

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 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Russian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Alexander P Losyukov and party of the Russian Federation at the SPDC Office, here, at 3.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the SPDC Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the

Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Russian Deputy Minister and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Union of Myanmar Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Alexander P Losyukov.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Alexander P Losyukov and party.—MNA

INSIDE

Consumption of Vitamin D-rich foods including milk and dairy products (fortified milk, cheese, cream, butter, margarine) can also provide adequate Vitamin D. However, a daily intake of milk of approximately 10 cups (8 ounces per cup) is needed to provide the recommended daily need of 1000 units of Vitamin D to prevent deficiency and the risk of developing cancer.

PAGES 7 PROFESSOR DR PAING SOE

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 June, 2007

Actively participate in the fight against drugs

Narcotic drugs pose a threat to the entire mankind. The use of drugs causes social problems in a society close to drug-abusers. At present, every nation and region is placing emphasis on control and elimination of drugs.

In Myanmar the 15-year drug elimination plan has been laid down and is being implemented. Control of poppy cultivation, trafficking and use of drugs is being carried out with the active participation of local people.

The government is providing all the necessary assistance to farmers who are engaged in tasks of alternative development. It is also fulfilling their requirements in livestock breeding and economic undertakings. Dry poppy bulbs have been destroyed time and again.

Having quit poppy cultivation, farmers are now engaged in cultivation of rubber, honey orange, sugarcane, sunflowers, maize, lychee and cash crops.

The government is exposing drug traffickers and meting out a heavy sentence on them. Moreover, it is cooperating with neighbours that produce precursor chemicals to combat producing and trafficking of stimulant tablets.

Myanmar is taking systematic measures in the fight against drugs. In the meantime, it is cooperating with international community, neighbouring countries and nations of the region in that regard. The entire people are to continue to participate in the fight against poppy cultivation and trafficking of drugs.

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People's Desire

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

Information Minister receives Prof Robert H Taylor

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Southeast Asian Political Affairs Expert Prof Robert H Taylor at the ministry, here, this morning.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Southeast Asian Political Affairs Expert Prof Robert H Taylor.—MNA

Also present at the call were the director-general, managing directors and deputy directors-general of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

MNA

Ministers attend handing over ceremony of marble stones to be used at World Vipassana Pagoda

YANGON, 16 June — A ceremony to hand over documents related to marble stones to be used at World Vipassana Pagoda in Mumbai of India was held in conjunction with the ceremony to put the stone into containers at Botahtaung Cargo Yard of Myanma Railways at the corner of Theinbyu and the Strand Roads, here, on 10 June morning.

two ministers sprinkled scented water on the stones together with Preacher Mr Ram Avadh Verma and Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Uggā.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung handed over again documents related to the stones to Preacher Mr Ram Avadh Verma, who accepted on behalf of Sayagyi U Goenka.

Later, the two ministers inspected placing of 35 marble stones from carriages to containers.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min hands over documents related to marble stones to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.—MNA

Dy Health Minister inspects hospitals, health centres in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected hospitals in Magway Division on 5 and 6 June.

During his tour of Kyaw Station Hospital in Gangaw Township, the deputy minister met with doctors, health staff, members of social organizations and townseiders and called

for making efforts for combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and health care services for mothers and children. He explained matters related to using fly-proof latrines and providing safe drinking water in rural areas.

He also inspected Yemyatni Rural Health Centre in Htilin Township, Gangaw People's Hospital in Gangaw and Saymintaw Station Hos-

pital in Htilin Township.

On his tour of inspection, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo fulfilled the requirements of the hospitals and stressed the need for importance of maternal and child health care services in rural areas.

He also inspected the site chosen to build a 100-bed hospital in the compound of Gangaw People's Hospital. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Arab League calls on Palestinian factions to stop violence

CAIRO, 15 June —The Arab League, which met Friday in Cairo to discuss the situation in Gaza after Hamas seized control there, called on all parties afterward “to stop the fighting on Palestinian lands.”

In a statement issued after the meeting, the league said the situation in Gaza should be returned to where it was before the fighting between Fatah and Hamas began.

The group also said it will assist Palestinian institutions in focusing on

“efforts to end the occupation” and called for restarting the Palestinian peace process “based on the inclusion of the Arab peace initiative.” The league will set up a committee, involving Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and the group’s

members, to investigate the situation in Gaza and issue a report within a month, the statement said. “We will keep this meeting open-ended in order to closely follow the situation in the Palestinian land.”

Internet

F-16 crashes on close air support mission in Iraq; Pentagon chief arrives

BAGHDAD, 15 June — A US air force F-16 fighter jet crashed Friday during a close air support mission for ground forces in Iraq,

the Central Air Command reported. Defence Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Baghdad on an unannounced visit, and the US military said five soldiers had died.

The air force announcement, which referred to the 12:27 am crash as an accident, did not say where it occurred or what happened to the pilot, the single crew member.

The loss of an F-16, a workhorse warplane in the Iraq war, is a rare event. One crashed last Nov. 27 in the western province of Anbar, killing the pilot.

The jet was deployed to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad.

“The cause of the accident is under



French architect Paul Andreu is interviewed in front of China’s new National Theatre on the day it opened to the public for the first time, in Beijing on Friday, 15 June, 2007.

INTERNET

Hamas says “executed” top Fatah militant in Gaza

GAZA, 15 June — Hamas’ armed wing said its fighters “executed” on Thursday a leading Fatah militant who had topped their wanted list of figures from President Mahmoud Abbas’ Western-backed faction in the Gaza Strip.

The Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigades of Hamas said in a statement it had “executed the collaborator Samih al-Madhoun”, a head of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Gaza. There was no immediate comment from Fatah, to which the Brigades belong.

Madhoun, a close ally of Abbas’ top security aide Mohammad Dahlan, had spearheaded Fatah’s resistance against Hamas before the Islamists captured most key Fatah bases in Gaza on Thursday, effectively seizing control of the coastal territory.—MNA/Reuters



Producer Harvey Weinstein presents actress Renee Zellweger (R) with the “Crystal Award” at the Women in Film 2007 Crystal and Lucy Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 14 June, 2007. The awards, presented by Women In Film, Los Angeles, honor outstanding women for their contribution to the entertainment industry.

INTERNET

investigation,” said the statement from the Central Command Air Forces, which provided no further details.

Speaking to reporters on

the flight to Baghdad, Gates said the military wasn’t trying to paint an overly optimistic picture of how the war is going.

Internet

Teacher patrol unit wiped out; seven soldiers die in Yala

YALA, 15 June — At least seven Royal Thai Army soldiers were killed and one wounded Friday in a roadside bombing ambush by presumed insurgents in this southern border province.

A teacher protection unit was entirely wiped out.

The eight-man teacher protection unit was enroute to a school when the bomb exploded near their vehicle. The assailants,

waiting in ambush, then opened fire on the soldiers, killing all but one, before leaving the scene and strewing spikes along the route to obstruct the response of government security forces.

Local authorities called in a helicopter to evacuate the slain soldiers to a provincial hospital.

It was the second ambush in less than a month. Twelve soldiers were killed in a

similar fashion on 31 May, in an incident which was billed as the single most deadly attack on security forces in the three-year violence in the insurgency-wracked region.

More than 2,300 people have been killed in the continuing violence in the predominantly Muslim southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

Internet

Iraqi bridge blown up by bombs

BAGHDAD, 15 June — A bridge between the northern Iraqi cities of Kirkuk and Tikrit was blown up by bombs overnight in the latest attack against the country’s infrastructure, police said on Wednesday.

No one was hurt as traffic is banned at night on many Iraqi roads as a security precaution, but the police said the attack had cut off villages southwest of Kirkuk, 250 kilometres (155 miles) north of Baghdad.

Insurgents have been targeting major bridges in Baghdad and other areas

as part of an apparent new tactic to disrupt life and isolate communities. In April, part of the Sarafiya Bridge over the Tigris River in the capital was destroyed.

MNA/Reuters

A model poses with a platinum handbag studded with 2,182 diamonds totalling 208 carats that costs 200 million yen (US\$1.63 million) during a fashion show by jewellery maker Ginza Tanaka in Tokyo on 14 June, 2007.—INTERNET





Some citizens rescue trapped people by boat voluntarily on the flooded west ring road in Liuzhou, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 13 June, 2007.— XINHUA

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Mexico slams "absurd" US gun laws as drug war rages

MEXICO CITY, 15 June — Mexico's Government, which complains violent drug cartels are battling each other with firearms bought in the United States, slammed slack US gun laws as absurd on Thursday.

Mexico complains most of the often high-

powered weapons used by warring Mexican traffickers come from gun shops in the United States and Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said there was not enough control over their sale.

"I think the American (gun) laws are absurd because they ... make it very easy for citizens to acquire guns," he told a meeting of academics and businessmen.

Mexico is locked in a

bloody battle with rival cartels fighting over territory and President Felipe Calderon has deployed thousands of troops across the country against traffickers who are often better armed than police.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in drug violence in Mexico this year as a three-way war between cartels and the Mexican military spirals to unprecedented levels.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil's landless peasants protest US wars

BRASILIA, 15 June — More than 15,000 activists of Brazil's largest landless peasant movement protested in the capital on Thursday against US military interventions and called for more social justice.

The Landless Rural Workers' Movement, or MST, left 20 coffins at the US Embassy to protest deaths from major conflicts with US involvement, including the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam.

"These are all the deaths caused by the United States and other imperialist nations," Joao Paulo Rodrigues, one of the MST leaders, told Reuters.

About 16,000 people attended the peaceful march, police said. Many wore red baseball caps and shirts and waved red flags with the group's logo — a

peasant couple holding a machete in the air against the backdrop of a Brazilian flag.

One banner read: "Beware Imperialism, the Revolution is coming."

"Bush is a big Satan, our big battle is also for peace," protesters chanted in a refrain rhyming in Portuguese.

At Brazil's Foreign Ministry, they protested against a Brazilian-led UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

"It's also a military intervention that we condemn," an MST spokesman said.

The MST has strong left-wing roots, including ties to President Luiz

Inacio Lula da Silva's ruling Workers' party as well as to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro sent a letter to the MST on Wednesday, calling it "one of the most outstanding and combative social movements to fight for a better world."

MNA/Reuters

Elderly care home for dogs to open in Japan

TOKYO, 15 June — Japan's first elderly care home for dogs is set to open this week, tapping into a growing market as the problem of ageing spreads from humans to the pet population.

Saradi Corp will accommodate up to 20 dogs at a facility set up in cooperation with a veterinary surgeon in the

resort area of Nasu, north of Tokyo, Chief Executive Nana Uchida said on Thursday.

A veterinarian will be on call 24 hours a day and the dogs will have the opportunity to exercise, eat natural foods and mix with younger dogs to maintain their vitality, the company said in a statement.

"We see a strong demand for these services, partly because owners are ageing alongside their dogs and also because many women work nowadays, leaving them no time to care for their dogs," Uchida said in an interview. Many owners find it hard to cope with symptoms of ageing in their pets, such as constant night-time barking, the company said.

MNA/Reuters

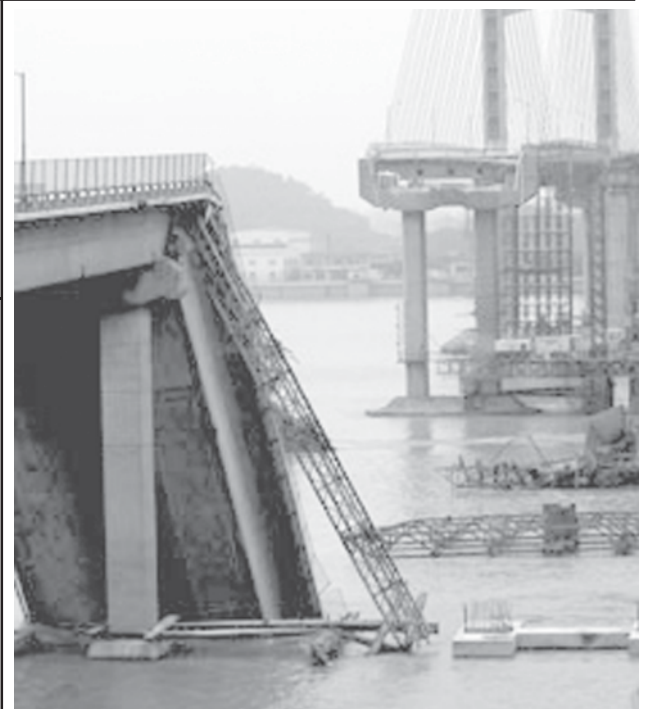


Photo taken on 15 June, 2007 shows the collapsed bridge after being hit by a sand-laden boat in Foshan, south China's Guangdong Province. The accident occurred around 5:10 am on Friday when a sand-laden boat was sailing through under the bridge, which connects the Jiujiang Township in Nanhai district of Foshan to the neighbouring Heshan City. The boat hit a pier of the bridge, and at least 150 metres of the bridge structure collapsed. — XINHUA



Dogs at a special pool in Tokyo. Japan grapples with a rapidly ageing population, the country is set to open the first nursing home for another growing group of seniors — dogs.

INTERNET

Iraqi news agency loses third reporter in two weeks

BAGHDAD, 15 June — A journalist working for the independent *Aswat al-Iraq* news agency was blown up by a roadside bomb in the volatile province of Diyala north of Baghdad, the third agency employee to be killed in the past two weeks.

The agency said in a statement that Aref Ali, 32, was killed while on assignment in Diyala,

where violence has spiked as al-Qaeda and other Sunni insurgents battle US and Iraqi troops.

Journalists have been dying in record numbers in Iraq, with at least 12 killed in May, the highest monthly total since the start of the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Iraq is the most dangerous place in the world to report. The Paris-

based advocacy group Reporters Without Borders says 182 journalists and media assistants have been killed since 2003.

"Far too many journalists are paying the ultimate price for reporting the Iraq story," the New York-based media watchdog Committee to Protect Journalists said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnam to allow foreign advertisers in 2009

HANOI, 15 June — Vietnam will, under its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, permit the establishment of wholly foreign-owned advertising companies from January 2009, local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* reported Thursday.

Now, foreign investors can form joint ventures in

Vietnam with capital contribution of 51 percent at most. The country currently has some 3,000 advertising companies, nearly 200 of which are performing well.

In 2006, advertising enterprises in Vietnam made total revenues of over seven trillion Vietnamese dong (437.5 million US dollars), 70 per cent of

which came from joint ventures between foreign advertisers and local partners, the newspaper said. —MNA/Xinhua

The yuan hit a record high against the US dollar on 14 June, 2007 for the second consecutive day.

INTERNET



India bans import of rough diamond from Ivory Coast

NEW DELHI, 15 June — India has imposed a ban on import of rough diamond from Ivory Coast in compliance with a UN Security Council Resolution. “Import of rough diamond from Ivory Coast shall be prohibited in compliance to Paragraph 6 of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1643 (2005),” a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said.

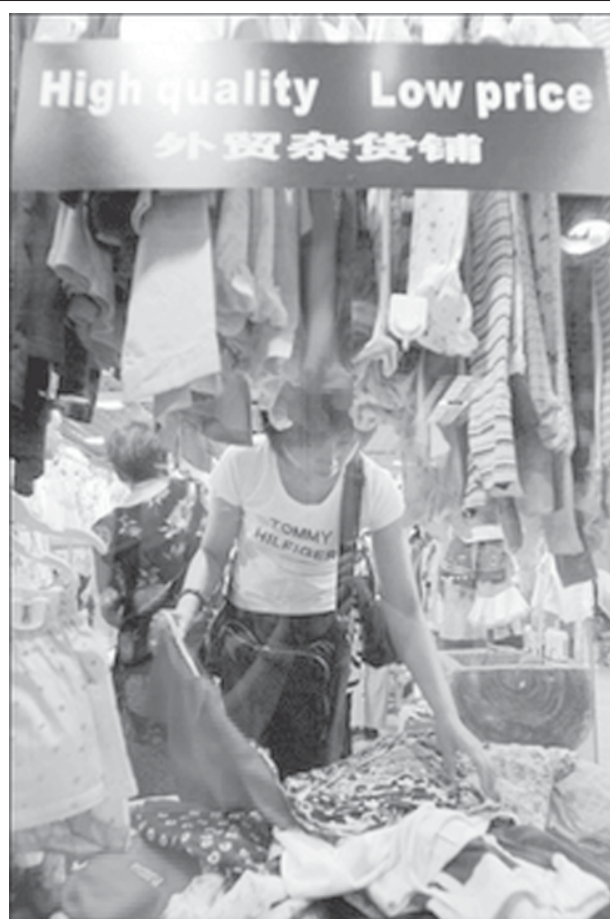
The UN Security Council under its resolution says, besides other things, that import of all rough diamonds from Ivory Coast should be stopped.

The UN ban is aimed at preventing rebels in the country from acquiring weapons illegally.

Import of rough diamonds from Ivory Coast was banned after it was considered as a threat to international peace and security. It was held that diamonds were being illegally traded to fund conflict in war-torn areas, particularly in central and western Africa.

MNA/PTI

The photo taken on 14 June, 2007 shows the National Stadium in Beijing. The bowl-shaped stands of the National Stadium, dubbed the “Bird’s Nest” have been completed recently after an eight-month installation process. The stands are composed of a total of 14,700 slabs in different size and form, with the biggest piece weighing 18 tons and being 11-metre long. —XINHUA



Qatar’s outdoor workers handed 3-1/2-hour respite

DUBAI, 15 June — Outdoor labourers in Qatar will have a 3-1/2-hour break during hot summer days, the state news agency QNA said on Wednesday.

The measure, from 15 June to 31 August, will force companies to

suspend work from 11.30 am to 3.00 pm.

Working hours in the morning will also be limited to five hours. Companies could face a two-month suspension if they ignore the measure.

Temperatures in the Gulf state can exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degree Fahrenheit) during the summer.

Qatar, the world’s largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, depends heavily on an army of cheap foreign labourers.

MNA/Reuters

Women look through piles of clothes at a shopping centre in Beijing, on 13 June 2007. More measures are being planned to cool China's economy, Premier Wen Jiabao said in comments published on Thursday, amid a flurry of new data showing breakneck growth. —INTERNET

Nicaragua, Japan sign \$8.3m bridge building agreement

MANAGUA, 15 June — Nicaragua and Japan on Wednesday signed an 8.3-million-US-dollar agreement to build four bridges in the centre and Atlantic coast areas of this Central American nation, officials told a Press conference.

Once completed, the bridges will link the nation’s south Atlantic and Pacific, helping farmers, traders and businessmen, who use heavy vehicles to import and export products internationally.

The new bridges will replace four existing bridges which are older than the 50 years they were expected to last and have become dilapidated.

MNA/Xinhua

EU, China agree to liberalize textile trade in 2008

BRUSSELS, 15 June — The European Union (EU) and China have agreed to liberalize their bilateral textile trade in 2008, it was

announced on Wednesday.

This was one of 12 agreements reached during the trade talks between Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai and EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson on Tuesday, according to a Press release issued by Bo’s delegation.

“Both sides have agreed to abide by the 2005 Shanghai textile agreement and implement the free textile trade in due time,” said the Press release.

In June 2005, following the so-called “textile war” between China and the EU, Bo Xilai and Peter Mandelson reached an agreement in Shanghai on resuming quotas on China’s

textile exports to the EU by 2007. The Press release said the EU and China will continue dialogue and cooperation on textiles, so as to maintain the steady and smooth development of the bilateral textile trade.

Mandelson, for his part, told a Press conference on Tuesday that both sides were able to acknowledge and welcome the successful operation of the 2005 Shanghai textiles agreement. “We were both cognizant of the — if I can put it this way — re entry problems of the return to normal trade, and we agreed that we wanted to avoid any destabilization of the market,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Danish FM says Middle East plan a failure

STOCKHOLM, 15 June — The Danish Foreign Minister is calling for a replacement for the Middle East peace plan he himself introduced, according to reports reaching here Thursday.

Peace in the Middle East is unachievable under the current international strategy and needs to be revised, *The Copenhagen Post* reported, quoting the Foreign Minister, Per Stig Moeller.

Clashes in Lebanon and fierce fighting between Hamas and Fatah factions in the Gaza Strip have led Moeller to give up the plan he himself presented to the European Union five years ago and which has since served as the prevailing policy for the international community's efforts in the region, the newspaper said.

Moeller said the situation in the Middle East has changed drastically since the introduction of the plan and now a strategy that focuses on smaller, bilateral agreements between parties in the region is required.

The minister is scheduled to travel to Syria, Lebanon and Israel in the coming days to discuss the situation with those countries' leaders. Moeller spoke to Israeli

and Syrian ministers as well as Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas Wednesday by telephone.

"I tried mostly to find out how we can stop the current bloodbath in Gaza," Moeller said. "The long-term plan is to get a bilateral peace process going. Up to now we've been trying to get an all-encompassing solution, which we are still hoping for. But now it's time to do something concrete to resolve the current situation."

Moeller believes the Palestinian civil unrest could lead to a division of the Gaza territory into two separate Fatah and Hamas regions. He believes that the EU and United States can do little to resolve the conflict, saying that it was in the hands of the Arab states.

"The Arab countries have to come forward to take the responsibility for cooling heads in Gaza and getting the national government back together. It's primarily

Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia that will have to do most of the hard work."

Moeller said he will continue to work with the region's leaders on long-term peace plans but warned Israel not to step into the conflict, saying it would turn the situation into a "complete hell".

MNA/Xinhua



The Singapore container ship *Maersk Seletar*, of the Post Panamax type, too big to cross the Panama canal, is seen anchored before having its cargo transferred to the other side of the canal, at a private port in Panama City, on Friday, 15 June, 2007. Works are under way at the canal to widen it so Post Panamax ships will be able to cross after 2014 when the widening works are scheduled to be finished. The only ships that are currently fit to cross are the ones known as Panamax. —INTERNET



A man watches his newborn baby swim at a hospital in Xingtai, North China's Hebei Province, on 14 June, 2007. Several new fathers were invited to the hospital to learn how to nurse a baby days before the Father's Day. —INTERNET

Al-Qaeda group kills 14 abducted officers

DUBAI, 15 June — An Iraqi al-Qaeda-led group said on Thursday it had killed 14 Iraqi Army and police personnel and posted an Internet video showing a masked militant shooting the kneeling men in the head.

"After the deadline given by the Islamic State in Iraq expired the sharia court decided to implement God's ruling against those apostates," the group said on the video. The footage showed the militant shooting the blindfolded men with a pistol in an

open field, as off-camera insurgents chanted "Allah is great". The hostages' hands were tied behind their backs. The authenticity of the tape could not be verified but it was posted on a website used by Iraqi insurgents.

The group, which has killed several hostages in the past, had demanded the release of all Sunni men and women held by the Interior Ministry and the handover of officers it said were involved in atrocities against Sunnis in the northern town of Tal Afar. —MNA/Reuters

Iraqi prison commander referred to court martial

BAGHDAD, 15 June — A former commander of a US detention centre holding officials loyal to Saddam Hussein will face a general court-martial on charges that include aiding the enemy, the US military said on Thursday.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Steele, former commander of the 451st Military Police Detachment, was investigated on nine charges, including aiding the enemy by providing an unmonitored cell

phone to a detainee. Steele was in charge of detention facilities at Camp Cropper, near Baghdad International Airport, where insurgents and former senior aides to Saddam are held.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli troops kill Palestinian gunman in West Bank

QALQILYA (West Bank), 15 June — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank town of Qalqilya on Thursday, local residents said.

The Israeli Army confirmed troops were operating in the area and that a gun battle had taken place but a spokeswoman had no further details.

The residents said the gunman was a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of President Mahmoud Abbas' secular Fatah faction. He was killed during a heavy exchange of fire in the central West

Bank town. The gunman is the fourth Palestinian to be killed in the occupied West Bank this month by Israeli troops.

Israeli-Palestinian fighting has been eclipsed in past few days by fierce battles between Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip, where forces of the governing Islamist Hamas movement appear to have overtaken many strongholds belonging to Fatah.

At least 33 Palestinians from both factions were killed in clashes in Gaza on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters



Butterflies perch on flowers at the Bantimurung Nature Preservation, which houses more than 100 species of butterflies, in Maros district of Indonesia's South Sulawesi Province on 14 June, 2007. The number of species of butterflies has been decreasing due to hunting and destruction of their habitat, according to a Bantimurung Nature Preservation worker.

INTERNET

Let us Prevent Cancer with Vitamin D Supplementation

Professor Dr Paing Soe

The importance of Vitamin D for normal cell function, growth and development and its role in maintaining health has already mentioned in the previous article. Recently, the Canadian Cancer Society raised a tantalizing spectrum on research finding that a simple and cheap Vitamin D supplementation may offer a highly effective way of preventing cancer. The present article provides an update.

Deficiency in Vitamin D is found to be associated with cancer, heart diseases and hypertension, as well as with autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Since Vitamin D is made by the body after exposure to sunlight, it was found that the further people live away from the tropics (equator), the higher is the risk of Vitamin D deficiency, and such deficiency is especially seen in people who are older, with dark skin, who do not go out often, and who wear clothing that covers most of the skin. Research has revealed a shocking finding that Vitamin D deficiency was seen in 40% of the US population, including 48% of young girls (9-11 years old) and 42% of African American women of child-bearing age, 32% of doctors and medical students, 60% of all hospital patients and up to 80% of nursing home patients. About 76% of pregnant mothers are severely Vitamin D deficient, causing widespread deficiencies in 81% of their unborn child, and predisposing them to diabetes, arthritis and schizophrenia in their later life.

People can get Vitamin D by exposure to the sunlight and in their diets. The reason it is difficult to get adequate Vitamin D from sunlight is that UV-B, which stimulates the production of Vitamin D in the body, is present only during midday hours, and only sunning between 11 am to 4 pm during the summer months for 10-15 minutes will form adequate Vitamin D. On the other hand, unprotected sun exposure every day also increases the risk of skin cancer. Using sunscreen or clothing to prevent sunburn also prevent Vitamin D formation and those with very dark skin, having pigmentation that filters out most of the sunshine responsible for Vitamin D, will need more sun exposure, often 10 times as much, than the whites.

Present day sedentary lifestyle, in shaded homes and office work places, markedly reduces sunlight exposure and Vitamin D formation. Even in the warm equatorial regions where sunshine is considered strong enough to provide adequate

Vitamin D, such lifestyle still poses risk of Vitamin D deficiency. In the northern latitudes where there is hardly any sunlight all year round or during fall and winter months, one should consider taking Vitamin D supplementation to prevent Vitamin D deficiency.

Consumption of Vitamin D-rich foods including milk and dairy products (fortified milk, cheese, cream, butter, margarine) can also provide adequate Vitamin D. However, a daily intake of milk of approximately 10 cups (8 ounces per cup) is needed to provide the recommended daily need of 1000 units of Vitamin D to prevent deficiency and the risk of developing cancer.

Thus, based on the evidence mentioned above, researchers have now come to a conclusion that relying on sunlight and food alone is not practical and taking Vitamin D supplementation remains the only reliable way of getting adequate Vitamin D.

Research pertaining to the Cancer Protective Effect of Vitamin D

Recently, research has found an expanding body of evidence linking Vitamin D and the reduced risk against colorectal, breast and prostate cancers.

A four year study, between 2000 to 2005, was carried out by the Creighton University, Nebraska, on 1179 healthy postmenopausal women of 55 years of age or older who were assigned to take 1400-1500 mg of calcium alone, or supplemental calcium plus Vitamin D3, or placebo. It was found that Vitamin D3 supplementation markedly decreased the cancer incidence by about 30%. Another trial carried out in Canada on 1200 women found that those taking Vitamin D3 had about 60% to 77% less likely to develop breast, colorectal and other forms of cancers.

Other studies carried out by various research groups in the UK and US, including those from Brigham and Harvard Medical School in Boston, found that in premenopausal, but not in postmenopausal, women who took high intake of calcium and Vitamin D through food sources and nutritional supplements was linked to modestly lower risk of breast cancers. Researchers from American Cancer Society (ACS) agreed that the evidence of protective benefit of Vitamin D and calcium on cancer is seen fairly consistent in all studies and has recommended that most people should get Vitamin D between 1000 to 1500 IU a day. This is entirely in contrast to previous belief, that Vitamin D being a fat soluble Vitamin is readily become toxic to the body (Hypervitaminosis), and the recommended

dose was thus small and range between 200 to 600 IU units.

Canadian Cancer Society Recommendation on Vitamin D Supplementation

Because of the growing evidence about Vitamin D's documented effect on lower cancer incidence, especially in breast, colorectal and prostate cancers, the Canadian Cancer Society has urged the entire adult population to take Vitamin D as a cheap and easily available supplementation every day. It has recommended that:

- All adults living in Canada should consider taking Vitamin D supplementation of 1000 IU a day during fall and winter.

- Adults at higher risk of having lower Vitamin D levels should consider taking Vitamin D supplementation of 1000 IU a day all year round. This includes people who are older, with dark skin, who don't go outside often, and who wear clothing that covers most of their skin.

- At the present time, the Canadian Cancer Society does not have a recommendation as yet for Vitamin D supplementation for children.

However, too much Vitamin D can lead to toxicity causing weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and constipation. Excessive Vitamin D can also dangerously elevate calcium levels causing confusion and bizarre behavior. Taking Vitamin D in excess of 2000 IU per day is not recommended and one should consult a doctor about the use of supplements prior to taking them.

Dr Garland, Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of California, mentioned that dairy products and oily fish like tuna and salmon are the best source of Vitamin D but it would seem difficult to get adequate Vitamin D from food alone. The easiest way for the body to get Vitamin D is through the sun and exposure of 10 to 15 minutes in the mid-day sun can absorb 2000 to 5000 IU of Vitamin D if the body is 40% exposed. However, recommending sun exposure is controversial because of risk of skin cancer. Therefore, ideally, a mixture should be best, with some Vitamin D coming from food, some from supplements and some from sunlight.

Considering the evidence the American Cancer Society, the National Council on Skin cancer Prevention and health groups from the US and Canada concluded that there is a strong evidence linking Vitamin D to decreased risk of bone fractures in the elderly as well as its protective benefit against some cancers. However, to minimize the health risks associated with UV-B exposure while maximizing the potential benefits of optimum Vitamin D status, supplementation and small amounts of sun exposure are preferred methods of obtaining Vitamin D.

In conclusion, we should be aware that the miracle Vitamin D not only protects us from life-threatening diseases like cancers, heart diseases, hypertension and diabetes but also allows our body and mind to thrive, even during periods of stress, providing health and longevity of life. So let us take the first step towards redressing some of the ills of civilized life by adding Vitamin D supplementation to our daily lives.

Consumption of Vitamin D-rich foods including milk and dairy products (fortified milk, cheese, cream, butter, margarine) can also provide adequate Vitamin D. However, a daily intake of milk of approximately 10 cups (8 ounces per cup) is needed to provide the recommended daily need of 1000 units of Vitamin D to prevent deficiency and the risk of developing cancer.

Commander participates in rainy season tree planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Chairperson of the Command Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Swe Swe Oo together with senior military officers, commanding officers of regiments and units, students and guests attended a rainy season tree planting ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No 3, here, this morning.

Headmaster U Aung Swe Oo reported to the commander on arrangements for growing trees in vacant plot of the school.

The commander and wife planted star-flowersaplings. Likewise, guests, teachers and students totalling 1,980 took part in the tree planting ceremony. The commander and wife



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin waters a star-flower tree.—MNA

viewed participation of family members of the regiments and units in the ceremony.

Next, they viewed classrooms of the school and attended to the needs.

Over 2,700 perennial saplings were planted at the ceremony. In Nay Pyi Taw, trees and saplings are grown on every Saturday in rainy season designated as tree planting days. — MNA

Discussions held to build home-made locomotives

YANGON, 16 June — Insein Locomotive Shed of Myanma Railways has built 1,200-hp diesel locomotive DF 1200-01 as its milestone.

With a view to enhancing quality of self-reliant locomotives, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin received experts and engineers of Dalian Locomotive Shed of the People's Republic of China at Insein Locomotive Shed, here, yesterday morning.

Also present at the call were project managers of YMEC Co, General Manager U Saw Valentine of Insein Locomotive Shed, engineers and officials.

The responsible persons of Dalian Locomotive Shed arrived here to hold discussions on machine parts to be

fitted at 2000-hp locomotives to be imported from the PRC. The designer and engineers of Dalian Locomotive Shed explained matters related to parts of locomotives, electrical and driving functions.

At the work site, they viewed preparations

for construction of the self-reliant locomotives and substitution of engines at France-made locomotives and others.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation is purchasing locomotives to ensure better transport for passengers and commodities.

MNA



Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin inspects work at Insein Locomotive Shed.—RAILWAY

Secretariat Member accepts USDA membership applications

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended a membership application presentation ceremony of faculty members and students of University of Medicine (Mandalay) in Chanayethazan Township yesterday afternoon.

The Secretariat Member accepted 513 membership applications from Rector Professor Dr Kyaw Hla.

Next, the Secretariat Member presented K 10 million to purchase computer and multi-media projector to the rector.

At University of Pharmacy in Amarapura Township, the Secretariat Member accepted 111 membership applications of faculty members



Minister U Aung Thaung accepts USDA membership applications from students and faculty members of University of Medicine (Mandalay).—MNA

through Rector Dr Khin Maung Myint and 554 membership applications of students through Registrar U Kyaw Nyein.

The Secretariat Member presented 10 computers to the rector.

At Chanayethazan

Township USDA Office, the Secretariat Member met with the secretary, the joint secretary and executives. While in Mandalay, the Secretariat Member paid homage to members of the Sangha at Masoeyein Monastery. — MNA

Soon (day meal) offered to members of the Sangha of SPSU (Yangon)

YANGON, 16 June — Under the aegis of Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khaing, staff families of the ministry organized a ceremony to offer soon (day meal) to members of the Sangha of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at

Moegok refectory this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Director-General U Win Aung of the Department of Progress of Border Areas and National Races, officials and staff.

Rector Sayadaw of the university Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vannita

administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

The deputy director-general and staff donated K 250,000 for offering day meal to U Myint Zaw Win, Assistant Director of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana. They shared merits gained.

MNA

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နိုင်ငံအား
စွမ်းပကားဂုဏ်ဆောင်
တို့ပြည်ထောင်။**

FM receives Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation



Minister U Nyan Win receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Alexander P. Losyukov and party.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win received Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Alexander P. Losyukov of the Russian Federation and party at his office here at 6 pm today.

Also present at the

call were Director-General U Phae Thann Oo of the Political Department, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department, the deputy director-general, officials and Russian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze.

MNA

Health Minister inspects school health activities, traditional medicine garden in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint together with Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, Secretary U Tun Kyi of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee and officials inspected spraying insecticide, giving talks on school health, demonstration on prevention of the danger of mosquito, educative booth and putting chlorine into the water tank of the school at No 5 Basic Education High School, here, this morning.

Next, the minister and party looked into progress of work at the garden of Traditional Medicine Department and gave necessary instructions.

Later, they went to 300-bed hospital in Nay Pyi Taw and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects WCDMA Mobile Phone Third Generation and accessories at Asia World Ports Terminal.

TELECOMMUNICATION

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint inspects school health activities at No 5 Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects arrival of WCDMA mobile phone third generation and accessories to be installed in Yangon

Fulfils needs in establishment of inland and offshore communications system

YANGON, 16 June — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, together with officials, this morning inspected arrival of WCDMA mobile phone third generation and accessories to be installed

in Yangon imported from ZTE Co of the People's Republic of China at Asia World Ports Terminal and gave instructions to officials on speedy installation of the machinery.

At the meeting hall of ECS in Hanthawady,

officials concerned reported on postal and auto telephone services and establishment of inland and offshore communications system. The minister fulfilled the requirements and timely completion of the projects. — MNA



Monsoon sale of clothes at Gamonpwint Supermarket

YANGON, 16 June — The sale of clothes and personal goods was held on the fifth floor of Gamonpwint Supermarket in Sangyoung Township, this morning.

The monsoon sale was jointly-organized by 20 garment companies of Thailand and Gamonpwint Supermarket.

Vice-President of Thai Garment Manufacturers

Association Mr Yotsaton Kijkusol and responsible persons of Gamonpwint Supermarket formally opened the shop.

Various kinds of men's and women's wear, batiks, underwear,

children's wear, shoes, leather purses and wallets, hats are available at reasonable price. Foodstuff, personal goods and utensils are also available at reasonable price.— MNA



Vice-President Mr Yotsaton Kijkusol of Thai Garment Manufacturers Association and responsible persons of Gamonpwint Supermarket cut the ribbon to open clothes and personal goods shop.—MNA

Donate Blood

China says US remarks on its military irresponsible

BEIJING, 16 June — China denounced US comments on its defence spending as “irresponsible” on Thursday and defended its military budget, saying it was open and transparent.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang also called on the United States to stop selling weapons to Taiwan, the self-ruled island China considers its own, and to refrain from “sending any wrong signals to Taiwan secessionist forces”.

“China sticks to the role of peaceful development,” Qin told a news conference.

“On the military

expenditure of China, we are transparent and open. The US official’s remarks disregard the facts and spread the China threat theory,” Qin said.

On Wednesday, Richard Lawless, the US Deputy Undersecretary for Defence for Asia, was reported to have accused China of concealing its spending on its weapons programmes.

“What we see is a

deliberate effort on the part of China’s leaders to mask the nature of Chinese military capabilities,” Lawless told the US House Armed Services Committee.

China and the United States have long sparred over the nature of China’s military development, with Washington saying it is trying to project its growing power and Beijing maintaining that its Armed Forces are geared toward self-defence only.

MNA/Reuters



Tim Keeney, US deputy assistant secretary for oceans and atmosphere and a key high-level figure within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, checks out one of the approximately two million old tires that were dumped in the 1970s with the intent of creating an artificial reef as he scuba dives on Thursday, 14 June, 2007, off the shore of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Keeney and other officials got a firsthand look at reef damage, repair and recovery efforts in the area.—INTERNET

Philippines sets up task force for securing ASEAN meeting

MANILA, 16 June — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director-General Oscar Calderon on Thursday ordered to set up a police task force to ensure safety of the upcoming 40th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and its delegates, reported the official *Philippine News Agency*.

Calderon said Task Force AMM would be headed by PNP deputy chief for administration Director-General Avelino Razon and would be composed of various units of the police force. It would be operational in the coming weeks.

The 40th ASEAN ministerial meeting, scheduled from 6 July to 2 August at the Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC) in Pasay City, Metro Manila, is a continuation of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City, central Philippines, held in January.

MNA/Xinhua



German Sauber BMW Formula One driver Nick Heidfeld speeds into a turn to clock the second fastest time during the first timed practice session for the United States Grand Prix auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, on Friday, 15 June, 2007.—INTERNET

Moderate quake jolts E Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 June — An undersea earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale jolted Indonesia’s eastern Moluccas island chain on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of any damage, a meteorological agency official said.

The epicentre of the quake lay at a depth of 39 kilometres (24 miles) under the sea about 104 kilometres southwest of Ternate, capital of North Moluccas province, Andi Zulfikar, an earthquake analyst at the meteorology and geophysics agency, said.

He said no tsunami warning had been issued.

Earthquakes are frequent in Indonesia, which lies in the so-called “Pacific Ring of Fire”.—MNA/Reuters

Five foreigners jailed in UAE for drug trafficking

ABU DHABI, 16 June — Five African visitors were sentenced to 10 years in jail in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for drug trafficking, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Friday.

The Dubai Court of First Instance made the ruling on Thursday, according to the report.

Among the five defendants, a 41-year-old Liberian visitor, identified as PJ, received his 10-year jail sentence for attempting to smuggle 1.6 kilos of heroin capsules to China.

Three visitors from Ghana, Ivory Coast and Nigeria were punished for possessing 147 capsules of heroin weighing more than 2.2 kilos, which they planned to smuggle to China as well.

The court also imposed on a 34-year-old Nigerian visitor, identified as JA, a 10-year jail sentence for possessing 448 heroin capsules weighing about seven kilos for sale. Four other defendants confessed that JA hired them to smuggle the drugs for hundreds of

dollars each.

All five defendants will be deported after serving their terms.

MNA/Xinhua

Lightning kills 21 in central India

NEW DELHI, 16 June — Lightning during monsoon rains has claimed 21 lives in Central India’s Jharkhand Region

since Wednesday, with six school students among the victims, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported here Thursday.

Jharkhand received the first monsoon shower Wednesday. The children died and nearly a dozen were injured when lightning struck Greenfield School in Rampura Village.

The children were playing in the school ground when the tragedy occurred.

A seventh death reported was also in Jharkhand’s Ranchi area, followed by six in Hazaribagh, two each in Chatra, Lohardagga and Balumath, and one each in Sahebganj and Godda.

The government has paid monetary compensation to the families of each of the dead students.

MNA/Xinhua



Control tower : A view from below the new air traffic control tower at London’s Heathrow Airport shortly after its official launch in west London recently.—INTERNET

DONATE BLOOD

BBC says prisoners paid 2.5m pounds compensation

LONDON, 16 June — Prisoners in 94 jails in England and Wales received 2.5 million pounds in compensation last year over claims of abuse, assault, unlawful detention and medical negligence.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act to the BBC show that two jails, Wormwood Scrubs in London and Northalerton Young Offenders Institution in North

Yorkshire accounted for almost half the total.

The Ministry of Justice declined to confirm the amount. In a statement it said it contested compensation claims and that the

majority were successfully defended.

“Each compensation claim received by the Prison Service is treated on its individual merits,” it said.

“Legal advice is sought and ... a decision is made on whether or not the claim should be defended. We cannot

therefore comment on individual cases or the reasons that they were settled, as the terms of each settlement vary and may be subject to confidentiality clauses.”

The ministry declined to comment on the two jails which accounted for the largest proportion of pay-outs.—MNA/Reuters

Israeli DM resigns from Government

JERUSALEM, 16 June — Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz on Friday resigned from his position, after the government approved the appointment of newly-elected Labour Party Chairman Ehud Barak as his replacement, local media said.

There had been speculation that he would stay on in the government. However, Peretz has informed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Friday that he does not intend to stay in the government as a minister without portfolio, as which Olmert is expected to appoint him, a Channel 10 TV report said.

Peretz said in the wake of the Winograd Committee's partial report on the Second Lebanon War that he would resign as Defence Minister following the Labour Party primaries.

Olmert decided to appoint Barak as Defence Minister in his meeting with Barak Friday morning. Olmert has called some of his Cabinet ministers for their agreement over this appointment.

Barak responded to Olmert's request, and is expected to enter his new role upon being sworn into Knesset (Parliament) on Monday. The former prime minister Barak defeated rival Knesset member Ami Ayalon to capture the chairmanship of the Labour Party in a hard-fought primary.

Olmert will meet Barak again at the end of next week, after his return from the United States. Upon returning, the Prime Minister also plans to appoint a Finance Minister and a Negev and Galilee Development Minister, to replace president-elect Shimon Peres. Both these portfolios are expected to remain in Kadima's hands. — MNA/Xinhua

Hamas says negotiating release of BBC's Johnston

GAZA, 16 June — Palestinian Islamist group Hamas said on Friday it was in an advanced stage of negotiations over the release of a British reporter abducted in Gaza almost three months ago.

A statement by Hamas' armed wing said it was talking to the captors of the BBC's Alan Johnston and had “begun practical steps to secure his release”. Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip over the past two days.

In Damascus, Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said he was in contact with Hamas operatives in Gaza to secure the release of Johnston.

“I have urged our brothers in Gaza to double their efforts. I am confident that those holding Alan Johnston will realize that keeping him captive doesn't serve the national interest,” Meshaal said.

“I hope, but I don't not promise, that his release is near,” Meshaal said. Johnston, the only Western correspondent based full-time in Gaza, was seized on 12 March. — MNA/Reuters



French President Nicolas Sarkozy (C) talks to Bernard Schottel (R), curator of the National Gobelins manufacture in Paris, during a visit on 15 June, 2007. Founded in 1607 by Henry IV, the National Gobelins manufacture still produces masterpieces for the French national patrimony. — INTERNET

British mum charged with killing teenage daughters

LONDON, 16 June — A 39-year-old woman was charged on Friday with murdering her two teenage daughters at their home in a Cambridgeshire Village.

Rehka Kumari-Baker is accused of killing daughters Davina, 16, and Jasmine, 13, at the family's house in Stretton near Ely.

She will appear at Peterborough Magistrates Court on Saturday.

The bodies were found on Wednesday after a telephone call was made

from someone inside their house to a member of the public who then told an off-duty police officer.

Local media said the girls had suffered multiple stab wounds. The girls' father David Baker said he was devastated by the news of their deaths.

“They have been taken from me and my

whole family is in pain,” he said in a statement.

“They are irreplaceable. I just want them back.”

Baker said Davina was finishing her GCSEs and wanted to become a social worker, while Jasmine was academically gifted and worked hard at school.

— MNA/Reuters



Personnel from the Philippines' coast guard special operations group take part in a joint maritime exercise with Japan's coast guard in Manila bay on 15 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Blast kills 10 in Philippine south

MANILA, 16 June — At least ten people were killed and an undetermined number wounded when a crude bomb exploded inside a packed commuter bus in the southern Philippines on Friday, a police chief said.

Sherwin Butil, police chief in Bansalan Town on the southern island of Mindanao, said the bomb went off as the bus was leaving a terminal at about 6 pm (1000 GMT).

“No group has claimed responsibility for the attack,” Butil told reporters. “We're still investigating whether Muslim militants or criminal groups engaged in extortion were behind the bombing.”

Butil said the bomb was placed inside a backpack and left under a seat a few rows behind the driver, who was among the wounded.

“Our investigators were still gathering fragments of the explosive device but some passengers told us they saw two men hurriedly got off the bus holding a device that appeared to be a remote control or a mobile phone,” Butil added.

Thirty minutes earlier, a bomb went off in another bus at a terminal in Cotabato City. There were no casualties because all the commuters had left the bus before the blast.

— MNA/Reuters/Xinhua

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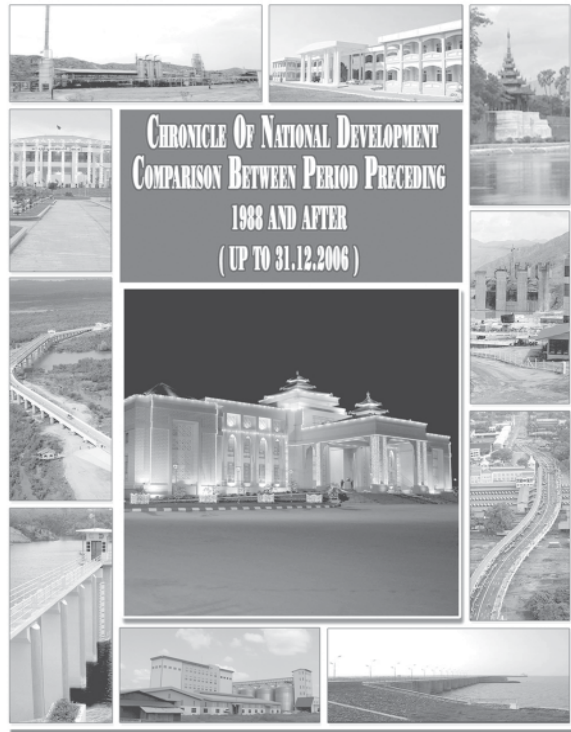
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (739) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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New missiles will guarantee Russia security

Moscow, 15 June — Two new types of ballistic missiles will guarantee Russia's security for decades, the Army daily quoted the commander of strategic missile forces on Thursday as saying.

President Vladimir Putin has made the strengthening of Russia's Armed Forces a top priority. He has singled out strategic missiles as key instruments to ensure Russia's military security.

Russia last month tested the RS-24, a new intercontinental missile with multiple warheads which can be independently targeted.

Top officials said it was capable of breaking through any existing or potential missile defences, such as those planned by the United States.

"One can be absolutely sure that the new RS-24 missile together with the Topol-M mobile and stationary missile complexes will guarantee Russia's security for the next 20-30 years," *Krasnaya Zvezda* daily quoted General Nikolai Solovtsov as saying.

He said the deployment of RS-24s would start in the next few years. Russian officials have said that a US decision to withdraw from the Soviet-era Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty to go ahead with the creation of a new missile defence system has sped the development and introduction of the RS-24.

During last month's test, an RS-24 was fired from a mobile launcher at a cosmodrome far to the north of Moscow. Officials said that under an hour later it successfully hit its targets at a test site on the sparsely inhabited far eastern peninsula of Kamchatka.

MNA/Reuters

Gaza blast kills four Palestinians

GAZA, 15 June — Four young Palestinians died in an explosion in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday, hospital officials said, and the Israeli Army denied reports from residents that they were killed by an Israeli tank shell.

Hospital officials said the four, all aged under 18, had been killed by a shell fired in the town of Rafah near the border with Egypt. Palestinian residents said Israeli troops had been operating in the area.

An Israeli Army spokeswoman said the Army had not opened fire. Rival Palestinian factions have been battling throughout the Gaza Strip, and Hamas and Fatah militants clashed in Rafah earlier on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Builder cuts off water to Rome's Trevi Fountain

ROME, 15 June — Water supplying Rome's world-famous Trevi Fountain was cut off when a builder across town damaged a 2,000-year-old pipe, the local water company said on Wednesday.

Water had been flowing into central Rome through the "aqueduct of the virgin" since 19 BC, but it mysteriously dried up earlier this month, cutting supplies to several fountains, including the Baroque masterpiece Trevi.

A search using a waterborne video camera through the ancient pipe tracked the blockage to a house in the high-end Parioli neighbourhood on the other side of the Villa Borghese Park, where builders were making a private underground car park.

A spokesman for the ACEA water company said the builder had broken the pipe, then tried to mend it with concrete, but instead had filled it in. "We're undergoing technical checks and reckon it will take a couple of months to repair," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Drive safely

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**Place : Gānone Pwint Department Store (Myayngone)
Period: 16 June to 15 July 2007
Time : Daily 9.30 AM to 9.00 PM**

WHO says reducing environmental risks would improve health

GENEVA, 15 June — People's health could be improved by reducing environmental risks including pollution, hazards in the work environment, ultraviolet radiation, noise and climate and ecosystem change, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

Releasing the first ever country-by-country analysis of the impact of environmental factors on health, the UN agency said that 13 million deaths worldwide could be prevented every year by making environments healthier.

New data shows that in some countries more than one-third of the disease burden could be prevented through environmental improvements. Those countries worst affected

by environmental problems include Angola, Burkina Faso, Mali and Afghanistan.

According to the data, in 23 countries worldwide more than 10 per cent of deaths are caused by just two environmental factors: unsafe water, including poor sanitation and hygiene; and indoor air pollution due to solid fuel use for cooking.

Around the world, children under five are the main victims and make up 74 per cent of deaths due to diarrhoea-related disease and lower respiratory infections, caused by unsafe water and indoor air pollution, respectively.

Low-income countries suffer the most from environmental factors, losing about 20 times more healthy years of life per

person per year than high income countries.

No country is immune from the environmental impact on health, the data showed.

Even in countries with better environmental conditions, almost one-sixth of the disease burden could be prevented, and efficient environmental intervention could significantly reduce cardiovascular disease and road traffic injuries.

"These country estimates are a first step toward assisting national decision-makers in the sectors of health and environment to set priorities for preventive action," said Susanne Weber-Mosdorf, WHO's assistant director-general for sustainable development and healthy environments. —MNA/Xinhua

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12-year-old French-language newspaper closed down in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 15 June — Major French-language newspaper in Cambodia, the 12-year-old *Cambodge Soir*, has been closed down permanently after a two-day strike, local media on Thursday quoted a statement as saying.

The daily newspaper's parent company Societe des Editions du Mekong claimed to be bankrupt, but the truth stood behind an article on the Global Witness report with a theme widely judged too critical towards the government, English-

language newspaper the *Cambodian Daily* quoted the staff's statement and senior editor as saying.

The reporter writing the article was fired and then led to the strike by the staff members on Monday, said the state-

ment. "On Tuesday night, the director verbally announced the administrative council's decision to close down the Societe des Editions du Mekong, which publishes the *Cambodge Soir*," it added.

MNA/Xinhua



Spacewalker Danny Olivas is attached to Atlantis' robot arm as he works to repair a displaced thermal blanket on the shuttle's left orbital maneuvering system pod, on 15 June, 2007. —INTERNET

Swiss hand back stolen statue from Greece

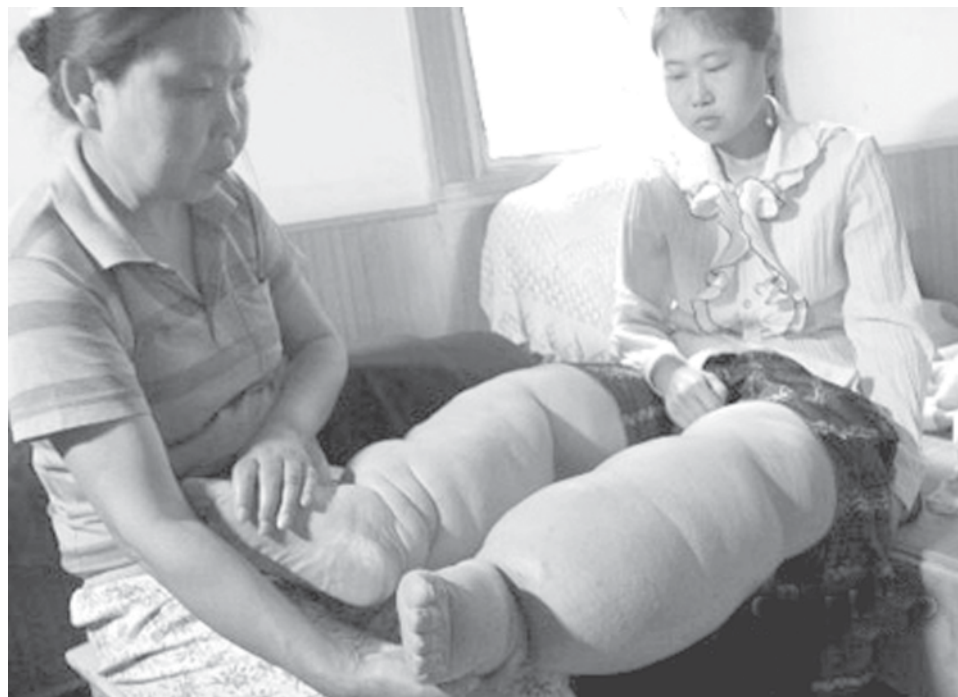
GENEVA, 15 June — Switzerland has returned an ancient Greek statue stolen 16 years ago and recently discovered in the collection of an antiquities dealer, the official Swissinfo website reported on Thursday.

The recovery of the 1,900-year-old headless marble sculpture came as Greece campaigned for the repatriation of illegally exported antiquities, according to the report.

The Swiss Federal Culture Office said the 1.3-metre torso of a young man was loaded on a plane in

Zurich bound for Athens, where it arrived on Thursday. The Culture Office added that Switzerland was implementing measures to combat the illegal transfer of cultural goods.

Switzerland has concluded several agreements on the import and repatriation of cultural heritage with countries including Greece, Italy and Peru. —MNA/Xinhua



Wang Cheng (R), a 23-year-old girl in Xuzhou, a city of east China's Jiangsu Province, has developed surprisingly thick legs since she was seven. Her right leg first rounded out for no particular reason and the other leg followed two years later. Now, her left leg is 0.7 metres round. A dozen Chinese urban hospitals have failed to figure out what happened. — XINHUA

Norway's Petterson bags 100,000 euro book prize

DUBLIN, 15 June — Norwegian author Per Petterson and his translator Anne Born won the world's richest literary prize for a single work of fiction in English on Thursday for the novel *Out Stealing Horses*.

Petterson collected 100,000 euros (133,000 US dollars), of which Born will get 25,000, for his novel focusing on a solitary 67-year-old Norwegian widower whose chance encounter with a character from his

youth triggers painful memories.

"It is a very happy man that stands before you. A surprised man," Petterson said after Dublin's Lord Mayor named him as winner of the 12th International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. "It seems with this book I am the boy with the golden trousers and every time I put my hand in my pockets I pick up a golden coin," he said. "It is so cool."

MNA/Reuters

Survey shows average Chinese elderly lose 11 teeth

BEIJING, 15 June — The elderly in China have little to smile about when it comes to dental health as survey by the Ministry of Health shows people over the age of 65 on average lose 11 teeth, and 7 per cent of them are toothless.

"About 98.4 per cent of Chinese elderly between 65 and 74 suffer from tooth decay, and nearly 92 per cent of them did not receive treatment," according to China's third national survey on oral health, which was released on Wednesday.

"As the Chinese population ages, dental health must not be neglected," said Qi Xiaoqiu, director of the ministry's disease control bureau.

The survey, based on the World Health Organization standards, shows nearly 66 per cent of China's five-year-olds have decayed teeth, down 11 per cent from a decade ago. — MNA/Xinhua

A large male Siberian tiger devours a pheasant at the Siberian Tiger Park in the northern Chinese city of Harbin, recently. A voracious appetite for wildlife products driven by a juggernaut economy has pushed China into the spotlight at the UN forum for trade in endangered species as never before, officials and major conservation groups have said. —INTERNET

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson found dead in IIC

NEW DELHI, 15 June — Ramchandra Gandhi, a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, was Wednesday found dead in a room at the India International Centre (IIC) here.

The body of 70-year-old Gandhi, an acclaimed academician and playwright, was found in Room Number 15 of the elite club in South Delhi where he had checked in on 10 June.

Senior police officials said his death appeared to be natural, but added that an autopsy would be conducted to ascertain the

exact cause. Police was informed about his death by IIC officials, who broke open the door of his room this morning after they did not get any response from him, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police I. B. Rani told PTI. "The housekeeping staff knocked at the door of the room in the morning and after not getting any response informed the manager about it. The door was then broken down and Gandhi's body was found lying on the floor," the police officer said. — MNA/PTI



SPORTS



Audi R10/TDI drivers : Rinaldo Capello of Italy, left, seven time winner of the 24 hours of Le Mans Tom Kristensen of Denmark, centre, and Allan McNish of Scotland celebrate during a parade on the eve of the 24-hours Le Mans car endurance race in Le Mans, on 15 June, 2007.—INTERNET

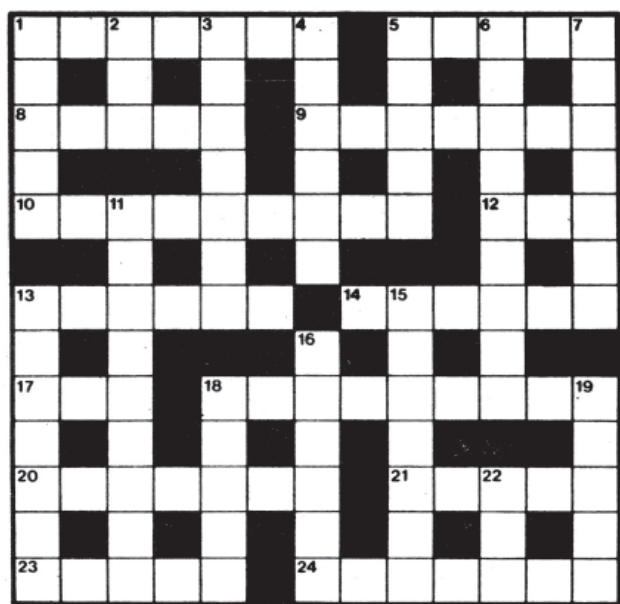
Injury-time goal sends Serbia into semifinals

AMSTERDAM, 16 June — Bosko Jankovic scored in the third minute of injury time to send Serbia into the semifinals of the European Under-21 championship on Thursday after a 1-0 victory over the Czech Republic in Nijmegen.

Jankovic powerfully headed home after a cross from the right by Milan Smiljanic.

An evenly-matched opening half produced plenty of chances for both sides, but Serbia had more possession in the second half and Jankovic forced a string of saves from Czech keeper Zdenek Zlamal before finally finding the net. Serbia, who had a surprise 1-0 victory over Italy in their first Group B tie, have 6 points from their opening two games, while the Czech Republic have 1 point. Italy face England later in Arnhem in another Group B tie.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Urging along
- 5 Rule
- 8 Subject
- 9 Momentum
- 10 Rebuke
- 12 Floor covering
- 13 Pamper
- 14 Panacea
- 17 Poem
- 18 Not minced (anag.)
- 20 Colouring substance
- 21 Dodge
- 23 Bucolic
- 24 In haste

DOWN

- 1 Discourage
- 2 Mischievous child
- 3 Slope
- 4 Stringed instrument
- 5 Fast
- 6 Meddle
- 7 Posy
- 11 Transport user
- 13 Helicopter (sl.)
- 15 Obvious
- 16 Grab
- 18 Fish basket
- 19 Midlands river
- 22 Bustling activity

Defar breaks women's 5,000m world record

OSLO, 15 June — Meseret Defar of Ethiopia smashed her own 5,000m world record by nearly eight seconds and Jamaica's Asafa Powell cruised to a victory in the men's 100 at a Golden League meeting here on Friday.

Defar clocked 14 minutes 16.63 seconds to better her previous world mark of 14:24.53 set in New York on 3 June, 2006.

Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot finished second in 14:22.51 ahead of compatriot Priscah Jepleting in third in 14:44.51.

"Everything was perfect today," Defar said. "I knew I could break the record after two kilometers. But I didn't think I'd break the record by such a big margin."

The 23-year-old also won the Olympic title at 5,000 and held world bests in the 3 km and 5 km road races last year. World record holder Powell sped to victory in 9.94 seconds in the first Golden League meeting of the season.

He burst out of the blocks and led all the way to beat Francis Obikwelu of Portugal, who clocked 10.06 seconds.

Briton Marlon Devonish placed third overall in 10.20. "9.94 is a good time for today," Powell said.

"This was my second race of a long



Meseret Defar of Ethiopia celebrates after smashing her own 5,000m world record by nearly eight seconds at a Golden League meeting in Oslo on 15 June, 2007.—INTERNET

season. I am just coming back from a knee injury and I am faster than I was at this point last year," the 24-year-old added. Powell, who shares the world record with Justin Gatlin of the United States, started the season with a time of 9.97 seconds in Belgrade on 29 May. Victories at the meeting set Powell, Defar and eight others on the way to a 1 million US dollars jackpot for an athlete who wins all six of their Golden League events.

Powell shared last year's jackpot with American 400m runners Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards.

The next Golden League competition is on 6 July in Paris.—Internet

Kohlschreiber stuns Blake in Halle

HALLE (Germany), 16 June — Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber outplayed American third seed James Blake on Friday to seal a place in the semifinals of the Halle Open with a 6-4, 6-3 success.

The 23-year-old Kohlschreiber, who won the first ATP title of his career in Munich earlier this year, took just 72 minutes to see off Blake on the Halle grass.

Kohlschreiber will go on to face eighth seed Marcos Baghdatis after the Cypriot saw off another German, Florian Mayer, 6-3, 6-3 in less than an hour.

The other semifinal will be between Finland's Jarkko Nieminen and Czech fourth seed Tomas Berdych.

MNA/Reuters



Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei plays a shot against Denmark's Kenneth Jonassen during their singles match at the Sudirman Cup World Team Badminton Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, on 15 June, 2007.—INTERNET

Hawkeye help sends Roddick into quarters at Queen's

LONDON, 16 June — Andy Roddick had new technology to thank on Thursday after he was put under pressure by British wildcard Alex Bogdanovic at Queen's. The three-times former champion challenged an out call that would have put him match point down during the second set tiebreak.

The grasscourt tournament's Hawkeye technology ruled the ball had just clipped the line and Roddick went on to win the tiebreak 7-5 and the match 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

The technology, that allows the ball to be tracked with pinpoint accuracy, will be introduced at Wimbledon for the first time this year.—MNA/Reuters

Tiger relief after shooting 74 at brutal Oakmont

OAKMONT (Pennsylvania), 16 June — Tiger Woods was relieved to keep double-bogeys off his card after battling to a four-over-par 74 in the US Open second round on Friday. The world number one, hunting his 13th major title, piled up six bogeys and two birdies to end a gruelling day at Oakmont Country Club five strokes behind the pacesetter Angel Cabrera of Argentina. US Open champion at Pebble Beach in 2000 and at Bethpage Black in 2002, Woods knows the last two rounds will provide a severe mental test.—MNA/Reuters

Jankovic overcomes stiff neck, rain to reach quarters

LODNON, 16 June — A stiff neck could not prevent Jelena Jankovic from battling to a 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 win over Maria Kirilenko in the third round of the Birmingham Classic on Friday.

The second-seeded Serbian capitalized on a rare dry spell at the rain-hit tournament and was joined in the last eight by Chinese fourth seed Li Na and number five Marion Bartoli. Top seed Maria Sharapova, however, was not as lucky as she had to make a dash for the locker room before she could even play a point.

The Russian's match against Austrian Tamira Paszek will have to be played on Saturday, although the weather is unlikely to improve.

MNA/Reuters



Yang Yilin from Guangdong Province captured the women's all-around title in Shanghai at China's national gymnastics championship on 14 June, 2007.—XINHUA

73-year-old Indian fails school exams on 38th try

JAIPUR (India), 16 June — A 73-year-old Indian farmer who vowed not to marry before passing his high school exams has failed to get through for the 38th time.

Shiv Charan Yadav has been taking the exams — normally given to schoolchildren at the age of 15—every year since 1969, without success.

He was in his 30s when he first decided to better himself through education.

This year, he failed everything except Sanskrit, scoring only 103 out of a possible 600 points.

He said he found mathematics especially hard, blaming the subject for dragging down his score.

“Once I pass I want to get married to a girl who’s under 30,” Yadav, who lives alone in Kohari Village in the western desert state of Rajasthan, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

US Navy officer charged with selling lasers

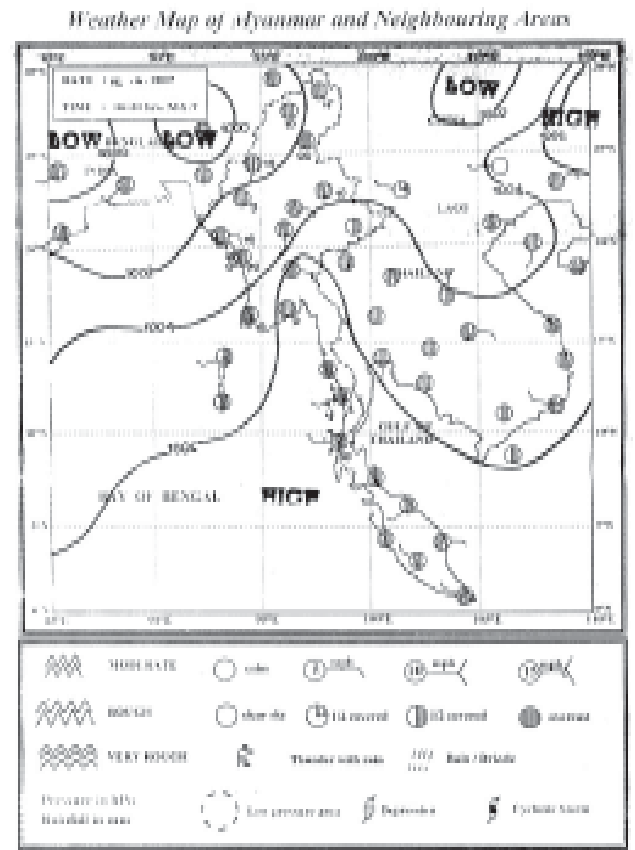
NEW YORK, 16 June — A former US Navy lieutenant has been charged with selling military laser-aiming devices to an undercover federal agent he met through auction website eBay, prosecutors in New York said on Thursday.

As a supply officer aboard a minesweeper, David Carmel, 32, bought hundreds of items including laser-aiming devices, known as PEQs, machine gun barrels, night-vision goggles and other parts not needed for his vessel, federal prosecutors said.

Prosecutors allege that Carmel, after advertising a “destroyed” Leupold rifle scope on eBay, received queries from an undercover agent in New York about the scope and other merchandise.

The complaint said Carmel told the agent in a phone conversation he had laser-sighting devices, night vision equipment and “stuff that you can’t generally buy”, and that PEQs were never sold on the civilian market.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Saturday, 16 June, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Ayeyawady Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Mon States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.20) inch, Gwa (3.39) inches, Mogok (3.03) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.99) inches, Myitkyina (2.68) inches, An (2.32) inches, Mawlaik (2.05) inches and Taungdwingyi (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-6-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 16-6-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-6-2007 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 15-6-2007 was (1.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-6-2007 was (0.40) inch at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye, (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (38.35) inches at Mingaladon, (43.15) inches at Kaba-Aye and (41.46) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (14:15) hours MST on 15-6-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-6-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated 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: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-6-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Asleep in Jesus Saw Yan Aung C. Doo (B.Sc Forestry, M.S (Hawaii) Age (76 Yrs)

Rector (Rtrd) Institute of Forestry, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw

Eldest son of Mr. & Mrs Ah Doo, loving father of Saw Aung Doo+Naw Paw Mee, Aye Aye Theint, Naw Eh Po Doo+Saw Mission and Saw Tha Doo, brother of (U Saw Pleh Paw), U Saw Ler Paw, U Saw T Doo and Daw Naw Victory, grandfather of 3, loving husband of Daw Naw Aye Po of No (292) Myo Gyi Rd, Taungu had heard the calling of his Father in heaven in the morning of 16-6-2007 at the Forest Research Institute, Yezin. The burial service will be held on 18-6-2007 at 3 pm at the Pynmana Christian Cemetery.

The bereaved family



Elena Slesarenko from Russia, wins the high jump event for women at the Bislett Games in Oslo, on Friday, 15 June 2007, reaching a height of 2.02m. —INTERNET



Sunday, 17 June View on today

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်တော်သံဃာ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌ ဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မတဏှာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:10 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am 7. ငါ့သရော်ကရေလှောင်တမံ
- 8:20 am 8. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am 9. International news

- 8:45 am 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:30 am 4. Yan can cook
- 11:55 am 5. Myanmar video feature “လှည့်၍မရသော လှည့်ကွက်” (ကျော်သူ၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းနိုင်)
- 1:50 pm 6. “တော်ကြံပါတော့ ဗျာ၊ သွားကြပါတော့ဗျာ ဆောင်းပါးရှင်ငါးမင်းဆွေနှင့် ဆွေးနွေးခန်း”
- 2:15 pm 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:30 pm 8. Musical programme
- 2:45 pm 9. International news
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45pm 4. သာယာချိုအေး(၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး
- 4:55 pm 5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:10 pm 6. Song of national races
- 5:25 pm 7. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:00 pm 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 10. သိရိဂေဟာ
- 7:00 pm 11. “အချိန်မီပီပီသေးတယ်” (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 7:10 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်”(အပိုင်း-၃၅)
- 8:00 pm 13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၂၆)
- 17. The next day's programme



- Sunday, 17 June Tune in today
- 8:30 am Brief news
 - 8:35 am Music: -It's still Rock “N” Roll to me
 - 8:40 am Perspectives
 - 8:45 am Music: -Happy song
 - 8:50 am National news / Slogan
 - 9:00 am Music: -Angel's eyes
 - 9:05 am International news
 - 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar -General knowledge gained from surroundings
 - 9:20am Music: -It came out of the sky
 - 1:30 pm News / Slogan
 - 1:40pm Story for children -Tit for tat
 - 1:50pm Songs for children
 - 9:00pm Weekly news review
 - 9:10pm Article
 - 9:20pm Music -Heart mender -Love hurts
 - 9:45 pm News / Slogan
 - 10:00 pm PEL

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MOFA totally rejects statement on sixth annual “Trafficking in Persons Report” of US State Department

The report lacks objectivity, does not fully reflect Myanmar’s concerted efforts against human trafficking

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — The following is the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejecting the sixth annual “Trafficking in Persons Report” of the US Department of State.

The sixth annual “Trafficking in Persons Report” issued by the US Department of State this month is a compendium of situations in selected countries. Although the stated aim of the US is to eradicate trafficking in persons, internationally, the report lacks objectivity and does not fully reflect Myanmar’s concerted efforts against human trafficking.

With regard to prosecution, the report recognizes the progress made by the government throughout the past year. The report notes that police identified over 400 traffickers in 191 cases in 2006 and that information sharing with the international organizations had improved. It also states that the

police units that have received anti-trafficking training have provided separate smuggling and trafficking statistics.

With regard to protection, it states that the Department of Social Welfare provides temporary shelters to repatriated trafficking victims at eight vocational training centers and the victims have a right to file civil suits and seek legal action against the traffickers. The report mentions that the government refers victims to the few NGOs and international organizations providing reintegration assistance.

With regard to prevention, though the Government is relentlessly fighting this complex problem, the report only states that the government has marginally increased its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, thereby failing to faithfully reflect the true situation. The report recognizes that the Myanmar

Women’s Affairs Federation conducted almost 8,000 educational sessions for women around the country that included information about the risks of trafficking. It also recognizes the government’s distribution of pamphlets, publications of press articles and airing of television and radio plays on trafficking.

Indeed, Myanmar Government has been tackling the menace of trafficking in persons as a national duty and in cooperation with UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and all concerned stakeholders. Despite these persistent efforts, which the report itself duly noted, the State Department has failed to promote Myanmar’s status from Tier-3 again this year.

The Government of Myanmar therefore totally rejects the placement of Myanmar in Tier-3 of the State Department’s report. — MNA

Pyuchaung, Kunchaung Hydropower Projects supervised



Minister Col Zaw Min inspects Kunchaung Hydropower Project.—MNA

YANGON, 16 June —Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min inspected construction of the outlet of water tunnel, power intake and gate shaft at Pyuchaung Hydropower Project site in Pyu Township on 14 June evening.

On completion, the project of the hydropower station can generate 40 megawatts.

At Kunchaung Hydropower Project site, nine miles from Pyu, the minister inspected construction of the main embankment, power intake building, water control tower and spillway. Construction of the project task has been completed by 57 per cent. On completion, the power station will generate 60 megawatts.

At the projects, the minister instructed officials to strive for completion of the tasks earlier than scheduled and to take care of worksite safety.

MNA

NLD in collusion with internal and external destructive elements undermining the State Ignoring State’s development drives, party committing acts that may subject the nation and the people to foreign domination

13 of Seikkyi Khanaungto, Einme Township NLDs quit

YANGON, 16 June — Six members including U Myint Swe of Seikkyi Khanaungto Township National League for Democracy of Yangon Division on 7 June and seven members including U Kyi Win of Khatthiya village-tract of Einme Township NLD of Ayeyawady Division resigned from the party of their own accord on 10 June.

They sent letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the letters sent to Seikkyi Khanaungto and

Einme Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commissions, they said NLD in collusion with internal and external destructive elements is undermining stability of the State, community peace and rule of law in various ways. In addition, ignoring development drives of the State, the party is committing acts that may subject the country and the people to the foreign domination. Therefore, they resigned from the party of their own volition.

MNA