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Tuesday, 4 July, 2006

MWAF firmly believes security of women can be attained only when country is at peace and stable

Instigation with false information might jeopardize peace and tranquillity of country and safety of Myanmar community as a whole including Myanmar women

Myanmar Women's Day observed

YANGON, 3 July— Myanmar Women's Day organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was observed at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Kamayut Township this afternoon, attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and honorary patron of Myanmar Women's

members, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-Presidents and EC members of MWAF, Patrons of State and Division Women's Affairs Organizations, service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, members of support groups, heads of departments, wives of ambassadors and resident representatives of UN Agencies, local and foreign news-

tory and by tradition, we Myanmar women have always stood in good stead. We Myanmar women, being always ready and able to contribute to the benefit of others with the compassion and temperament of a mother, are known to have acted on a par with our male counterparts from fulfilling basic household duties to carrying out nation-building tasks.

Myanmar women are



Daw Mya Mya San presents prize to outstanding athlete Ma Yin Yin Khaing.—MNA Affairs Federation.

Also present were wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and honorary patron of MWAF Daw Mya Mya San, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann member of Panel of Patrons of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Thet and

men, representatives of social organizations, state and division women's affairs organizations, wellwishers, prize-winners and their relatives and guests.

Daw Khin Mo U and Daw Lang Maung Pang of Myanma Radio and Television acted as masters of ceremonies and announced the agendas in Myanmar and English.

Next, President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe delivered an address. She said: throughout his-

known to be able to face undauntedly whatever difficulty there might be and to overcome the difficulty with valour and perseverance. And it is to honour the Myanmar women, who are endowed and accomplished with such altruism, compassion and capability, that Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, in representing the women mass, leads the celebration of Myanmar Women's Day, the 3rd of July. For this reason, today, the 3rd of July, is a



Daw Kyaing Kyaing presents prize to Dr Ma Tin Win (Dr Ma Tin Win Institute of Education).—MNA

day of special significance overwhelmed with auspiciousness and significance.

In other words, today may be deemed as the day which highlights the much valued attributes of our womenfolk, their patriotism and their exemplary

traits of upholding lineage, and their ever on-going public spirit.

It would be appropriate to mention here a bit about the designation of Myanmar Women's Day, the 3rd of July.

In September 1995, the Fourth World Confer-

ence on Women in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, adopted a resolution for every nation to establish a National Machinery for effective implementation of the common aims of ensuring security and develop (See page 16)



Daw Khin Lay Thet presents prize to U Myint Thein, third prize winner of photo contest to mark Myanmar Women's Day.—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 4 July, 2006

Stand on the side of the truth and rebut ill schemes

Literature mirrors the national culture of a nation. Myanmar way of life, patriotic fervour, nationalistic spirit, cherishing independence and flourishing Union Spirit are embodied in the mirror of the Myanmar literature. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures to keep Myanmar social norms flourishing by means of literature.

Amateur writers, poets, lexicographers, translators and journalists are entering the profession. Ways of writing are changing and making progress and now it has reached the age of computer after palm-leaf manuscripts and types. As a result, literary works can be stored, copied and published many times.

Myanmar literature is endowed with fine traditions such as composing, organizing the people through educative position and contributing towards national interests. Literati and writers are duty-bound to preserve such fine traditions by shouldering the literary duties in harmony in the drive for national development.

A country has to deal with other nations. Therefore, Myanmar writers are required to present Myanmar image among the international community and try to be able to compete in the works of art and thoughts.

Some big nations with economic, military and technological superiority ignore the path laid down by Myanmar and is undermining the achievements in the nation-building tasks through the media and literature. They are also trying to influence the nation under the pretext of democracy and human rights.

Unfair acts of the big nations pose danger to the Union Spirit and independence and sovereignty and we believe Myanmar literati will stand on the side of the truth and react and rebut all the evil attempts.

Advanced Organizing Course No 9/2006 for MWVO Central Organizing Committee opens

YANGON, 3 July—The Advanced Organizing Course No 9/2006 sponsored by Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee was opened at the War Veterans Training School in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division this morning.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and members, chief of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Headquarters' Office and heads of department, principal, course instructors and trainees.

In his address, Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) stressed the need for trainees to strive for the organization to be strong and efficient, and to organize fellow war veterans and the people, applying practically subjects taught at the course. He called upon them to do their bit to successfully implement the five future work programmes laid down by MWVO Conference held in 2005 and the five major tasks being undertaken by MWVO Central Organizing Committee.

After the opening ceremony, Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) greeted the trainees.

The four-week course is being attended by 50 trainees from Kayin State, Mon State, Taninthayi Division, Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division. — MNA

- ### 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

17th plenary meeting of Fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes

YANGON, 3 July — The 17th plenary meeting of Fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee successfully concluded at the convocation hall of State Pariyatti Sasana University on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning

The second day session of the meeting was attended by Sayadaws led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumura, adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Pro-rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, officials of Religious Affairs Department and Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and others.



Fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting in progress.—MNA

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumura presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kitti

of Zeyalankara Pariyatti Sathintak in Myingyan, Mandalay Division, acted as master of ceremonies. At the meeting of Vinicchaya, religious and academic matters were discussed. After the meeting, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Light Offering Committee (Insein) holds Waso robes offering ceremony



A wellwisher offers alms to a Sayadaw.—H

YANGON, 3 July — Buddha Pujaniya Light Offering Committee of Insein Township offered Waso robes to Presiding Sayadaws of the committee yesterday.

At the 11th Waso robe offering ceremony of the committee held at Nyaungbintha Monastery in Insein Township, members of the committee and wellwishers offered Waso robes to nine Sayadaws.

The ceremony concluded following the sharing the merits gained. —MNA

Chairman of CSSTB attends EPG meeting in Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July— After attending the Fourth Meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter in Singapore from 27 to 29 June, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Together with the Chairman of CSSTB, Director U Win Thein of ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of Branch-1 U Aung Kyaw Moe also attended the meeting. —MNA

Play and Script Section to hold discussion on scripts

YANGON, 3 July— The Play and Script Section of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon will hold the discussion on scripts at the meeting hall of the association on 8 July 2006.

The discussion will focus on CITIZEN KANE film that was regarded as the best film by doyen film artists. The blockbuster will be shown as a subject of discussions, and those

interested may watch it.—MNA

Pantapwinttaung's Waso Robe Offering Ceremony on 9 July

YANGON, 2 July — The 9th Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of Pantapwinttaung Sasana Area in Taikkyi is scheduled to be held on 9 July at Dhamma Sukha Beikman in the Sasana area.

Those wishing to donate robes may contact Ph 055-20259, U Aung Myo (059-50-15520), U Ti Toe (Ph 09-80-22952), 500825, U Shwe Than Ph 699833, Daw Tin Tin Win (Ph 640181) and Daw Kyin Thuang (Ph

245488). The ceremony will be organized by Presiding Sayadaw of Pantapwinttaung Monastic Education School Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pannasara. —MNA



Men plant trees in front of Renqinggang border trade market, which will be opened on 6 July, in Yadong county in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, on 2 July, 2006. China opened the world's highest railway on Saturday, which is expected to promote social development, economy and trade between Tibet with other parts of China. —INTERNET

China opens high-altitude Tibet railway line

BEIJING, 2 July—China opened the world's highest railway on Saturday, celebrating the link to Tibet as a symbol of national strength and ethnic harmony. A proud President Hu Jintao waved farewell as the first train left Golmud, the outpost in the far-western province of Qinghai where the new track to the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, begins.

"The building of the Qinghai-Tibet railway is of major significance for accelerating the economic and social development of Tibet and Qinghai, improving the lives of people of every ethnicity, and strengthening unity between ethnic groups," Hu told a meeting broadcast on Chinese television.

After his speech, the train carrying officials and model workers on the project set out for Lhasa where it was due to arrive on Saturday night. Another train set out from Lhasa. The first train from

Beijing leaves on Saturday evening amid a crescendo of publicity and reaches Lhasa 48 hours later, after a 4,000-kilometre (2,500-mile) journey touching altitudes of over 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) above sea level on the Tibetan plateau.

China has said the railway could double tourism and slash transport

costs to Tibet over coming years.

Tibet's Communist Party chief, Zhang Qingli, said in Lhasa on Saturday that the railway "presents a precious opportunity to ensure the country's lasting order and stability", state television reported, alongside images of dancing Tibetans.

MNA/Reuters



Revellers take part in the Parintins jungle carnival deep in the heart of the Amazon forest on 1 July, 2006. The event began only 41 years ago, but its roots date back to 1913 when roving bands of singers donned bulls costumes and danced in the streets to improvised lyrics. —INTERNET

Four bomb blasts blow up railway track in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 July — At least four explosions on Saturday ripped up the main railway line between Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan, and Zahidan in neighbouring Iran, suspending train service, local private Geo TV reported.

The track was blown up early morning, damaging its 36 feet portion, according to reports.

No casualties have

been reported.

A Zahidan-bound passenger train, that was to travel on the same track, was stopped on a station at Noshki, a major city in the area.

The authorities could not immediately start to repair considering a risky work and the repair work would start after the authorities provide security guarantee to the engineers, the Geo TV said.

No group has claimed

responsibility for the attack. However, the authorities blamed such attacks on anti-government renegade tribesmen.

Balochistan is in the throes of an intensifying rebellion by tribesmen demanding a bigger share of the region's natural resources. Tribesmen always targeted security forces and government installations, mostly gas pipelines and train tracks. — MNA/Xinhua



Chavez says US and Europe must apologize for slavery

Africa urged to resist "modern day US colonialism"

BANJUL, 2 July—Europe and the United States should apologize to Africa for the cruelties of slavery, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday, calling on Africa to resist what he called modern day US colonialism.

Attending a summit of African leaders in Gambia, Chavez said both Africa and Latin America had been blighted by slavery and colonialism for centuries, to the benefit of Europe and North America.

"Africa is still weeping ... and Europe does not recognize it. Europe should apologize, get on its knees and apologize," Chavez, invited to attend the summit as a guest, told reporters.

"They should lower their European arrogance and say sorry, as, one day, North America should apologize."

The leftist firebrand, whose attacks on US policy have raised hackles in Washington, urged the leaders of the 53-nation African Union to forge closer ties with Latin America to combat US imperialism.

"The powerful nations will continue

to dictate to us via multinational companies and neo-liberal economic policy, and if we cannot resist this neo-colonialism, we will be crushed," said the former paratrooper, praising the African socialism of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

"No to the Pax Americana. No to Superman. No to the American Empire. No to the American way of life. No. That is the way to hell," he said.

Chavez reacted angrily to US opposition to Venezuela's bid for one of the rotating seats on the UN Security Council. "The United States said again yesterday that Venezuela does not qualify for a seat. With what authority does the imperialist government of the United States decide who should sit on the UN Security Council?"

"If there was real democracy in the world, the US government would be placed under administration because it is a government of the United States that ignores the democracy of its people and ignores democracy in the world: it invades countries, murders and bombs cities," he said. —Internet

Rocket attacks wound foreign soldiers in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 July — Several foreign soldiers including two Canadians were wounded as two rockets slammed into the US-led coalition forces' base in Kandahar Airport in south Afghanistan on Friday night, spokesman of the coalition troops in the region Quentin Innis said Saturday.

"The incident occurred at 8:30 pm Friday," Innis told journalists. He did not give more details.

However, a spokesman of the Canadian troops in Kandahar Major Mark Therianult disclosed to a group of newsmen that both the Canadian soldiers had been taken to Germany for treatment.

As a major contributor to the US-led coalition forces in war against Taleban and al-Qaeda operatives in the post-Taleban nation, Canada has deployed over 2,300 troops in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua



Construction crews work on the 17th street canal flood gates in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 1 July, 2006. The 17th street flood gates are designed to prevent water from Lake Pontchartrain from pushing into the canal during a storm. New Orleans residents fear inadequate repairs from Hurricane Katrina have opened the city to major flooding from less severe summer storms. —INTERNET



Sand sculptors carve a creation during the Sand Sculptures Festival in Blankenberge in northern Belgium on 1 July, 2006. A team of forty carvers from around the world spent five weeks building a giant sculpture representing the world of Sheherazade and the giant book of Thousand and One Nights. Twenty-four tonnes of sands were needed to complete the sculpture which will be on display to the public between 1 July and 10 September. —INTERNET

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Tiny nation aims to change financial image

VADUZ, (Liechtenstein), 2 July — The cutting edge architecture of a string of brand-new banks might seem incongruous in a village topped off with a medieval royal castle.

But Liechtenstein — with 34,600 residents in an area a little over double the size of Manhattan — is no ordinary corner of

Europe. The nation sandwiched between Austria and Switzerland gained what fame it has as a banking and financial services centre, a place where ill-gotten assets could be safely stashed away and no one would ask questions. Now the regulations

have changed — and it's time the rest of the world took notice of the country's efforts, says the ruling Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein.

"I think it was rightly a major problem that the outside world found with Liechtenstein," said Alois, who has sweeping powers — including the right to dismiss governments, veto new laws and cast the deciding vote on the appointment of new judges.

But now, Liechtenstein has strong regulations to effectively fight money laundering and terrorism funding, he said.

Europe's fourth-smallest sovereign state got rich on its status as an offshore tax haven, with strict rules on banking secrecy. Almost a third of its gross domestic product of 4.2 billion Swiss francs (\$3.4 billion) comes from financial services, including banking.

Internet

Visitor arrivals in Singapore up 7.8% in May

SINGAPORE, 2 July — A total of 765,000 visitors arrived in Singapore in May this year, up 7.8 per cent year-on-year and posting a record high for May, according to the figures released by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Friday.

The number of visitor arrivals from China jumped 25 per cent in May from a year ago to reach 79,000, while South Korea, the Philippines, India and Australia also saw double-digit growth in the number of visitors to Singapore in the same month.

the city state's top five visitor-generating markets for the month, followed by India, China, Australia and Malaysia.

These five markets accounted for 53 per cent of the total visitor arrivals in May.

Hotels in Singapore were estimated to register 117 million Singapore dollars (about 73 million US dollars) in room revenue in May, up 18.8 per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Director Othman Karim (R) and producer Malim Holmberg-Karim accept the Moscow International Film Festival's first prize Golden St George for their film 'Om Sara' in Moscow on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Bird flu virus found in N-W China province

BEIJING, 2 July — China has discovered H5N1 bird flu virus in poultry in the north-

western Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has said.

The National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory on Thursday discovered the H5N1 bird flu virus from the samples collected at the Xuanhe Town of Zhongwei City in Ningxia, the MoA said on Friday evening.

Upon the case was

identified, the MoA immediately sent expert teams to Zhongwei to control any possible outbreak.

An emergency mechanism has been launched and the local veterinary departments have set up examination stations to disinfect people and vehicles into and out of the affected area.

MNA/Xinhua



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates winning her match against Amy Frazier of the US at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 1 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Bus accident kills 17 passengers in N-W India

NEW DELHI, 2 July — At least 17 people were killed and 18 others wounded Friday when an overcrowded bus fell into a gorge near a highway in northwest India's Himachal Pradesh, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The private bus rolled into a 45-metre-deep gorge near a highway, about 15 kilometres from the state capital Shimla at 9:00 am Friday, the

Shimla police said.

The driver apparently lost control of the 28-seater bus when trying to overtake another vehicle on a sharp turn, the police added. — MNA/Xinhua



The crew of the space shuttle Discovery drives out to the vehicle waiting on the pad at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 2 July, 2006. The scheduled launch attempt on 1 July was cancelled due to poor weather in the area.

INTERNET

Granny's dream advice helps Malaysian win lottery

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 July — A Malaysian won 42,500 ringgit (11,580 US dollars) in a lottery by playing a four-digit number his dead grandmother had given him in a dream, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

But luck soon ran out for mechanic Tan Tay Seck, who had bought two tickets with the 6064 combination he received from the apparition, the *Star* newspaper reported. A thief stole the wallet with the second winning ticket and the lottery company refused to pay up without it. — MNA/Reuters

“People’s Daily” editorial hails anniversary of CPC

BEIJING, 2 July—*People’s Daily*, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is to publish an editorial, to mark the 85th founding anniversary of the country’s ruling Party with over 70 million members.

The editorial says that the just-concluded internal educational campaign aiming to maintain the advanced nature of CPC members has presented the Party a birthday gift with abundant achievements and valuable experience.

The Party’s over 70 million members will become further full of youthful

spirit through the ablation of the campaign and the 85-year old CPC will further show her vitality and energy, it says. China’s historical change over the past 85 years is a “historic miracle”, which proves the CPC a great, glorious and correct Marxist party, according to the editorial. It attributes the Party’s success to her constant efforts to maintain advanced nature.

The Party’s advanced nature will stay for ever if she keeps pace with the times, and the Party’s vitality will exist for ever if she shares her future with the people, the editorial says. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese vendors wait on customers visiting a booth selling merchandise related to the five mascots for Beijing’s 2008 Olympic Games at a park in Beijing, China, on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET



The Canadian Forces Snowbirds fly past the Peace Tower during Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on 1 July, 2006. Canadians are celebrating their country’s 139th birthday. —INTERNET

Prehistoric fish filmed in Indonesian seas

JAKARTA, 2 July—A team of Indonesian and Japanese scientists have filmed the first ever live images of the extremely primitive and rare coelacanth fish in deep waters off Manado, North Sulawesi Province, a newspaper report said Friday.

The experts from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) Oceanology Centre and the Fukushima Aquamarine Institute used a remotely operated vehicle to take pictures of five of the fish swimming at between 150 and 200 metres below sea level, said *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

The coelacanth was first rediscovered in South Africa waters in 1938, and

was later caught dead in North Sulawesi waters in 1998 and 1999.

Scientists had previously thought the fish had died out around 70-80 million years ago and only knew of its existence from fossils. The discovery of the first coelacanth was described as “akin to finding a living dinosaur roaming the earth”.

Researchers said the

latest find could indicate these fish originated in the Manado Sea and later migrated to South Africa, revising an earlier assumption that the species originated from South Africa.

Kasim Moosa, a researcher involved in the project, said Thursday that this five-foot-long fish liked to dwell in ocean caves.

The coelacanth is a predator that eats smaller fish.

The species from Manado, named the *Latimeria manadoensis*, is a brownish colour with white spots dotted all over its body. Scientists were surprised at the extra fleshy fins of this species, which they said resembled human hands and feet.

MNA/Xinhua



Boatwomen row boats on West Lake in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Places endangered by global warming

NEW YORK, 2 July—Global warming is melting glaciers, raising oceans and drying up lakes. Many destinations around the planet will be forever changed by these trends, and the July/August issue of *National Geographic Traveler* lists several places endangered by the changes, along with sites that have already been irrevocably altered.

The magazine says the snows of Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro — made famous by Ernest Hemingway’s short story — may vanish by mid-century, while portions of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef off Belize are already dying from warmer waters and other environmental changes.

The cloud forest of Monteverde, Costa Rica, has already lost 20 frog species, and the mists that

sustain the ecosystem are at risk, according to *National Geographic*. Meanwhile, warmer temperatures are turning Mediterranean beaches Saharan with 100-plus degree temperatures, while in the Western United States, the heat is forcing alpine flowers, a hamster-like creature called the pika, and marmots to move higher into the Rockies. Eventually, *National Geographic* says, “they’ll run out of mountain.”

The magazine adds that some destinations have already been destroyed by changing water levels around the globe. The Takuu people are being evacuated from their islands in Papua New Guinea because of rising seas; Plaquemines Parish, in Louisiana, was so thoroughly wrecked by Katrina that rebuilding is

impracticably expensive; and Lake Powell, in Utah, has “shrunk to the point where it may never refill,” the magazine says. The good news: “What recreational boaters lose in expanse they gain in revealed canyon scenery.”

Internet

Road accident kills eight, injures over 100 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 2 July—Eight people were killed and over 100 others injured in a head-on collision between a minibus and a

truck in Bangladesh’s northern Dinajpur District, 413 kilometres north-west of capital Dhaka Friday afternoon,

private news agency UNB reported.

Local sources was quoted as saying the minibus and the truck rammed into each other at about 12:30 pm, killing seven people on the spot.

Another person, who sustained injury in the accident, later died in a hospital. Of the injured, 14 were admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition while others to another local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua



Models present hairstyles during the OMC Hairworld event in Moscow on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Ukraine's PM says gas prices to stay stable in Q3

KIEV, 2 July — Ukraine's outgoing government has clinched a deal with Russia which will keep gas prices stable for the next three months and staves off any disruption of supplies to Europe.

Ukraine agreed in January to a near doubling of the low prices it had been paying to Russia for gas, calming a row that had briefly disrupted flows to Europe of Russian gas through pipelines across Ukrainian soil.

The latest deal will keep the price of gas at 95 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres until the end of the third quarter, but talks are required for fourth quarter supplies. Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov told reporters on Friday.

"Vital talks took place between the companies Ukrgazenergo and RosUkrEnerg," Ye-

khanurov said at the start of a Cabinet meeting.

"On gas supplies in the second half, agreements were reached that imported gas will cost 95 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres.

"Our industry can operate in a calm fashion. As for the fourth quarter, we will work further."

Ukrgazenergo and RosUkrEnerg were appointed as intermediaries to supply Russian and Central Asian gas to Ukraine.

Ukraine's economy, dominated by heavy industry, has been hit hard by the near twofold

increase in prices imposed in January. Kiev accepted the increase to 95 US dollars from 50 US dollars previously after Russian gas giant Gazprom briefly cut supplies to Ukraine, affecting supplies to Western Europe.

Up to 80 per cent of Gazprom's European exports pass through Ukraine.

Gazprom had previously said it wanted to raise prices for Ukraine again later this year.

But on Friday Alexander Ryazanov, Gazprom's deputy chief executive, said price changes were unlikely for

the time being.

"No decision about raising gas prices for Ukraine on July 1 has yet been taken," Russian news agencies quoted Ryazanov as saying ahead of Gazprom's annual general meeting. Ryazanov is also a member of RosUkrEnerg's co-ordinating committee.

The gas price agreement for the third quarter may mean tough talks lie ahead for Ukraine.

Ukraine imports up to 80 per cent of its energy resources and demand for fuel and gas soars in autumn and winter.

MNA/Reuters



A photographer carries away his gear as the space shuttle Discovery sits on the launch pad after mission managers delayed launch because of bad weather at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 1 July, 2006.—INTERNET



Residents donate blood for victims who were wounded during Saturday's market bomb attack in Baghdad's Sadr City on 2 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Violence escalates in Baghdad despite reconciliation plan

BAGHDAD, 2 July — At least 185 people were killed and wounded Saturday in Baghdad as violence ran high despite reconciliation and security plans presented by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to curb insurgency in the war-torn country.

In Baghdad's vast slum of Sadr City, up to 62 people were killed and about 114 others wounded when an explosive-laden vehicle went off shortly after 10:00 am (0600 GMT) near the heavily populated Souq al-Auola market, according to an Interior Ministry source.

The attack targeted a passing police patrol, which escaped unhurt, the source said, adding that all the victims were civilians.

In a separate incident, gunmen abducted a female Sunni Arab lawmaker and seven of her bodyguards while travelling in a predominantly Shiite neighbourhood in north-eastern Baghdad, police and Sunni lawmakers said.

The convoy of Taiseer

Najah al-Mashhadani, 31, a member of the Sunni Consensus Front, was attacked by gunmen in two cars in the al-Saha intersection in Shaab neighbourhood, an Interior Ministry source said on condition of anonymity.

Sunni lawmakers also confirmed the incident.

Al-Mashhadani's convoy was travelling from Diyala Province to Baghdad through the Shaab neighbourhood, said Ayad al-Samarraie, a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party, part of the Consensus Front.

Meanwhile, another Iraqi Islamic party member in Diyala, Hamdi Hasson, told the pan-Arab al-Jazeera television that a fake checkpoint stopped al-Mashhadani's convoy

at the Saha intersection at about 9:30 am (0530 GMT) and kidnapped the victims after they handcuffed them.

He said that an eighth bodyguard ran away from the scene and returned to Diyala's Baquba City, some 65 kilometres north of Baghdad, to report to the Islamic Party in the city. Earlier, a roadside bomb struck an Iraqi police commando patrol near a cinema in Baghdad's Alawi neighbourhood, killing three commando members.

The blast damaged a police vehicle, killing three commando members aboard and causing damage to nearby buildings and shops.

MNA/Xinhua

Passenger train to Lhasa ends maiden run

LHASA, 2 July — A train carrying about 600 passengers from Golmud, northwest China's Qinghai Province, arrived at the Lhasa Railway Station at 00:31 am on Sunday, marking the end of a maiden train run on Qinghai-Tibet Railway which was opened Saturday morning.

The train, coded "Qing 1", left Golmud at 11:05 am on Saturday and ran across the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, dubbed the "roof of the world", before arriving in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Those on board the train included role models of builders of the railway, representatives from the government, journalists from official media including Xinhua news agency and the China Central Television.

The successful operation of Qinghai-Tibet Railway broke American train traveller Paul Theroux's prophecy that the Kunlun Range was "a guarantee that the

railway will never get to Lhasa".

The Qinghai-Tibet Railway stretches 1,956 kilometres from Xining to Lhasa. Some 960 kilometers of its tracks are located 4,000 meters above sea level and the highest point is 5,072 meters, at least 200 meters higher than the Peruvian railway in the Andes, which was formerly the world's most elevated track.

Tibet makes up one eighth of the Chinese territory, but without a railway, passengers and goods had to be shipped by buses, trucks and planes. Little access to traffic and high transportation costs

have long hindered the region's economic development.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO says cholera claimed 1,982 lives in Angola

LUANDA, 2 July — The World Health Organization (WHO) said here on Thursday cholera has claimed 1,982 lives in Angola since it broke out in mid-February this year.

In its latest report, the WHO said that 122 new cases and two deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours and 48,034 people have been infected so far in 14 of Angola's 18 provinces.

According to WHO, 35 per cent of cholera victims were children aged under five.

Although the UN agency said there was sign the epidemic was slowing in the provinces of Kwanza Norte, Bengo and Malange, the medical charity Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) said it had worsened in Namibe and Luanda provinces.

Cholera is a waterborne disease, which has taken hold in Angola where safe drinking water is a luxury and the majority of Luanda's citizens live in overcrowded slums.

MNA/Xinhua



A mother and her daughter push a vehicle on a flooded street in Luoyang in central China's Henan Province on 2 July, 2006. Heavy downpours caused knee-deep floodwaters on some of Luoyang's streets.—INTERNET

HONOURING MYANMAR WOMEN'S DAY-2006:

Peerless status and privileges of Myanmar Women throughout the annals of history

Aung Than Tun (Monywa)

In the West, they have their "Mother's Day," commemorating the gratitude one owes towards one's mother. Funs, feasting and ceremonies are held in honour of the Mother. However, here in our motherland called Myanmar where Theravada Buddhism flourishes, we Buddhists revere and respect Mother more so. How it is manifested can clearly be seen and observed at the time of Thadingyut, Festival of Lights, the seventh month of the Myanmar calendar. The month roughly coincides with October.

Thadingyut is the month best-loved and cherished by Myanmar Buddhists, for being not only a season of fun and festivities after the rains and storms of monsoon and the period of Lent, but also being marked as the anniversary of Buddha's return from the celestial abode where He had spent the time of lent teaching the Great Truth, ABHIDHAMMA, which he had discovered after rigorous striving for many lives through the round of rebirths, Samsara, to His own Mother reborn there.

It was the greatest gesture of Buddha's gratitude shown towards the Mother setting an example for all to follow. Buddha made the greatest gift of all the gift of DHAMMA, The Law that might deliver HIS MOTHER from suffering once and for all. What more can one do!

According to Buddhist Teaching, we have FIVE

REVERED ONES viz., the Buddha, the Law (Dhamma), the Sangha (the Order of Monks), Parents and Teachers. During this season, Myanmar Buddhists never fail to pay respects to parents, teachers and elderly relatives.

Every person's Mother is a woman. Women being symbolized by Mother, their position, no doubt should be highly-esteemed and deeply respected. Throughout the annals of Myanmar history, our women have occupied eminent and significant status, position and role in every respect and department of human activities.

In the early episode of Myanmar history, Bagan Period, Myanmar women held their forte in many spheres of life as influential Queens, Administrators, Judges, Musicians and Artists, Scriptwriters, Nurses and Foster-Mothers, etc, as evidenced in many Bagan inscriptions, (Plates, 266, 172, 700, 301 and 203). In the ensuing Ages of Myanmar History, there are innumerable distinguished Myanmar women in various fields of life and professions.

Myanmar Women, throughout the annals of Myanmar history to date have the significant status, privileges and role in the Myanmar family and society.

A Myanmar girl has the right to choose her own profession according to her aptitude.

Myanmar women after attaining the age of majority

can opt her own life-partner in marriage without any restraint.

In married life, Myanmar women have the equal right and status with man to manage the family life and share the burden of family life "As a man carries burden on his shoulder, the wife carries the same on her head."

Myanmar man and wife are partners in life; they share both the ups and downs of fortune and merits gained through good deeds of Ahlu, donations, alms-giving, philanthropic gifts or construction of religious buildings, hospitals or rest houses.

When the husband dies, the wife becomes the head of the family and undertakes all the responsibilities of the family and children.

She becomes the sole owner of the family properties.

Myanmar Buddhist Women who get married to a man of another faith or religion are protected and safeguarded under the Buddhist Women's Special Marriage and Succession Act, 1954 in the same way as under the Myanmar Customary Law.

While women in the Western countries are still struggling hard to get and enjoy equal rights with men in such fields as equal pay, equal right to vote, to stand election, equal privileges in many fields of life, our Myanmar women have such rights and privileges since thousand years ago, even in the Bagan Period between (1044-1287) AD.

As had been said by the UN Secretary-General, on International Women's Day, our Myanmar women will certainly have empowerment and full participation in all spheres of society and achieve equality, development and peace.

Myanmar Buddhist Women who get married to a man of another faith or religion are protected and safeguarded under the Buddhist Women's Special Marriage and Succession Act, 1954 in the same way as under the Myanmar Customary Law.



Andy Roddick of the US falls during his match against Britain's Andy Murray at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 1 July, 2006.—INTERNET

***The best time to plant a tree was
20 years ago.
The second best time is now.***

About 2,000 Congo militia disarm

KINSHASA, 3 July — Nearly 2,000 militia fighters have laid down their weapons in Congo's lawless Ituri District in the last two weeks, ahead of historic polls in the vast African country, a disarmament official said on Saturday.

Disarmament centres reopened two weeks ago after being closed for a year, giving militia groups a second chance to give up their guns a month before the Democratic Republic of Congo is due to hold presidential and parliamentary elections.

Much of the mineral-rich country remains violent and Ituri — a remote northeastern district where fighting has killed 60,000 since 1999 and militia fighters are still holding five UN Nepali peacekeepers hostage — is no exception.

"More than 1,800 people have disarmed — the figure is getting near 2,000," Colonel Francois-Xavier Duku, the head of Congo's national disarmament commission for Ituri, told *Reuters* by phone from Bunia, Ituri's main town.

Last year over 15,000 gunmen signed up to UN-sponsored disarmament programmes before the centres closed when the deadline expired.

But despite the presence of thousands of UN peacekeepers and their support of the national

army, the violence continued, as the militia re-recruited former fighters who were not given fresh starts as civilians.

However Duku said that with elections just weeks away and the disarmament centres open again, the "time was right" for the gunmen to lay down their weapons.

"People realized that there was no more conflict between ethnic groups so there was no reason to keep hidden weapons," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Honorary Patron of MAAF Daw Kyaing Kyaing attending a ceremony to mark Myanmar Women's Day. — MNA

Membership of MAAF has grown to over 2.6 million in the course of two and a half years of its existence



Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party view documentary photos on activities of Myanmar women. — MNA

(from page 16)

Here, I would like to mention a few of those plans of action from the Beijing Plus 10 Declaration which reflects our development programmes.

Beijing Plus 10 Declaration emphasized the need to speed up the momentum of the implementation of the slogan "Education for All".

In Myanmar, recognizing that "Education for All" is fundamental to human resource development, teaching-learning programmes covering all types of learners, regardless of age, sex or religion, are being formulated and implemented with momentum. Programmes for "Non-formal Education" "Adult literacy" "Inclusive Education" "Continuing Education" etc., are but a few of the strategies which are being implemented in cooperation with NGOs like MAAF to promote the intellectual facility of the people.

Beijing Plus 10 Declaration also determined to ensure that women and girls have the knowledge and means to prevent HIV transmission and have equal and universal access to counseling, treatment and care.

As part of the Health Care Programme for Women, means of prevention of HIV transmission, and reproductive health education are disseminated to women and girls of both urban and rural areas. Equal and universal access to counseling, treatment and care is also given to HIV patients.

Regarding the call for elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking, the State has not only promulgated the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law but it is also carrying out suppression measures in accordance with International Conventions. A National Seminar on the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law was held in Yangon this year in February and subsequent workshops at State and Division level were held at Mandalay, Lashio, Bago, Kawthaung and Tachilek. Special Anti-trafficking Units of the Myanmar Police Forces have also been formed in major cities in cooperation with the Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking Project.

A National Plan of Action on Anti-trafficking in Person has been drafted and Myanmar has hosted an Inter-ministerial meeting called Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) in 2004 and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation also assists in the activities relating to prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and in rendering assistance to the victims. For prevention, knowledge and information relating to trafficking in persons is disseminated among women and young people. Educative talks, training and counseling programmes are also organized as preventive measures.

We also assist in reintegration and rehabilitation works of trafficked victims in collaboration with Government bodies as well as INGOs. Due to the fact that the Beijing Plus 10 work plans are in conformity with the Myanmar situation, it is no big effort for Myanmar to implement them in collaboration with other countries in the region for the advancement of women.

(See page 9)



Diplomats and Resident Representatives of UN Agencies attending Myanmar Women's Day ceremony. — MNA



မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ(၃)ရက်
MYANMAR WOMEN'S DAY
3rd July 2006

Membership of MAAF has grown to over 2.6 million in...

(from page 8)

However, inasmuch as we Myanmar women are endeavouring for the country's development and the advancement of Myanmar women, external forces are simply making one-sided false

on Myanmar Women's Day 2005,

(2) **The statement in response to the report commissioned by the former President of the Czech Re-**

some powerful western countries and the internal and external destructive elements are attempting with varying false allegations to urge the United Nations Security Council to take action on Myanmar. Reports, texts and dossiers with allegations based on exaggerated, false and fabricated information of dissident



Honorary Patron of MAAF Daw Kyaing Kyaing presents a prize to Ma Phyo Phyo May of BEHS No 2, Kamayut Township who got the second highest marks in 2005 Matriculation Examination. —MNA

allegations and unjust sanctions. As these false allegations and unjust sanctions can adversely affect the development and security of our womenfolk, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, on behalf of the entire women mass, has issued several statements, declarations and responses to the unjust allegations.

public, Mr Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond M Tu Tu of South Africa in which unjust allegations were made on Myanmar,

(3) **The statement about religious freedom in the nation, and,**

(4) **The Declaration of View on the Un-**

groups, are being presented to the United Nations and its agencies.

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation would like to make an analytical review on the allegations in the aforesaid reports.

The Government has taken on the care of the socio-economic lives of the ethnic groups in re-



Honorary patron of MAAF Daw Kyaing Kyaing presents a prize to Daw Kyan who did excellent performance in art. —MNA

is proof that the State is putting out all efforts for the basic development of the national races in those regions. In fact, the Government is constantly providing for the needs of the ethnic groups through per-

It is clear proof that the Government is always cooperating with the ethnic groups and has never neglected them as 'minorities'. Therefore, allegations of using ethnic cleansing strategies are

have the highest drug abuse. It is just a false allegation which ignores the fact that Myanmar Government has been cooperating very closely with UN agencies and neighbouring countries in



Honorary Patron of MAAF Daw Mya Mya San presents a prize to Deputy Commander Daw Moe Thuza of Waingmaw Township Red Cross Unit in Kachin State. —MNA

sonal discussions with them. Moreover, delegates of national races, delegates of groups who exchanged arms for peace and other related incidents persons are participating in person at the present National Convention.

just false accusations. Having established the Union Spirit in the nationalities, developments in the ethnic regions can be observed distinctly.

Moreover, Myanmar was also listed as one of the countries alleged to

the cause for drug eradication which the government takes on as a national cause. Myanmar has consistently been active in the drive for drug eradication; cooperating with countries sharing borders

(See page 10)



Honorary Parton of MAAF Daw Mya Mya San presents a prize to Daw Thida Win of Five Services Department (Branch). —MNA

The statements are as follows:

(1) **The statement concerning the adverse impact on the lives of women as a consequence of the unjust allegations and sanctions against Myanmar issued**

just Conclusion of the 295th Session of the ILO Governing Body as it can have adverse consequences on the socio-economic development of Myanmar women.

Even at present,

remote areas by implementing programmes for development in the specified 24 Special Development Regions. Construction of dams and reservoirs, networks of roads and bridges, universities and colleges, schools and hospitals in the regions where the ethnic races live



MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe presents a prize to Dr Kyaw Min Aung who stood third in article competition. —MNA

Membership of MWF has grown to over 2.6 million in...

(from page 9)

with Myanmar, engaging in sub-regional cooperation on drug abuse control with China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam and signing a memorandum of understanding with the said countries, and cooperating with countries like India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Russia, Laos, the Philippines, China, and Thailand on combating drug abuse. This shows that Myanmar has cooperated fully in the Asia Region as well as within the country and has made headway with the drug suppression activities.

The allegations regarding HIV/AIDS are also based on false information. To enable effective implementation of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and control programmes in Myanmar, a Control Body in the name of National AIDS Committee has been established. Nowadays, Myanmar is cooperating with the UN Agencies, International NGOs and local NGOs in health education, taking care of the AIDS patients and conducting programmes to encourage the use of condoms and other activities for the prevention and control of the disease. According to the results of the Workshop on Projection and Demographic Impact Analysis on HIV/AIDS conducted by technical experts from WHO, and UN-AIDS and the Ministry of Health, it was observed that the prevalence of the disease has decreased from 1.5 per cent in 2000 to 1.3 per cent in 2005. Therefore, the allegation that Myanmar, having a high rate of HIV/AIDS in the region, is a case for concern is baseless.

Regarding Trafficking in Persons, MWF is in the know of the real and true situation as we have a sub-working group on trafficking in persons which is entirely involved in the prevention and suppression activities. Myanmar has also enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. In 684 cases prosecuted between 2001 and May 2006, action was taken against 1920 persons of which 2 were given life sentence and 99 were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. As preventive measures, 830,000 were counseled and 28,840 were deterred in time by working groups on trafficking in persons, including MWF members, in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force and the local authorities.

In spite of all these nationwide endeavours to suppress trafficking in persons and collaboration with the regional countries, the US Department of State chose to ignore the efforts and listed Myanmar on tier 3 on the list of countries which are not in conformity with the US Department of State, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and economic sanction was imposed on the products of the factories in Myanmar. With many young women losing their jobs as a result of the closure of factories, authorities and departments concerned, in cooperation with related social organizations, had to make arrangements to ward off the looming danger of these jobless young women falling victims to human trafficking.

The blunder made by US Department of State, instead of supporting the cause for the prevention of

trafficking in persons, is pushing young Myanmar women towards being victims of human trafficking and thus, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation objects to Myanmar being listed on tier 3 in the Report on Trafficking in Persons issued by the US Department of State in June this year.

In June, 2006, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation issued an analytical review on the recommendations to the United Nations Security Council to take action on Myanmar. The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation firmly believes that the security of the women can be attained only when the country is at peace and stable. We are deeply concerned that just as Myanmar women have achieved the momentum of advancement and security of life under the peace and tranquillity of the State, prevalence of law and order due to economic development and improved communication, instigation with false information might jeopardize the peace and tranquillity of the country and the safety of the Myanmar community as a whole including Myanmar women.

The reports and dossiers of recommendation to the United Nations Security Council to take action on Myanmar are baseless, relying only on false information, and are just fabrications of internal and external destructive elements and manipulating powers from the rear. As these fabrications can have adverse consequences on the Myanmar people and the entire Myanmar women mass, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation strongly protests against them.

Myanmar women have celebrated "Myanmar Women's Day", a milestone day in the life of Myanmar women, on the 3rd of July every year. This year, an additional array of pre-celebration activities was held with the help of departments concerned.

Songs, TV skits and discussions were aired throughout the past month to herald the "Myanmar Women's Day" 2006. Essay competitions were held for students of Basic and Higher Education levels, organized by the Ministry of Education, and the prize-winners are present here today. Extemporaneous talk competitions were also held at the Institute of Nursing and the University of Culture respectively. A demonstration on the skills and capabilities of the member of the Myanmar Women Police Force Special Unit was also put on display.

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, together with other NGOs and wellwishers, has also carried out volunteer work and public services such as volunteer cleaning at hospitals, initiating public funds and donating blood.

A paper-reading session on subjects related to women was held on 29th June to hail the 2006 Myanmar Women's Day. Papers on varying aspects read by scholars and experts are as follows:

- (1) Role of Myanmar Women in Information and Communication Technology Development
- (2) Women and HIV/AIDS
- (3) The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law in Myanmar and combating measures against Trafficking in Persons.
- (4) Environmental Problems and Environmental Security

- (5) The Values of Myanmar Women Held throughout History.
- (6) Healthy Life Style and the Women's Role in promoting it.

Other than that, nationwide competitions on photography—on the theme "Life of a Myanmar Woman—complete and beautiful" and on article writing—"Let's strive together for the advancement of Women" were held last month.

Myanmar Women's Day, 2006, was also heralded in all States and Divisions with a variety of activities and is being celebrated today all over the country. This nation-wide ceremonious marking of Myanmar Women's Day is to honour and to place on record once again those Myanmar women who were exemplary in displaying nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit throughout the history of Myanmar, who have been preserving Myanmar traditional heritage, national character and lineage; and those who are taking part in their respective places in the evolution of Myanmar society. It is indeed an auspicious day for which all Myanmar women are to be proud of.

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation not only endeavours for the uplifting of the role of women but also gives priority to mobilizing the women mass to undertake national development tasks in all aspects. The State in turn provides leadership and motivation so that the role of women in Myanmar can be clearly seen to be uplifted.

Finally, I would like to urge the entire women mass

- (1) to apply their good traditions and excellent capabilities in forming a strong national force to attain more achievements,
- (2) to oppose with a true patriotic spirit the internal and external destructive elements who are bent on destroying the country and its people,
- (3) to preserve and uplift the lineage, national character and heritage of Myanmar, and
- (4) to practise Our Three Main National Causes as a National Duty.

In conclusion, I would like to express my wish that all women be able to participate with a sense of patriotism in the task of building a disciplined, peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing presented gifts to writer Dr Daw Tin Win (Dr Ma Tin Win-Institute of Education), National Literary Award winner for 2005, Daw Kyan and Daw Myint Than, winners of best performance in arts (Grade-1), Ma Phyo Phyo May of No 2 BEHS, Kamayut, who gained the second highest marks in the matriculation examination and Daw Myint Myint San of Kamayut Township, who donated blood for 91 times.

Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Lay Thet and Daw Than Than Nwe presented prizes to winners of photo and article contests.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and guests observed documentary photos on activities of Myanmar Women's Day, May Myanmar Journal published by MWF, photos of outstanding women, national literary award winning books and booklets published by MWF.

MNA

Hparshin Bridge under construction



Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of Hparshin Creek Bridge. — MR

YANGON, 3 July — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than yesterday went to Kyangin and inspected the re-construction of Hparshin Creek Bridge which was damaged by the floods at the end of April 2006.

Two beams installed on the pillar No 2 of the bridge were destroyed by the floods.

Concrete pillars of the bridge across Hparshin Creek will be replaced with the bore piles, a senior engineer of Myanmar Railways said.

During the tour of inspection, the minister and the deputy minister took a boat trip and inspected drilling of bore piles and gave instructions.

During the construction period, travellers can cross the river by a ferry of Myanmar Railways free.

MNA

Ugandan police seize 26 mln fake dollars

KAMPALA, 3 July — Ugandan police have seized about 26 million US dollars in counterfeit money and arrested eight suspects in a heightened clampdown on fraud.

The suspects and the seizures also included huge amounts of counterfeit Ugandan, Burundi, Kenyan and Congolese currencies and two money counterfeiting machines, according to the *New Vision* daily on Saturday.

The suspects were netted in operations in the city, Mbarara, Masaka and Fort Portal, according to Kampala police chief Kale

Kayihura, who declared: "These are even worse than Kony (the top rebel wanted for crimes committed in northern Uganda)."

The police revealed one of the prime suspects, Mulindwa Mumbere, 23, a Tanzanian, who detailed how the ring works, emphatically declined to demonstrate in public how the counterfeiting machine, which he said

produces genuine dollar bills, operates.

Mumbere, arrested on Thursday from Mutundwe, said he could only carry out the demonstration with only Kayihura and some senior police officers, fearing that other people would learn the intricate trade and run him out of business when he comes out of prison after 10 years.—MNA/Xinhua



French designer Sophie Albou for fashion house Paul and Joe appears at the end of her men's Spring/Summer 2007 collection in Paris, on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

OAPEC crude oil exports increase in 2005

KUWAIT CITY, 3 July — Crude oil exports of the Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OAPEC) reached 327.4 billion US dollars in 2005, an increase of 99 billion dollars over the previous year, Kuwait's official KUNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The annual report of OAPEC attributed the increase to a hike in oil prices and the growth of crude oil production in most of OAPEC member states.

According to the report, OAPEC produced 21.4 million barrels per day in 2005, an increase of 2.9 per cent over the previous year.

Many member states achieved a remarkable increase in the value of oil exports, among them, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Algeria ranked the first with a 60-per-cent increase, followed by Kuwait with 52 per cent, Libya with 49 per cent and Saudi Arabia with 35 per cent.

Egypt, Qatar, Syria and Bahrain also saw an increase between 13-20 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill 6 Romanians, 6 missing

BUCHAREST, 3 July — Six people were killed and six others missing after torrential rains flooded villages in northern Romania, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

The most affected county was Suceava, close to the northern border with Ukraine, where the deaths occurred. Floodwaters killed five peasants in the village of Arbore and another one in the village of Cacica.

About 530 people were evacuated from eight

counties, most of them in northern Romania, and around 2,700 homes were damaged.

Late in June, floods killed 12 after rains flooded villages across the Black Sea state of 22 million people.

In April, the swollen Danube River rose to its highest levels in more than a century, forcing 15,000 people to flee their homes and swamping vast tracts of land in Romania's impoverished countryside. —MNA/Reuters



England's former captain David Beckham (C) arrives from Germany with sons Cruz (R) and Romeo (L) at Stansted airport near London on 2 July, 2006. Beckham resigned as England captain on Sunday following the team's defeat to Portugal in the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Germany on Saturday. —INTERNET

Unknown malaria strain kills 27 in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 3 July — Twenty-seven people have fallen victim in one day to an unknown strain of malaria in westernmost Tanzania while 410 others are still hospitalized for the disease, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

Children and pregnant women have accounted for more than half of these in-patients.

The Tanzanian Health Minister has had to withdraw from the ongoing parliamentary session to lead a group of doctors and researchers to rush to the rescue in Bukoba.

The outbreak of this unknown strain of malaria was reported in two districts of the Kagera region in westernmost Tanzania bordering Lake Victoria.

A local report delivered to the country's health minister said that

the number of cases of malaria infection among children under the age of five years rose from 650 recorded in January this year to 832 in March. The figure further rose to 1,448 cases in June.

The months of May and June are usually the rampant period of malaria infection in the East African country.

The report quoted a local hospital dossier as counting malaria-caused children deaths to be 179 in the first six months of this year.

Malaria is one of the three killer diseases in Tanzania, where HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are also killing lots of people each year.

Malaria claims on average the lives of some 100,000 people in Tanzania every year and of the fatality total 70,000 are children under the age of five years.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to have first all-women traffic post

KATHMANDU, 3 July — If men can bear responsibilities, why can not women who constitute half of humanity? When it comes to competence, women are no less.

While this line of argument has been used by advocates of Nepali women's equality for long,

it is actually the police who are leading on this front and proving the point.

Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Office (VTPO) is starting a Women Traffic Police Post, the first of its kind in Nepal, in the capital city from Sunday.

"We have decided to give all responsibilities of Thapathali Traffic Post to women traffic personnel," the newly-appointed chief of VTPO Bhisma Prasai said, adding "this will not only boost women's confidence but also help to prove that women are equally capable of bearing assigned responsibilities."

The traffic post will

have a total of 24 women traffic personnel.

They will take the responsibility of ensuring smooth traffic movement along Tripureshwor, Thapathali, Maitighar and Singhadurbar road sections effective from Sunday, according to Prasai.

There are altogether 570 personnel currently working in 20 different traffic posts in the capital.

Of them 125 are women. Though male personnel stay permanently in their respective traffic posts, female officials have so far been assigned duty by VTPO each new day due to lack of separate

lodging facility.

However, in the new traffic post to be run by women, traffic personnel will be permanently stationed there.

Women traffic personnel are elated by this arrangement.

"I am happy to learn that I am someone recognized in our force," said Sub Inspector Laxmi Gurung who will head the model traffic post.

"I am sure that we can live up to the expectation of our seniors," Gurung, who has been serving in police for the past 22 years, told reporters on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



Participants take part in the swimming leg of the men's elite event at the Singapore International Triathlon on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

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ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
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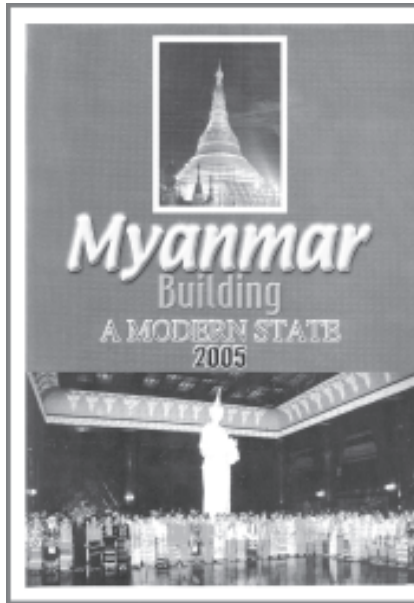
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(က) FULLY RECONDITIONED 5 TONS GARBAGE TRUCKS(25) UNITS
TYPE: ARM ROLL

(ခ) DETACHABLE BOX FOR 5 TONS ARM ROLL TRUCK (50)BOXES
ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၈-၇-၂၀၀၆ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၈၇၂၃၅ ရုံးချိန် အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
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MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (683)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (683) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 4.7.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Zanzibar Parliament endorses 2006-2007 budget

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 2 July— The Zanzibar House of Representatives on Thursday endorsed the budget for the fiscal year 2006-2007 that starts on July 1, according to reports reaching here on Friday.

Zanzibar Minister of State in charge of Finance and Economic Affairs Mwinyihaji Makame Mwadini told the lawmakers of the Indian Ocean archipelago that the

government aims at providing social services to all Zanzibar citizens despite their political ideologies.

The isles government has planned to spend 214.8 billion Tanzanian shillings (171.84 million US dollars) in the new fiscal year.

Parliamentarians elected and nominated from the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party endorsed the budget whereas members of the opposition party who were elected and nominated as lawmakers did not support the budget, the reports said.

The ruling party occupies 50 of the 79 seats

in the Zanzibar Parliament while the opposition occupies 27 seats.

Zanzibar expects its economy to grow by 6.2 per cent in 2006 when its gross domestic product is expected to total 454.9 billion Tanzanian shillings (363.9 million dollars).

The prediction was made by the minister of state in charge of finance and economic affairs while unveiling Zanzibar's 2006-2007 fiscal budget last week.

Zanzibar posted a gross domestic product total of 395 billion shillings (316 million dollars) in the fiscal year 2005-2006.

MNA/Xinhua

TV shows kidnapped Israeli soldier still alive

JERUSALEM, 2 July— An Israeli soldier who was kidnapped by Palestinian militants on Sunday is still alive, Israeli public television reported on Friday.

The 19-year-old soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, was visited by a Palestinian doctor at a certain place in the Gaza Strip, said the report, adding that the doctor treated Shalit's wounds.

No further details were revealed.

Shalit was snatched by Palestinian militants during a cross-border raid on an Israeli military post near the Gaza border on early Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Egyptians plead guilty of enslaving 10-year-old girl

LOS ANGELES, 2 July— Two Egyptian nationals have pleaded guilty to enslaving a 10-year-old girl in their California home and forcing her to work 16-hour days as a domestic servant, prosecutors said on Friday.

AbdeInasser Eid Youssef Ibrahim, 45, and his ex-wife Amal Ahmed Ewisabd Motelbil, 43, have each pleaded guilty to four felony counts in a US District Court indictment under a deal with federal prosecutors that calls for sentences of three years in prison.

In the plea agreement, the defendants admitted bringing the girl to the United States in 2000 under an arrangement with her parents, confiscating her passport and forcing her to work 16 hours a day for the next two years as a domestic servant.

The girl was required to assist the couple's youngest children in getting ready for school, prepare and serve food, clean the home, do laundry and work in the yard.

She was not allowed to attend school and was told she would be arrested if she was spotted alone

outside their home. The couple each admitted slapping the girl at least once to get her to work, the plea agreement said.

"Forcing such a young and vulnerable child into these involuntary working conditions is unconscionable," Assistant Attorney General Wan Kim said.

"The De-partment of Justice takes this crime seriously and is committed to the vigorous prosecution of anyone who engages in the forced labour and degradation of others."

MNA/Reuters

Two killed, one injured in Canadian train derailment

OTTAWA, 2 July— Two crew members working for the Canadian National Railway were killed and another was seriously injured when a freight train derailed in western Canada late on Thursday, a spokesman for the company said on Friday.

The train left the

tracks near Lillooet, about 340 kilometres northeast of Vancouver, British Columbia, Jim Feeny, the spokesman, told local media.

The two-car train had been transporting lumber at the time of the accident, Feeny said.

The surviving, third crew member, who was taken to a nearby hospital, was described as being in a stable condition, Feeny said.

The cause of the derailment remains unknown. Officials are currently on the scene and an investigation is underway.

MNA/Xinhua

No women Candidates win in Kuwait's Parliamentary polls

KUWAIT CITY, 2 July— None of the Kuwaiti women candidates won a single seat in the Thursday parliamentary elections, which they were allowed to take part in for the first time, according to results carried by state media on Friday.

The results showed that all the 26 women

candidates who ran for a four-year term in the 50-seat legislative body failed to be elected.

According to the results, the opposition, including Islamists, won 33 of the 50 seats, gaining four more seats compared to the previous Parliament. Some 223,187

eligible Kuwaiti voters out of 340,248 cast their ballot, which made up 65.6 per cent of the total voters. Both officials and candidates were surprised by the huge turnout.

Kuwaiti women were enfranchised both to vote and run for the Parliament in May 2005. A total of

194,910 female voters, who account for 57.2 per cent of the country's total voters, were for the first time in history allowed to take part in the parliamentary elections.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

DON'T SMOKE

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Astronomer reports small asteroid to fly by Earth without danger

LOS ANGELES, 2 July — An asteroid will pass Earth at a very close distance in the predawn hours of Monday, astronomers reported on Friday, noting that there will not be any danger of collision.

The asteroid, coded 2004 XP14, was first picked up in December 2004. It is believed to be 370 to 800 metres in diameter, according to astronomers with the Near Earth Object Programme (NEO) of US space agency NASA.

When it was first spotted, the asteroid was farther away from Earth, but the character of its orbit caused astronomers to classify it as one of the 783 potentially hazardous asteroids (PHA) by the Minor Planet Centre in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Although initially there were concerns that this asteroid might possibly impact Earth later this century and thus merit special monitoring, further analysis of its orbit has since ruled out any such collision at least in the foreseeable future.

The upcoming flyby is only moderately close, noted the astronomers.

The asteroid's minimum distance from Earth will be about 400,000 kilometres Sunday midnight, slightly larger than the Moon's average distance from Earth. Its speed will reach 17 kilometres per second.

"There is no risk of its hitting either the Earth or the Moon, but it is unusually well placed for study, especially by radar," the NEO said in a statement.

This is by far the closest that this particular object will come during the rest of the 21st Century. For a few hours it will be as bright as 11th magnitude, making it easily visible to sky watchers with a 20-centimetres or larger telescope.

Extensive observations are planned with the NASA 70-metre radar at Goldstone, California, which is part of the NASA Deep Space communications network. It is

anticipated that these radar studies will yield detailed images of the asteroid, as well as highly precise values for its orbit and spin state. The close pass by such a large asteroid has little historical precedent, but calculations show that a Near Earth Asteroid this large comes this close about once per decade on the average. However, similar close passes in the past were not observed, astronomers said. — MNA/Xinhua



A reveller tries to hold a wild horse during the "Rapa Das Bestas" traditional event in the Spanish northwestern village of Sabucedo on 1 July, 2006. On the first weekend of the month of July, hundreds of wild horses are rounded up, trimmed and groomed in different villages in Spain's northwestern region of Galicia.—INTERNET



Donald Tsang Yam-kuen (3rd R front), Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), attends a flag raising ceremony for the 9th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland and the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR, in the Hong Kong SAR of China, on 1 July, 2006. —INTERNET

HK celebrates anniversary of return to motherland

HONG KONG, 2 July — Hong Kong on Saturday held a grand celebration for the 9th anniversary of Hong

Kong's return to the Motherland and the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region (HKSAR).

At a reception held on Saturday morning, Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of HKSAR, spoke highly of the central government policy toward the special administrative region.

Hong Kong's return to the motherland signifies the realization of the concepts of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy, he said.

He said that in implementing these concepts during the past nine years, Hong Kong has achieved success while also encountering challenges and difficulties.

Also a national flag raising ceremony was held early Saturday morning as part of the grand celebration.

MNA/Xinhua

South Asian Free Trade Area becomes operational

DHAKA, 2 July — South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which became effective from 1 January of this year, starts its practical implementation Saturday, local newspaper *The Independent* reported.

"With this, the much-talked-about common market for 1.4 billion people of seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries would become a reality where all the countries will have to withdraw the import tariff from all their products except some sensitive products by 2015," the report said.

Bangladesh has 1,254 products in the sensitive basket, while India has 763, Pakistan 1183, Sri Lanka 1066, Nepal 1299, Bhutan 175 and Maldives 671. All these products will be excluded from the tariff reduction measures.

"The effective and meaningful implementation of SAFTA can contribute a lot in alleviating property from this region," Bangladeshi Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed was quoted as saying, adding that all the countries should be sincere in implementing the agreement.

Bangladesh already declared to reduce tariff on 4,271 products by 5 per cent by the year of 2008 in three phases and by the year of 2015 the import tariff on these products will come to zero.

SAFTA aims at reducing tariffs for intra-regional trade among the seven SAARC countries. Pakistan and India are to complete implementation by 2012, Sri Lanka by 2013 and Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal by 2015. — MNA/Xinhua

Picasso exhibition charts lover's influence

MILLOURNE, 2 July — An exhibition of Picasso's works from 1935 to 1945 goes on display at the National Gallery of Victoria today.

Hundred of paintings, etchings and photos by the Spanish artist can be viewed until the first week of October. It is the largest Picasso collection ever shown outside Europe.

The exhibition focuses on the personal and artistic relationship between Picasso and his lover, French photographer Dora Maar. The gallery's director, Gerard Vaughan, has described it as one of the great exhibitions.

"I think the one with Dora Maar was very special and rather different," he said. "He was obsessed with her and she was obsessed with him and the exhibition is full of their portraits of each other. "I think that in itself is absolutely fascinating." —Internet



A Chinese man attends an injured wild giant panda at an aid centre for wild animals in Xi'an, northwestern China's Shaanxi Province, on 2 July, 2006. The animal was found by a group of tourists and brought to the center. Giant pandas are highly endangered and enjoys wide protection in its natural habitat.—INTERNET

SPORTS

FIFA World Cup S/F Fixture

Wednesday, 5 July, 2006
Germany v Italy, 01:30 MST



Philippine champion Manny Pacquiao, right, and his Mexican challenger Oscar Larios exchange blows in their scheduled 12-round WBC international super-featherweight title bout dubbed 'Mano-A-Mano' at the Araneta Coliseum at suburban Quezon city north of Manila, Philippines, on 2 July, 2006. Pacquiao, guaranteed a US\$1 million purse, won by a unanimous decision over Larios. —INTERNET

Filipino boxer retains WBC super featherweight title

MANILA, 3 July—Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao nicknamed "Pacman" defeated Mexican Oscar Larios here on Sunday, earning a unanimous decision and retaining the World Boxing Council (WBC) international super featherweight title.

The 27-year-old Pacquiao showed off his speed and power in front of the home fans. He knocked down the 29-year-old Larios twice in the 12-round bout and raised his win-draw-loss record to 42-3-2. Both fighters were almost evenly matched in weight, with Pacquiao tipping the scales at 129.5 lbs (about 58 kilogrammes) and Larios, who was a two-time super bantamweight champion, at 129.

"This is for all my countrymen who

always supported and prayed for me," Pacquiao said in an earlier Press conference on Thursday, the last time he was allowed to speak to the media before the fight.

Pacquiao earned 1 million US dollars for the commercialized fight. His victory consolidated his hold on the WBC international super featherweight title, a belt normally contested by boxers ranked 11th and above in their division. Pacquiao is ranked 2 and Larios 5.—MNA/Xinhua

Ronaldinho, Parreira take brunt of criticism

FRANKFURT, 3 July—World Player of the Year Ronaldinho and coach Carlos Alberto Parreira took the brunt of the criticism as the Brazilian media reacted angrily to their team's World Cup quarterfinal defeat to France.

Saturday's 1-0 loss was described as a fiasco by the *Estado de Sao Paulo* daily on its website while *O Globo* said: "Brazil trembled again against France."

Brazil had won 11 successive games at the World Cup finals since losing 3-0 to the same opponents in the 1998 final.

France also knocked Brazil out of the 1986 World Cup on penalties following a 1-1 draw in the quarterfinals.

O Globo and *Estado de Sao Paulo* ran identical headlines which read: "Ronaldinho was the big let-down of the Cup."

The *Estado* added: "He played badly, he didn't dribble, he didn't have a shot at goal, he mis-placed passes and did not, at any moment, take responsibility."

"It was a portrait of his participation in the World Cup: apathetic, bureaucratic, mediocre and afraid of

deciding.

Parreira was slammed for being overcautious and for persisting with veteran full backs Cafu and Roberto Carlos.—MNA/Reuters



The pack of riders cycle past a traditional Alsatian house during the 1st stage of the 93rd Tour de France cycling race in Strasbourg, on 2 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Beckham quits as England captain

BUEHLERTAL, 3 July—David Beckham quit as England captain on Sunday after his side lost to Portugal in the penalty shootouts in the World Cup quarterfinals.

Beckham, 31, left the field on Saturday with a leg injury in the 52nd minute and England played with 10 men when Wayne Rooney was given a red card in the 62nd minute.

After a 0-0 tie in 120 minutes, England lost to Portugal 3-1 in the penalty kicks.

"On 15 November, 2000, Peter Taylor gave me the greatest honour of my career in making me captain of England and fulfilling my childhood dream," Beckham said in a statement, "Now almost six years later, having been captain for 58 of my 95 caps, I feel the time is right to pass on the armband as we enter in a new era under Steve McClaren."

"This decision has been the most difficult of my career to date," he said. "But after discussing it with my family and those closest to me, I feel the time is right." McClaren takes over as England coach from Sven-Goran Eriksson in August. —MNA/Xinhua



England's David Beckham (L) takes a free kick against Portugal during their World Cup 2006 quarter-final soccer match in Gelsenkirchen on 1 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Colo Colo wins Chilean championship on penalties

SANTIAGO (Chile), 3 July—Colo Colo beat arch-rivals Universidad de Chile 4-2 on penalties to win Chile's 2006 Apertura championship on Sunday after the two teams were tied in their two-match series.

Universidad won Sunday's match 1-0, with a goal by Luis Pedro Figueroa, giving each team two goals after Colo Colo had won Wednesday's opening match 2-1.

Colo Colo is the most-crowned Chilean team with 20 championship wins, followed by Universidad with 12.

"La U' (Universidad) put up a great fight and played well, but it would have been unjust if Colo had not become champions," Colo's Argentine coach Claudio Borghi said. Chile's top flight plays two championships a year, Apertura and Clausura.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA says players suffering fewer injuries than 2002

BERLIN, 3 July—A clampdown on tackling from behind and the less frequent use of the elbow have contributed to a fall in the number of injuries suffered by players at the World Cup finals compared to four years ago.

Professor Jiri Dvorak, FIFA's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), told reporters at FIFA's daily briefing on Sunday that with statistics gathered after 58 of the tournament's 64 matches, the number of injuries in total had dropped significantly.

"From all 64 matches in 2002 there

were 171 injuries, compared to 129 injuries from the 58 matches collated so far. "With an average of 2.2 injuries per match we expect the overall total at the end of the tournament to be less than four years ago."

He said that referees clamping down on tackling from behind had contributed to the decline in injuries and said there were fewer head injuries as well.

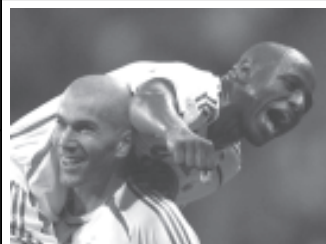
"The use of the high elbow has also dropped and there has only been one serious use of the elbow to date.

"In Japan and Korea there were 25 head injuries leading to four players suffering concussion. So far there have been 11 head injuries and just one concussion."

He also reported that all 228 doping tests carried out so far had been negative.

"We are very optimistic that this will be the third successive World Cup without a doping case," he added.

MNA/Reuters



France's Zinedine Zidane (bottom) and Patrick Vieira celebrate Thierry Henry's goal against Brazil during their World Cup 2006 quarter-final soccer match in Frankfurt on 1 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Disappointed English fans leave with heads high

GELSENKIRCHEN, 3 July—Once viewed as an invading army of potential trouble-makers, England fans leave the World Cup in Germany with their new reputation for fun-loving, boisterous support fully intact and praised by organizers.

Some 315,000 England fans were present in the venue cities for each of the team's five games, making them the second-largest group of supporters behind the host nation. "There have been tens and tens of thousands of England fans here, and before the World Cup they said they had changed. There would be no trouble and they were coming to party."

"They proved themselves right, they are the world champions of partying," Gerd Graus, spokesman for the German organizing committee, said on Sunday.

"They created a great atmosphere, they have a fan culture unique in the world.

Although several hundred English fans were detained by police for mostly drunken and aggressive behaviour, there was no serious hooliganism at the tournament.

"Of course, among so many thousands of people there are bound to be a few arrests, but statistically speaking, the number of arrests are irrelevant. We all know what has happened in the past, but now we congratulate them," said Graus.

MNA/Reuters

Flash floods hit Thailand's eastern seaboard

BANGKOK, 3 July — Torrential rains caused flash floods as high as two metres in some areas in Thailand's eastern seaside resort province of ChonBuri on Sunday, inundating hundreds of houses and causing some damage, the *Thai News Agency* reported.

Rains are forecast to continue for two more days. Many villages in Chonburi's coastal Banglamung District were submerged Saturday night after heavy downpours brought flash floods in the areas.

The floods caused heavy damage to hundreds of homes and buildings, roads and

other infrastructure.

Some villagers said they were unprepared as floods hit the areas quickly and they never experienced such a large scale flood before.

Rescue workers rushed to help the flood victims with boats but relief efforts were hampered as a main road was cut due to two-metre high waters and some

parts of the road were impassable.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department issued its updated weather forecast, warning residents in the eastern region, particularly in Rayong, Chanthaburi and Trat provinces to brace for possible flash floods and water runoff on Sunday and Monday. — *MNA/Xinhua*



America's Cup challenger Desafio Espanol 2007's skipper Karol Jablonski of Poland steers the boat during their match-race against Mascalone Latino-Capitalia Team of Italy at the Valencia Louis Vuitton Act 12 in Valencia on 2 July, 2006. The races in Act 12 will count towards a bonus point system leading up to the 32nd America's Cup in 2007. — INTERNET

Singapore worries about subutex abuse

SINGAPORE, 3 July — Subutex abuse is becoming a problem in Singapore as the number of drug abusers has been increasing in recent years, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Sunday night.

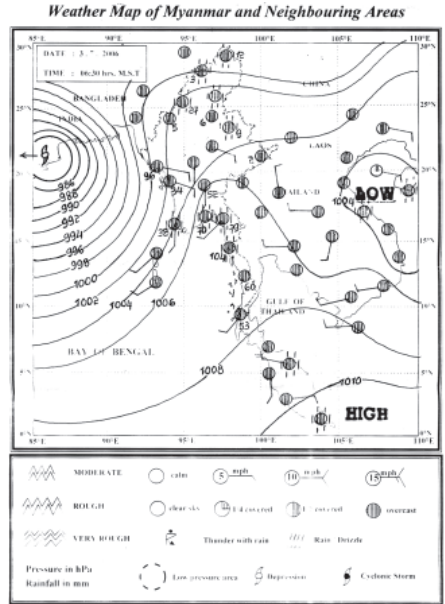
Subutex is a prescribed medication approved for the treatment of heroin dependence.

In 2005, there were 1,000 prescription drug abusers in Singapore, almost four times the number in 2003, the report said, adding that over 470,000 prescriptions of Subutex were recorded since October last year.

Subutex has become heroin addicts' new choice because they can get similar high from such legal replacement as from traditional drugs without risk of being caught by the police.

Subutex injection may lead to Hepatitis B or C, damage people's arteries and cause amputations, the report added.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 3 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (4.65) inches, Sittway (4.18) inches, Thandwe (4.13) inches, Yangon (central) (4.05) inches, Mawlamyine (3.11) inches and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.79) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-7-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 3-7-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-7-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 3-7-2006 was (0.8) hour approx.

Rainfalls on 3-7-2006 were (2.24) inches at Mingaladon, (2.79) inches at Kaba-Aye and (4.05) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (30.98) inches at Mingaladon, (41.22) inches at Kaba-Aye and (44.88) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 3-7-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Northwest Bay has crossed the Orissa coast near Chantabali, India. It is forecast to weaken into a low pressure area is likely to move slowly in a westerly direction. Monsoon is moderate in Andaman Sea and strong to vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-7-2006: Rain will be isolated to scattered in Kayah, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas in locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40 to 45) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 4-7-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 4-7-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).



**Tuesday, 4 July
Tune in today**

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Gone be fine (Monica)
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Faith of the heart (Rod Stewart)
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -All my love (A*Teen)
- 9:05 am International news
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music -Love oh love (Lionel Richie) -Give a little love (M2M) -Angel's lullaby (Richard Marx)
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level () Unit ()
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30 pm Music for your listening pleasure -You don't know love -Where did the feeling go? More than a friend
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

**Tuesday, 4 July
View on today**

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ဓမ္မစာအုပ် မင်းလွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံလာ ဟောနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟောရဋ္ဌ ဂုဏ် အဘိဓမ္မအဖွဲ့ဟောသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဓမ္မာတိ တ၊ တိ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိ ဓမ္မဗျာဓိဂါရီကာ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. တရားပန်းဥယျာဉ်</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>6. အတိတ်ပြန်</p>	<p>8:05 am</p> <p>7. Song of yesteryear</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:25 am</p> <p>9. မဆောင်းတံတား</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>11. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial songs</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်လှည့်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗောဓအဖွဲ့ပြု (သတ္တဗောဓ))</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. မိမိတို့အဆင် တေးဇာတ်ဝင်</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>6. "သတိနဲ့ ယှဉ် အသိနဲ့ ပြန်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးဇာတ်မရဲမောင်ဘုန်းလျှန်း၊ ပြတ်တောက်အောင်ရတနာစင်၊</p>	<p>တန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်စူးစိုင်း နီနီ ရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဆာ၊ မိုင်းစု နီဝဲသိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြည်ဦး၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုတ်စိုင်း)</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. Sing and enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>8. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>10. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ မြင်းလှဲအားကစား</p> <p>6:50 pm</p> <p>11. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ် ဂျာနယ်တော် ဖြောင့်ပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စုလှိုင်နံနက်ခင်း" (အပိုင်း-၆)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>13. News</p> <p>14. International news</p> <p>15. Weather report</p> <p>16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရစ်သွယ်အိမ်မက်လှလှ" (အပိုင်း-၈)</p> <p>17. The next day's programme</p>
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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

Myanmar Women's Day highlights much valued attributes of womenfolk, their patriotism, their exemplary traits of upholding lineage and their ever on-going public spirit



MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe addresses Myanmar Women's Day ceremony. —MNA

(from page 1)

The Government of the Union of Myanmar accordingly formed the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) on 3rd July 1996 to act as the leading body in initiatives to enable Myanmar women to fully enjoy the rights that they already have and to ensure continued enhancement of their development in keeping with the times.

Later, on 20th December, 2003, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF) was formed with seven lofty aims for the extensive involvement of Myanmar women themselves in the efforts to enhance their role in society and to serve the interests of the nation and the people.

Accordingly, women organizations from the State and Division level to the ward and village level mobilize the women mass to unitedly endeavour for the enhancement of the role of Myanmar women as well as for national development while implementing the noble aims of MWAF.

At present, the membership of MWAF

has grown to over 2.6 million in the course of two and a half years of its existence. The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, being a social organization working for the security and all-round development of women, strives to safeguard the rights of Myanmar Women in accordance with the prescribed laws.

MWAF is not only a social organization but also a national force involved in serving the national interest as well as in carrying out social activities, in addition to serving the affairs of women, in line with the National Basic Principles. Every Myanmar woman, imbued with patriotism and a social and national con-

science, has the opportunity to realize her aspiration to serve the country by joining MWAF.

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, along with the women mass, is proud and is greatly inspired by the achievements made over the past decade in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, laid by the Fourth World Conference for Women for the advancement of women, due to

the united efforts of Myanmar women of all spheres and at all levels.

In 2005, a Myanmar delegation attended a conference held in Beijing from 29 August to 1 September to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference issued the Beijing Plus 10 Declaration Aiming Towards Solidarity for Gender Equality, Development and Peace. It is noted with

satisfaction that the implementation work and programmes carried out in Myanmar to promote the welfare and development of Myanmar women are in line with most of the determinations and plans of action in the Beijing Plus 10 Declaration. Members of our women organizations all over the country are also involved, collaborating in unison, in the implementation of these tasks.

(See page 8)

The reports and dossiers of recommendation to the United Nations Security Council to take action on Myanmar are baseless, relying only on false information, and are just fabrications of internal and external destructive elements and manipulating powers from the rear. As these fabrications can have adverse consequences on the Myanmar people and the entire Myanmar women mass, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation strongly protests against them.



The ceremony of Myanmar Women's Day is in progress at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road. — MNA