the entire makeup of mountainside communities is changing and potentially heading toward extinction, the

authors warned. Previous research has shown that alpine flora and fauna are especially vulnerable when it comes to global warming and that the upper and lower boundaries of population’s home ranges have been moving higher up the mountain with every successive generation. Instead of focusing on those edges of a species range, Jonathan Lenoir, a plant ecologist at the Paris Institute of Technology in France, and colleagues decided to examine what climate change was doing to optimum ranges — the zones where most of a

population lived — for plants in the mountain forests of western France. *MNA/Xinhua*



A Lebanese man cleans the rubble from the entrance of his shop in the Bab al-Tabbaneh neighbourhood of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. Shops reopened their doors and traffic returned to the streets of Tripoli on Thursday as calm returned to the northern Lebanese city following a fresh bout of violence, witnesses said.INTERNET

Adults often supply underage drinkers in US

CHICAGO, 28 June — More than 40 per cent of the nation's 10.8 million underage drinkers got their alcohol free from adults — and many got it from their own parents, US health officials said on Thursday.

Up to 650,000 youths and underage adults were given alcoholic beverages by their parents or guardians in the past month, they said.

Congress effectively

raised the US legal drinking age to 21 in 1984 when it passed a measure that threatened to take highway funding away from states that did not comply. Acting Surgeon General Dr Steven Galson said parents enable underage drinking far too often.

“Many parents don't realize how risky drinking alcohol can be for kids. There are 5,000 people under the age of 21 who

die every year related to alcohol. That is a really disturbing number of people,” Galson said in a telephone interview.

“Alcohol use is related to many, many types of injuries,” he said, including sexual assault, falls, automobile accidents and increased rates of suicides and homicides.

Galson said underage drinking has remained fairly stable from year to year, so “the bottom line is that the problem is not going away”.

The report by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that 3.5 million underage drinkers each year abuse or are addicted to alcohol.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills 20 at Iraqi regional meeting

BAGHDAD, 28 June — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a tribal council meeting in Iraq's Anbar Province on Thursday, killing 20 people, days before US forces are due to hand the province over to Iraqi control, police said.

Another 12 people were wounded in the attack in Garma, 30 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad, said Colonel Dawood al-Maraawi, police spokesman in

nearby Falluja.

The head of the Garma tribal council, Mizher Mshawih, and the leader of the district council, Kamal Abdul-Salam, and some other tribal leaders were among those killed, Maraawi said.

Three policemen were also killed, he said. The suicide bomber managed to get into a meeting between the tribal council of Garma, made up of local tribal leaders, and Abdul-Salam. — MNA/Reuters

NASA spacecraft reveals largest crater in solar system

WASHINGTON, 28 June — New analysis of Mars' terrain using NASA spacecraft observations reveals what appears to be by far the largest impact crater ever found in the solar system, the US space agency announced on Wednesday.

NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and Mars Global Surveyor have provided detailed information about the elevations and gravity of the Red Planet's northern and southern hemispheres.

A new study using this information suggests that a giant northern basin that covers about 40 per cent of Mars' surface, sometimes called the Borealis basin, is the remains of a colossal impact early in the solar system's formation, which must have been at least 3.9 billion years ago.

MNA/Xinhua



A football table with players substituted by replicas of Swiss Franc notes in Lausanne, as part of an exhibition, on the sideline of the UEFA EURO 2008 European Football Championships, of artists and designers who were asked to customise 22 football tables.—INTERNET

Coffee, tea may curb stroke risk in male smokers

NEW YORK, 28 June — In men who smoke, drinking coffee and tea may reduce the risk of stroke caused by a blockage, findings of a new

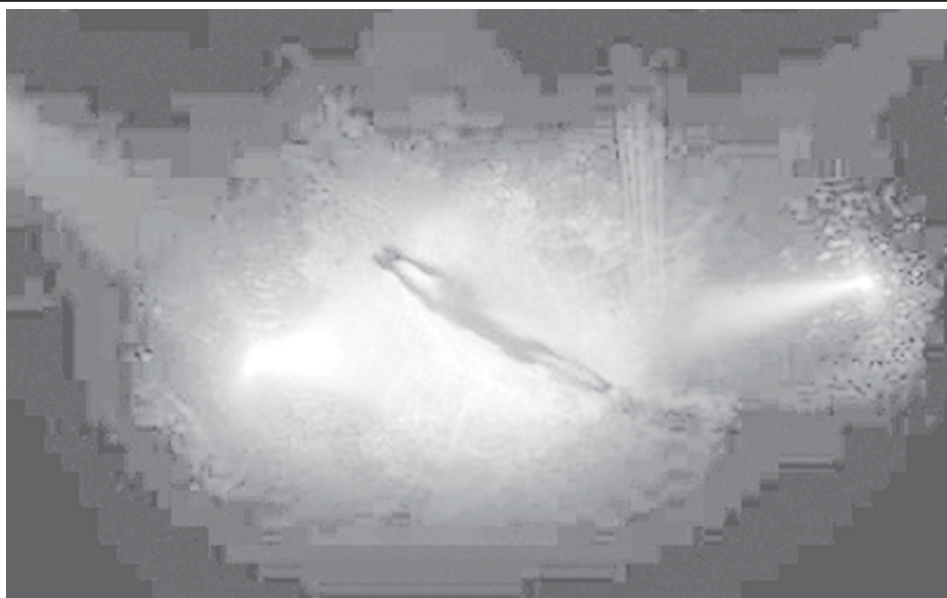
study hint.

“Coffee and tea consumption could potentially reduce the risk of stroke because these beverages have antioxidant

properties,” Dr Susanna C Larsson, of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, and colleagues explain in the journal Stroke. Larsson's team examined ties between consumption of coffee and tea and risk of different types of stroke—such as cerebral hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhage, both of which are strokes caused by bleeding in the brain, and cerebral infarction, which is a more common type of stroke caused by blockage of an artery that supplies blood to the brain.

This type of stroke is often caused by hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis).

MNA/Reuters



An artiste performs in a water-filled tank hovering over the audience during a “Fuerzabruta” show at Carpa Santa Fe in Mexico City June 27, 2008.—INTERNET

Festival-goers dive into the mud at the Glastonbury Festival 2008 in Somerset in southwest England June 27, 2008.

INTERNET

More rains hit flooded US Midwest

CEDAR RAPIDS (Iowa), 28 June — More storms dumped crop-drowning rains on parts of the US Midwest on Thursday, threatening strained levees and slowing recovery from a multibillion-dollar flood disaster in the heart of the world's biggest grain and food exporter.

In Cedar Rapids, where 4,000 homes were flooded two weeks ago after water spilled over 1,300 city blocks, officials ordered 300 houses demolished. Efforts were under way to determine if some structures in the most flood-prone areas could

ever be rebuilt. The city asked federal disaster officials to send in 500 temporary housing units, most likely mobile homes of the type used following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

The National Weather Service said severe thunderstorms in already saturated areas of central Iowa would continue through Friday. Flash flood watches were in place for Des Moines, which saw serious floods two weeks ago, and other Iowa cities.

“A secondary threat of tornadoes is possible over

eastern portions of central Iowa Friday afternoon,” the NWS said. Some estimates have indicated the recovery costs for Iowa flooding alone could exceed the 5.7 billion US dollars spent after the last major Midwestern floods 15 years ago in 1993.

Flooding from heavy rains that began in late May already have caused more than 6 billion US dollars in crop damage in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Nebraska, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest US farm group, said.

MNA/Reuters



SPORTS

Swiss goalscorer Yakin considering England move

VIENNA, 28 June — Switzerland playmaker Hakan Yakin is to leave Swiss club Young Boys Berne after impressing during his country's otherwise disappointing Euro 2008 campaign.

Yakin, 31, has made use of a get-out clause in his contract allowing him to move to a foreign club, Young Boys announced in a statement on Friday.

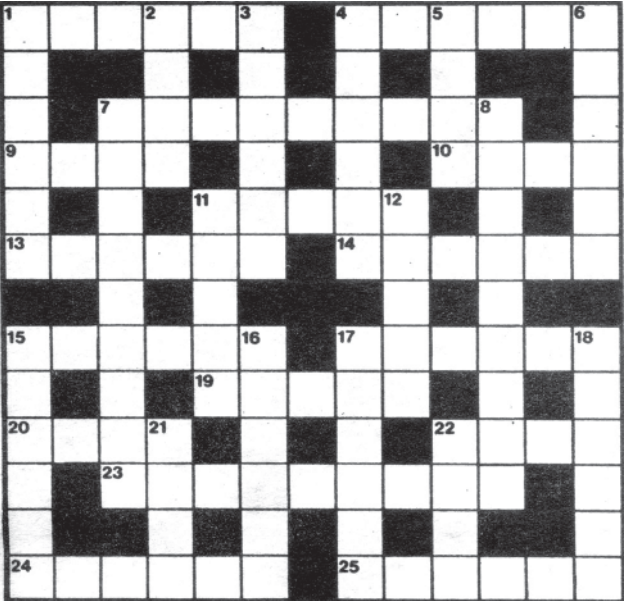
The club, who finished runners-up in the Swiss league behind Basel last season, said Yakin was weighing up rival offers from Qatar and England.

MNA/Reuters



Virginia Johnson clears the bar during the women's high jump in the Heptathlon event at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Ore, on 27 June, 2008.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Ceremonial chair

4 Anchor raised

7 Breathe in (anag.)

9 Prescribed course of food

10 Place in machine

11 Utter

13 Land

14 Open to

15 Red wine

17 Bird

19 Large fish

20 Hold back

22 Public school

23 Sleuth

24 Technique

25 French painter
- DOWN
- 1 Arctic plain

2 Leave out

3 Immune

4 Year book

5 Newts

6 Move hurriedly

7 Faltered

8 Clarify

11 Footwear

12 Small booth

15 Habit

16 Sewing cotton

17 Public speaker

18 Over there

21 Network

22 Flat



Ana Ivanovic of Serbia returns the ball to Zheng Jie of China during their match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 27 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Sweden's Ljungberg announces international retirement

STOCKHOLM, 28 June — Sweden captain Fredrik Ljungberg announced his retirement from the national team on Friday to concentrate on playing for West Ham United in the English Premier League.

“The simple fact is that the physical strain of doubling on the national team and in club football for such a long time has finally taken its toll,” the 31-year-old midfielder said in a letter on the Web site of local paper Helsingborg Dagbladet (www.hd.se).

“And that is why I have decided to concentrate on playing for West Ham United and that is where my focus will be.” Ljungberg, who captained Sweden at Euro 2008, joined West Ham last year after nine successful years with London rivals Arsenal.

He has battled several injuries over the years but, since making his international debut nearly 11 years ago, remained Sweden's first choice in left midfield.

MNA/Reuters

Villa almost certain to miss Euro 2008 final

VIENNA, 28 June — Euro 2008's leading scorer David Villa of Spain will almost certainly miss Sunday's final against Germany even though he has only sustained a minor tear to his right thigh muscle.

“He has almost been ruled out,” team doctor Jesus Jimenez told reporters outside the team hotel in Vienna. “The tests done in hospital today revealed a small tear to the muscle in the back of his right thigh.

“In normal circumstances he would be out of action for between a week and 10 days. He couldn't play today, but he is not totally ruled out yet even though it is very unlikely he will play. He could be on the bench for the game however. “He is receiving physiotherapy and we'll assess him again tomorrow, but as I said he will almost certainly not be able to play.”

MNA/Reuters



Hyleas Fountain leads the pack in her women's heptathlon 100 meters hurdles heat at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Oregon, on 27 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Porto's rivals appeal against Champions League reprieve

GENEVA, 28 June — UEFA's decision to let Porto back into next season's Champions League will be examined by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) following a challenge by league rivals Benfica and Vitoria Guimaraes, CAS said on Friday.

The court received an appeal from the two clubs asking it to issue a ruling by the end of July at the latest.

The Portuguese champions were originally thrown out of the competition by UEFA's disciplinary body earlier this month after domestic soccer authorities fined and stripped them of six league points for allegedly bribing league referees.

UEFA's own appeals body later annulled the decision, arguing that the proceedings in Portugal had not yet been completed.

No Portuguese clubs are involved in the draw for the Champions League's first two qualifying rounds which is due to take place in Nyon on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters



Inbee Park of South Korea tees off at the 16th hole during the second round of the US Women's Open golf championship at the Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minnesota on 27 June, 2008.—INTERNET

UEFA to decide on 2012 preparations in September

VIENNA, 28 June — European soccer's ruling body UEFA will make a final decision on Ukraine and Poland's staging of Euro 2012 in September, UEFA vice president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder told Reuters on Friday.

Ukraine and Poland's preparations for 2012 have been overshadowed by major infrastructure problems including the urgently-needed modernization of airports and road and rail networks and the construction of new hotels.

“There was a lively discussion about several issues, but no final decisions were taken,” Mayer-Vorfelder said following UEFA's executive committee meeting in Vienna. — MNA/Reuters

UEFA urges EU to make legal exceptions for sport

VIENNA, 28 June — European soccer's governing body UEFA said on Friday it was stepping up its efforts to have sport receive specific exemptions within European Union (EU) law.

Following a meeting in Vienna on Friday, UEFA's executive committee said it would present a document to the EU presidency calling for sport's specific nature to be recognised “within a clear legal framework”. Working together with other team sports, UEFA has secured several “declarations” from the EU concerning the specific social importance of sport, but the EU has yet to fully define this so-called 'specificity' in any binding, legal directive.

MNA/Reuters

Storms kill two, disrupt Olympic practice

OMAHA, NEB, 28 June, 2008— Severe storms with strong winds swept through the Plains on Friday, forcing swimmers practicing for US Olympic trials in Omaha to flee pools and

run for cover, killing two people in Iowa, and knocking out power to thousands.

Officials at the Qwest Center near downtown Omaha closed the building to examine it



A thunderstorm moved through Omaha, Neb knocking down trees and power throughout the city on 27 June, 2008.

INTERNET

after superstar swimmer Michael Phelps and hundreds of other athletes were herded into hallways because of a tornado warning.

Water poured into the building, down arena steps and onto the deck of the competition pool during the storm. The storm's winds may have reached 100 mph in some areas, said meteorologist Bryon Miller. Damage reports in the region included toppled trees and power lines and hail the size of baseballs. Flash flood watches were issued across Iowa, where flooding has been a problem recently.

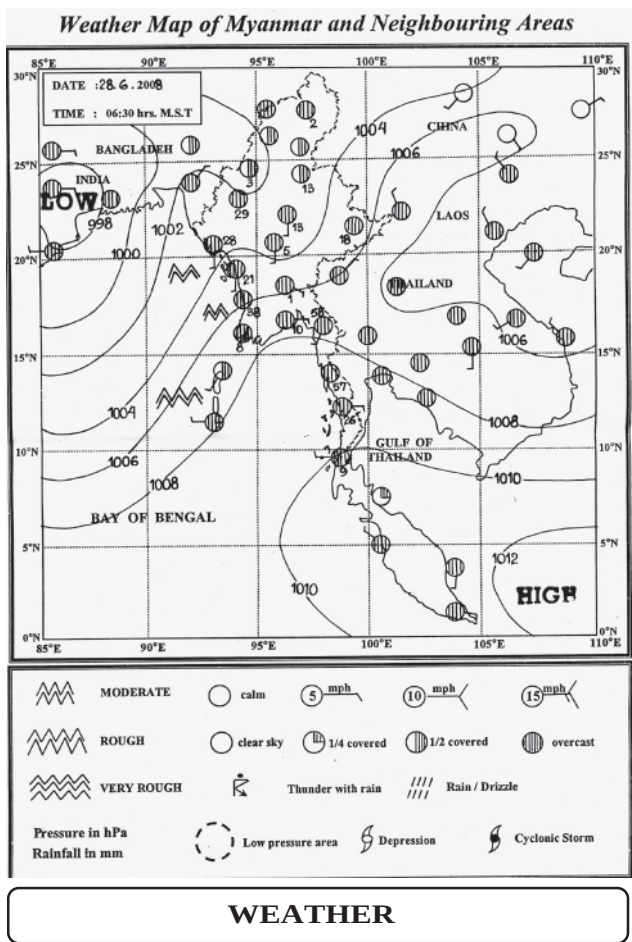
Internet

Bomb kills one and wounds 17 in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, (Lebanon) 28 June— A bomb killed one person and wounded 17 at an apartment block in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli on Saturday, medical and security sources said.

The blast at dawn hit the building in Bab Tibbaneh area, close to the frontline of clashes on Sunday between Sunni supporters of the government and Alawite followers of the opposition and which killed nine people.

Internet



CAPE TOWN, 28 June—Authorities increased security Friday at a tuberculosis hospital where patients with drug-resistant forms of the disease went on a rampage to protest prison-like conditions.

Twenty-two patients were arrested Wednesday, accused of public violence and assault after they pelted staff with stones and vandalized equipment. But the local police station and prison refused to admit them because of fears of the highly infectious disease. Instead, they were returned to the hospital.

The Jose Pearson hospital, near the coastal

city of Port Elizabeth, treats about 300 patients. Many have multidrug-resistant TB and the even more dangerous extensively drug-resistant TB, which is very difficult and expensive to treat. Those with drug-resistant strains are supposed to stay in the hospital for six months to two years, living in isolated wards surrounded by barbed wire

and security guards.

South African authorities have reluctantly resorted to enforced confinement of patients with drug-resistant TB because of fears that it might otherwise spread through the community. TB is an airborne bacteria and can be spread easily through coughing or sneezing.

The country is gripped by a tuberculosis crisis,

which is feeding off the AIDS epidemic and striking the weakened immune system of victims. Nearly 60 percent of South African TB patients have AIDS. The emergence of drug-resistant TB strains — often the result of not sticking to the standard six-month course of treatment—has worsened patients' chances of survival.—Internet



Sunday, 29 June
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy
exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:00 am

5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

6. Musical programme

8:30 am

7. International news

8:40 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:50 am

9. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's
international news

11:40 am

4. “ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်”

12:10 pm

5. “မီးရထားစီးခရီးသွားကြသူများ”

(နေအောင်၊ မေသက္ကဉ်း၊

စင်စင်စော်မြင့်၊ သခင်၊

နန်းဆုရတို့စိုး)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ—

စင်စော်မောင်မောင်)

1:45 pm

6. ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၃)ရက်

မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့

အထိမ်းအမှတ်

မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများ

ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှုပြပွဲ

2:30 pm

7. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

2:45 pm

8. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:20 pm

3. လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားမှူးမယ်

4:30 pm

4. Song to uphold

National Spirit

5:45 pm

5. Dance of National

Races

4:50 pm

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:00 pm

7. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

6:45 pm

11. ထူးချွန်ထင်ရှားမြန်မာ

အမျိုးသမီးများ

(အပိုင်း-၁)

7:00 pm

12. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ရွှေမင်းသားလေးချစ်ပုံပြင်”

(အပိုင်း-၉)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၃၄)

(ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

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.

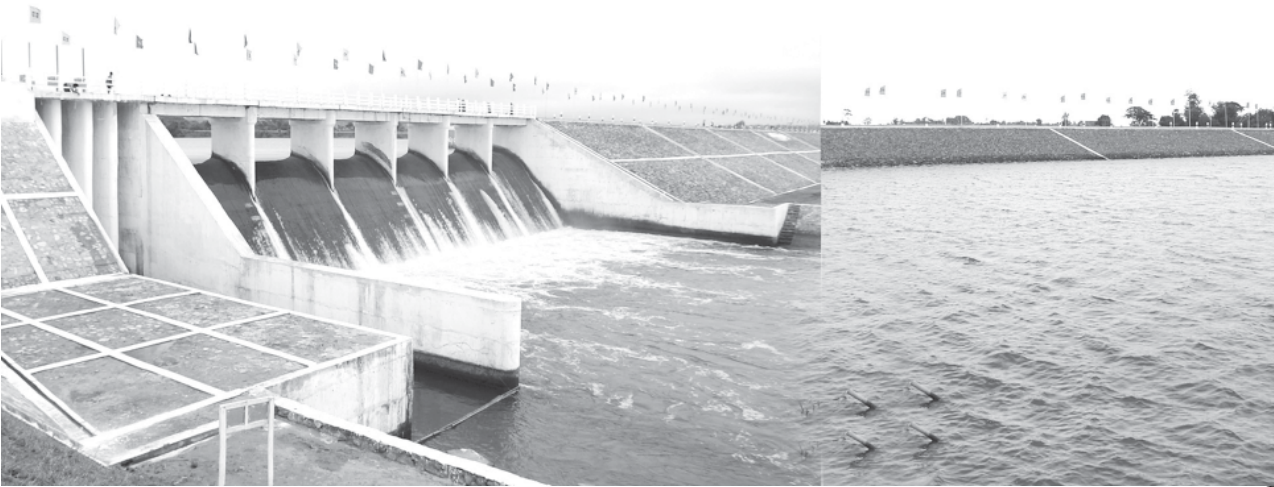
- ☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- ☆ BBC lying
- VOA deceiving
- RFA setting up hostilities
- ☆ Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers

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

Khabaung Dam inaugurated in Ottwin Township



NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—The Khabaung Dam was inaugurated at the pandal near the dam in Ottwin Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division, this morning.

It was built by construction-5 of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Present were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, departmental personnel, officials of the ministry, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, local farmers and people numbering over 3,000.

(See page 10)

Newly-inaugurated Khabaung Dam in Ottwin Township.

MNA