

**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

## Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Italian President

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2007. — MNA

**Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) across Myittha River on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road is a 320 feet by 36 feet facility. The width of motor road of the bridge is 28 feet flanked by 4-foot footpaths.**

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects thriving physic nut plantations in Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence who was on inspection tour of Kalewa together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kalay Station and officials went to People's Hospital (16-bed) of Kalewa on 29 May.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the hospital and

provided cash assistance for the patients. He viewed operation theatre, pharmacy, X-ray unit and medical store. The head of division health department conducted him around the hospital.

Thereafter, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) across Myittha River on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on the bridge by Chief Engineer U Mann Fright Day and called for maintenance of the bridge, which is 320 feet by 36 feet. The width of motor

road of the bridge is 28 feet flanked by 4-foot footpaths.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended a ceremony to grow physic nut at Kyesin village in the township and grew physic nut plants. A total of 6,000 physic nuts were cultivated on 5 acres of land. In Kalewa Township, altogether 2,030 acres of physic nut were grown in 2006 and a total of 4,600 acres of physic nut will be planted in 2007.

(See page 8)



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects physic nut plantations in Kani Township. — MNA*

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 2 June, 2007

### Extend growing of paddy and other crops for regional development

The government has been building dams and reservoirs along with river water pumping stations and underground water tapping facilities in arid zones of the country. As a result, those regions have now enjoyed a sufficient supply of irrigated water and clean water.

At present, farmers are extending the cultivation of paddy for the development of the agriculture sector. In the past, they relied solely on rain and found it difficult to engage even in single cropping. With irrigated water, they are now able to engage in double and mixed cropping.

Sagaing Division with a vast arable land has seen progress in the growing of paddy, cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses and edible oil crops. Dams and reservoirs built in the division benefit over 300,000 acres of farmlands.

Kalay District cultivated over 10,000 acres of summer paddy in 2006-2007 and some of them are being harvested. Entrepreneurs and departments concerned are engaged in extended cultivation of physic nut plants and rubber in addition to summer and monsoon paddy.

Kalay District links Sagaing Division and Chin State. The emergence of Kalay-Gangaw-Pakokku railroad and Kalay-Kalewa-Monywa motor road has ensured urban and rural development. It is sure that extended growing of paddy, cash crops and rubber will contribute towards economic development of the region.



Myanmar delegation being seen off by General Secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing and responsible persons at Yangon International Airport on 30 May. The delegation will attend The 1st ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Symposium to be held from 30 May to 2 June in Malaysia.

UMFCCI

## Peoples' 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

### Minister for Foreign Affairs attends Eighth Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers Meeting

YANGON, 1 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here by air yesterday morning after attending the Eighth Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers Meeting (ASEM FMM 8) in Hamburg, Germany on 28 and 29 May.

The meeting was also attended by ASEAN + 3 countries, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, the ASEAN Secretariat, 27 European Union member countries and the European Commission. The meeting, basically held in dialogue formally, covered three main pillars namely political, economic, and cultural and social affairs.

At the working dinner as the first session hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany on 28 May, the ministers exchanged views on international development and challenges that require common solutions. The exchange of views focused on development in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Korean Peninsula Denuclearization.

On 29 May, the second working session was held. The ministers discussed broad range of global issues such as energy and climate change, counter terrorism, world trade and development and the role of the United Nations. At the third working session held during the working lunch was also hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. The ministers exchanged views on recent developments in Asia and Europe and ASEM future perspectives. Minister U Nyan Win informed the meeting of the recent developments in Myanmar covering political, economic and social fields.



Minister U Nyan Win shakes hands with German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier. — FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister U Nyan Win met with Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Taro Aso and Assistant Minister of State at the Foreign Office and Commonwealth Office of Great Britain Mr Ian McCartney separately. At the meetings, Minister U Nyan Win briefed them on recent developments in Myanmar taking place in accordance with the objectives of UN Millennium Development Goals in the political, economic, health and educational domains. The minister also responded with complete facts and evidences to the queries made by his

counterparts. Members of the delegation Director-General U Phae Thann Oo, Deputy Director U Soe Lynn Han and Assistant Director U Win Zeyar Tun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived back on the

same flight. Myanmar Ambassador to Germany U Tin Win and Second Secretary U Aung Aung Myo Thein of the Myanmar Embassy in Berlin also participated in the meeting and other related meetings. — MNA

### Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Italian Deputy Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Massimo D'Alema, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Italy, which falls on 2 June 2007. — MNA

### Article and colour photo competitions to mark Myanmar Women's Day

YANGON, 1 June — The Myanmar Women Affairs Federation will hold the article and colour photo competitions to mark Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July.

The article competition will be held under the title "Mithasu-phon-phyo Naing-ngan-daw-toe-tet Ahmyo-thami-ei-swan-hsaung-chet" while the colour photo competition will be held under the title "Bhet-son-phon-phyo Naing-ngan-daw-ah-kyo

out limitation. The entry with a size of 10x14 inches must be own creation and must not be a prize-winning work in any other competitions.

Anyone may take part in the article competition. The entry must not be a prize-winning work in any other competitions and must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Two passport-size photos and a brief biography are to be attached to the entry that must be own creation.

For colour photo competition, entries that reflect the dignity and ability of woman are allowed with-

Entries are to be sent to Secretary of the Competition Organizing Committee U Aye Kywe, Deputy Director (Production) of the Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, Yangon, not later than 22 June.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Friction intensifies between US and Russia

WASHINGTON, 31 May—Tensions between the United States and Russia ratcheted up another notch Thursday, with accusations flying over ballistic missiles and human rights.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Washington of touching off a new arms race with its plans to set up a missile defence shield in Europe.

Putin said Russia's

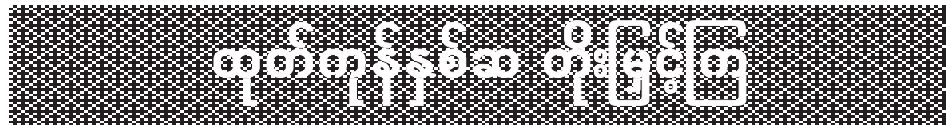
testing of new inter-continental and cruise missiles earlier this week was "aimed at maintaining the balance of forces in the world." "Our partners are filling Eastern Europe with new weapons," he told reporters in Moscow in a joint news conference with Greek President Carolos Papoulias.

"What are we supposed to do? We cannot just observe all this. In our

opinion, it is nothing different from 'diktat,' nothing different from imperialism."

Washington is currently discussing deployment of parts of the system with Poland and the Czech Republic. The White House denied that a new Cold War is beginning and said the system is designed to defend allies vulnerable to ballistic missiles.

Internet



Students of a martial art school perform at a ceremony to mark the 160 anniversary of Chinese presence in Cuba, in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 30 May, 2007. —XINHUA

## Iraqi civilian deaths up sharply in May

BAGHDAD, 31 May—Iraq's civilian death toll grew sharply in May despite an ongoing push to pacify the Iraqi capital, reversing a similar steep decline in April, an Interior Ministry official said Thursday.

Figures compiled by the country's health, defence and interior ministries showed 1,949 civilians were killed in the past month, up 30 percent from 1,501 deaths recorded in April, the official said. May's toll also topped the 1,872 civilian deaths recorded in March and 1,646 in February.

The new totals include 746 bodies found dumped on the streets of Baghdad

— a hallmark of the sectarian warfare that has wracked the country for more than a year. Twenty-nine of those turned up on Thursday alone. Another 2,023 civilians were wounded, according to the Interior Ministry count.

Internet



A logo of Toyota Motor Corp's vehicle is seen at a showroom in Tokyo in 9 May, 2007 file photo. Toyota Motor Corp had the most efficient North American manufacturing plants in 2006, an annual benchmark survey released on 31 May, 2007 showed. — INTERNET

## Ten soldiers killed in Thai blast

BANGKOK, 31 May—At least 10 soldiers have been killed in a bomb attack by suspected militants in southern Thailand, officials say.

The roadside bomb struck an army vehicle carrying around 12 soldiers as it drove through the province of Yala, the

deputy governor said.

The attack is one of the worst in the region in recent years. The soldiers caught in the blast in Yala were returning from a mission to negotiate with protesters in another district, a Thai Army spokesman said.

"After the troops moved

them and were returning back to their base, a roadside bomb exploded, severely damaging the pickup truck and killing eight soldiers instantly," Colonel Acra Tiproch said.

Two others were reported to have died on the way to hospital.

Internet

## Official says Britons' captors posed as government workers, overpowered guards

BAGHDAD, 31 May—The kidnappers who seized five Britons and two Iraqis on Tuesday were posing as guards and government workers on official business, Iraqi Finance Minister Bayan Jabr said Friday. When they arrived at the finance ministry building, a computer and technology centre far from the ministry's headquarters, some were wearing Iraqi Security Force uniforms and others were in civilian clothing with Integrity Commission badges, Jabr said. The commission's role is to battle government corruption.

The building was secured by guards from the Facility Protection Services who were not qualified, Jabr said.

He said he was told four British security guards were outside the room where a western computer expert was giving a lecture. The kidnappers overpowered the guards, then went into the room and seized the expert, he said.—Internet

## Light-fingered Japanese thieves nab 80 kilos gold tub

TOKYO, 1 June—Japanese police are scratching their heads over how a gold bathtub worth 120 million yen (988,100 US dollars) and weighing some 80 kilos was stolen from a hotel near Tokyo.

Staff discovered early on Wednesday that someone had stolen the tub from a shared bathroom for men on the 10th floor of the hotel in Kamogawa, by the Pacific Ocean.

But police said they found no signs that the heavy bathtub had been dragged out of the hotel.

"The door to the room had been locked with chains, but the chains were found cut off this morning," a police spokesman said.

"We really don't know how this happened at this stage. But what we can assume now is that more than one person was involved in this incident."

A similar bathtub in the hotel's shared bathroom for women is still in place, he said.

MNA/Reuters



A full-size model of a Dryosaurus walks past the Australian Museum during a media event in central Sydney on 31 May, 2007. The 3-metre-long body puppet of the dinosaur appears in a theatrical performance that aims to recreate a prehistoric Australian landscape as it was millions of years ago. — XINHUA



Spain's Queen Sofia talks to a disabled child during her visit to the International Children's Safety Centre in Fot, 15 km (9 miles) north of Budapest, on 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET

### Hepburn's film costume auctioned for \$192,000

BEIJING, 31 May — A pink cocktail dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" was auctioned for 192,000 US dollars in New York on Wednesday, more than six times its estimated value.

The sleeveless dress, worn for the scene in

which Holly Golightly discovers her brother has died, went to a private European buyer, Christie's auction house said in a statement.

The more famous little black dress Hepburn wore in the film sold for more than 800,000 dollars in London last year.

Among other lots in Wednesday's memorabilia auction was Marilyn Monroe's script for

*In this undated photo released by Christies Auction House, a pink cocktail dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' is shown.*

INTERNET

*Women perform group exercise at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 31 May, 2007. Thousands of participants took part in the "Harmonious China, Welcome Olympics" event aimed at promoting the Beijing 2008 Olympics.*

INTERNET



## ဝက်မှစွမ်းသား ရေထိကျော်ဖွား

### Contact lens solution recalled after fears of infections

LONDON, 1 June—A contact lens solution is being recalled in the UK amid fears it can cause serious eye infections. Complete Moisture Plus was pulled from shelves in the United States six days ago, after a warning from the US

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. US officials linked the lens solution to acanthamoeba keratitis — a painful eye infection that in rare cases can lead to blindness. Advanced Medical Optics, which makes the solution, is now rolling

out its voluntary recall globally as a precaution. The CDC and the US Food and Drug Administration are investigating 138 confirmed cases of eye infections in the US, but no problems have been reported in the UK.

Internet

### Roof collapse kills 16 villagers in Inner Mongolia

HOHHOT, 31 May—Sixteen people have died and 14 others are injured after a roof fell in on guests gathered in a newly-built house of a villager in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the

local government said Wednesday. The house belonged to Yang Hongyi from Wulanji Villager near Tongliao City in the eastern part of the region.

On Tuesday afternoon

at about 5.30 pm, Yang was treating about fifty villagers who had helped him build the house to a banquet when the roof suddenly fell in on them.

More than 40 people were trapped under the collapsed beams, rescuers said, but some managed to free themselves.

A probe into the cause of the accident is underway, according to the local government.

MNA/Xinhua

### PC maker Dell to cut 7,000 jobs

WASHINGTON, 31 May —At least 7,000 jobs are set to be lost at computer firm Dell after it said it would cut its global workforce by 10%.

The PC maker has struggled with falling sales and rising costs, prompting founder Michael Dell to take direct charge of the firm earlier this year.

Mr Dell said the job losses would be "difficult" but stressed they were

critical if the firm was to deliver better value to customers.

The US firm employs more than 78,700 staff worldwide. —Internet

### NATO forces say crashed helicopter may shot down by Afghan militants

KABUL, 31 May —A NATO helicopter, which crashed on Wednesday night in southern Afghanistan, maybe was shot down by Taliban militants, NATO forces here said Thursday.

"Initial reports are that enemy fire may have brought down the helicopter, although the incident is still being investigated," the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a latest statement.

This is the first time that ISAF publicly accepted the ISAF helicopter perhaps was brought down by hostile fire. In earlier statements, ISAF said the cause for the crash was still unknown.

An ISAF Chinook helicopter went down in Kajaki district of Helmand province at about 9 pm

(1630 GMT) on Wednesday, killing all seven soldiers, including five Americans, on board.

Shortly after the crash, a Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi claimed it was Taliban fighters who brought down the Chinook.

Helicopters of ISAF and the US-led coalition forces have crashed in this volatile country from time to time.

The Taliban usually swiftly claimed responsibility for shooting them down.

Internet



*A NATO military helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing seven NATO soldiers on board, the military said on early Thursday, while the Taliban claimed responsibility for shooting it down.*

XINHUA

## ECONOMIC NEWS

## Indonesia provides tax break to oil refinery

JAKARTA, 31 May — Indonesia provides tax break to oil refinery to beef up competitiveness, in a bid to boost oil production, the Chief of Capital Investment Coordinating Agency (BKPM) Muhammad Lutfi said here Wednesday.

Lutfi told reporters after accompanying President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in welcoming the visiting Prime Minister of the State of the Kuwait

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah that Indonesia had had a legal ground for providing the tax incentives, the government law number one 2007.

“The tax allowance has already kicked off. (Investors) only need to apply,” he said.

The chief of the agency said that, so far the oil sector has not been included in the industry that got the tax

facility, but its inclusion would be done at the next two months.

“The oil refinery will be included in (the sector that got the tax break) on a meeting in July,” he said.

Many oil investors had built refineries in Singapore which provided better incentives and oil price, said Lutfi.

In dealing with the request of the investors from Kuwait on the building of refinery in Selayar of Indonesia's South Sulawesi Province, the OPEC's second-smallest producer, Indonesia, would give tax break for them, he said.

Indonesia's crude oil output fell by 1.5 per cent to 838,900 barrels per day in April from March due to technical problems at several wells.

MNA/Xinhua

## EU, OPEC officials hold talks on energy policies

BRUSSELS, 31 May — Officials from the European Union and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Wednesday held roundtable talks on their energy policies.

During the one-day meeting, participants from both sides exchanged views on the energy outlook till 2030.

They noted that, according to various reliable studies, there are enough conventional and non-conventional oil resources to meet demand.

However, the roundtable meeting was mainly intended to serve as a platform for the EU and OPEC to be better informed of each other's

energy policies.

The EU, one of the world's largest oil consumers, wanted more information from the 12-nation OPEC on future energy supplies, while the oil producers are seeking an explanation on how EU policies, such as a newly-set target to increase renewable energy use, will affect demand for oil and gas.

EU officials introduced the EU's energy, transport and climate policies, while OPEC and some of its member countries made presentations about their capacity expansion objectives and market-stabilization measures.

MNA/Xinhua



Models present creations from Karl Lagerfeld Bridal collection at Barcelona

Bridal Week fashion show on 29 May, 2007. — INTERNET

## US-Cuba trade continues despite blockade

HAVANA, 31 May — US businessmen and the Cuban Food Imports Company (Alimport) on Wednesday signed contracts worth 100 million US dollars, Cuban media reported on

Wednesday.

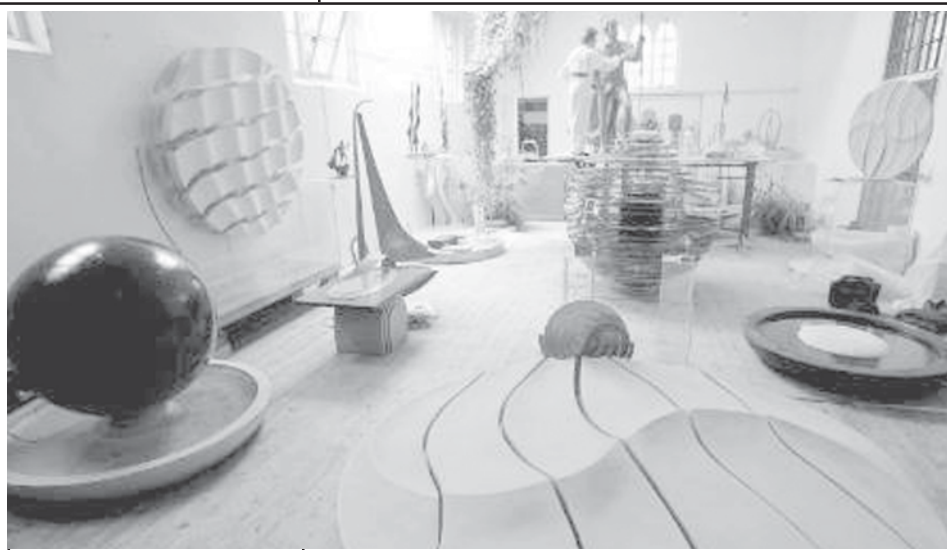
Some 260 business people representing 114 companies from 25 US states started talks with Cuban companies on Monday.

Cuba spent more than

500 million dollars last year buying mostly staple food for Cuba's 11 million citizens. Alimport director general, Pedro Alvarez, told the meeting that without the 46-year-old US-Cuba trade embargo such trade would triple. He estimated the embargo has cost it 86 billion US dollars.

The United States lifted an agricultural trade ban with Cuba after Hurricane Michelle lashed the island in November 2001. Alvarez said that total trade had now topped 2.4 billion dollars and moved more than 7.8 million tons of food, including rice, beans, corn, cereal, eggs and chicken.

MNA/Xinhua



British sculptor Angela Conner works on a commission of actor Laurence Olivier in her studio in west London on 31 May, 2007. The celebrated artist will complete the figure by September to be installed on London's south bank to mark Olivier's 100th birthday year. — INTERNET

File photo shows a man reading a poster about bird flu at a hospital in Jakarta. A 45-year-old man has died from bird flu in Indonesia, taking the death toll in the nation worst hit by the virus to 78, a health ministry official said on 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET

## Bilateral trade between Algeria, EU registers huge imbalance

ALGIERS, 31 May — Algeria's exports to Europe remained low due to rapid increase of imports across the other side of the Mediterranean coast, after the signing of Algeria-European Union (EU) association ag-

reement in September 2005, Said Djellab, an official of Algerian Trade Ministry was quoted as saying by local Press on Wednesday.

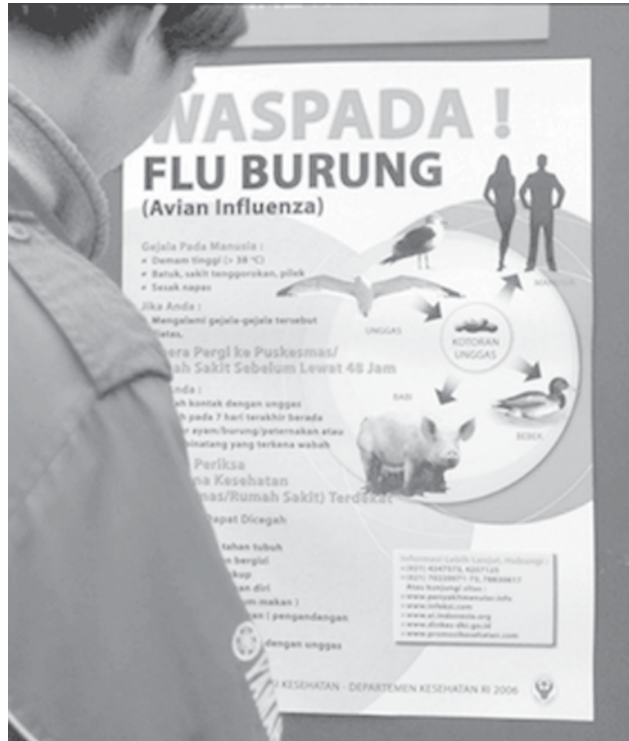
The first four months of 2007 were once again marked by a significant increase of imports from Europe of 18 per cent compared with the same period the previous year, he said.

The coming into force of Algeria-European Union association ag-

reement notably enabled the EU to consolidate itself on the Algerian market, which is currently standing at a total of 55 per cent, Djellab said.

He attributed this trade imbalance between Algeria and Europe notably to “EU's protectionist policy, standards imposed on export products and agricultural subsidies practised openly by various EU member countries”.

MNA/Xinhua



## Russia welcomes Global anti-nuke Terrorism Initiative

Moscow, 31 May — Russia welcomes the decision of Stockholm and Bratislava to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and hopes that the country will make an impressive contribution to the implementation of this initiative, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

“Sweden and Slovakia have officially informed Russia and the United States, as the Global Initiative’s co-chairs, that they support the Statement of Initiative Principles,” an official of the ministry was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying, adding that the number of the Initiative member countries has thus reached 39.

The Global Initiative was declared by the presidents of Russia and the United States, Vladimir Putin and George W Bush, during the summit of the Group of Eight near St. Petersburg in July 2006, he said.

According to the official, since this event, the founders

of the Initiative (G-8 member states, as well as Australia, Turkey, China, Kazakhstan, and Morocco) have met twice in the capitals of Morocco and Turkey.

“The first meeting of the Initiative member countries in Rabat in October 2006 adopted

statutory documents of the Global Initiative — the statement on principles and provisions on realization and appraisal,” the diplomat said. “During the second meeting in Ankara this February, the parties approved the action plan for 2007-2008,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 30 May, 2007 shows the newly-decorated China Town in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 30 May, 2007. A ceremony to mark the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chinese presence kicked off on Wednesday in Havana. —XINHUA

## Saudi prisoner kills self at Guantanamo

MIAMI, 1 June — A Saudi Arabian prisoner died of an apparent suicide at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base on Wednesday, the US military said.

“The detainee was

found unresponsive and not breathing in his cell by guards. The detainee was pronounced dead by a physician after all lifesaving measures had been exhausted” the US Southern Command in

Miami said in a statement.

The military did not indicate how the prisoner died nor release his name. He is the fourth detainee to die of apparent suicide at the detention camp, which opened in January 2002 and holds about 380 foreign terrorist suspects on the US naval base in southeastern Cuba.

Three other prisoners — two Saudis and a Yemeni — hanged themselves with clothing and bedding in their cells last June and their deaths are still under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. —MNA/Reuters

## Petrobras announces first ethanol shipment to Nigeria

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 May — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas company Petrobras announced on Wednesday that it has successfully ended the negotiations of an ethanol supply agreement with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), under which it will export the first shipment of anhydrous fuel alcohol to Nigeria.

According to the company’s Press statement, the negotiations were the follow-up to a memorandum of understanding, which Petrobras and NNPC signed in August 2005, aiming at

implementing the programme to add 10 per cent ethanol to all gasoline traded in Nigeria.

Petrobras’ proposal included product sales, technical support for mixing ethanol, handling procedures and NNPC employee training.

The Brazilian company also said that in the next few weeks the first 20-million-litre shipment will be loaded at the Ilha D’Agua Terminal, in Rio de Janeiro, and unloaded in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria.

The oil and gas giant added that it currently still has no plans to invest in the construction of ethanol production plants in Nigeria, or even in facilities to store, handle or mix ethanol to gasoline in that country. —MNA/Xinhua

A prototype for the new model of the ‘Miuro’ robot is on display in Tokyo on 31 May, 2007. —INTERNET

France’s daredevil climber Alain Robert climbs up the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai on 31 May, 2007. Clad in a Spider-Man costume, French climber Robert on Thursday scaled the 88-storey Jin Mao Tower, China’s tallest building, and was met by cheering crowds and Shanghai law enforcement officers on the ground. — INTERNET



## Indonesian Navy plane skids off runway

JAKARTA, 31 May — A Cassa 212 aircraft belonging to the Indonesian Navy skidded off the runway during a landing at Osibil Airport in the easternmost province of Papua Wednesday, injuring none.

The plane with four people onboard broke its landing gear and the tip of the left wing.

Colonel Ismono, commander of the naval airbase in the provincial capital of Jayapura, said the plane was carrying one ton of food supplies for soldiers stationed in rural areas when the incident occurred.

Investigation is underway to find the cause of the incident, he was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying. The weather was reportedly good when the plane ran out 10 metres of the runway, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Iran rejects preconditions in nuclear talks

MADRID, 31 May — Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said on Wednesday Iran would not accept any preconditions in talks on its nuclear enrichment programme. Speaking at a Press conference upon his arrival in Madrid for talks with European Union (EU) officials that Iran was willing for “other nations, like France” to take part in negotiations to resolve the contentious nuclear programme.

“Given the transparency and the logic we have shown, the presence of any other nations is welcome,” said Larijani, who is set to meet here with EU foreign policy

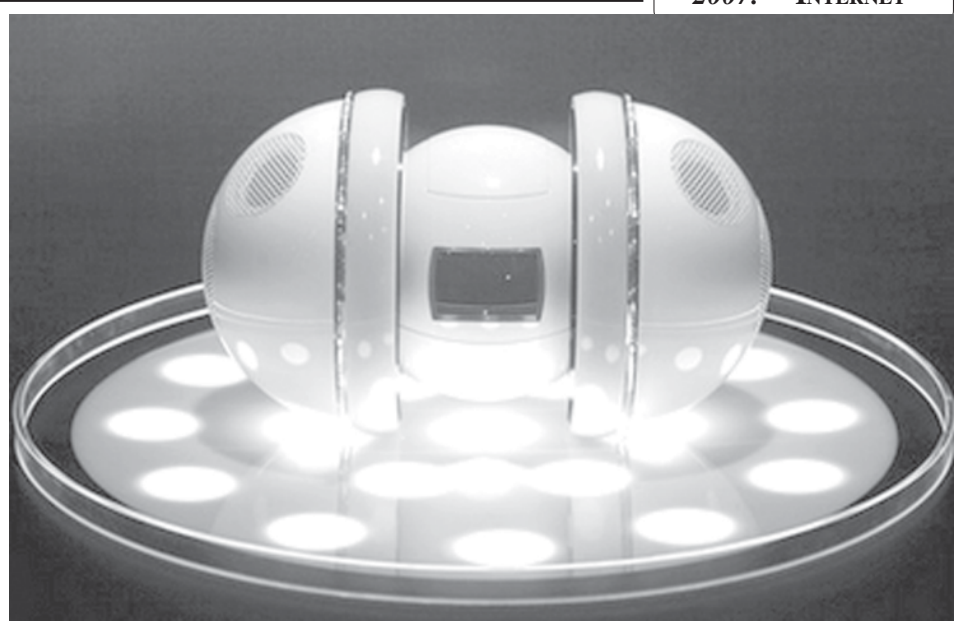
chief Javier Solana on Thursday.

Asked about the planned meeting with Solana, Larijani said: “There are lessons to learn

about past conversations.”

“There are certain countries that are trying to prevent negotiations from happening,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua



## Cosmonauts venture out to reinforce space station

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 1 June — Two Russian crew members ventured out from the *International Space Station* on Wednesday to install metal shields designed to protect the vulnerable research outpost from the impact of orbital debris.

Station commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and flight engineer Oleg Kotov floated out of an airlock on the Russian side of the station at 3:05 pm EDT (19:05 GMT), about an hour later than planned due to a glitch with communications equipment.

They were back inside about five and a half

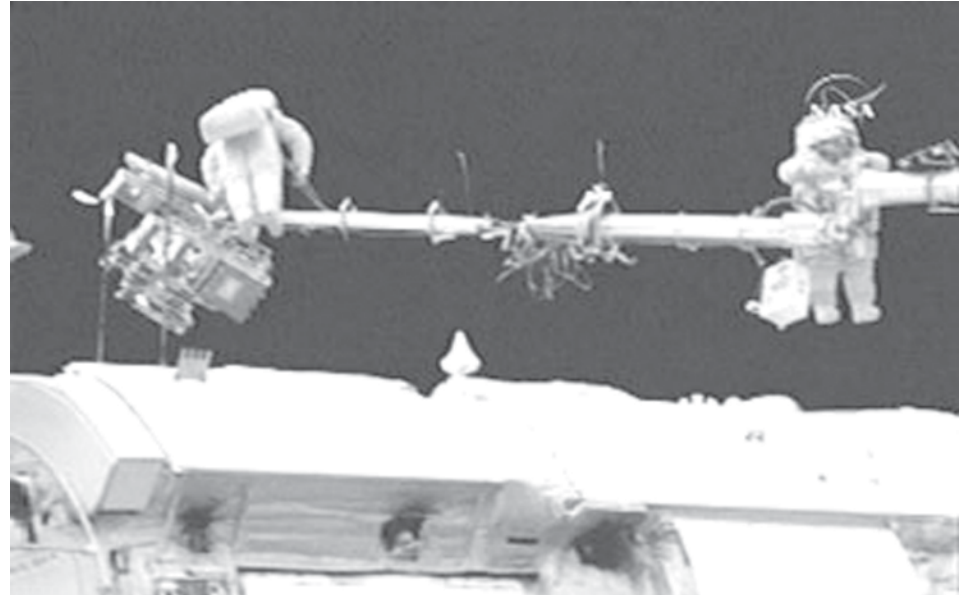
hours later.

During the outing, the cosmonauts fitted five aluminum debris impact shields to the forward part of the crew's living quarters, a Russian-built module known as *Zvezda* that has been in orbit seven years. The shields measuring about 2 feet by 3 feet (0.6 metre by 0.9

metre) and weigh between 15 and 20 pounds (6.8 and 9.0 kg).

Yurchikhin and Kotov also rerouted cables for satellite navigation equipment that will be needed when Europe's unmanned cargo ship makes its debut flight to the station later this year.

MNA/Reuters



*International Space Station Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin (R) and Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov extend the Strela boom during their spacewalk on 30 May, 2007. The spacewalkers will install Service Module Debris Protection (SMDP) panels on the Zvezda service module and reroute a Global Positioning System antenna cable during their estimated six-hour spacewalk.*  
XINHUA



*Police officers of the Special Action Force (SAF) rescue bus passengers during a mock-hostage drill at police headquarters in Taguig city, south of Manila on 31 May, 2007. The SAF is a elite unit of the Philippine police and used for counter-terrorism, hostage rescue, crowd control, search and rescue and disturbance management in times of national disaster or emergencies.*

INTERNET

## Burglar snatches 103-year-old woman's engagement ring

LONDON, 1 June — Police have condemned a burglar who stole the engagement ring from the finger of a 103-year-old woman as a "coward".

The thief snatched the ring worn by Florence Heyes for the past 57 years after entering her flat in Manchester early on Saturday pretending to be a police officer. He asked for money and jewellery before taking the ring.

A spokeswoman for Manchester Police said: "This is one of the oldest victims of crime we have had to deal with. That a criminal could target a woman of this age is despicable."

MNA/Reuters

## Heat kills UAE toddler trapped in parked car

DUBAI, 1 June — A three-year-old boy died from the heat after locking

himself in a parked car while playing in the United Arab Emirates.

The boy sneaked into his father's car in the city of al-Ain at noon when the temperature averages around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"The tragic incident was the result of exposure to extreme heat after staying for a long time inside the car," the official WAM news agency quoted a civil defence officer as saying on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

## US FDA approves new drug for advanced kidney cancer

WASHINGTON, 1 June — The US Food and Drug Administration approved Torisel (temsirolimus) for the treatment of a certain type of advanced kidney cancer known as renal cell carcinoma, according to a statement released Wednesday by FDA.

Torisel, which is manufactured by Philadelphia-based Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Inc, was approved based on a study that showed use of the drug prolonged survival of patients with renal cell carcinoma. The drug is an enzyme inhibitor, a

protein that regulates cell production, growth and survival.

Torisel is the third drug approved for battling against kidney cancer in the past 18 months. In December 2005, FDA approved Nexavar (sorafenib), which was based on a delay in progression of disease. In January 2006, Sutent (sunitinib) received accelerated approval based on durable response rate, or tumour size reduction, and was later demonstrated to delay tumour progression.

MNA/Xinhua



*One of the Smithsonian National Zoo's three newly acquired cheetahs explores their outdoor yard for the first time as they are introduced to the media at the zoo in Washington on 31 May, 2007. The three two-year old cheetahs were transferred from White Oak Conservation Centre in Yulee, Florida to be a part of the National Zoo's participation in the nation's cheetah breeding programme. — INTERNET*

## Air hostesses told to shed weight

NEW DELHI, 1 June — An Indian court has ruled against a group of female flight attendants who were grounded from the national airline for being overweight.

The court said that state-owned Indian Airlines had the right to take the step in the interest of flight safety and in the face of growing competition.

The flight attendants had argued that the move was demeaning.

The airline began a system of measuring air hostesses based on their height and weight last year.

The Delhi High Court has ruled in favour of the airline, saying that with aircraft flying at higher altitudes, the safety of the passengers depended on the crew's ability to perform.

"No airline can afford to remain lax in any department whatsoever, be it the personality of the crew members of their physical fitness," Justice Rekha Sharma said.

Internet

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects ...

(from page 1)

Later, they also took part in growing of physic nut plant near Myoma village of Minkin Township and greeted the residents. A total of 5,000 physic nut plants were grown on four acres of land. They inspected repair of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road and gave instructions there. The tarred road is 115-long and 18 feet wide.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party

went to Htantabin Kwin physic nut garden in Laport Sanpya village in Kani Township and grew physic nut plants. They greeted residents and students.

They then inspected Puhtoelon bridge, which is 450 feet by 28 feet and the reinforced concrete one. Next, they visited 4,400 acres of physic nut plantation of Tin Win Tun Company. Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on growing of physic nuts of the company by Manager

U Aung Kyaw Moe of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and U Thein Aung of the company.

At physic nut plantation of Myanmar Agriculture Service, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on growing of physic nut plants on 1,000-acre by Manager U Khin Maung Latt of MAS. MAS will cultivate 300 acres of physic nut in 2007, 300 acres in 2008 and 400 acres in 2009.

They continued to physic nut plantation of Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard re-

ports on cultivation of physic nut by Division USDA secretary Dr U Win Myin Aung.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also oversaw physic nut plantation of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee. At the physic nut plantation of local station, Captain Aung Myint Khine reported on growing of physic nut at the station to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

They inspected special zone 180-acre physic nut plantation of local station and went to 110-acre physic nut plantation of Sagaing Division War Veterans Organiza-

tion. They looked into 100-acre physic nut plantation of Sagaing Division Immigration and National Registration Department.

They later pro-

A total of 158,688 acres of physic nut have been cultivated in Sagaing Division.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw 120-

**In Monywa special zone, entrepreneurs, departments, private companies and local stations grew 175,000 acres of physic nut in 2006 and will grow 175,000 acres of physic nut in 2007 and 150,000 acres of physic nut in 2008. A total of 158,688 acres of physic nut have been cultivated in Sagaing Division.**

ceeded to physic nut plantation of local station and looked into thriving physic

acre physic nut plantation of local station and 100 acres of physic nut plantation of Prisons Department. They went to 100 acres of physic nut plantation of Forest Department and viewed the plantation.

Afterwards, they inspected 100 acres of physic nut plantation of Irrigation Department. They attended a ceremony to grow physic nut of Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization and Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee at mile post-24 of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road and greeted residents and social organizations.

They inspected 1,425 acres of physic nut plantation of local station. On arrival at No 7 dam of Irrigation Department, they inspected the dam, which was built to irrigate farm lands, to supply drinking water and greening tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to physic nut plantation of local station and inspected growing of physic nut at the plantation. They spent the night at Monywa.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views dredging of drain in Thakayta Township.—MNA

## Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 16)

Head of Health Department Dr Aung Than of YCDC. Head of Township Health Department Dr Khin Than Aye also reported on infection of DHF in wards and prevention against the disease.

Officials also presented reports on participation of the local people and members of social organizations together with officials in taking prevention against DHF in the township and dredging of drains for prevention of the floods.

In his instructions, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to check 14 sluice gates of the township and to construct more sluice gates at necessary places. Officials are to carry out sanitation for proper flow of water at drains.

The mayor reported on arrangements for sanitation tasks and

dredging of drains.

The commander also instructed officials to strive for prevention against DHF and dysentery in Yangon Division and continue four hygienic tasks at schools.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that at present, all the people could keep Yangon City green and beautiful. Furthermore, all are to take part in building the city as a clean and hygienic one. Township Executive Officers are to make efforts for maintenance of roads, cultivation of flowery plants and improvement of health sector in their townships.

In addition, they are to organize local people to participate in building the hygienic environment. Officials, workers of YCDC and social organizations are to join hands with the people in taking preventive measures against the

diseases.

They visited the Ward 5 PDC Office where the educative talks on prevention of DHF and dysentery was being given to the people. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed participation of local people in prevention of DHF in the ward.

They inspected

MNA

dredging of the drain being undertaken by YCDC at the outlet near Shukhintha Road.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected dredging of drains in Thingangyun and Tamway Townships and left necessary instructions to officials.

## CSSTD observes 54th anniversary celebration

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — The Civil Service Selection and Training Department held the ceremony to mark the 54th Anniversary of the department at the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, here, this morning.

Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than Nyun extended greetings.

CSSTB member U Win Aung delivered an address. Director-General U Hla Kyi of the department explained the history of the department.

Chairman Dr Than Nyun presented certificates of honour and cash to 10 officers and staff who have been discharging duties at the department for above-30 years.

Also present on the occasion were CSSTB members U Soe Oo, U Nyi Tun and U Kyaw Aung, directors-general and service personnel. — MNA

## Mine injures villager of Shwegyin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — A local of Southern Village in Shwegyin Township lost his right foot as he stepped on a mine planted by insurgents on 28 May. The incident happened as the victim, Charlie, 20, son of U Aye Lwin, went into the woods to collect some fruits at about 9 am.

The victim was rushed to Shwegyin Township People's Hospital and provided with medical treatment and all necessary assistance. Authorities concerned in collaboration with the local people are in hot pursuit of the insurgents. — MNA



# All can visualize image of forthcoming nation thanks to State's seven-step Road Map

## Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 12 concludes

YANGON, 1 June—The conclusion of Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 12 of Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the training school of USDA in Hmawby Township today.

It was attended by Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo, CEC Member of USDA Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials of USDA Headquarters, course instructors and trainees.

In his concluding speech, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo said it is the goal of the people to build a peaceful, modern, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

All national brethren are to work together to achieve the national goal. Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of the Sovereignty are the national duties of the State.

Twelve political, economic and social objectives laid down by the State are practical ways to reach the national goal. We have set the definite goal and practical tasks that pave the way for reaching the goal. Thanks to the collective efforts of the



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo delivers an address at concluding of Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 12. — MNA

Government, the Tatmadaw and the people, the State has achieved developments in all sectors.

The nation building task is to be carried out continuously and passed on from generation to generation. Now, we are implementing the task to realize the national goal of the people in the future. Thanks to the systematic implementation of the task, peace and stability have prevailed across the country.

The USDA, which is constituted with youths with the patriotic spirit, was formed over 13 years ago. It has been participating in implementing the nation building tasks in accordance with the association's future tasks.

Members of the association are from all walks of life and they are

actively taking part in implementing the welfare tasks across the country.

The people has also joined hands with USDA members in implementing welfare tasks. The number of the association's members has reached nearly 24 million. There are 15,334 village USDAs, 320 township USDAs, 66 district USDAs and 17 Division and State USDAs.

Training courses have been conducted to improve the skills of the members of USDA. The Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course is designed to train the association's members so that they can serve in the interests of the State and the people effectively. During the course, trainees received skills for building a new nation as well as sought

ways for implementing welfare tasks in their respective regions.

The trainees are qualified enough to play a leading role in various sectors for development of respective regions, he said, calling for creating healthy conditions for the regions.

He highlighted the importance of perpetual existence and sustainable progress of a new nation. In this context, the government is paying special attention to necessary infrastructures.

It is also trying its utmost for equitable development of all parts of the nation. The association lays down future plans annually to contribute towards the drive, he said.

Now, all can visualize the image of the forthcoming nation thanks to the State's seven-step Road Map the government is undertaking for emergence of an enduring constitution in the interests of the nation and the people.

He called for

collaborative efforts for enhancing already-achieved success of stability and peace, the fundamental requirement for building a new nation. Members will be able to take part in the drive only when they well equip themselves with nationalistic fervour, he pointed out.

It is required to be vigilant against the acts of those with negative attitude due to selfishness, personality cult, dogmatism and sectarianism because such persons are attempting to destabilize the State under the pretext of social services and business, and manufacturing made-up and exaggerated news stories in complicity with certain groups in exile to mislead the people into misunderstanding the government.

Members are to make the people see such unfruitful as they really are, and to work together with congenial social organizations in

endeavoring to find out requirements of the region concerned.

In conclusion, he urged the trainees to apply the knowledge gained from the course and their experiences in combination to become competent information officers and organizers in perpetual service of the people; to make prevailing situations and the government's endeavours known to the people and organize them to participate in regional and national development tasks; to work harder with positive attitude for ensuring stability and greater development of the State; to uplift dynamism of patriotic spirit of the people; to help the people to be vigilant against destructive acts harming nation-building tasks; and to see to the State's seven-step Road Map in cooperation with the people.

The term of the course was four weeks.—MNA



Delegates of Third Meeting of ASEAN+3 of Networking of East Asia Cultural Heritage (NEACH) and First Meeting of Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural & Art Working Group on Networking on ASEAN Cultural Heritage (NACH) visit handicraft industry in Mandalay. — MNA

## Cultural delegates visit ancient buildings in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—The delegates of the Third Meeting of ASEAN+3 of Networking of East Asia Cultural Heritage (NEACH) and the First Meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural & Art Working Group on Networking on ASEAN Cultural Heritage (NACH), accompanied by Chairman of Myanmar-ASEAN Culture and

Information National Committee Director-General U Sann Win of the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department, visited Myanmar handicraft industries in Mandalay this morning.

They visited Daw Su Silk Wear Industry, U Sein Myint Embroidery Industry and Shwehninzi

Gold Foil Industry.

On 31 May evening, the delegates visited Maha Muni Buddha Image and offered gold foils to the Buddha image. Next, they visited Kuthodaw Pagoda.

At Shwenandaw Kyaung, they viewed the building decorated with Myanmar handicraft.

MNA

## World No-Tobacco Day 2007...

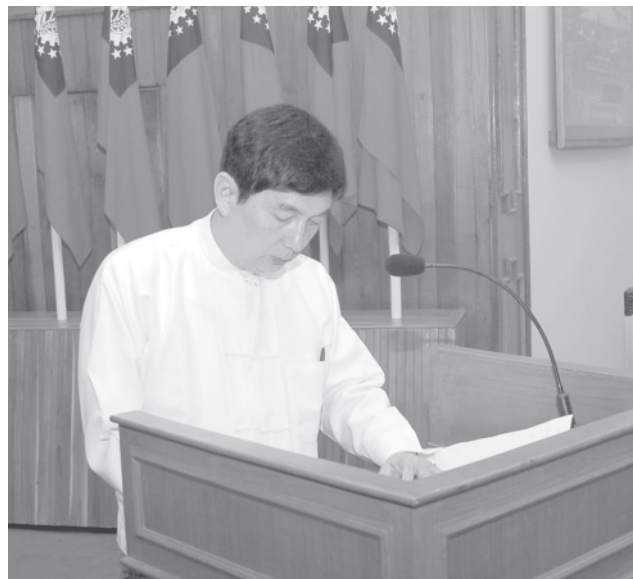
(from page 16)

of death rate will increase in developing countries within 30 years.

A total of 800 million children out of 2,000 million in the world are expected to become smokers in adulthood, and a one-third of them can die before adult due to the danger of tobacco. Indeed, the smoking is hazardous to health and causes economic and social hardships to the smokers.

Afterwards, Resident Representative of WHO Professor Adik Wibowo read the message sent by the WHO SEA regional director.

Later, those present visited the World No-Tobacco Day Booth. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an address at ceremony to mark World-No Tobacco Day 2007. — MNA



Resident Representative of WHO Prof Adik Wibowo reads out the message sent by the regional director of WHO SEA. — MNA

## Six Taleban militants killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 June — The US-led coalition and Afghan forces killed six Taleban insurgents early Wednesday in Nangarhar Province of eastern Afghanistan, a coalition statement said.

The forces carried out an operation against a compound in mountains west of Jalalabad City, the provincial capital, which was suspected of housing local Taleban fighters, the statement said.

As the forces were approaching the compound, militants inside opened fire and a conflict broke out, it added.

Six militants were killed in the clash, and four others were arrested, according to the statement.

There were no casualties of civilians and coalition soldiers, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

## World No-Tobacco Day 2007 observed in Yangon Division

YANGON, 1 June — The ceremony to mark the World No-Tobacco Day 2007 was observed at Mya Nyila Hall of No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai, members of MCWA and social organizations.

After delivering an address, the commander presented prizes to basic health staff in the quiz in commemoration of the World No-Tobacco Day 2007.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents award to a winner. — MNA

Division MCWSC also gave prizes to MCWA and Red Cross members of townships in Yangon Division in the quiz.

Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint read the message sent by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. Next, Deputy Law Officer U Nyunt Sein of Yangon

Division Law Office explained matters related to Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law.

Later, a documentary video on health education were presented to those present.

MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai presents award to a winner. — MNA

## Putin says missile test response to US moves

MOSCOW, 1 June — Russia's test firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday was in response to US steps that have sparked an arms race and undermined world security, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"Our American partners have left the ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty.

We have warned them then that we will come out with a response to maintain the strategic balance in the world," Putin told a news conference.

"We conducted a test of a new strategic ballistic missile with multiple warheads, and of a new cruise missile, and will continue to improve our resources."

"We are not the initiators of this new round of the arms race," said Putin. "(Our partners) are stuffing Eastern Europe with new weapons.

A new base in Bulgaria, another in Romania, a site in Poland, radar in the Czech Republic... What are we supposed to do? We cannot just observe all this." Russia test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday featuring multiple warheads that senior officials said could pierce any missile defence system, including the planned US shield in Europe.

Russia says the US missile defence shield is a threat to its security and will change the strategic balance in Europe, but Washington dismisses such fears, saying the shield is intended to counter "rogue states".

MNA/Reuters

## Top surgeon chosen as Latvia's new president

RIGA, 1 June — Latvia's Parliament on Thursday backed a leading surgeon who has been criticized for taking cash presents from patients as the country's new president.

Valdis Zatlers, who had the backing of the four-party government coalition but is a political novice, will replace Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Eastern Europe's first female president.

He won 58 votes of 98 ballots cast in the 100-seat House, beating ex-constitutional court judge Aivars Endzins. His supporters have said under-the-counter payments from patients are common in Latvia and did not mean he was corrupt.

Zatlers is expected to preserve the pro-Western stance of a country which has been a European Union and NATO member since 2004.

He has criticized the government for not doing enough to dampen inflation, which has soared amid strong economic growth.

The President in Latvia has limited but important legislative powers and is a key voice for the country abroad. — MNA/Reuters



Students practise martial arts at a Wushu school in Longtan county in east China's Jiangsu Province on 30 May, 2007. About 100 students, mostly between the ages of 8 and 13, learn martial arts as well as cultural courses at the school. — INTERNET

## Ethiopian elephants, lions at risk as forest cut

ADDIS ABABA, 1 June — A thousand rare black-maned lions — an Ethiopian national symbol — and some 300 elephants are in danger after a swathe of forest in their sanctuary was cut down, a wildlife expert said on Thursday.

The land was cleared from a conservation area at Midiga Tola, adjacent to the Babile Elephant Sanctuary located 560 kilometers (350 miles)

east of Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Wildlife Association President Yirmed Demeke said.

Flora EcoPower Holding AG, a German biodiesel producer based in Munich, cleared the forest after it was granted 10,000 hectares of land by the government, Yirmed said.

“The company has continued to clear the forested land without any

concern for the wild animals threatened by the destruction of an internationally recognized conservation area,” Yirmed said.

Flora EcoPower’s Chief Operations Officer for Ethiopia Alon Hovev said the company had met wildlife experts and government officials over the past few days to solve the problem.

MNA/Reuters

## Bangladesh rickshaw-pullers get helping hand

DHAKA, 1 June — Bangladesh rickshaw-pullers and others hurt by a ban on non-motorized transport on certain Dhaka roads will get 15 million US dollars in aid from the World Bank, the Bank said in a statement on Thursday.

About 40,500 adversely affected rickshaw owners, family members, pullers who would like to shift to a new career, and others in poor and vulnerable groups would be provided with microcredit and additional services, the

statement said. “With the help of the microfinance services offered to the rickshaw pullers affected by the non-motorized transport ban, it is expected that they and their families would be able to restore their livelihoods,” said Shamsuddin Ahmed,

the Bank’s senior financial sector specialist and project team leader.

Apart from direct microcredit loans, the borrowers will also be provided with training in technical skills to facilitate career change, the Bank said.

MNA/Reuters



Gypsies sing during Khamoro 2007 World Roma Festival in the centre of Prague on 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET

## Ten hurt as KLM plane hits turbulence

TOKYO, 1 June — Ten people were slightly hurt when a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines passenger plane bound for the Japanese city of Osaka hit turbulence soon after take-off from Amsterdam, officials said on Thursday.

The Boeing-777 KLM Flight 867, with 262 passengers and 14 crew on board, touched down at the Kansai International Airport in Osaka around 09:15 am (0045 GMT) on Thursday, airport officials said.

The passenger plane hit turbulence about two and a half hours after taking off, airline officials said. One official said the pilots had decided to continue the flight rather than make an emergency landing as the injuries did not appear to be serious. — MNA/Reuters

## NASA gives “go” for “Atlantis” on 8 June

WASHINGTON, 1 June — NASA senior managers on Thursday selected 8 June as the official launch date for space shuttle Atlantis, according to a statement released by NASA after the two-day Flight Readiness Review.

Commander Rick Sturckow and his six crewmates are scheduled to be lifted off at 7:38 pm EDT (2338 GMT) on the

STS-117 mission to the International Space Station.

During the 11-day mission and three spacewalks, the crew will work to install a 17-ton segment on the station’s girder-like truss and deploy a set of solar arrays. The mission will increase the power capability of ISS in preparation for the arrival of new science modules

from the European and Japanese space agencies.

A hail storm on 26 February damaged Atlantis’ external fuel tank and delayed the originally planned mid-March. The postponement of Atlantis’ launch forced NASA to cut the expected number of shuttle flights this year from five to four and pushed back the flight schedule for the rest of the year. — MNA/Xinhua

## Four Westerners abducted in S Philippines

MANILA, 1 June — Four Westerners -- two men and two women -- and their driver were taken captive on Thursday by unidentified armed men in the southern Philippines, an Army general said.

Major-General Raymundo Ferrer, commander in the autonomous Muslim region on the southern island of Mindanao, said he had received reports armed men stopped a van carrying the foreigners near Midsayap Town around 9 am (0100 GMT) on Thursday.

“They were tied up and forced onto motorcycles,” Ferrer told Reuters. “We’ve sent troops to investigate and track down the armed group.”

The victims’ nationalities were not immediately available.

MNA/Reuters

## “AP” cameraman killed in Iraq

NEW YORK, 1 June — An Iraqi cameraman working for the Associated Press was shot and killed in Baghdad on Thursday, the US news organization said.

Saif M Fakhry, 26, was shot twice while walking to a mosque near his home on his day off, the agency said in a statement, adding that he was the fifth Associated Press (AP) employee to die violently during the Iraq war.

“Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Saif’s

wife and family and his colleagues in Iraq,” said Tom Curley, AP president and chief executive officer. “This is a particularly dangerous time in a place that already is unimaginably dangerous.”

“Saif’s death reminds us again of the risks and hardships that accompany

vital frontline journalism and of the gratitude we all owe to those who do it,” he said.

Fakhry had worked for AP Television News since August 2004 and is survived by his wife, who is due to give birth to their first child next month, the organization said.

MNA/Reuters



This undated picture from the Tennessee Aquarium shows a primitive form of fish known as a paddlefish. Scientists studying paddlefish determined that primitive fish already may have possessed the genetic wiring needed to grow hands and feet well before the appearance of the first animals with limbs roughly 365 million years ago. — INTERNET



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## Asian cancer rates surge due to Western habits

BEIJING, 31 May — Unhealthy foods, smoking and drinking — all connected to various cancers — will combine with larger populations and fewer deaths from infectious diseases to drive Asian cancer rates up 60 percent by 2020, some experts predict.

But unlike in wealthy countries where advanced medical care is found, there will likely be no prevention or treatment for many living in poor countries.

“What happened in the Western world in the ’60s or ’70s will happen here in the next 10 to 20 years as life expectancy gets longer and we get better control on more common causes of deaths,” said Dr Jatin P Shah, a professor of surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, who attended a cancer

conference last month in Singapore.

“The habit of alcohol consumption, smoking and dietary changes will increase the risk of Western world cancers to the Eastern world,” Shah said.

The effect is already startling, with the Asia-Pacific making up about half of the world’s cancer deaths and logging 4.9 million new cases, or 45 percent, of the global toll in 2002.

That number is expected to surge to 7.8 million by 2020 if nothing changes, according to Dr Donald Max Parkin, a research fellow at the University of Oxford who is a leading authority on global cancer patterns and trends.

A lack of vaccines that prevent cancer-causing viruses is another obstacle for Asia, which is home to

about three-quarters of the world’s liver cancers, caused largely by Hepatitis B infections.

A vaccine guarding against the virus has been available since the early 1980s and is routinely given to children in Western countries, but it is still not reaching large regions of the Asia-Pacific.

“The problem is so huge that it’s very difficult for us to know where to start,” said Dr Franco Cavalli, president of the nonprofit International Union Against Cancer. “All the new cancer treatments are so expensive, that already in the affluent countries we are not able to pay for them. ... So imagine what that means for low-income countries where you have 20 US dollars a year per person for health expenditures.” — *Internet*

## Spend “The Longest Night in Shanghai” in June

BEIJING, 31 May — Modern love story, “The Longest Night in



A poster of “The Longest Night in Shanghai”. Modern love story, “The Longest Night in Shanghai”, starring Chinese mainland actress Vicky Zhao and Japanese heartthrob Masahiro Motoki, is scheduled for a public release on 26 June. — *INTERNET*

Shanghai”, starring heartthrob Masahiro Motoki, is scheduled for a public release on 26 June.

The film is about the encounter of a Japanese hair designer with a Chinese woman taxi driver in the modern metropolis of Shanghai. Longing for a break from the daily routine, they spend a special night together in the modern city. Actress Vicky Zhao described her own role as that of “a sweet heart concealed inside a tough appearance”.

For her performance in the film, she was awarded the most popular actress at the 14th Beijing Student Film Festival in April.

The film is expected to compete at the box office this summer with other blockbusters like “Pirates of the Caribbean III” and “Transformers”. — *Internet*

## Microsoft’s “Surface” a PC in a coffee table

BEIJING, 31 May — Microsoft Corp on Wednesday at a technology conference in Carlsbad, Calif, introduced “Surface,” a coffee-table shaped computer that responds to touch and special bar codes attached to everyday objects.

The interactive computers, which cost between 5,000 US dollars and 10,000 dollars, are due to arrive in November in T-Mobile USA stores and properties owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc and Harrah’s Entertainment Inc.

For all intents and purposes, Surface is a Windows Vista PC tucked inside a shiny black table base, topped with a 30-inch touchscreen in a clear acrylic frame. Five cameras that can sense nearby objects are mounted beneath the screen. Users

can interact with the machine by touching or dragging their fingertips and objects such as paintbrushes across the screen, or by setting real-world items tagged with special bar-code labels on top of it. In the past, Microsoft has concentrated on creating new software, giving computer programmers tools to build applications on its platforms, and left hardware manufacturing to others.

But for now, Microsoft is making the Surface

hardware itself, and has only given six outside software development firms the tools they need to make Surface applications. Matt Rosoff, an analyst at the independent research group Directions on Microsoft, said in an interview that keeping the technology’s inner workings under wraps will limit what early customers — the businesses Microsoft is targeting first with the machine — will be able to do with it.

— *Internet*



Microsoft’s new “Surface” computer is demonstrated by Pete Thompson, general manager, Microsoft Surface Computing (left), Mark Bolger, director of marketing, and product manager Lu Silverstein, in Seattle. — *INTERNET*

## US hunts for some 80 air passengers in TB scare

BEIJING, 31 May — The US health authorities begin a worldwide search for passengers on two trans-Atlantic flights who may have come into contact with a man infected with a potentially deadly form of tuberculosis, media reported on Wednesday.

The US government Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, are seeking around 80 passengers and a further 27 crew members in two flights taken by the infected man, said Dr Martin Cetron, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s division of global migration and quarantine.

Two flights involved Air France AF385 from Atlanta to Paris on 12 May and Czech Air 0104 from Prague to Montreal on 24 May. Other passengers on the flights are not considered at high risk of

infection because tests indicated the amount of TB bacteria in them was “quite low,” Cetron said. The man, who is under the first US government-ordered quarantine since 1963, was infected with a rare case of extreme drug-resistant tuberculosis, or XDR TB.

He told a newspaper he flew from Atlanta to Greece for a wedding and then traveled to Italy for a

honeymoon. Later he flew back to North America for treatment.

He also took several other flights in Greece and Italy, but the health agency stressed that those on these shorter flights did not face a significant risk.

The man is being held in isolation and under armed guard at a US hospital in the southern state of Georgia.

— *Internet*



An airplane of Air France. US health officials on Tuesday urged hundreds of travellers aboard two Air France and Czech Air flights be tested for a drug-resistant tuberculosis carried by a passenger now quarantined in Atlanta. — *INTERNET*

# SPORTS

## Gremio beat Santos in Libertadores semifinal first leg

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June — Gremio muscled their way to a 2-0 home win over Santos on Wednesday in the first leg of an all-Brazilian Libertadores Cup semifinal.

Both teams have won South America's most prestigious tournament twice, but Gremio looked the hungrier for a third success.

Gremio, roared on by a capacity 42,000 crowd in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, almost fell behind in the sixth minute when Marcos Aurelio's well-struck shot was palmed away by goalkeeper Diego Saja.

The home team were denied a penalty when Alessandro appeared to handle the ball in the area, but they were awarded a spot kick in the 34th minute when Santos defender Avalos tangled with Diego Souza. The penalty was converted by Czecko. — MNA/Reuters



Holland's PSV's soccer player, left, fights for the ball with Peru's Sport Boys' Jhonnierr Montano during a Peruvian national soccer team training session in Lima, on 31 May, 2007. Peru will compete in the upcoming Copa America in Venezuela. —INTERNET

## Man Utd to sign Hargreaves from Bayern Munich

LONDON 31 May —English Premier League champions Manchester United finalized a deal on Thursday to sign England midfielder Owen Hargreaves from Bayern Munich on a five-year contract.

The Canadian-born Hargreaves, who was England fans' player of the year for 2006, has passed a medical examination and agreed to contract terms, the Red Devils said.

However, the transfer fee was yet disclosed. Hargreaves had been linked to United since starring in last year's World Cup. United tried to sign him before last season and Bayern fined him for publicly saying he wanted to move.

In last year's World Cup in Germany, Hargreaves was not considered a key player, but was one of the few to perform well. He broke his leg in September. Hargreaves returned to action in February and missed England training last week. — Internet

## Magrao snatches Fluminense equalizer in Copa Brasil final

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June — Fluminense striker Adriano Magrao scored a late equalizer to salvage a 1-1 draw against Figueirense in the first leg of the Copa Brasil final on Wednesday.

Both teams missed a succession of chances in a nervy battle for a first Copa Brasil title.

Fluminense have enjoyed a run of good form since the return of coach Renato Gaucho for a second stint, and the Rio de Janeiro club went into the game as firm favourites.

Ivan should have given Fluminense the lead on seven minutes when he was given a clean run on goal, but he pulled his shot well wide.

MNA/Reuters



Indian player Sania Mirza reacts during a match with Serbian player Ana Ivanovic during their French Tennis Open second round match at Roland Garros, on 31 May in Paris. Mirza says she remains upbeat about her season despite the straight sets defeat to Ivanovic.

INTERNET

## Beckham, Owen return to England squad

LONDON 31 May — England soccer legend David Beckham has been called up to England squad for the first time under coach Steve McClaren, who dumped him after last year's World Cup.

Striker Michael Owen, England's front-line thriller who recovered from a lengthy knee injury, also came back. "There's different reasons why we have been away, but we have all got the same reasons for being back," Owen said on Thursday.

England captain John Terry said Beckham's return meant the team was "back to normal."

Terry became skipper after Beckham relinquished the captaincy after England lost to Portugal in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals of the World Cup on 1 July

"It's great to have him back," Terry said. "He's a familiar face and we know his quality. He's brought that into training and we are looking forward to him playing."

Internet

## Serena sets date with fan

PARIS, 1 June — Serena Williams was once again caught napping at the French Open on Thursday before she regained her focus to set up a third-round date with one of her biggest fans on the tour.

Williams squeezed past little-known Venezuelan Milagros Sequera 6-0, 7-6 and will next run into Dutch teenager Michaella Krajicek. The younger sister of 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek said she was excited about meeting Williams as she had idolized the American while growing up.

The Australian Open champion, however, will want Krajicek to be struck by stage fright after she produced yet another ragged performance on Thursday.

Williams had been dragged to three sets in her opening match on Sunday and a three-day break did little to restore her usual champion's aura. The eighth seed stormed through the first set in 24 minutes but then started misfiring as her 69th ranked opponent streaked to a 3-0 lead in the second. —MNA/Reuters



Russia's Anna Chakvetadze celebrates winning a point against Hungary's Agnes Szavay during their match in the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET

## Gutsy Hewitt wears down former champion Gaudio

PARIS, 1 June — Lleyton Hewitt did not let the reputation of a former champion stand in his way as he staged a gutsy fightback for a 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win over Gaston Gaudio in the second round of the French Open on Thursday.

The Australian 14th seed recovered from two sets down for only the fourth time in his nine-year professional career as he shoved Gaudio to his earliest exit from Roland Garros since 2001.

The win allowed Hewitt to avenge a quarterfinal defeat by Gaudio in 2004.

Gaudio, who had triumphed in 2004 before Rafael Nadal began his reign, looked well on his way to stringing together back-to-back victories for only the second time this season.

He was firing winners to all corners of the court that even Hewitt, the best scrambler in the game, could not chase after.

But it was not long before Hewitt's famed resilience was back on show and he went on to break early in each of final three sets.

Running out of options in the fifth

set, Gaudio chased down a ball to the back of the court and resorted to a trick shot between his legs at 4-1. Hewitt responded by plopping an easy volley away. — MNA/Reuters



US golfer Tiger Woods reacts to a missed birdie putt on the first hole during the first round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, on 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET

## Sharapova crushes Craybas to reach third round

PARIS, 1 June — World number two Maria Sharapova advanced to the third round of the French Open with a crushing 6-2, 6-1 win over seasoned American Jill Craybas on Thursday.

Sharapova, who had struggled to beat France's Emilie Loit in her first match here, needed just 64 minutes to brush aside her opponent.

The 32-year-old Craybas is ranked a modest 73rd in the world but is remembered for stunning Serena Williams in the third round at Wimbledon two years ago.

She was, however, never in contention against the 20-year-old Russian.

The pair were tied 2-2 in the first set but Sharapova then won the next 10 games. After taking the first set with a service winner after 36 minutes, she opened up a 5-0 lead in the second set.

Serving for the match, Sharapova was broken but then captured her opponent's serve, sealing victory with a forehand volley on the first match point.

MNA/Reuters

# China's "Tomorrow Plan" helps 35,000 disabled orphans

**BEIJING, 1 June** — A total of 35,000 disabled orphans in China have received free surgery and rehabilitation treatment over the past three years, thanks to a programme launched by the Ministry of Civil Affairs (CMCA).

The "Tomorrow Plan — Operations and Rehabilitation for Disabled Orphans", launched in May 2004, has promoted medical care for orphans suffering from congenital diseases and infantile paralysis.

More than 750 million yuan (96.2 million US dollars) has been used in the programme, including 700 million yuan from the public welfare fund raised from the welfare lottery and 50 million yuan from public donations, Li Liguo, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs, said on Wednesday.

Li said the programme had also brought more opportunities for the

children to return to families or find jobs in the future.

"Among the disabled orphans who received

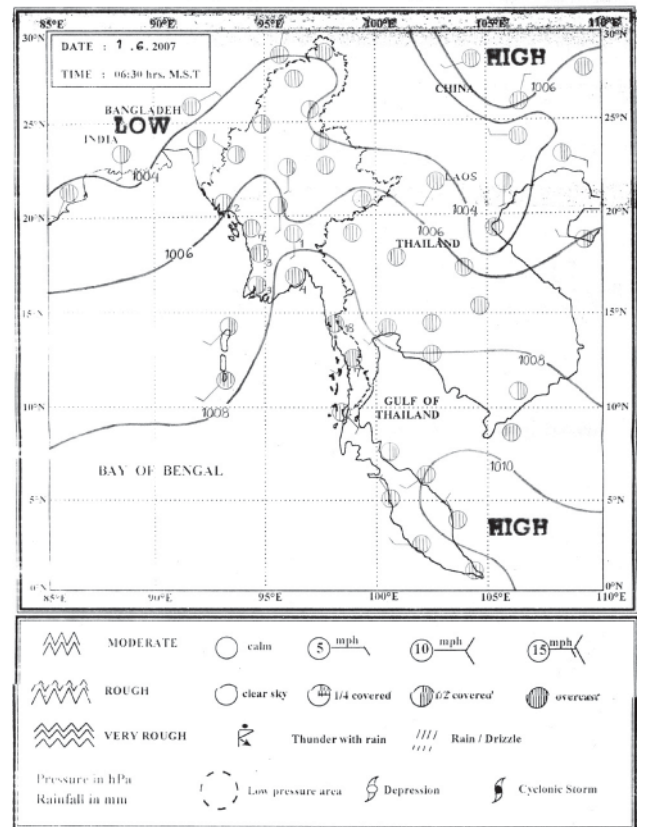
treatment, 5,000 have found new families at home or overseas," Li said.

About 66,000 orphans and abandoned babies

live in welfare homes nationwide and about half are disabled, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. — MNA/Xinhua



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Friday, 1 June, 2007

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Ayeyawady Division, isolated in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon (1.85) inches, Yangon (Central) (1.62) inches, An (1.11) inches and Mawlamyine (0.95) inch.

Maximum temperature on 31-5-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 1-6-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-6-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 31-5-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 1-6-2007 was (1.30) inches at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye, (1.62) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (28.94) inches at Mingaladon, (33.11) inches at Kaba-Aye and (31.97) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (09:30) hours MST on 1-6-2007.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 2-6-2007:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon and Bago Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of thundery activities in Central Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2007:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2007:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-6-2007:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Weather outlook for first weekend of June 2007:** During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon Division, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

*A general view of the Forbidden City amid a dust storm in the centre of Beijing on 24 May, 2007. Beijing will shut down smoke-belching factories and ban thousands of cars from city streets to improve air quality during next year's Olympic Games, a senior city official said on Thursday, 31 May, 2007. — INTERNET*



Saturday, 2 June  
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music:
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Music at your request
- 9:00pm ASEAN news
- 9:20pm Myanma culture ... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Saturday, 2 June  
View on today

- 7:00 am
  1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
  2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်အပ်မှုသော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပဋိတော်
- 7:25 am
  3. To be healty exercise
- 7:30 am
  4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
  5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
  6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:55 am
  7. မိုးယွန်းကြီးရေထိန်းတံခါး
- 8:05 am
  8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
  9. Musical programme
- 8:30 am
  10. International news
- 8:45 am
  11. Grammar Made Easy

- 11:00 am
  1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
  2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
  3. News
- 11:40 am
  4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm
  5. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:35 pm
  6. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 12:45 pm
  7. "စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုး တို့တိုင်းပြည်အကျိုး" (ဖြိုးထွန်း၊ မိုးဒီ၊ စောနိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်)၊ သဇင်၊ နှင်းဆီ၊ ခင်မိုးမိုးအေး) ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)
- 1:15 pm
  8. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (ပင်လောင်းလက်ဖက် နတ်သစ်ရွက်)
- 1:45 pm
  9. Dance of national races
- 1:55 pm
  10. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:05 pm
  11. ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တံတား
- 2:20 pm
  12. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်
- 2:30 pm
  13. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
- 2:35 pm
  14. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:45 pm
  15. "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၁)(ဝါးဇယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျှန်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနှင်းစေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး

- 2:55 pm
  16. International news
- 4:00 pm
  1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
  2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
  3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:45 pm
  4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)
- 5:00 pm
  5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:15 pm
  6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm
  7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
  8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
  9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
  10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm
  11. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (အသွင်ရှုမငြီးပင်းတယ စက္ကူထီး)
- 7:15 pm
  12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်"(အပိုင်း-၃၀)
- 8:00 pm
  13. News
- 8:05 pm
  14. International news
- 8:10 pm
  15. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
  16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
- 8:20 pm
  17. The next day's programme

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# Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects Shukhintha Tax-free Market, preventive measures against DHF, dysentery in Thakayta, Thingangyun, Tamway townships

YANGON, 1 June — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected Shukhintha Tax-free Market and preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever in Thakayta, Thingangyun and Tamway townships yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win,

Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed selling and buying at shops at Shukhintha Tax-free Market in Manbye Ward of Thakayta Township.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa conducted them round the market.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe instructed officials to take

care of thriving physic nut plants in front of the market.

At Thakayta Township Development Affairs Committee Office, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on health, education and water supply of Thakayta Township, matters related to Ward 6 and preventive measures against DHF in the township presented by

(See page 8)

# World No-Tobacco Day 2007 observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the World No-Tobacco Day 2007 at the hall of the Ministry of Health this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, members of the National Health Committee, officials of Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay City Development Committees, departmental heads, officials of departments under the Ministry of Health and representatives of social organizations.

In his speech, the commander delivered an address that the National Health Committee had laid down health policies and is giving directives to officials in undertaking



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin speaks at World No-Tobacco Day 2007. — MNA

health care services in the entire nation. Progress can be witnessed in the higher health standard of the people as priority is being given to upgrading of health facilities, control of diseases, treatment and rehabilitation sectors.

He continued to say that in line with the motto – prevention is better than cure — the government is expediting the

tasks for prevention against diseases and uplift of health standard in addition to speeding up the task for providing health care services to the people. Hence, the government gives directives to the Health Ministry and all related ministries to carry out the control of cigarette and tobacco consumption for keeping youth to be free from health, social and economic hazard resulting from smoking and tobacco consumption.

In accord with the instructions of the National Health Committee, he said the Central Board of the Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products has been gearing up the task for control of smoking. As a result, remarkable successes can be witnessed in the

public health sector of Myanmar within a few years. Therefore, the World Health Organization presented the award in commemoration of the World No-Tobacco Day for 2004 to Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint for his excellent leadership in tobacco control.

Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address. He said that nowadays, one-third of world adult population or 1,100 million are smokers. Of them, 900 million are men and 200 million are women. According to the report of WHO, smoking is killing about five million people annually and 75 per cent of them are from developing countries. It was estimated that due to the danger of tobacco, 70 per cent (See page 10)

## NLD dealing improperly with some foreign embassies violating diplomatic code of conduct

### US diplomats visited NLD 21 times in May

YANGON, 1 June — The people have lost faith and trust in National League for Democracy (Headquarters) due to its dealing with some foreign embassies in improper way although it is an internal political party. Diplomats of those embassies are frequenting the NLD Headquarters and giving various instructions by violating diplomatic ethics.

As the NLD, not serving the people's interest, is keeping close contact with the US embassy with the intention of pushing Myanmar to become colonialist minion, there has been public outrage and the people remain vigilant at all times.

It has been reported that in April, staff of the US embassy in Yangon visited the NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road eleven times.

During the month of May, they also visited the NLD Headquarters 21 times, met with NLD CEC members and gave them a lot of paperwork, it is learnt. — MNA

**The government has been building dams and reservoirs along with river water pumping stations and underground water tapping facilities in arid zones of the country. As a result, those regions have now enjoyed a sufficient supply of irrigated water and clean water.**

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PERSPECTIVES