

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 93

9th Waning of Waso 1368 ME

Tuesday, 18 July, 2006

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins at the Prime Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw at noon today.

Together with the Prime Minister at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe and Deputy Director-General U Soe Win of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and together with the Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees were Resident Representative Mr Jean-Francois Durieux of the Office of the UNHCR in Myanmar, Senior Repatriation Officer of UNHCR Mr Sivanka Dhanapala and Senior Desk Officer Mr Marc Rapoport of UNHCR in Geneva. — MNA



General Soe Win receives Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins at the Prime Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends ceremony to mark return to legal fold of armed group led by U Mein Sin

Thanks to government's goodwill endeavours, national race leaders' cooperation Shan State is free from armed conflicts except in far-off areas



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects arms and ammunition handed over by U Mein Sin and members of SSA-S. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — A ceremony to mark the return to the legal fold of a national race armed group led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) who have abandoned armed struggle line took place at Thirihantha

hall of Laikha in Shan State (South) yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of

Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thuang Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of SPDC office, heads of departments, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Philippines Madame Phoebe A Gomez and diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, local journalists, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and other social organizations and local national races totalling over 1500. A total of 848 members led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) were also present.

Similarly, SSA Brigade-1, SSA Brigade-7, SSNA (Mong yun), PNO, Ya La La Pha, MTA (Nar Rai), MTA (Mat Kyann), MTA (Shwepyiaye), SSS, Ka La La Ta, KNPDP, KNDP (Nagar), Ka Ma Sa Nya, Ka Yan Pyithit Party and KNG totalling 15 groups, which had returned to the legal fold attended it.

First, members of national race armed group led by Brigade (758) commander Mein Sin were warmly welcomed by members of departments and social organizations and local national races.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 July, 2006

Express cargo transport service launched

Transport plays a pivotal role in the development of a region or a country. With the aim of contributing to the emergence of market-oriented economic system, smooth flow of goods and stability of commodity prices, the government has introduced express cargo transport services.

A ceremony to launch the express cargo transport service of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport was held at the Morton Jetty on Strand Road in Yangon on 12 June.

The routes designated for express cargo transport services are between Yangon and Bogalay and Yangon and Labutta. Therefore, rice, marine products and other goods of Ayeyawady Division can be transported to Yangon Division directly and to other states and divisions via Yangon. In the same way, various kinds of commodities from other parts of Myanmar can be transported to Ayeyawady Division. As the freight is economical, people at all outlets can get goods at reasonable prices.

An express cargo transport service was also opened along the route between Mandalay and Bhamo on 24 June this year. Vessels with the capacity of carrying 200 tons of goods and passengers are plying twice a week. This express service will contribute to speedy transportation of goods from Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and Kachin State.

The government has launched express cargo transport services to transport commodities to consumers in various parts of Myanmar in no time and at reasonable prices. We believe that passenger and cargo transport services as well as express cargo transport services will ensure safe and speedy transportation of goods and serve the interests of the people in different regions.

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမှာ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်း ချိုးဖောက်မှုများကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သဖြင့် ဒဏ်ရာရသူ သေဆုံးသူများ များပြားလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ကျေးအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ မကျေအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်းမှားယွင်းသော ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအား တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ ထိထိရောက်ရောက် အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

Reminder for mortorists

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council has reminded that U Wisara Road, Dhammazedi Road, U Htaung Bo Road, the road to the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda, Shwegondaing Road and Arzani Road will be temporarily closed from 6 am to 6 pm on 19 July while the 59th Anniversary Arzani Day Ceremony is being held at Arzani Beikman. The people are to use other roads during the time of the ceremony.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Disaster Preparedness

- * 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

Foreign Minister receives Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July— Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees called on U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am today.



Also present at the call were U Pe Than Oo, Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Resident Representative Mr Jean-Francois Durieux of the Office of the UNHCR in Myanmar, Senior Repatriation Officer of UNHCR Mr

Sivanka Dhanapala and Senior Desk Officer Mr Marc Rapoport of UNHCR in Geneva. — *Minister U Nyan Win receives Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees. — MNA*

Disaster Communication Workshop opens



Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung makes an opening addresses at Disaster Communication Workshop. — MNA

YANGON, 17 July— The opening ceremony of Disaster Communication Workshop, jointly sponsored by United Nations International Strategy of Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and organized by

the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) was held this morning at Grand Plaza Royal Hotel here with an address by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung. Present on the occasion were heads of departments and enterprises of the Ministry of Trans-

port and other invited ministries, rectors of universities and institutes, Charge de Affairs for Indian embassy, officials of JICA and UNDP and experts from ADPC and others.

The workshop focused on gaps and needs of the existing early warning systems especially on communication risk in the early warning dissemination and the preparedness measures. The workshops continues tomorrow.

MNA



Ambassador Pehin Dato Mohammad Yusof Abu Bakar welcomes Minister U Nyan Win at the 60th birthday ceremony of King of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Explosion occurs in Penwegone

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July— A small explosion occurred under a car parked in front of the house of Daw Win Yi of No 245 on 1st Street in Thanmani ward in Penwegone Township on 16 July.

Due to the explosion, the left side of the vehicle was damaged but no one was injured. The officials visited the scene and are making investigations.

MNA

Putin rejects sanctions against Iran over nuke issue

SAINT PETERSBURG (Russia), 16 July— Russian President Vladimir Putin refused on Saturday in St Petersburg to agree with the United States to pose sanctions against Iran over the Iranian nuclear issue.

Putin sent the message after he held talks with visiting US President George W Bush.

Speaking at the Press conference after the talks, Bush said the two leaders "sent a clear message to Iran" that Iran should

not possess nuclear weapons.

Bush also said he supports Russia's initiative of setting up an international nuclear enrichment centre in resolving the nuclear issue.

However, Bush shunned the issue of sanctions against Iran, saying that "this is the first time" he talked with Putin over the issue.

Putin, on his part, said a "balanced" approach should be explored in resolving this issue. — MNA/Xinhua



The wreckage of a Piper plane lies in a vineyard close to the Elba Island Airport in Tuscany, Italy, on 16 July, 2006. —INTERNET

British soldier, 17 others killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 July— A British soldier was killed and three others wounded in two different attacks near Iraq's main southern city of Basra, while 17 people were killed in rebel violence across the country.

Two of the soldiers were part of a raid in the

tribal area of Garmat Ali, north of the city, to "apprehend individuals involved in terrorist activities in Basra," British spokesman Major Charlie Burbridge said.

He said one soldier was killed in exchange of fire during the raid which resulted in the detention

of two "suspected terrorists" while another soldier was wounded but was "not in a serious condition".

The soldier's death brought to 114 the British military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion. Two other soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb on the road to Al-Zubair, southwest of Basra, exploded next to their vehicle lightly wounding them.

Internet



A manned aircraft powered by Panasonic's "Oxyride" dry cell batteries flies at Okegawa Airport in Saitama on 16 July, 2006.

INTERNET



Chinese President Hu Jintao (L Front) shakes hands with a woman greeting him upon his arrival at an airport in St Petersburg, Russia, on 16 July, 2006.—INTERNET

China's foreign trade expected to exceed \$ 1.6 trillion

BEIJING, 16 July — The Ministry of Commerce on Friday released a forecast showing China's foreign trade would grow 15 per cent this year to between 1.6 trillion and 1.7 trillion

US dollars.

"We don't foresee fundamental changes over the second half to reverse the growing trend of foreign trade," said ministry spokesman

Chong Quan.

Foreign trade stood at 795.7 billion US dollars over the first six months, up 23.4 per cent on the first half of last year, with a trade surplus of 61.5 billion US dollars.

Experts believe this year will easily exceed last year's record surplus of 101.9 billion US dollars, but Chong insisted the growth was "normal".

"It's not enough to just look at the surplus figure," he said, adding the surplus to foreign trade ratio, or the trade imbalance ratio, was a more reasonable and commonly-used index of foreign trade.

China's trade imbalance ratio was only 7.7 per cent, below the international average of 10 per cent. "It's way below that of some developed nations, such as Germany," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



The sculpture works named Journey to the West at the 8th Zhoushan China International Sand Sculpture Festival held in Zhoushan City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 15 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Report says US experienced record warm in first half of this year

LOS ANGELES, 16 July—The average temperature for the continental United States from this January through June was the warmest first half year since 1895, scientists at US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration(NOAA) said on Friday.

According to the agency's National Climatic Data Centre the average January-June temperature for the United States was 11.0 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees above the 20th century average.

Five US states-Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, experienced record warmth for this period, while no state was near or cooler than average, the NOAA said in a report.

Last month was the second warmest June on record and nationally averaged precipitation was below average, the report said. In the west, 11 states were

much warmer than average. Only five states were cooler than normal for the month.

The continuation of below normal precipitation in certain regions and much warmer-than-average temperatures expanded drought, while much of the northeast experienced severe flooding and record rainfall during the last week of June.

In June, 45 per cent of the contiguous US was in moderate-to- extreme drought, an increase of 6 per cent from May, while 27 per cent was in severe-extreme drought, up from 20 per cent in May.

Additionally, from January through June, warm, dry conditions spawned more than 50,000 wildfires, burning more than 120,000 hectares in the contiguous US and Alaska, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Laos vow to enhance party exchanges

BEIJING, 16 July — Wu Guanzheng, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said here Friday that the CPC is ready to enhance cooperation with the Lao ruling party in reform and economic development.

“The traditional China-Laos friendship has made further progress under new circumstances,” said Wu, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Wu made the remarks while meeting with Somsawat Lengsavad, member of the Political Bureau of Lao People’s Revolutionary Party and Lao Deputy Prime Minister.

Somsawat, accompanied by a Lao party delegation, is in Beijing for a 11-day visit aimed at exchanging ideas with the CPC on reform and opening-up, economic development and party construction.

Somsawat said Laos

will learn from China and work with the Chinese side to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state.

Choummaly Sayasone, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party and Lao President, visited China late June.

It is Choummaly’s first China visit since he was elected party chief in March and president in June respectively.

MNA/Xinhua



Rescue ship “Nanhajiu 111” berthes at the Xisha rescue base of China’s Ministry of Communications on the Yongxing Island in the South China Sea on 15 July, 2006.—INTERNET

US Army Chief cautions on prolonged war on terror

WASHINGTON, 16 July — US Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker on Friday cautioned that the war on terror will be a long, dangerous one, and declined to say the nation is winning.

“I believe that we are closer to the beginning (of the war)... than we are to the end,” Schoomaker told a luncheon on Capitol Hill,

according to US media reports. When asked whether the military was winning in Iraq, he preferred an indirect answer: “I don’t think we’re losing.” The general did note Iraq’s rampant sectarian violence and acknowledged that achieving security in that country has become more and more “complex”.

Nevertheless, Schoomaker talked about hope, citing positive developments of the war, especially the progress of Iraq’s security forces.

He also denied that the increased reports on US war atrocities were resulting from the Army’s failure to address combat stress. With tremendous war costs, huge death tolls and war-related scandals, the Bush Administration is under growing pressure on setting a timetable for withdrawing US troops from Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

Victoria invests extra \$12m in renewable energy

VICTORIA, 16 July — The Victorian Government will inject almost \$12.5 million to support the development of new renewable energy technologies.

The funding is part of

the Government’s Environmental Sustainability Action Statement, which will be released this week. Environment Minister John Thwaites says the money will benefit the environment

and create jobs.

“We want Victoria to be a centre of renewable energy,” he said.

“We want jobs, particularly in regional Victoria, for renewable energy projects, and we also want to have leading-edge science in renewable energy. “In the next 50 years, renewable energy will be the fastest-growing area of energy and we want to make sure that Victoria shares in that growth while also doing the right thing by the environment.”

Mr Thwaites says the extra funding will provide incentives for more research.

“Renewable energy is clean, green energy, like hydro, wind, wave and solar power, and it means we can get additional energy without adding to greenhouse gases,” he said.

“We know that there are many good technologies out there, but this extra investment of \$12 million will provide incentives for better research and commercialisation of the new technologies.”—Internet

Two injured in blast in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 15 July — One soldier and one civilian were wounded in an alleged roadside bomb attack on a vehicle carrying food to a military unit in the southeastern Turkish province of Hakkari on Friday. One soldier in the vehicle and one civilian passer-by were wounded in the blast, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

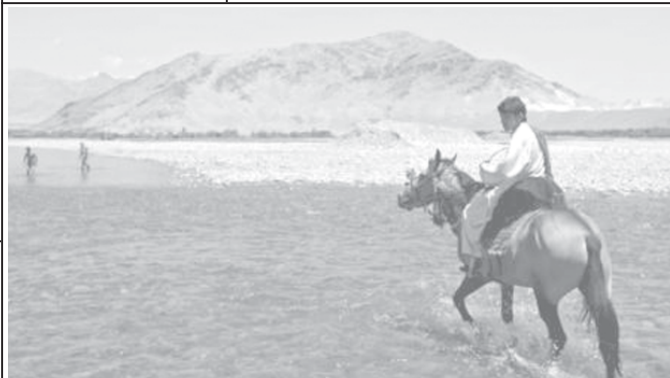
MNA/Xinhua

Seven injured in helicopter emergency landing in St Petersburg

MOSCOW, 16 July — A helicopter made an emergency landing near St Petersburg on Friday, injuring seven people on board, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

A Mi-8 helicopter belonging to the Defence Ministry made an emergency landing due to technical failure near St Petersburg, where the summit of the Group of Eight will be held, the ministry’s Press service said.

Seven people, including the crew aboard the Mi-8 that was on a planned flight, received injuries of various gravity. They were taken to hospital, the city’s public health committee said. — MNA/Xinhua



A man rides a horse through the Sajaad River as temperatures hit 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit), about 40 km (25 miles) north of Kabul, on 16 July, 2006.—INTERNET



A Jaguar dating from 1903 is presented during the 100 Years of Car Parade in downtown London, Britain, on 16 July, 2006. Cars from 1901 productions to newest concept designs attended the parade on Sunday, as a display of the history of automobile industry. INTERNET

China busts 52,000 drug trafficking cases in 15 months

BEIJING, 16 July — Police organs all over China cracked 52,500 drug trafficking cases from January 2005 to April 2006, according to sources from the Ministry of Public Security.

The ministry on Friday held a national meeting on furthering the war against drugs.

Sources from the

meeting said from January 2005 to April 2006, the police organs busted 1,279 drug trafficking gangs, arrested 66,800 suspects, seized 7.2 tons of heroin, 2.994 ton of opium, 6.3 ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride, 2.74 ton of ketamine and 2.48 million ecstasy pills.

“These results have terrified drug trafficking

gangs both home and abroad,” said the participants at the meeting.

The ministry has urged policemen working in different departments, such as rail, traffic, Customs and border police, to make joint efforts in fighting drug trafficking and selling.

MNA/Xinhua



A dancer with Chum-Sa Rang dance troupe pauses, during a traditional court dance from Kyung-gi Province, during the annual Korean Festival on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 15 July, 2006.

INTERNET

Vietnam to build more industrial parks

HANOI, 16 July — The Vietnamese Government has recently approved the establishment of five industrial parks (IPs) and expansion of two existing ones, a local agency told *Xinhua* on Friday.

The five future IPs include 327-hectare Ba Thien in northern Vinh Phuc Province, 105-hectare Thanh An in northern Nam Dinh Province, 256-hectare Thanh Duc and 142-hectare Long Hau in southern Long An Province, and 370-hectare Phuoc Nam in southern Ninh Thuan Province, and the two existing parks are located in northern Hai Duong Province and southern Dong Nai Province, said the IPs and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) Management Department under the

Ministry of Planning and Investment.

First IPs and EPZs in Vietnam, built in 1991, were opened for some certain sectors, but newer ones will attract both domestic and foreign

enterprises operating in various fields, the department said, noting that in the coming years, some IPs and EPZs will have additional functions as tourism and urban areas.

MNA/Xinhua

One more person dies from viral fever in Turkey

ANKARA, 16 July — One more person died from Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Turkey on Friday, bringing the death toll from the disease to nine in the country this year.

Nazli Yazici, 30, a nurse at a hospital in the northern Turkish city of Corum, died from the disease, Turkey's semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

She had been infected

with the CCHF virus while taking blood sample from a woman who had been earlier tested positive for the virus, said the report.

Health officials warn that since no vaccine has yet been found for the disease, which is spread by ticks to humans and livestock and transmitted through blood, saliva or sneezing, prevention is of key importance.

The Turkish Ministry

of Health has urged rural residents to take basic precautions such as wearing protective clothes and checking themselves for ticks.

The virus is especially prevalent in the provinces of Corum, Tokat, Amasya, Kastamonu, Gumushane and Sivas, according to *Anatolia*. CCHF is a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by tick bite, with a high mortality rate. It is endemic in many countries in Africa, Europe and Asia.

The virus first emerged in Turkey in 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

BEIJING, 16 July — China is expected to have more cars than the United States within 30 years, said Rong Huikang, deputy director of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

As the automobile market with the largest growth potential, China ranks third in the world in terms of automobile production, which has doubled since 2001 when the country was ranked seventh, said Zhang Xiuxue, deputy director of China International Research Institute of Multi-national Corporations.

China now has 34 million cars with an annual average growth rate of 12 per cent over the last 10

years, while the United States had 240 million cars in 2004. According to the CAAM, China produced 3.05 million cars and sold 2.97 million cars in the first five months this year, up 32 per cent and 31 per cent on last year.

China's automobile

industry will enter a golden age of development and should continue to follow the strategies of innovation, developing local automobile brands and prompting the Chinese brands overseas, Rong told *Xinhua*.

MNA/Xinhua



A dancer looks on during the annual Korean Festival on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 15 July, 2006. —INTERNET

US states sue seven global memory chip makers

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 July — Some 34 US states on Friday sued seven global memory chip makers, including Micron Technology Inc, and Hynix Semiconductor Inc, on charges of price-fixing that cost consumers an estimated hundreds of millions of dollars.

The lawsuit, filed in US District Court in

California, accuses the companies of violating state and federal antitrust laws during a four-year conspiracy to fix prices for dynamic random access memory, or DRAM, chips amid a glut on the market.

The multistate complaint comes one day after New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer filed his own complaint that mirrored the charges brought by the others and included Samsung Electronics Co, the world's largest memory chip maker.

The multi-state lawsuit did not name Samsung to give the company and attorneys general time to reach a potential settlement — something Spitzer, who is running for governor, elected not to do. Samsung said it expects to resolve the lawsuit, while a Micron spokesman said the Boise, Idaho-based company has been in talks.

MNA/Reuters

Smoking accounts for health gap

LONDON, 16 July — Smoking is to blame for half of the difference in male death rates between men in the top and bottom social classes, say international researchers.

In England, Wales, the US, Canada and Poland, men of lower social class, income or education have a two-fold increased risk of dying earlier.

More than half of this involved differences in smoking-related death risk, they found.

Experts said the Lancet study showed the impact stopping smoking could have.

Professor Sir Richard

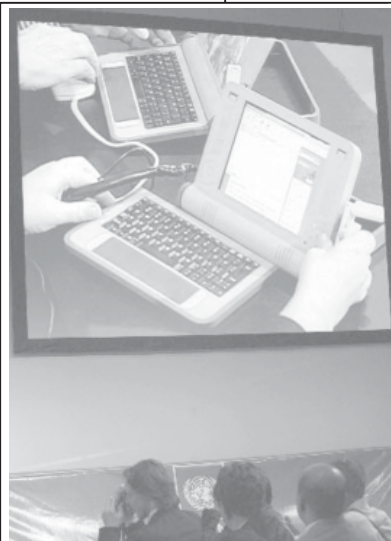
Peto, co-author from the University of Oxford, said: "Widespread cessation of smoking could eventually halve the absolute differences between these social strata in the risk of premature death."

Focusing on smoking cessation might be a quicker and simpler fix than tackling other causes of social inequalities.

Michael Marmot, from the International Institute for Society and Health at University College London, said: "The conclusion might be to forget social conditions, neighbourhood deprivation, employment conditions, early childhood and subsequent adult disease,

just focus on getting the smoking rates down in people of low status."

Internet



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers unveil a US\$100, hand-cranked laptop computer on the World Information Society in Tunis on 16 Nov. The \$100 laptop makes public appearance in Beijing on 15 July, 2006. The laptop, based on AMD 500MHz processor and Linux operating system, is designed for the impoverished children in developing countries. But whether the laptop will be introduced into China is still not known.

INTERNET



**Minister for Information
Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — MNA**

All armed groups including group led by...

(from page 16)

Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, heads of department, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Philippines Madame Phoebe A Gomez and diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, the director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise, officials, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, executives of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, chief editors and journalists of local periodicals, U Mein Sin and members of the group that returned to the legal fold, and specially invited guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that 848 members of the armed group led by U Mein Sin, commander of SSA-S brigade 758 had returned to the legal fold laying down their heavy weapons and small arms. Brigade commander U Mein Sin, deputy commander U Sai Ta and column commander U Sai



**U Thitsa Hla Htwé.
MNA**

Shan have already explained their aim of returning to the legal fold. Now the question and answer session begins. Every one can ask questions.

U Aung Hla Tun of Reuters asked whether U Mein Sin and group would be permitted to hold arms again, the place they are going to settle down, the number of armed groups that is allowed to hold arms and the number of groups that made the unconditional surrender.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that U Mein Sin and group handed over their arms to the respective local authorities. The local authorities rearmed them with their own weapons for self-defence. Because Ywet Sit sent letters of threat to U Mein Sin and members while they were trying to return to the legal fold. In the letters were



**U Aung Hla Tun.
MNA**

written that if U Mein Sin and members returned to the legal fold he would kill or take action against all their parents, families and relatives. Ywet Sit sent couriers to Mein Sin to dissuade him and his men. Thus, they are allowed to hold arms.

In the past they held arms against the rules and the law, but under their

own arrangements. Now they are holding arms in accord with the law of the State. Today they are holding arms to carry out constructive tasks for the entire nation including the local people. Since their initial discussion with local authorities, U Mein Sin and members proposed to work together with the government for regional development after returning to the legal fold. U Mein Sin and members will continuously strive for regional development while defending themselves and their region. That is the reason they are being rearmed.

U Mein Sin also said that the government asked their wish when they returned to the legal fold. They presented their wish to the government. They are going to settle in Narpwe and Wanpan villages.

The Information Minister said the number of major groups returned to the legal fold are 17 in addition to many small armed groups. So, it can be said that most of the groups have unconditionally exchanged arms for peace. The PSLO led by U Aik Mone and SSNA led by U Gon Khe came back to the fold in northern Shan State. Another is the national armed group led by U Kan Na.

U Aung Shwe Oo of NTV asked that as a large number of SSA-S

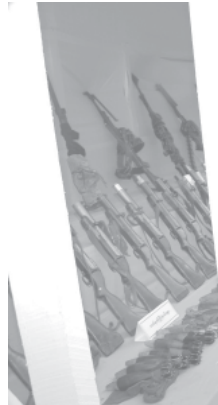


**U Ko Ko.
MNA**

members had returned to the legal fold, how many of the group were left underground. Is U Mein Sin the number two man or are there any others whose ranks are the same as U Mein Sin? According to what I have learnt, he is the second highest in rank and responsibility. In an article I have read that 13 or 14 groups have reached complete understanding. What does it mean? I wish to know the effects of their return on the legal fold on

the National Convention and national re-consolidation and unity.

U Mein Sin said he and 848 members of the brigade returned to the legal fold on 6 July 2006.



Diplomats led by Madame Phoebe A Gomez observe arms and ammunitions brought by U Mein Sin and party. — MNA

After the brigade broke away from the SSA-S, the Ywet Sit group in Lwetaishan has only about 1,000 members left. In the SSA-S, U Khe Ngin and he were in the same rank. Concerning the National Convention, the brigade will strive as much as it can for progress of the national races.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said, it is only the presentation or opinion of the columnist which in the article said that 13 or 14 groups have reached full understanding



**U Aung Shwe Oo.
MNA**

with the government. All the armed groups including the group led by U Mein Sin, the 17 major groups and other small groups returned to the legal fold after reaching complete understanding with the government. According to the requirement including self-



**U Aung Thu Myaing.
MNA**

defence and regional development, the groups are permitted to hold arms. It is included in one of the agreements. Another agreement reached between the government

requirement fully, the Head of State opened the door towards peace and started to restore national unity.

Thanks to the peace initiatives, many



and all those groups is that when the Constitution emerges, they all must surrender their weapons. At that time, the order to lay down the arms is not made by the government, but by the democracy system the country will be practising at that time. It is the system that will make them lay down their arms. Only then will the nation be able to fully and correctly exercise the

insurgent groups including the group led by U Mein Sin, the 17 major armed groups and many small armed groups came back to the legal fold. Hence the nation has achieved the unprecedented national



U Mein Sin. — MNA

unity. The return to the legal fold of U Mein Sin and his group has further strengthened the national unity. Peace and stability will further cement the national solidarity in Laikha region in southern Shan State.

I think U Aung Shwe Oo's second question is about the effects U Mein Sin's return to the legal fold would have on the National Convention. More than 1,000 delegates from eight strata of mass and class are taking part in the National Convention and considerable strides have been made. We are going to write a draft constitution based on the success achieved so far.

On the other hand, there are some elements — KNU, Ywet Sit's SSA group, KNPP and other expatriate groups — who are trying to hinder our efforts and make the National Convention end in failure. We hear that they are also drawing a constitution on their own. These insurgent groups (See page 7)

democracy. The agreement to do so has been reached between the government and the groups since the initial negotiations.

Concerning the effort of the brigade's return to the legal fold, the minister said that there were many insurgent groups in the nation in 1988.

Because of the disunity, there were more than 230 political parties when the nation permitted their formation and legal existence.

All knew that how the national unity was badly required then. The Tatmadaw government after taking over the State duties knew that the national unity was a must. Peace, stability, and the rule of law, all are essential requirements for the nation. After analyzing the

All armed groups including group led by...

(from page 6)
are doing so to hinder the process of the National Convention.

Now that U Mein Sin and his 1000-strong battalion have returned to the legal fold, the number of groups that are against the National Convention has become less and less. In addition, peace is going to prevail all over the region where U Mein Sin and his members operated. Then they will be able to contribute towards the success of the National

Ywet Sit himself fetched some rich Chinese and engaged in production of drugs at the foot of the mountain range west of Katpew village in Mongkai. Again in 1997, with the help of some rich Chinese, he produced drugs in Naungtaw village. Moreover, Ywet Sit ordered that tax be collected on production of drugs in the area under the control of the brigade. As tax, opium had to be sent to him. Not only that, all the opium produced in the

the government when we returned to the legal fold, and the terms of the agreement included some points including—to take part in the fight against drugs, to stamp out and crush the destructive elements, to jointly prevent the external dangers and to fully engage in regional development tasks.

U Ko Ko of Yomiuri Shimbun: The news of the returning to the legal fold of altogether 848 members led by Brigade Commander U Mein Sin was stated in the newspapers a week ago. As regards this news,



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents 20 power tillers provided by the State to U Sai Ta. — MNA

Convention. This is why the return to the legal fold by U Mein Sin and his members will surely benefit the National Convention. Thank you!

U Sao Kai Hpa : I would like to ask U Mein Sin a question about the amount of narcotic drugs produced by Ywet Sit's SSA-S group.

U Mein Sin : MTA exchanged arms for peace on 27-2-96. Then, we held a meeting on 28-3-96. At that meeting, we all decided that we were not to be involved in drugs and politics and that involvement in drugs and politics could carry death penalty. Ywet Sit himself put his signature to all these decisions but he did not honour them.

In July, 1996,

area had to be sold to him. As far as I know, from 5,000 to 6,000 viss of opium was collected as tax in 2006. Stimulant tablets and heroine were also sent via Mongshu to the border. As far as I know, 80 haversacks loaded with stimulant tablets and heroine were sent from Mongshu to the border.

U Aung Thu Myaing: I am U Aung Thu Myaing of Ji Ji News Agency (Japan). I would like to ask U Mein Sin that do you have any plan to participate in the fight against narcotic drugs in future as you are in Shan State (South)?

U Mein Sin: We will actively participate in the drive for drug elimination, for we reached an agreement with

some foreign broadcasting stations conducted an interview with Ywet Sit group which replied that the strength of those who have returned to the legal fold is as many as 30. Now at this press conference we witnessed a large number of members led by Brigade Commander U Mein Sin who returned to the legal fold. I would like to hear an answer replied by U Mein Sin himself concerning the number of those who returned to the legal fold.

U Mein Sin: In an interview with Ywet Sit group conducted by foreign broadcasting stations, the group replied that the strength of those who returned to the legal fold is as many as 30. Actually, the strength of



Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye accepts a weapon presented by U Sai Yone and returns it to him to safeguard peace and stability. —MNA

Secretary-1 meets Brigade (758) ...

(from page 16)

divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists caused misunderstanding between them, resulting in armed insurgencies. Due to armed clashes, lives and property of national people were lost and the State lagged behind development. So, with its commitment to national reconsolidation, the government has been able to persuade national armed groups to return to

the legal fold. And they are now joining hands with the government for regional development. It is heartening to see the regions that lagged behind progress in the past are gaining development momentum and living standards of local national races people are on the increase. The State is now in a position to enjoy peace and stability that was lost for over 50 years, the Secretary-1 added.

Next, he urged U Mein Sin and members to work together with the government and the people in order to fully enjoy regional peace and tranquillity, regional development and protection of law for the national people.

Later, Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye and the ministers explained assistance to be rendered to U Mein Sin's group.

MNA

our group who returned to the legal fold is 848. You can witness with your own eyes the strength of our group who returned to the legal fold at the ceremony.

In an interview with Ywet Sit group, they replied so with every intention of boosting morale of armed group members who were left behind in the border. It was also likely that they wanted themselves to be seen as a strong force but our group as a weak one. As a matter of fact, the strength of our group is over 1,000. We are now in the process of contacting and pursuing our members left behind. The total number of our group who returned to the legal fold is 848 together with 24 heavy weapons, 834 small arms.

U Thitsa Hla Htwe (TBS News Agency): I would like to know that like U Mein Sin group, are other armed groups in a position of returning to the legal fold?

Minister for



Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye accepts a weapon presented by U Mein Sin and returns it to him to safeguard peace and stability. — MNA

with genuine goodwill and integrity. That is why some armed groups are making contact with the government in this regard. There seem to be two points concerning the returning to the legal fold of armed groups. The first one is concerned with the government. The government is patiently holding a discussion with the armed groups that are

by case according to their demands. Therefore, the efforts of the government are making progress with regard to the returning to the legal fold of the armed groups.

The second one is concerned with the armed groups who are making contact with the government for returning to the legal fold. They will make progress if they



Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye accepts a weapon presented by U Sai Ta and returns it to him to safeguard peace and stability. —MNA

Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan: The government is making all-out efforts for national development, prevalence of law and order in the nation and national consolidation. In the process, it always keeps the peace door open. At present, the government is opening the peace door

making contact with it for returning to the legal fold. Moreover, it has satisfied their demands to the most possible degree.

However, as the positions of the armed groups are different, their demands are different. This being so, the government has to discuss and coordinate with them case

discuss and coordinate with the government on the basis of goodwill and sincerity in the interest of the State, the people and local people.

Diplomats, local and foreign journalists viewed the assistance provided by the government to the group led by U Mein Sin.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends ceremony to...

(from page 1)

Later, Commander Brig-Gen Thuang Aye, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt presided over the ceremony.

Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin elaborated on their return to the legal fold, the acts of terrorism and drugs trafficking of SSA-S (Ywet Sit).

Clarification made by U Mein Sin is reported separately.

Next, deputy commander of Brigade (758) U Sai Ta made clarifications on the reason for the return to the legal fold.

Clarification made by U Sai Ta is reported separately.

Next, column commander U Sai Yone of Brigade (758) said he was glad to see the assistance of the government and the Tatmadaw. He said he would participate in the tasks for peace and security of the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gifts to Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives presents to Brigade (758) deputy commander U Sai Ta. — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gives away presents to column commander U Tun Kyaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents gifts to column commander U Sai Yone. — MNA



Locals of Laikha warmly welcome Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin and party. — MNA

State, nation-building and regional development in cooperation with local people.

Clarification made by U Sai Yone is reported separately.

On behalf of the local people, Nan Hlaing Kham, spoke words of thanks.

Clarification made by Nan Hlaing Kham is reported separately.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thuang Aye extended greetings to U Mein Sin and party.

Clarification made by Commander Brig-Gen Thuang Aye is reported separately.

Next, U Mein Sin and party handed over the arms and ammunition to the commander. The commander again presented the arms to U Mein Sin and party to be able to carry out security, stability and regional development tasks. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to U Mein Sin and U Sai Ta.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented gifts to column commanders U Sai Yone and U Tun Kyaw.

(See page 9)



Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye and Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Thein Nyunt presiding over the ceremony. — MNA



Brig-Gen Thaug Aye hands gifts to U Sai Khay of Brigade-758. — MNA



Brig-Gen Thaug Aye presents gifts to U Sai Hsaing. — MNA



Col Thein Nyunt presents documents related to two Mazda Jeeps and two TE-21 trucks donated by the State to U Mein Sin. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends ceremony to...

(from page 8)

Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye gave presents to U Sai Khe and U Sai Sai of Brigade (758).

Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented two Mazda jeeps and two TE-21 trucks provided by the State to U Mein Sin.

Later, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented 20 power tillers provided by the State to U Sai Ta.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected display of arms and ammunition brought by commander of Brigade (758) U Mein Sin and party.

The Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted members of Brigade (758) of Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) and local national races.

Members of national race armed group led by U Mein Sin brought 24 assorted heavy weapons, 834 small arms, 1990 magazines, 157,971 rounds of ammunition, 55 grenades, 63 mines, 15 communication sets and 120 walkie-talkies.

MNA



Members of Brigade-758 of SSA-S who have returned to the legal fold. — MNA

MNA



Local young women garland members of Brigade-758 of SSA-S who have returned to the legal fold. — MNA



Local people accord welcome to members of Brigade-758 of SSA-S who have returned to the legal fold. — MNA

Return to legal fold by national race armed groups in Shan State is a glory for Shan State as well as the whole Union to see more fruits of development



Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye speaks at the ceremony to return to mark the the legal fold by members of Brigade (758) of Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) led by commander U Mein Sin. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — *The following is a translation of a speech by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye at the ceremony to mark the return to the legal fold by members of Brigade (758) of Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) led by commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice-chief of staff.*

The return to the legal fold by national arce armed groups in Shan State who rose against the government in the past is a glory for Shan State as well as the whole Union to see more fruits of development in the State. The local people and the government do welcome U Mein Sin and his members who have returned to the legal fold after realizing the correct policy and attitude and goodwill of the government which has visions of national consolidation and perpetuity of the Union. Besides, they deserve honour for putting their self-interest behind the public interest.

The local people who had to live in fear in the past will also warmly welcome U Mein Sin and members as their region is now free from armed clashes and sees the light of eternal peace. I believe that U Mein Sin and members will strive their

utmost within the frameworks of law for regional development as a token of making up for the loss of time passing uselessly. The government on its part will render necessary assistance to them. The situation in Shan State 15 years ago was not very different from the situation over 50 years ago when the country regained its independence and the region lagged behind in development in almost all of the sectors such as transport, education and health. In addition, it lacked peace and stability due to armed conflicts and the people had to live in fear and below the poverty line. These are unforgettable bad dreams for the local people. To erase the bad history, the government since its assumption of State duties has been striving for national consolidation, putting an end to armed insurgency so as to restore regional peace and stability, development of transport, education, health and economic infrastructures, progress of socio-economic life of people and elimination of narcotic drugs.

Due to the government's genuine goodwill, endeavours and cooperation of the national race leaders there is no armed conflict in Shan State except its far-flung areas and the regions in the state have developed. Local people in the region now enjoy the better results of peace and security and can also earn

their living with peace of mind. Transport, economic, education, health and social foundations have emerged and standard of living of the people has improved.

He said local people and UN organizations have come to know the fact that there is gradual eradication of narcotic drugs in Shan State. However, all the local people are to make efforts for prevalence of complete peace and tranquillity in the entire Shan State.

He said destructive elements who do not want to see the restoration of peace and development in the Union including Shan State are still making instigation among the national races. Avoiding these instigation, the entire people are to make endeavours for development of the Union in accord with the expression "Unity brings prosperity of the nation."

The commander urged all national race armed groups to maintain the already-achieved peace and development with national solidarity spirit, the Union spirit.

In conclusion, he said U Mein Sin and party won the confidence, love and goodwill of peace-loving people and urged them to serve the interest of the regions and the nation in unity. — MNA

We decided to leave Ywet Sit group as we do not like drug trafficking, extortion of money and inhumane terrorist acts of Ywet Sit

I am deputy brigade commander U Sai Ta of SSA-S brigade-758 which returned to the legal fold. We coordinated with vice-chief of staff brigade commander U Mein Sin to return to the legal fold.



Deputy Brigade Commander U Sai Ta.

MNA

We decided to leave Ywet Sit group as we do not like drug trafficking, extortion of money and inhumane terrorist acts of Ywet Sit. We received no assistance from Ywet Sit for our existence but all the extortion money and new recruits were to be sent to Ywet Sit. Thus we decided to discontinue joining hands with Ywet Sit.

I had served for many years in Ywet Sit group. During that period, new recruits were mobilized from each household in villages. Those who could not afford to come along as recruits had to pay money, otherwise they were killed. So, all male adults had to move to town and those who could not afford to go to town had to take refuge in monasteries as monks. The villagers had to pay money to satisfy the recruiting group. Otherwise, the villagers would be tortured and given troubles. And, SSA-S grew poppy and engaged in drug trafficking which is totally against the interest of Shan people and establishment of Shan State as they harangued. The Shan nationals had suffered much as new recruits and extortion money were collected by SSA-S. The SSA-S had done nothing beneficial to the

Shan State. No bridge or school was built by the insurgents. All the extortion money were for Ywet Sit to womanize and spend lavishly. While we were having nothing and poor in the jungle, Ywet Sit was enjoying all the luxuries in Thailand. Moreover, Ywet Sit is anti-Bamar racist. A large number of Meethwaygon villagers, road construction workers and passengers were killed under the orders of Ywet Sit. They robbed passenger buses and killed Bamars randomly. They also raped women and robbed all the valuables. Such terrorist acts were truly atrocities. They also torched Pa-O villages including schools by accusing that those villages provided information to the Tatmadaw. They drove out Pa-O nationals from Shan State. Such acts were narrow-minded racism and we wanted to break away from Ywet Sit a long time ago. Our genuine desire is to see prosperity of Shan State and Shan people. In practice, our acts troubled Shan people. Thus finally we decided to return to the legal fold and joint hands with the Government to carry out development of Shan State. Thank you all. — MNA

We could not accept drug producing and trafficking by Ywet Sit We were disappointed with terrorism of Ywet Sit



Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit). — MNA

I am Mein Sin, Brigade Commander of the Brigade SSA-S No. 758. I returned to the legal fold after making contacts with the Eastern Command on 6 July 2006.

and driving them out of Shan State.
3. We saw Tatmadaw and the people working together for the development of the regions, and realized

- Sit himself and he himself had violated them as clarified below.
- (1) We were instructed to give security cover to his brother Saw Peta when he carried 80 haver-sacks of Yama pills from Mongshu area to Loitainglian in 2001. We refused to do so since it was not in accordance with the policy.
 - (2) It is learnt that Ywet Sit refined heroin near Kar Phwee village, Mong Kaing in 1996, near Nampan creek in 1997, and then near the border areas. I asked him three times not to do so, but it was in vain.
 - (3) 15 youths led by Sai

structions of Ywet Sit to produce heroin in Nar Yaing region, Loi Che region, San Ha region, Brigade No. (1) area, Brigade No. (7) area and in the area of my Brigade. I did not give him permission to produce heroin in my area and told him to go anywhere he could get permission. For this, Ywet Sit was so furious and said that he would kill me and all my relatives. After that he sent a message that he expelled the whole Brigade No 758 from SSA-S.

Now, I'll continue to present the terrorist acts of Ywet Sit. In January 1997, according to the instruction of Ywet Sit, a group led by Aik Chit, set fire to the Meethwaygon (Bamar) village in Namsan township. They torched the village. Due to their random shootings, 13 persons were killed and 8 were wounded. In June 1997, they collected extortion money from over 30 passenger buses near the

circulated counterfeit currency of 500 kyat notes. But I did not know the exact place where he produced the fake money. In December 1997, he gave 10 million Kyats of counterfeit currency notes to Aik Aw who is a son of SSNA member U Pho Mar of Mong Kaing to buy gold in Mandalay. Aik Aw was arrested by authorities, we have learnt.

In 2005, Aik Chit group also set fire to Htitakhu, Nawngde, Mokkalut and Panmai villages in Po-O region, it is learnt. Besides, we heard over the communication set that Pa-O nationals were driven out of Shan State.

Ywet Sit collected Kyats 13 million to 15 million of extortion money from each ward in Mong Kaing town. In addition, he collected money for rice. He also borrowed money. He asked money for rice and borrowed money.

In February 2006, Ywet Sit seized 20 cattle smugglers of Shwenyaung and Hopong and killed 10

as they wanted to collect their bones.

Although Ywet Sit has been committing drug trafficking and terrorist acts, he preached for democracy and assigned U Khun Kyar Nu with political duty. U Khun Kyar Nu has contacts with NLD in Yangon.

Thus, we have come to realize that if we continue to follow the armed struggle line, our prestige will be tarnished too. Moreover, the National Convention being held by the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people is being participated in view of ensuring Non-disintegration of the Union by national races as well as former armed groups which have returned to the legal fold. Now, we realize that the Government's policy is correct and our armed struggle line is just harming the nation and the people. Thus, we have the desire to serve the people who had been suffering from the troubles caused by us.

So, my followers and I discussed the plan to join hands with the Tatmadaw and carry out



Arms and ammunition brought by national race armed group led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit). — MNA

There are altogether 848 members who also returned to the legal fold including me. With us, we brought all the weapons that we have used such as 24 assorted heavy weapons, 834 assorted small arms, 1990 magazines, 157,971 rounds of ammunition, 55 hand grenades, 63 land mines, 15 communication sets and 120 walkie-talkies.

We returned to the legal fold of our own volition. The reasons for returning to the legal fold are as follows:

1. We could not accept drug producing and trafficking by Ywet Sit.
2. We were disappointed with terrorism of Ywet Sit for his cruelty on the people, massacring national people, setting villages on fire, committing rape against indigenous women, antagonizing Pa-O nationals

peace and development through the establishment of Panglong University, Panglong Computer College and Panglong Government Technological Institute.

4. We realized that the practice of armed struggle line for over 20 years have brought no benefit but grave troubles to the people.
- Concerning narcotic drugs, there are two policies laid down by SSA-S.
1. Firstly, narcotic drugs must not be connected with politics. If so, death penalty will be given.
 2. Secondly, observance of discipline must not be infringed due to drugs. If one violates discipline, death penalty will be given. These are the policies signed by Ywet

Pan were given money by Ywet Sit to carry narcotic drugs from Loi Lam into Thailand in 2003. 13 of them were shot to death by Thai Forces. Sai Pan and one follower escaped. But fearing that action would be taken against him by Ywet Sit, Sai Pan committed suicide.

- (4) Sai Tun, a trusted and the most favoured person of Ywet Sit was arrested by Thai Police as he carried 174 packets of heroin by car to Thailand in March, 2005.
- (5) A Sa Line Khone villager, after being jailed for narcotic drug case, went to Loitainglian and received the instructions from Ywet Sit for refining narcotic drugs. After returning from Ywet Sit, he brought the in-

Although Ywet Sit has been committing drug trafficking and terrorist acts, he preached for democracy and assigned U Khun Kyar Nu with political duty. U Khun Kyar Nu has contacts with NLD in Yangon.

Nam Maw Kham village on Kunhein- Kengtung, motor road. Moreover, they raped women and also randomly killed Bamar people. Altogether 30 passengers were killed.

Besides, Ywet Sit

Danu nationals and two Chinese. He also confiscated 60 heads of cattle and 2.7 million Kyats. Relatives of those killed persons were still searching for the place where the dead bodies were buried

nation-building tasks and earn our livelihood peacefully. We considered about it for some three years and finally all my men in unison returned to the legal fold.

Thank you all.



Arms and ammunition brought by national race armed group led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit). — MNA

At present, the Government and the Tatmadaw provide necessary assistance to us for meeting our food, clothing and shelter needs



Column commander U Sai Yone of Brigade (758) of SSA-S. — MNA

I am column commander Sai Yone of SSA-S brigade-758 which returned to the legal fold together with brigade commander Mein Sin. It took three years for us to manage to return to the legal fold. Due to hindrances made by Ywet Sit, we are able to return to the legal fold only now.

In returning to the legal fold, we encountered many difficulties. Ywet Sit ordered us to commit drug trafficking and kill against Bamars. But we refused to do so as narcotic drugs pose danger to entire mankind. Moreover, the killing of innocent people is out of narrow-minded racism.

I was recruited in MTA in the year 1992. However, I abhorred and was frustrated with collection of extortion money, mobilizing new recruits, committing killings and drug trafficking. When MTA group returned to the legal fold, I was left as I was not aware of it. Now I return to the legal fold in collaboration with Mein Sin. After returning to the legal fold, I am now feeling very peaceful. It is like I am having a full moon shining in

my heart. Now I am very heartening because I can live together with my family; now I can give attention to my children's education and health; and I can join hands with the Government in carrying out regional development works.

At present, the Government and the Tatmadaw provide necessary assistance to us for meeting our food, clothing and shelter needs. Agricultural and livestock breeding works are also being planned for our long-term interests. Thus, I am very happy.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for being welcomed very warmly by the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people. In reciprocation, I pledge to participate in national security, nation-building and regional development activities enthusiastically with the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

Thank you.

MNA

I truly believe that our region is now free from dark clouds of insurgency and has ushered into the new era



A local resident Nang Hlaing Kham.—MNA

I am Daw Nang Hlaing Kham. Since the day I was born in this region, today is the most auspicious and happiest day for me as well as the

tion-building endeavours of the combined force of the Government, the People and the Tatmadaw. Since long time

bility and gun fire, the local people could not enjoy the taste of peace. They had to pay various kinds of extortion money. Two-thirds of our earnings went to insurgents as extortion money.

With no education local people were pushed to feudalism, schools remained as mere huts. The education standard was low. Although the State opened rural health centres and sent health staff and midwives, they did not reach the rural areas due to insurgencies. The national people lacked health knowledge and their longevity was short. As regards religious affairs,

due to massacres, collection of extortion money and robberies by insurgents, the national people dared not travel from one place to another and they had to suffer hardships.

Although there were insurgencies, the Government upgraded Shwenyaung-Yaksawk-Indaw-Kyaukgu-Nawngcho Road, the Hopon-Mongping-Kengkhan-Nawngwo-Thabawatada-Namlan Road, the Loilem-Leikha-Mongkaing-Pankaytu-Tonlaw-Hsipaw Road, the Kholan-Wansin-Mongnaung-Mongshu-Tangyang Road. Now, U Mein Sin group has re-

turned to the legal fold, here our region will become prosperous with cultivating crops and trading of agricultural produce. In the past, school going age children could not go to school as they feared of being recruited by the insurgents. When they came of age they were forcibly recruited. Some young men who had entered novice-hood or monk-hood were even recruited by the insurgents. The families which had no boy in the family had to pay money.

Now, energetic endeavours are being made by the Tatmadaw

for modernizing and developing the entire nation. It is known to all the national people. The former armed groups have come to realize that their armed struggle line gave troubles to the people. They also realized the genuine goodwill of the Government. Thus, they returned to the legal fold and participated actively in regional development works.

Now I truly believe that our region has now free from dark clouds of insurgency and has ushered into the new era. — MNA

Now, energetic endeavours are being made by the Tatmadaw for modernizing and developing the entire nation. It is known to all the national people.

people in this area. Because our brethren U Mein Sin and members who followed the wrong path in the past due to the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists have returned to the legal fold. They returned to the light from the dark after realizing the truth and witnessing the na-

ago, our national brethren had been living peacefully together. Due to evil legacy of colonialism, some nationalities in Shan State followed the wrong path of armed insurrection. The stability was harmed and the people had to suffer worries and difficulties. Amidst the insta-

existing old pagodas and temples came to decay. Religious affairs were not enhanced due to lack of monks. Regarding transportation, there were Leikha-Mongkaing-Pankaytu Road and Pankaytu-Kehsi-Mongshu Road linking southern and northern Shan States. However,



Locals welcome Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin and party.

MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

TRADEMARK CAUTION
 Manufacture des Montres Rolex S.A., a company incorporated in Switzerland, and having its registered office at rue David-Moning 9, 2504 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Myanmar Reg. No. 4/2611/2006 (12 April 2006)
 in respect of "Machines and machine tools and parts and fittings; measuring apparatus and instruments and parts and fittings therefore; watches and clocks and parts and fittings therefore, jewellery and precious metals; electric instruments, apparatus and machines and mechanical, electronic, atomic and chemical devices to measure time and parts and fittings therefore. Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
 For Manufacture des Montres Rolex S.A.,
 C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
 #311Grand Plaza Parkroyal Dagon Tsp., Yangon, Union of Myanmar
 kelvin.chia.sgm@ngpmail.net.mm
 Dated 18 July 2006

Chinese Vice-President holds talks with Spain's Crown Prince

BEIJING, 16 July— Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong outlined proposals for enhancing ties with Spain during talks with Spanish Crown Prince Felipe de Borbon y Grecia in Beijing on Friday.

Zeng said China appreciated the efforts of Spain's Royal Family in promoting bilateral ties.

The two countries had successfully cooperated since establishing a strategic partnership last year, he said, listing four aspects that the two countries could work to expand bilateral ties:

— Maintaining high-level visits and exchanges between governments, Parliaments, political parties and local governments.

— Expanding trade exchanges, with greater reciprocal investment.

— Improving exchanges and cooperation in culture, education and tourism.

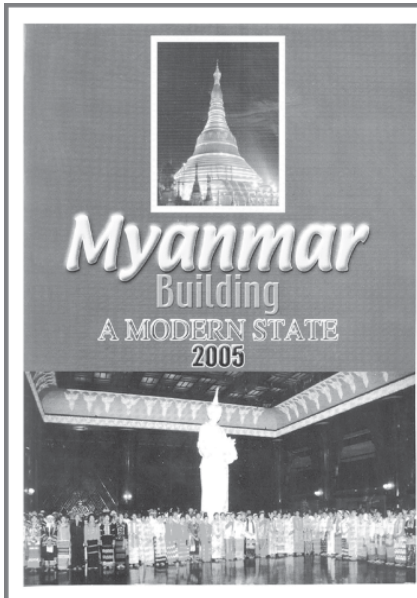
— And enhancing communication and coordination in international and regional issues.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
 TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., a company incorporated in Japan of 24-1, Takata 3-chome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 3107/1996
 in respect of "Beverages (International Class 32)".
 Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.
 Win Mu Tin
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
 for TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 18 July 2006



MYANMAR Building A Modern State 2005

- ☐ This facts studded book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
- ☐ Illustrated with colourful photographs.
- ☐ Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters: The Beautiful Land, Economy, Infrastructure, Social Setting, International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at
 Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 249031
 News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon ☎: 294306
 Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
 MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in (US Dollar, Euro and Japanese Yen)-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)9/MR(ML) 2006-2007	Wheel Monobloc Rolled (Rough Machined) for YDM-4 Diesel Electric Locomotive.	120-Nos
2.	12(T)10/MR(ML) 2006-2007	Rolled Steel Locomotive Steel Tyre (Rough Turn).	200-Nos
3.	12(T)11/MR(ML) 2006-2007	Solid Wheels for Rail Buses and Locomotives.	11-Items

Closing Date. -1.9.2006 (Friday) (12:00) Hours
 2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 18.7.2006 during the office hours.
 3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 201555 (Ext-602, 605, 612)
 Deputy General Manager
 Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန်ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
၁။	Wheel Loader	1 Unit	17.7.2006	11.8.2006
၂။	Electrical and Machinery For Tile Plant	1 Lot	17.7.2006	11.8.2006
၃။	Laboratory Apparatus	1 Lot	17.7.2006	11.8.2006
၄။	Conveyor Belt	1 Lot	17.7.2006	11.8.2006
၅။	Tyre With Tube&Flap	1 Lot	24.7.2006	30.8.2006
၆။	Ball Bearing	1 Lot	24.7.2006	30.8.2006
၇။	Welding Electrode	1 Lot	24.7.2006	30.8.2006
၈။	Lubricant	1 Lot	24.7.2006	30.8.2006
၉။	Steel Products	1 Lot	24.7.2006	30.8.2006

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြေတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၁၉၂)၊ ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ အထူးအဖွဲ့မှ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းအတွက် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပိတ်စာချုပ်ဝယ်ယူမှုအဖွဲ့မှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ်သိရှိပါက စုံစမ်းရန်တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၂) မြန်မာ့ကြေတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Italy spy chief questioned over CIA kidnap case

MILAN, 16 July— The head of Italy's military intelligence agency was questioned by prosecutors for the first time on Saturday on suspicion of helping the CIA kidnap a terrorism suspect in Milan, judicial sources said.

The development makes Nicolo Pollari the highest ranking official connected to the Italian investigation — which has already led to the arrests of his No 2 and another leader of his Sismi intelligence agency earlier this month.

Both of them were released from house arrest on Saturday, but were still believed to be under

investigation, a lawyer for one of the men said. Twenty-six Americans, most believed to be CIA agents, face arrest warrants over the 2003 abduction of radical Muslim cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar.

Prosecutors say a CIA-led team grabbed Nasr off a Milan street, bundled him

into a van and flew him to his native Egypt. Nasr says he was tortured there under questioning. A judicial source said prosecutors, investigating an Italian role in the abduction, questioned Pollari for about four hours at the Milan prosecutors' offices, which were shut to the public and placed under heavy security.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (687)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (687) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.7.2006 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER (LINES) PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Putin says US, Russia want to give all access to N-power

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 16 July— The United States and Russia want to create a system to give all states access to nuclear power while guarding against proliferation of nuclear weapons, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

Putin, speaking after talks with US President George W Bush, told a news conference that a joint initiative envisaged the creation of international enrichment centres under the control of the UN's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

"We have adopted a joint statement based on our separate initiatives on safe development of nuclear energy," he said ahead of a Group of Eight summit in St. Petersburg.

"Its main goal is to facilitate stable and reliable supply of all sorts of energy together with reducing the threat of nuclear proliferation. We believe this will become possible after the creation of international enrichment centres united into a single network under strict IAEA control."

Russia's atomic chief Sergei Kiriyenko said earlier that Bush and Putin

would agree to seek a bilateral deal on nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries.

"I expect that the two presidents will announce here the signing of an agreement in principle," Kiriyenko said in response to a question about the possibility of a bilateral deal on nuclear energy cooperation.

"The practical agreement will take longer because it has to go through the parliaments and that will take a year," he said.

Last week the *Washington Post* reported that Bush would allow extensive US civilian nuclear cooperation with Russia in a reversal of decades of bipartisan policy. *The Post* said the move could be worth billions of dollars to Russia but possibly stir an uproar in the US Congress.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Johan Edfors of Sweden tees off at the 16th hole during the fourth round of the Scottish Open golf championship at Loch Lomond in Scotland on 16 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Barca continue Far Eastern expansion with Rakuten deal

MADRID, 17 July— Spanish and European champions Barcelona have continued their promotional push in the Far East by signing an agreement with Japan's Rakuten media group.

Barcelona said the agreement with Rakuten, who are Japan's biggest web-based shopping operator, would help strengthen their presence in Japan via the Internet, a club credit card and the publication of an official webpage and magazine in Japanese.

Last Thursday the club signed agreements with three media companies to help promote their image in China and they have also agreed a promotional deal with Singapore's Tiger Beer to be their official partner in Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

On Friday, Barca announced that they would collaborate with the United Nations agency UNICEF over the next five years to help support the body's work with vulnerable children.

The deal is expected to see the club promote UNICEF on its kit, breaking its tradition of never having had shirt-sponsorship.

Earlier this year they announced they would donate 0.7 per cent of their annual income as a contribution to the UN's Millennium Development campaign.

MNA/Reuters

Clijsters powers Belgium into Fed Cup final

OSTEND (Belgium), 17 July— Kim Clijsters powered Belgium into their second Fed Cup final on Sunday with a comfortable 6-0, 6-1 win over American teenager Vania King.

The Belgians now meet Italy in September's final. Playing without French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, Belgium took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the best of five match semi-final to give them a first Fed Cup victory over the US in five attempts. The match ended 4-1.

Clijsters, the world number two and US Open champion, crushed her 17-year-old opponent, ranked 79th in the world, with a 55-minute exhibition of power tennis.

Clijsters, who had struggled to beat hard-hitting Jamea Jackson on Saturday, was in total command on the indoor hard court on Sunday.

"We had an ideal situation, leading 2-0 after day one, so it was down to me to finish it off. It went a lot better than yesterday," Clijsters told a rapturous 5,000-strong crowd before the Belgian team did a lap of honour, spraying champagne on court. The US, without both the Williams sisters and Lindsay Davenport, all injured, had expected to field Jill Craybas for the reverse singles, but captain Zina Garrison decided to give a match to all four team members after going two down on Saturday.

Kirsten Flipkens, local hero on day one after beating Craybas, claimed a fourth point for Belgium when opponent Mashona Washington pulled out with a strained knee. The American had been leading 6-2, 1-3.

MNA/Reuters

Senden wins John Deere Classic, bound for Hoylake

CHICAGO, 17 July— Australian John Senden captured his first PGA Tour event title after 139 starts with a one-shot win on Sunday in the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Illinois.

The victory qualifies Senden to play in the British Open at Hoylake starting on Thursday.

Leading by three shots overnight, he fired a final round three-under-par 68 for a 19-under-par 265, just holding off American JP Hayes who closed with a

65. "I felt great," Senden told reporters. "A trip to the British (Open) sounds good."

Germany's Alex Cejka (67) and American Heath Slocum (68) tied for third, three strokes behind the winner.

Hayes turned on the

pressure down the back nine but a par by Senden on the 18th from a greenside bunker secured victory. Senden started his final round with birdies on the first two holes, the third straight day he had done that and showed poise in defending his lead.

"A birdie on the first two holes was a real confidence boost," Senden said. "I said 'hey, you can do this.'"

The Australian's previous best finish in five years on the PGA Tour was a tie for fifth at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in January. Hayes won this event four years ago with a tournament record 22-under-par total score.

Most of the attention during the week had been focused on Michelle Wie, who was trying to become the first woman in 61 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour. She was eight over after 27 holes and withdrew due to heat exhaustion on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand, Australia win openers of Asian Cup Women's Soccer

CANBERRA, 17 July— Thailand and Australia won their openers of the Asian Cup Women's Soccer Tournament in Adelaide on Sunday.

Thailand defeated Myanmar 2-1 while the hosts downed South Korea 4-0.

The Asian premier women's soccer tournament attracts nine teams, including seven-time winners China and defending champions North Korea.

Group A brackets China against three-time winners Taipei, Japan and Vietnam,

while North Korea, winners in 2001 and 2003, will play against Australia, Thailand, Myanmar and South Korea in Group B. China will play their opener against Taipei on 19 July before meeting Vietnam and Japan by two days apart. The Asian Cup tournament will run through till 30 July. —MNA/Xinhua



Mexico's Carolina Valencia makes a successful snatch of 77 kg during the women's over 48 kg class weightlifting event at XX Central American and Caribbean Games in Cartagena, Colombia on 15 July, 2006. Valencia won the gold medal. —INTERNET

Europe upsets Asia to win Manila duel

MANILA, 17 July— Yao Jie, playing for Europe, wore down Asia's world number one Zhang Ning to pull off a shock victory as Team Europe won the 100,000 US dollars MVP Badminton Cup on Sunday.

Yao's 21-19, 18-2, 21-11 win over China's Zhang completed Europe's 10-8 victory over Asia in the second staging of the Asia v Europe badminton duel held at a packed Araneta Coliseum.

"I feel very proud to beat the number one player in the world although I felt Zhang Ning was not playing her usual game," Yao, China's former ace player now representing the Netherlands, said through an interpreter.

Yao's upset win sealed the European team's victory in the event, reducing the final men's singles match between China's Lin Dan and Denmark's Kenneth Jonassen

to a dead rubber. But Jonassen still played his heart out, dragging the world number two through three sets before surrendering 13-21, 21-14, 14-21.

Europe, who had lost the inaugural event in 2005, won the 60,000-dollar prize. The Asians picked up 40,000 US dollars.

Trailing 4-5 going into the final three matches worth three points apiece, the Europeans seized a 7-5 lead after world No. 10 Thomas Laybourn and Kamilla Rytter-Juhl outlasted the Philippine tandem of Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion 22-24, 21-17, 21-18 in the mixed doubles. —MNA/Reuters

Parreira may coach S African for 2010 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 17 July— South Africa may have to fork out 96 million rand (14 million US dollars) to hire Brazilian Carlos Alberto Parreira to help build a world-class host team for the 2010 Soccer World Cup, a South African newspaper reported on Sunday.

Parreira, who coached Brazil at the just concluded World Cup in Germany, is favoured by the South African Football Association (SAFA) after a list of candidates was submitted to SAFA's Na-

tional Executive Committee (NEC) on Friday, Sunday Times reported, citing sources with SAFA.

The newspaper "has reliably learnt that Parreira just has to sign on the dotted line", al-

though an official announcement would not be made until the end of the month, it said.

Anonymous members of the SAFA also told the newspaper that Sturu Pasiya, chairman of the SAFA's technical committee, who is responsible for getting a new coach for the low-morale national squad, "had been told by the executive to draft a contract and urgently finalize Parreira's appointment".

If hired, Parreira, who won the 1994 World Cup with Brazil, would be paid 96 million rand if he lasts until 2010, said the report.

Other favourites in-

cluded Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari, former Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier and local soccer legend Jomo Sono. But Scolari signed a two-year extension to his contract with Portugal on Friday night.

South Africa will become the first African nation to host the World Cup in 2010. But their national team Bafana Bafana (Boys) are now desperate to get their preparations for 2010 under way as soon as possible after they failed to qualify for the World Cup finals in Germany and suffered a dismal African Nations Cup early this year.

MNA/Xinhua



Belgium's Kim Clijsters returns the ball to Jamea Jackson of the US during their World Group Fed Cup semi-final tennis match in Ostend, Belgium, on 15 July, 2006. —INTERNET



The shadows of Filipino children are seen as they play at the foot of Mayon Volcano in Legazpi city in Albay province, south of Manila on 16 July, 2006. Philippine disaster officials on Saturday told thousands of villagers to prepare for a possible evacuation from Mount Mayon, an active volcano in the central area of the archipelago. Molten rocks were seen flowing on Saturday from the summit of the volcano, creating a red-orange stream on the southeast slope. — INTERNET

Philippines predicts major eruption of Mayon Volcano

MANILA, 17 July — The Philippine authority on Saturday warned residents near the Mayon Volcano of a very possible major eruption in the coming weeks, as lava outflows and tremours were detected overnight.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the national monitoring body on volcano activities, raised the alert for the Mayon Volcano to level three, effective over the past 24 hours already, according to its updated report on volcano watch.

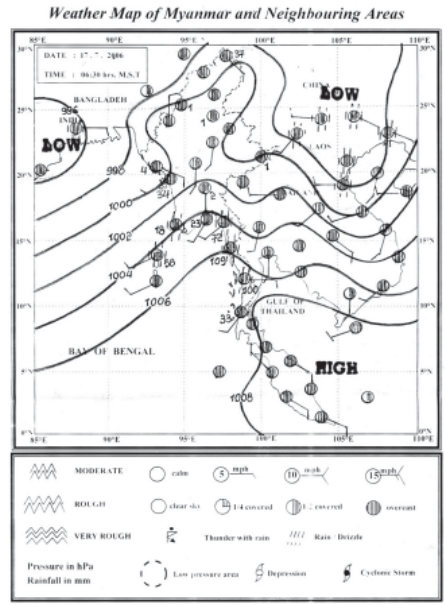
Residents near the 2,462-metre volcano are warned against entering the six-kilometre radius

permanent danger zone, the report said.

However, volcano analysts ruled out a sudden eruption, saying that Mayon Volcano is now still on a mild eruption phase, with highly frequent tremours caused by rockfalls by the detached lava from the dome.

A major eruption could take place “within weeks”, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 17 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain have been isolated in Shan State, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yay (6.38) inches, Myeik (5.00) inches, Dawei (4.45) inches, Mawlamyine (2.84) inches, Co Co Island (2.36) inches, Gwa (1.97) inches, Katha (1.69) inches and Yangon (Central) (1.22) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-7-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 17-7-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-7-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 16-7-2006 was (1.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-7-2006 were (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (0.91) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.22) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (45.59) inches at Mingaladon, (54.02) inches at Kaba-Aye and (57.64) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (14:00) hours MST on 16-7-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-7-2006: Rain or rain showers will be isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Chin States and Magway Division, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 18:30 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of strong intensity (7.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (South JAVA, INDONESIA) about (1750) miles southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (14) hrs (49) min MST on 17th July 2006.

မြစ်ရေကြီးမှု၊ ကြိုတင်သတိပြု။

Thailand puts 7 provinces on bird flu watch list

BANGKOK, 17 July — Thailand has stepped up bird flu surveillance in seven provinces for the hot, monsoon season when the virus could re-emerge, a senior government official said on Saturday.

“July is a risky month. Over the past two years the outbreak started this month,” Yukol Limlaemthong, head of the Livestock Department, told Reuters.

He said four northern provinces — Uttaradit, Sukhothai, Phitsanulok

and Pichit — would be closely monitored for outbreaks of the H5N1 virus, which has killed 14 Thais since it emerged in late 2003.

“They are risky areas because of flooding and the rainy season. This situation is good for the virus to grow. We have not found the virus, but we want people to be alert,” Yukol said.

MNA/Reuters

U Tin Ngwe (Age 84)
 Son of U Le Saing-Daw Pu, father of Daw Hla Hla Win, Daw Yin Yin Phylene, U San Myint, U Myo Win (a) U Min Thu and husband of Daw Khin Yi, No 1st Street, Aung Sann Quarter, Ye Kyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, expired on the morning of 15-7-2006.

TV Myanmar
 Tuesday, 18 July
 View on today

7:00 am
 1. Recitation of parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oaktam-athara

7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
 3. Morning news

7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
 5. ကဗျာပန်းညွှန့်

8:00 am
 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
 7. Song of yester year

8:20 am
 8. ယုဒဆရာတော်တော်

8:30 am
 9. International news

8:45 am
 10. Let's Go

4:00 pm
 1. Martial song

4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
 3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm
 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (တောဇောအထူးပြု) (တောဇော)

5:00 pm
 5. Dance of national races

5:10 pm
 6. မိမိတို့အား ဆေးစာတံဝင်

5:20 pm
 7. “အလေးတော့ ကိုရ်ပြပါ” (ဒွိုင်ဝင်း၊ ရတနာစင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

5:30 pm
 8. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm
 9. Evening news

6:30 pm
 10. Weather report

6:35 pm
 11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

6:45 pm
 12. The mirror images of the musical oldies

7:00 pm
 13. ဆင်းရွက်ရန်သင်းပျံ့အေးကြိုင်လားရွှေရိုင်

7:10 pm
 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ “ရွှေလှိုင်နံနက်ခင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

8:00 pm
 15. News

8:00 pm
 16. International news

8:00 pm
 17. Weather report

8:00 pm
 18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ “ရွှေလှိုင်နံနက်ခင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

8:00 pm
 19. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar
 Tuesday, 18 July
 Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
 -She's been good to me

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

8:50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music:
 -Quit playing games

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:
 -When I'm with you

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music
 -Stranger now
 -Until the end of time
 -Going where the wind blow

9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level (I) Unit (16)

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Weekly sport reel

9:30 pm Music for your listening pleasure:
 -Buzz
 -If I can't have you

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

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

Secretary-1 meets Brigade (758) commander Mein Sin (SSA-S) and members who have returned to the legal fold



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Brigade (758) commander Mein Sin and members of Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S). — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein met Brigade (758) commander Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) and members, who had returned to the legal

fold, at the office of the local battalion in Laikha, Shan State (South) yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were SPDC member Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Shan State PDC Chairman Eastern Command Commander Brig-

Gen Thaug Aye, the ministers and deputy ministers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said although all national brethren had been living in the country in unity and amity for many years, the

(See page 7)

All armed groups including group led by U Mein Sin, 17 major groups and small groups returned to legal fold after reaching total understanding with government

SPDC Information Committee holds press conference on return to legal fold of national race armed group led by U Mein Sin

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference on the return to the legal fold

of a national race armed group led by U Mein Sin, vice chief of staff of Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) and commander of brigade 758 at Thirihantha Hall in

Laikha, southern Shan State, at 11 am yesterday.

Present were Chairman of SPDC Information (See page 6)



Chairman of SPDC Information Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaks at the press conference (5/2006). — MNA