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True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

With Myanma gems and jade market developing, many global nations including neighbours paying more attention to the country's gems emporiums

Secretary-1 addresses meeting of Leading Committee for Development of Myanma Gems Industry

YANGON, 8 May — The meeting (2/2006) of the Leading Committee for Development of Myanma Gems Industry took place at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the leading committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council

Li-Gen Thein Sein. Present at the meeting were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint

Thein, members of Gems Supervisory Central Committee and officials of the SPDC Office.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said gems enterprise not only generates national income but also benefits private firms. So, the leading committee needs to speed up gems mining activities without

much delay. Nowadays, as Myanma gems and jade market is developing, many global nations including neighbours are paying more attention to the country's gems emporiums. Therefore, it is necessary to boost gem production and sale. Gem mining needs a great deal of investment as well as a hard work. That is why the State will make speedy arrangements to put gems and jade on sale. Previously, gems sales were held two or three times a year. However, it is now required to hold gems sales occasionally based on production without any fixed time. Next, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for the Ministry of

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Gem mining needs a great deal of investment as well as hard work. That is why the State will make speedy arrangements to put gems and jade on sale.

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 delivers an address at the meeting of the Leading Committee for Development of Myanma Gems Industry. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 May, 2006

Cultivate physic nut plants as a national duty

In the world today, the price of oil is skyrocketing and industrialized nations will soon encounter the fuel problem. Being one of the countries that have to depend on imported oil, Myanmar has to spend a lot of foreign exchange on import of oil. To help solve the fuel problem, physic nut plants are being grown all over the nation. Biodiesel extracted from physic nuts can be used in place of oil.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance that each state and division is to grow physic nut plants on 500,000 acres within three years. Ceremonies to collectively grow physic nut plants on 100 acres owned by Northeast Command in Lashio, on 1,000 acres owned by Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd and in the physic nut research garden of Northeast Command were held on 28 April, 2 May and 5 May respectively. The state-level departmental personnel and leaders of the local national races took part in these plant-growing ceremonies.

Out of 1,000 acres on No (3) highland owned by Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd, 145 acres have been put under physic nut plants. Efforts are being made to distribute quality physic nut seeds, saplings and grafts of Northeast Command to local farmers and entrepreneurs free of charge and disseminate cultivation methods. At the 100-acre model plantation 360,000 physic nut saplings grown from direct seedling and 120,000 saplings grown with physic nut cuttings are now ready to be transplanted. And efforts are being made to meet the targeted acreage in the rainy season.

In Shan State (North), 500,000 acres of land have been slated for growing physic nut plants. Departments, local battalions and private companies have grown physic nut plants on 21,821.72 acres. Now the plants are thriving and have begun bearing fruits. In June, the first batch of fruits will be harvested and distributed some amount of seeds to departments, local battalions and private companies to plant them again. The remaining seeds will be used to produce biodiesel for farming vehicles.

We would like to call on the entire national people to carry out the extended cultivation of physic nut plants as a national duty in the interests of the nation and their own.



Joint Treasure U Maung Maung Gyi (L) of Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon accepts K 100,000 donated by U Kyaw Zaw and Daw Htay Htay of No 36, 14th Street, Lanmadaw Township recently. — H

Oppose Those Relying on External Elements

- * 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

Tagoshin Myatagun & Aungthansu Lottery Shop donates cash

YANGON, 8 May — Tagoshin Myatagun and Aungthansu Lottery Shop on 5 May donated cash to Zeya Thukha Pagoda in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, and honoured a K 50 million winner of the 207th State Lottery. At the cash donation ceremony held at Traders Hotel here, wellwishers U Pe Win and U Than Zaw presented cash K 5 million to the pagoda through a responsible person. — MNA



U Pe Win and U Than Zaw of Tagoshin Myatagun & Aungthansu lottery shop present K 5 million to Actor U Kyaw Hein for Zeya Thukha Pagoda. — MNA

Bo tree water pouring ceremony to be held at Tooth Relic Pagoda

YANGON, 8 May — Board of Trustees of Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township will hold the 8th ceremony to pour water at the Bo Tree located at the south of the pagoda on 11 May (Full Moon Day of Kason).

The board of trustees has made arrangements for those wishing to participate in the ceremony. — MNA

CSSTB's workshop eyes to sharpen skills of course lecturers

YANGON, 8 May — Civil Service Selection and Training Board held the workshop on upgrading the quality of course lecturers of the institutes and departments under CSSTB today at Central Institute of Civil Service in Phauγγgyi.

A total of 70 faculty members and officials from institutes and departments under the CSSTB participated in the workshop and three papers were read out today. Chairman of the central committee for organizing the workshop Rector of CICS (Phauγγgyi) U Win Aung delivered an opening address. Members of CSSTB U Nyunt Swe and U Hla Myint Oo also participated in the workshop which will conclude on 10 May. — MNA

Crop plantations in arid zones inspected

YANGON, 8 May — U Tun Tun, Director General of Arid Zones Greening Department of the Ministry of Forestry, on 27 and 28 April inspected the neem plantations in Shwepontaung, Chauk Township,

Magway Division, greening and beautifying tasks being implemented on Tuyin Mountain, Myinsai Mountain and Taungtha Mountain in Taungtha Township in Mandalay Division and Kokke Mountain in

Myingyan township.

During his inspection tours, the director general called on officials to strive for ensuring thriving plantations, cultivation of physic nut and measures to be taken for fire prevention. — MNA

Winners of ASEAN

Radio Quiz poses with their prizes at Myanmar Radio and Television in Yangon on 4 May 2006.

(News Reported)—H



All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

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

Russia insists UN draft resolution on Iran needs adjustment

Moscow, 7 May—The draft resolution on Iran submitted by European countries to the UN Security Council “needs adjustment”, Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak said here on Saturday.

“Russia has come out with the proposal, whose essence is Iran’s freezing uranium enrichment works for the period of work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on rebuilding confidence in the character of the Iranian nuclear programme,” Kislyak was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying. France and Britain, backed by the United States, introduced Wednesday a new draft resolution to the UN Security Council demanding Iran suspend all enrichment activities immediately or face possible sanctions.

The draft invokes Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, under which the Council can resort to economic or diplomatic sanctions, or even military action, to ensure

its decisions are implemented.

The draft was circulated at a closed-door meeting of the 15-nation Security Council, days after the IAEA sent a new report to the Council confirming Iran’s noncompliance with its demand to suspend enrichment activities. After weeks of tough negotiations, the council adopted a presidential statement at the end of March urging Teheran to comply with the IAEA’s demands to build confidence in the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme.

The draft resolution “calls upon Iran without further delay to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors” and “decides, in this regard, that Iran shall suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA, and suspend the construction of a reactor moderated by heavy water”.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Japanese dealers conduct trading at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo, on 8 May, 2006. The dollar touched an eight-month low against the yen on Monday after the US Treasury’s Undersecretary for International Affairs Timothy Adams suggested that Japanese policymakers should avoid intervening verbally in currency markets.—INTERNET



Activists gather in a park in central London during an anti-war protest on 6 May, 2006.
INTERNET

British company bankruptcies soar 30% in Q1

LONDON, 7 May—The number of British corporate bankruptcies jumped nearly 30 per cent to a record high in the first quarter of 2006, government statistics show, with retailers hit hardest as consumers reined in spending.

There were 753 bankruptcies in the first three months of the year, up from 580 in the fourth quarter of 2005, the highest quarterly total since comparable figures began in 2003, the Department of Trade and Industry said on Friday.

The statistics came as the DTI also reported that

consumer insolvencies in England and Wales leapt 73 per cent from a year earlier. “The concern today relates to a particularly large increase in the number of administrations,”

Malcolm Shierson, a partner in accounting firm Grant Thornton’s Recovery & Reorganization practice, said of the government’s latest statistics.

MNA/Reuters

Europe faces threat of unknown viruses attack

LONDON, 7 May—A veritable zoo of nasty new viruses is circulating in Europe and could kill people without even being detected, the *New Scientist* reported on Saturday.

Tahyna, which can cause encephalitis in humans like the West Nile virus, is common across the Europe in mosquitoes, rabbits and birds, the magazine quoted Ernie Gould of the University of Oxford as saying.

Gould is engaged in a study commissioned by the British Government on

the risk of insect-borne and other arthropod-borne viruses emerging in Britain.

According to Gould, such diseases may already be infecting and killing people.

About 50 Britons die every year from viral encephalitis, yet fewer than 40 per cent of these deaths are ever pinned on a specific pathogen. The figures are similar in other developed countries.

“Wildlife is a huge reservoir of potential pathogens, but at the moment we do very little

in the way of surveillance,” the report quoted Joe Brownlie of the Royal Veterinary College, London, as saying. Brownlie stressed the need to test more animals and birds.

MNA/Xinhua

Playing around : White tigers play in their enclosure in a zoological park in New Delhi.
INTERNET



Rescuers retrieve bodies of 10 US troops

KABUL, 7 May—Rescuers recovered the bodies of 10 soldiers who perished in a helicopter crash while scouring remote Afghan mountains along the Pakistan border for al-Qaida and Taliban militants, the US military said on Sunday.

The military said Friday’s crash into an inaccessible ravine — the deadliest for US forces here in a year — was not caused by hostile fire.

The soldiers were based at Fort Drum in New York, but their names and units will not be released for several days, Fort Drum spokesman Benjamin Abel said Sunday.

Of the roughly 18,000 Americans serving in Afghanistan, about half are from the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum.

An investigation team was at the scene of the crash, said Lt Tamara D Lawrence, a spokeswoman for the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

“The area was inaccessible to trucks and vehicles, so helicopters were used to retrieve the bodies,” said Lawrence.

The helicopter crashed in the Chawkay district of Kunar, about 40 miles southwest of a large US military base in the provincial capital of Asadabad. Asadabad is in a large valley surrounded by rugged mountains. Some 2,500 Afghan and US soldiers are conducting a joint military campaign in Kunar province near the border with Pakistan. It is one of the biggest offensives since the ouster of the hard-line Taliban regime by US-led forces in late 2001 for hosting al-Qaida.

At least 234 US military personnel, including those killed Friday, have died in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the conflict, according to the Defence Department.

Internet



Thai children take part in a training session of the animation programme provided at a school in Bangkok, on 6 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Lee Hsien Loong vows to serve people better

SINGAPORE, 7 May—Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at a Press conference early Sunday morning that he is happy that his People's Action Party (PAP) won the general elections by gaining 66.6 per cent of the votes.

Having got this strong mandate from the people, he and his PAP team

will implement the programmes stated in the party's manifesto and do their best to serve Singaporeans, Lee said.

He said that the new leadership team will lead Singapore through the next 15 to 20 years and the key is to keep in touch with changing demographics and the younger generation, as well as the

new globalized world order.

He called on all Singaporeans to close ranks, stay together and move ahead, saying that there are enormous talent, experience and expertise among them and that each of them can make his own contribution to the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Traditional Chinese medicine export reaches record high

BEIJING, 7 May — China exported traditional Chinese medicine to 164 countries and regions around the world last year, with export earnings reaching an all-time high of 830 million US dollars, according to the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The export earnings represented a 14.55-per-cent increase from the previous year.

However, the export only accounted for 6 per cent of China's total export of medicine products and most of the earnings came from the export of low value-added extracted herbal substances and raw materials, according to the Customs.

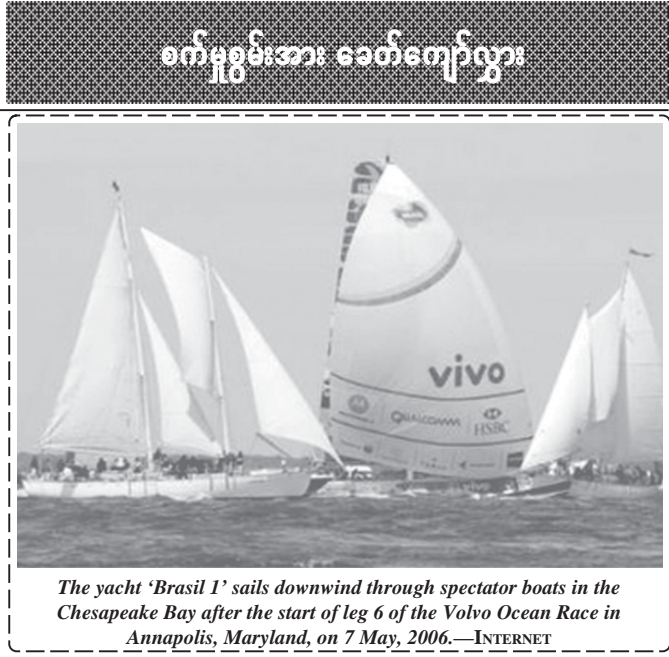
Last year, China earned 69.57 million US dollars from the export of extracted herbal substances.

Experts here said as the world's major production base of herbal medicine, China should intensify efforts to develop and export more high value-

added patent medicine.

Customs statistics also show that China imported 240 million US dollars of herbal medicines last year, rising by 6.4 per cent year on year and accounting for 2 per cent of the total import of medicine product.

MNA/Xinhua



The yacht 'Brasil 1' sails downwind through spectator boats in the Chesapeake Bay after the start of leg 6 of the Volvo Ocean Race in Annapolis, Maryland, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Italy's "Unabomber" suspected in bottle blast

ROME, 7 May — A bottle exploded on a beach in northern Italy, injuring a man who picked it up, in what police said on

Saturday was probably the latest attack by Italy's "Unabomber".

Police said the 28-year-old was walking along the seafront in Porto Santa Margherita, near Venice, when he found the bottle, apparently containing a sheet of paper, abandoned in rocks.

News agencies said he had lost his thumb and had two other fingers badly damaged when the bottle exploded.

"It's probably Unabomber," said a police source, referring to the shadowy figure, nicknamed after a serial US bomber, who has been hunted by Italian investigators for more than a decade.

The attacker has since 1994 planted exploding eggs and booby-trapped tubes of tomato paste, bottles of blowing bubbles and church electric candles in northern cities.

MNA/Reuters

Cruise liner on fire off S-E England

LONDON, 7 May— A cruise liner with about 750 passengers and crew aboard was on fire off the coast of southeast England early on Saturday, a British Coast Guard official said.

The ship's crew were fighting the fire, which broke out in the engine room, and were understood to have brought it under control, he said.

Search and rescue helicopters and ships were on the way and other vessels in the area were giving assistance, he said.

Sky TV said earlier that the liner was about 20 miles off Eastbourne, a seaside town on the southeast English coast.

MNA/Reuters

Migrants in US pay to have kids smuggled

JUJUAN, (Mexico), 8 May—Alejandro Valenzuela, a loquacious 12-year-old, memorized the details of a borrowed US birth certificate and jumped in the front seat of his smuggler's car.

Tired from a two-day bus trip to the border from Mexico's central state of Jalisco, Alejandro soon fell asleep. He was awakened by the flashlight of a US immigration

inspector.

"I told him in English, 'I'm an American citizen,' but he kept asking questions. That's all the English I know," Alejandro said as he rested at a child welfare office back in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego.

Alejandro is one of a rising number of children trying to sneak into the United States without their parents. Some hide

in cars or try to pass themselves off as US citizens, while others ride inner tubes across the Rio Grande or trek through the harsh Arizona desert.

Since October, about 70,000 children have been detained along the Mexican border, a 5 per cent increase over the same period a year earlier, the US Border Patrol says.

Like Alejandro — who wants to get to Corona, Calif., to join a father he hasn't seen in nine years — most children are heading north to reunite with parents living illegally in the United States. The 11 Sept terror attacks prompted the United States to tighten security along its southern border, making it harder to sneak in. Rather than risking a return to Mexico to get their children, many migrants are paying smugglers to bring them north.—Internet



Social services worker Bertha Mendez Leyva, 32, watches as deported minors file into a Baja California state social services agency office that helps deported minors locate family on 3 May, 2006 in Tijuana, Mexico.—INTERNET

Historical enthusiasts take part in a re-enactment of a World War Two battle near Kiev, on 7 May, 2006. Ukraine will mark the 61st anniversary of the former Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two on 9 May. INTERNET



A motorist fills his tank after US Senator Charles Schumer spoke about reducing the import tariff on gas additive ethanol, as a way to reduce gasoline prices, during a news conference in front of a gas station in New York, on 7 May, 2006. Schumer, the senior US Senator from New York, plans to introduce legislation on Monday in hopes of easing the prices consumers pay, by encouraging the importation of ethanol from outside the US, which will increase the domestic supply and hopefully reduce the overall price at the pump.—INTERNET



Some of the predicted 30,000 bicyclists pedal up Sixth Avenue, across a closed 57th Street, on a 42 mile tour through the five borough's of New York City, on 7 May, 2006. The 29th annual event allows bikers to tour the city using major roads, safely cleared of traffic.—INTERNET

S-E Asia diplomacy finally tackles security

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 May — Southeast Asia takes diplomacy to a new level this week when 10 defence ministers meet for the first time in the region.

The ministers are to meet in the Malaysian capital on Tuesday under the umbrella of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), 39 years after the grouping formed with the aim of deepening cooperation and making the region a safer place.

The talks are likely to end with agreement to cooperate in areas of common interest, such as counter-terrorism, maritime piracy, smuggling and trafficking in migrants and drugs, a spokesman for the ASEAN Secretary-General said at the weekend.

Notably for ASEAN, whose golden rule is non-interference in a member state's domestic affairs, the meeting also provides for each nation to brief the

group on its security situation.

"An important part of the agenda is to listen to each other's threat perceptions and security concerns and priorities," spokesman MC Abad told Reuters.

"There will be an exchange of views — and they are expected to brief each other on their national security situations."

ASEAN encompasses 500 million people and covers the spectrum of Asian cultures and political systems.

Common ground in Southeast Asia can be elusive, especially in the area of national security. There is no talk yet of the defence ministers' forum evolving into a European Union-style alliance that can assemble regional peacekeeping forces.

MNA/Reuters

President says Iran has joined nuclear club

MOSCOW, 7 May — Iran has joined the world's nuclear club, Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad said in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku on Friday.

Despite all the problems and difficulties, Iran, "relying on the

efforts of its younger generation and scientists, has succeeded in advancing the nuclear fuel cycle and joining the group of nuclear states," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency in a statement at the ninth summit of the

Economic Cooperation Organization.

"We are interested in continuing our work on the basis of international principles and laws and also under the International Atomic Energy Agency control until we achieve the production of industrial nuclear fuel for our nuclear power stations," Ahmadinejad said.

"Our scientific progress and the might of our people serve peace and prosperity in the region and worldwide and do not harm the interests of a single state," the statement says.

He said he regretted "injustice in the present international structure, the nonobservance of laws and the violation of the rights of people on the part of certain oppressive forces". "Under the influence of super powers, international organizations have lost their important functions," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong sandstorm hits Cairo

CAIRO, 7 May — The Egyptian capital city of Cairo was hit by a strong sandstorm Saturday afternoon.

The sandstorm swept the crowded metropolis starting from around 5:20 pm (1420 GMT) from the direction of the west desert to the east, thus greatly reducing visibility.

The air was full of earthy smell, which led to an uncomfortable breathing.

In the spring, Egypt is occasionally hit by sandstorms fed by its vast desert. —MNA/Xinhua



Marc Anthony and his wife Jennifer Lopez arrive for the 2006 National Council of La Raza ALMA Awards in Los Angeles, on 7 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Pilot killed in Air Force plane crash in S Korea

SEOUL, 7 May — A South Korean Air Force plane crashed at an air show on Friday noon, killing a pilot aboard, the South Korean Defence Ministry said.

The plane crashed onto the Suwon Air Base, south of Seoul, at 11:50 a.m. (0250 GMT) when it was on an aerobatic performance for the Children's

Day. The pilot was killed on the spot as he failed to escape from the plane, the Yonhap News reported.

There are no reports about casualties of the visitors on the ground.

The crashed plane belongs to South Korean Air Force's "Black Eagle" aerobatic flight team.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai firm seeks to search for undersea WWII secret weapons

BANGKOK, 7 May — A Thai marine-supply company based in southern Phuket is seeking permission to salvage what it believes are two British "human torpedoes" that have been lying in the sea near Phuket since World War II, local media Saturday reported.

Phuket's Governor Udomsak Asavarangura was quoted by English newspaper *The Nation* as saying that East Marine Corp had sent a letter requesting permission to salvage the two human torpedoes, or Chariots, believed to belong to the British Royal Navy.

The Chariots sank near Dok Mai Island of Phuket Province during a mission in World War II.

However, authorities in Phuket would first like East Marine to get British Government confirmation that the two vessels really belonged to the British Royal Navy. "We need to have the evidence first, otherwise it could create problems for us later if the torpedoes are found to belong to another country," Udomsak said.

Manned torpedoes were secret naval weapons commissioned during World War II.

The British versions

were electrically propelled mini-submarines with two crewmen equipped with diving suits riding astride.

They steered the vessel at slow speed to the enemy ship. A detachable warhead was then used as a limpet mine after which the crew rode the "torpedo" away.

The device was carried by another vessel, usually a normal submarine, and launched near the target.

The idea was successfully applied by the Italian Navy early in World War II and then copied by the British when they discovered the Italian operations.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains kill at least 101 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 7 May — At least 101 people have been killed by floods and landslides caused by heavy rains throughout Colombia, civil defence authorities said on Friday.

The civil defence operations office reported that the areas most seriously affected by floods and landslides are the departments of Valle del Cauca, Boyaca and Antioquia.—MNA/Xinhua



A boy jumps into a water canal to cool himself from severe heat in Lahore, Pakistan, on 7 May, 2006. Temperature rose up to 44 degrees Celsius in central Pakistan on Sunday and severe heat wave condition will persist in most parts of the country over the next few days, Pakistan's Meteorological department said on Sunday. —INTERNET

Bolivia, Spain agree to evaluate nationalization

LIMA, 7 May — Bolivia and Spain agreed on Friday in La Paz to assess together Bolivia's nationalization of hydrocarbons and the measure's impact on the Spanish/Argentinian firm Repsol/YPF.

Spain's secretary for Latin American affairs, Bernardino Leon, made an announcement to this effect after meeting with Bolivian President Evo Morales, said reports from La Paz.

Leon said the Bolivian Government affirmed its

commitment to "offering guaranties and juridical assurances for a process to be developed at the highest level".

He said "Spain wishes to exhaust all diplomatic avenues to reach a full agreement with Bolivia on this subject".

"Today we begin a dialogue and a negotiation which will have an impact on the governments and oil companies of both countries," the official said. The Bolivian Government said hydrocarbons nationalization is irreversible and that in case it reaches agreement with oil companies over their presence in the country they will enjoy juridical security and will be profitable.

MNA/Xinhua



A general view shows the Tiger Leaping Gorge on 4 April, 2006. Dam builders are setting their sights on building a dam at China's spectacular Tiger Leaping Gorge to create more hydropower to feed the county's insatiable energy needs. —INTERNET

Nasal flu vaccine beats shots for young children

NEW YORK 7 May — A new vaccine called CAIV-T that is squirted into the nose offers greater protection against influenza infection in children than does the current FDA-approved injectable vaccine, according to study findings presented this week at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in San Francisco.

CAIV-T, short for Cold Adapted Influenza Vaccine Trivalent, is closely related to the already approved nasal vaccine FluMist. The major difference is that the newer vaccine is now refrigerator stable and capable of being easily stored.

In the largest head-to-head flu vaccine study ever conducted, 8457 children, between six months and five years of age, were randomly assigned to receive CAIV-T or injectable flu vaccine. The bulk of subjects had never been vaccinated before.

"CAIV-T was dramatically more effective

than the injectable vaccine," lead researcher, Dr Robert Belshe, from St Louis University, told *Reuters Health*. The number of confirmed flu cases in the CAIV-T group was less than half that seen in the injectable vaccine group, he added.

Compared with the injectable vaccine, CAIV-T provided better protection against circulating flu strains that matched, as well as those that did not match the recommended vaccine strain. CAIV-T was particularly effective against these latter "mismatched" flu stains, Belshe noted.

MNA/Reuters



Children are allowed to swing upon the giant forearms of a 30 foot 'Little Girl' puppet in St James Park, London, on 7 May, 2006. The 30 foot wooden model of a girl is inspired by the Jules Verne story 'The Sultan's Elephant' which is being performed by the French street theatre company Royal de Luxe over four days in the capital. —INTERNET

Six Italians wounded by roadside bomb in Kabul

ROME, 7 May — Six Italian peacekeepers were wounded, two of them seriously, when a remote-controlled bomb exploded on Friday in Kabul as their convoy was passing, a spokesman for the Italian forces said.

"There was an attack on a Italian patrol on the outskirts of Kabul. We think there was a remote-controlled bomb," the spokesman in Kabul told *Reuters* by telephone.

Italy has some 1,775 troops in Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

Italy is still recovering from last week's killing of three soldiers in Iraq. They were killed by a roadside bomb which struck their convoy southwest of Nassiriya.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal makes efforts to reopen largest cloth mill

KATHMANDU, 7 May — Efforts are on to reopen Nepal's biggest cotton cloth factory after a gap of seven years, which was built in cooperation with China, an official of a non-governmental organization (NGO) said here on Saturday.

Following the closure of the factory, the government cleared the dues of the employees and workers and appointed some officials for completing the liquidation process of the factory, according to Arun Raj Sumargi, coordinator of Makawanpur chamber of commerce and industry, an NGO comprising local business community.

The government spent a sum of 150 million rupees (2.14 million US dollars) for clearing up the dues of the factory, which had 1,200 employees at the time of its closure.

Various people including industrialists and former employees of the factory are thinking of ways to reopen the factory which has the

capacity of producing 10 million metres of cotton cloth annually, Sumargi said.

For this, a committee has been constituted under the supervision of member of the chamber, Sumargi added.

A primary study showed that the factory, which was set up in 1975 and began commercial operations in 1978 and closed down in 1999 due to the poor management, needs a capital of 10 million rupees (142,857 dollars) for restarting its productions again, Sumargi told reporters.

During the time of its establishment, the factory had 140 million rupees (two million dollars) as fixed capital and 5.5 million rupees (78,571 dollars) as current capital.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reaps bigger farm produce exports in first four months

HANOI, 7 May — Vietnam exported nearly 2.3 billion US dollars' worth of farm and forest products in the first four months of this year, a year-

on-year rise of 25 per cent, according to a local trade agency on Friday.

In April alone, the country earned over 397 million dollars from

shipping farm produces abroad, and roughly 182 million dollars from forest products, said the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry.

Between January and April, items recording high export growth included rubber, up 116 per cent to 349 million dollars; pepper, up 52 per cent to 67 million dollars, and woodwork, up 31.9 per cent to 656 million dollars. In the period, some products saw decreases in export value, including rice which saw decrease of 9 per cent to 466 million dollars, and cashew nuts, down 5.9 per cent to 131 million dollars.

To export more farm and forest products, Vietnam is focusing on building brands, registering product trademarks, improving quality, exploiting traditional markets as China, the United States, Japan, and the European Union, while seeking new ones.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi residents gather near a burnt car used as a car bomb in Baghdad, on 8 May, 2006. —INTERNET

China produces 9 billion fresh flowers a year

SHENYANG, 8 May—China produces about 9 billion fresh flowers a year, which equates to nearly seven for each person, statistics with the Chinese Association of Flowers show.

However, the level is still low compared with developed countries, especially in terms of spending on fresh flowers, according to Wang Dianfu, secretary-general of the flowers association, speaking at the China Shenyang International Horticultural Exposition that opened last week in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The statistics show that a Chinese person only spends an average of about one US dollar on fresh

flowers a year, less than one thirtieth of a Japanese person, he said.

Wang said that China has become the largest production base of flowers in the world. In 2004, China reported a flower planting area of up to 636,000 hectares, nearly 30 times larger than that of 20 years ago and taking up one third of the world's total.

"China had almost no flower industry two decades ago," said Wang, who attributed the increase to China's fast economic development and improvement of people's livelihoods over the past years.

"When people could not eat their fill, how could they use large pieces of land for planting flowers,"

he said.

The flower industry has become a fast-developing sector in China. Statistics with the association show that the flower output value was more than 43 billion yuan (5.4 billion US dollars) in 2004, nearly 60 times that of two decades ago.

In 2004, China flower exports stood at 140 million US dollars and more than three million people were engaged in flower businesses.—MNA/Xinhua



A man is seen using a cell phone in an undated photo. Not many people use their cell phone to buy movie tickets, watch videos or play games, but a significant number of Americans are interested in doing just that. —INTERNET

Russia delivers aid to Palestine to ease financial crisis

GAZA, 8 May—Russia sent an emergency aid of 10 million US dollars to the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday, Palestinian officials said.

The delivery, which was made with the knowledge of the Palestinian Finance Ministry, could serve as a model for a European proposal on setting up a fund to channel humanitarian aid to the Palestinians bypassing the Hamas-led government, they added.

The Quartet, consisting of the United Nations, the United States, the European Union (EU) and Russia, is expected to dis-

cuss the proposal on Tuesday.

Abbas immediately distributed the money to humanitarian programmes agreed upon with Russia.

In Cairo, a senior EU official said on Saturday that the Palestinian Authority could receive an aid package soon to end the crisis over unpaid salaries due to government employees.

The Hamas-led government has failed so far to pay March and April salaries for over 160,000 civil servants due to the West's cutoff of crucial aid.

After meeting with

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abacus Gherkin, European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero Waldner told reporters that "we (are) now to set up an international mechanism to send aid to the Palestinians".

A spokesman for Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel said on Friday that the EU was ready to offer humanitarian aid of 43 million US dollars to the Palestinians.

The money would be used for food, sanitation, water and health programmes, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Police random shooting injures one in Macao

MACAO, 8 May—An off-duty police personnel has opened fire at a downtown karaoke lounge in Macao, injuring one civilian, the local police said Saturday.

Xu Yiping, spokesman for Macao's Judiciary Police, told Xinhua that the incident took place on early Friday when the police officer, surnamed Lo, was engaged in a quarrel with another patron at the Dynasty Plaza karaoke club.

Lo, a tactical unit officer, fired a shot at the ceiling that was diverted down and grazed the victim's neck, said Xu.

Xu added that the victim has been hospitalized and he is in a stable condition.

An investigation into the incident is underway, said the spokesman.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors stand by the sensual rump of a maiden who, seen from another angle, turns out to be the gender-bending god Hermaphroditus, at the Louvre Museum in Paris, in this 4 April, 2006 file photo.—INTERNET

Japan's local government plans to exterminate 4,000 raccoons

TOKYO, 8 May—A central prefecture of Japan plans to exterminate all 4,000 raccoons thought to be living in the region to avoid damage to agriculture, Kyodo News said Saturday.

Kanagawa Prefecture, to the south of Tokyo, would carry out the plan in five years. The plan is thought to be in line with the Japanese law that prevents damage from alien species.

According to Kyodo, similar plans have been approved by Japan's Environment Ministry.

The number of raccoons caught in the prefecture surged from four to some 1,000 from fiscal year 1995 to fiscal year 2005, local officials said, most of the mammals have become wild after being kept as pets.

The animals have caused an estimated damage of over 15 million yen (about 133,900 US dollars) to agricultural produce and others in fiscal 2005, officials said. Some local residents and experts have voiced opposition to the trapping and killing of raccoons which the plan called for, in terms of animal protection and its questionable effect. —MNA/Xinhua

Former CIA officer Plame signs book deal

WASHINGTON, 8 May—Former CIA operative Valerie Plame, whose identity was disclosed in a Press leak that touched off a federal probe, has signed a book deal worth more than 2.5 million US dollars, a publishing industry website said on Saturday.

Publishers Marketplace (http://www.publishers-marketplace.com), where most publishers report details of their book deals, said Plame had signed a deal with Crown, an imprint of Random House, "reportedly for more than 2.5 million US dollars".

The memoir, entitled *Fair Game* will detail Plame's "role in the American intelligence community, as well as the prominence of her role in the lead-up to the (Iraq) war", Publishers Market-

place said.

Plame's agent and representatives from Random House could not be immediately reached for comment.

Former US Ambassador Joseph Wilson, Plame's husband, maintains the disclosure of his wife's identity was retaliation for statements he made about the Bush Administration's justification for the war in Iraq.

Wilson said the Administration manipulated intelligence in the lead-up to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. Soon afterward, Plame's identity as a covert CIA operative was leaked to journalists.

A special prosecutor is investigating who blew Plame's cover in July 2003.

Vice-President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, Lewis "Scooter"

Libby, and senior Bush adviser Karl Rove spoke to reporters about Plame before her identity was made public by columnist Robert Novak.

MNA/Reuters



US LPGA star Paula Creamer hits an approach shot in the 3rd round of the Salonpas World Ladies Golf Tournament at Tokyo's Yomiuri Country Club on 6 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Namtu mine...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party on mining work procedure while Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave supplementary reports. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions.

While Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party were at an ore refinery, Deputy General Manager U Tin Aung reported on production process of metal. Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed service personnel to strive for production of silver and lead meeting the set standard in the interest of the State through goodwill and pay serious attentions to occupational safety.

On arrival at Namtu mine, No-1 Mining Enterprise General Manager U Aung Win presented reports to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party on setup of Namtu mine and remaining large deposit of ore.

In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially greets local people in Mongton. — MNA

Win gave necessary instructions. Next, Chairman of Namtu Township PDC U Sai Hmu Kyi reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party on location of the township, its area and population, land utilization, agriculture, education, health, transportation and communication. After that, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made a speech on the occasion, saying that entrepreneurs were to cultivate crops suitable to geographical conditions and marketable rubber and physic nut plants. Service personnel were to take measures for realization of the project's goals with harmonious efforts. Serv-

ice personnel were urged to willingly carry out the tasks for regional food security.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left for Mongsan Village of Namtu, Kyaukse District where they attended ceremony of presentation of physic nut saplings and collective growing of physic nut plants.

First, Chairman of Namtu Township PDC U Sai Hmu Kyi explained about the purpose of the ceremony to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented physic nut saplings to Chairman of Mongsan Village PDC U Tar Sein, national race people and members of social organizations.

After that, Lt-Gen

Kyaw Win and party grew physic nut plants and met those who participated in the growing of physic nut plants and looked into physic nut plants on both sides of the road near Mongsa Village.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on extended cultivation of

With Myanmar gems and jade market...

(from page 1)

Mines and local authorities to make constant supervision in mining work so as to ensure environmental conservation as guided by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on incomes from the sales of State-owned and private gems enterprises, annual gem and jade sales from Myanmar Gems Emporiums, developing market of Myanmar gems and jade, production of gems and jade in cooperation between the State and private firms. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein also reported on measures being taken by the leading committee in accord with its resolutions, granting of permits for mining gems and jade in conformity with Myanmar gems law and plans to hold Myanmar Gems Emporiums.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave necessary instructions and the meeting concluded.

MNA

physic nut plants and distribution of saplings.

They left for Lashio after inspection of summer paddy and physic nut

plants grown on both sides of the road and condition of roads and bridges by car.

MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents physic nut saplings to national races and members of social organizations in Mongsan Village, Namtu Township. — MNA

Myanmar delegation attends ADB's 39th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors in India

YANGON, 8 May — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back here this morning after attending the ADB's 39th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Hyderabad, India from 4 to 6 May.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

Myanmar delegation attended the meeting of vice-governors of central banks of ASEAN+3 at Taj Residency Hotel and meeting of senior officials at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre on 3 May.

The minister also attended 9th Finance Ministers Meeting of ASEAN+3 and discussed economy and policies of ASEAN+3 on 4 May.

Asia Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) and Chinmai Initiative (CMI) were also discussed. The amendment on frame of Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) that contributes towards stability of currency in the region was signed. ASEAN+3 finance ministers released a joint statement.

On 5 May, the ADB's 39th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre. Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Indian Minister of Finance Mr Palaniappan Chidambaram and ADB President Mr Haruhiko Kuroda extended greetings on the occasion.

On 6 May, leader of Myanmar delegation Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun gave a speech on present developments in Myanmar. Chairman of the meeting for 2007 delivered a speech.

The delegation discussed mutual interest with officials of OPEC Fund and Import-Export Bank of India, on 5 May and 6 May respectively.

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Director of CBM Daw Ohnmar Sein and Deputy Director of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Min Htut also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA



Finance and Revenue Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun returning from India is welcomed back by officials concerned at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Lecture on national policy given

YANGON, 8 May — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein today gave lecture on national policy and all-round development in the State at organizing courses No 20 and 21 of Kyimyindine Township Union Solidarity and Development Association.

A total of 100 trainees attended the lectures.

MNA

Printing course opened

YANGON, 8 May — Printing Course No 1/2006 of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was opened today at GTC Press Factory in Insein Township.

A total of 41 trainees are attending the six-week course which was opened with an address by Managing Director of PPE U Aung Nyein.

Advisors of the ministry and responsible officials also attended the opening ceremony of the course.

MNA

Duya-Shwetoungthaya-Ohnpinkwin gravel road in Hinthada opens

YANGON, 8 May — Duya-Shwetoungthaya-Ohnpinkwin gravel road, built by Hinthada Township Development Affairs Committee, Ayeyawady Division, was commissioned into service yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, departmental personnel, Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association members, members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization and Social Organizations and local people.

First, Executive Officer of

Hinthada Township DAC U Myo Thein explained relevant data of the road to those present. Secretary of Hinthada USDA U Nyunt Oo spoke words of thanks for building of the road.

The road is linked to Duya-Ohnpinkwin, Myaychar-Natmhaw village. It is eight miles and four furlongs in length and 12 feet in width. It was built by the Hinthada Township DAC through the funds of Department of Development Affairs.

Those who living in 11 villages such as Kyaikhtyi, Kokkosu and Oakphochaung can use the road at any time throughout the year. Moreover, tasks in the fields of health, economic and education for the betterment of the local people can be carried out.

MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt and Minister Col Zaw Min attend the opening ceremony of a new gravel road in Hinthada. — PBANRDA

Minister for Information meets District IPRD staff in Toungoo



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets information staff at Toungoo District IPRD. — MNA

YANGON, 8 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met information staff at District Information and Public Relations Department in Toungoo on 6 May.

The minister inspected functions of District IPRD and gave instructions. Service personnel of IPRD and Myanma Radio and Television reported on their functions. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

In his discussions, the minister said service personnel are to make concerted efforts for implementation of the project and realization of the objectives of the State. They need to carry out the tasks assigned dutifully not perfunctorily.

He said it is necessary to undertake integrated farm on manageable scale. The minister told them not to believe the rumours spread by greedy people. External and internal destructive elements are attacking the State on all fronts. They are to be warded off in accord with the four-point People's Desire, he added.

The minister called for participation in efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

The minister inspected TV retransmission station in Toungoo and gave instructions on growing of vegetables in the compound.

MNA

World Red Cross Day-2006 observed



MRCS President Dr Hla Myint addressing World Red Cross Day-2006 ceremony. — MNA

YANGON, 8 May — World Red Cross Day-2006 was observed today at the Institute of Nursing here and an official of the Health Department read out a message sent by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Officials of Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Committee of Red Cross, resident representatives of IFRC, ambassadors and officials from social organizations attended the ceremony to mark World Red Cross Day.

After the opening address of President of MRCS Dr Hla Myint, Mr Thiery Ribauh of ICRC read out messages sent from ICRC and IFRC.

At the second session of the ceremony, officials awarded the winners of the international poster competitions to mark the centenary of the red cross society of the Republic of Korea and World Red Cross Day-2006 commemorative competitions. — MNA

Mr Thiery Ribauh of ICRC speaking at World Red Cross Day-2006 ceremony. MNA



Education Minister meets faculty members of Education Colleges

YANGON, 8 May — Education colleges play a major role in training the teachers at basic education level. The faculty members of the colleges are to redouble their efforts to perform duties and to carry out the department tasks in conformity with the rules and regulations. They are to grow physic nut in school compounds, said Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

Dr Chan Nyein, met with the faculty members of Mawlamyine Education College on 6 May.

The minister met the trainees of the college and attended to the needs. Later, he inspected the college.

The minister visited No 6 Basic Education High School in Mawlamyine in the afternoon.

On arrival at Mawlamyine University, the minister held discussion with the faculty members of the university. The minister also visited Bago Degree College and heard reports on the refresher course for senior assistant teachers this morning. He later proceeded to Hlegu Education College and met with trainees of the college. And he stressed them to become well-qualified ones. — MNA

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ သူနာပြုအသင်း
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်
အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သူနာပြုနေ့
Safe Staffing Saves Lives
ပြုစုအားပြည့်စုံ-လုံခြုံစိတ်ချ ပြည့်သူ့အ
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင် (၁၂)ရက်
သူနာပြုတက္ကသိုလ် (ရန်ကင်း)

Minister inspects Thagaya Industrial Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on 6 May went to Thagaya Industrial Zone in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, to assist in implementing the factory projects including construction of buildings in the zone.

Upon completion, machinery such as bulldozer, diesel engines will be manufactured at the zone.

During his inspection tour, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected construction of factories including the diesel-engine factory and site chosen to build construction machinery factory. — MNA

Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws to be honoured

YANGON, 8 May — Ministry of Religious Affairs held a meeting today to honour the Tipitaka Kovida title recipient Sayadaws who passed the 48th Tipitaka Kovida Examination.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, officials of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council attended the meeting held at the ministry here and discussed matters on organizing the ceremony to honour the Sayadaws.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses the coordination meeting on honouring Tipitaka Kovida title recipient Sayadaws who passed the 58th Tipitaka Kovida Examination. MNA



Minister looks into construction of power line at Ahtet Paunglong, Nancho hydel power projects



Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects Ahtet Paunglong hydel power project. —ELECTRIC POWER

YANGON, 8 May — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut together with Director-General of Department of Electric Power U Win Kyaw went on inspection tour of Ahtet Paunglong Hydel Power Project being built on Paunglong river, 30 miles upstream of present Paunglong power station, east of Pyinmana, Mandalay Division on 5 May.

Together with officials of the project, the minister and the director-general inspected clearing tasks for seeking an axis of the dam, digging up a diversion

tunnel and construction of the approach road where they asked related matters of the project and fulfilled the needs.

Two 70-megawatt machines were installed at the Ahtet Paunglong project and the project would generate 411 million kilowatt hours every year. Moreover, the present Paunglong power station could generate power up to 969 million kilowatt hours from 911 per year after more storage of water in Ahtet Paunglong dam.

Upon arrival at Nancho hydel power project, the minister looked into the places chosen for building Nancho hydel power station and water

intake structure and clearing for seeking an axis of the dam.

The Nancho hydel power project, 12 miles upstern of Paunglong hydel power station will be built on Nancho river which flows into Paunglong river. According to feasibility, the project will generate 40-megawatt. On completion, Nancho hydel project can fulfill requirement of power for the State besides helping the flow of water into the present Paunglong dam.

Yesterday, the minister arrived at the power line construction worksite (Htantabin) crossing Hlaing river, 230-KV Myaung-daka-Hlinethaya-Yekyi (Athot) power line con-

struction project.

Accompanied by officials of the project, the minister inspected erection of tower for dragging of river crossing power line at the meeting point of Pun Hlaing and Hlaing rivers and fulfilled the needs.

At the same time, the minister instructed officials of the project to make strenuous efforts for accomplishment of the project earlier than scheduled, stockpiling and supervision of the project-use materials before the rainy season, handling and maintenance of the machinery with care and serious attention to be paid for occupational safety.

MNA

By violating diplomatic codes of conduct, US and British embassies conduct training courses in cooperation with NLD

YANGON, 8 May — Some embassy staff of some West big nations are interfering blatantly in internal affairs of the nation in their interest. They have interfered in Myanmar's internal affairs violating diplomatic codes of conduct. They have been undermining the stability and tranquillity of the State and development of the country since 1988 by making use of various means. Conducting illegal courses is such an interference.

Personnel of the NLD made contact with British and US embassies and reached agreement in which NLD members were allowed to take the courses at the British embassy and the American Centre free of charge.

English proficiency course and international relations course are being conducted at the British embassy and English proficiency course, international relations course and global technological network course at the American Centre.

Ordinary people can take those courses only after they have passed the entrance examination. The course fee costs about US \$ 1,000 a year. But NLD members do not need to pay the fee and they are trained exclusively. The junior leaders of the party attend the courses and after completing the courses, they will be assigned duties at information sub-committee and international relations committee to be formed by NLD. They are sent to attend the courses with the aim of opening multiplier courses for NLD youth members.

The professional development pro-

gramme-2 course commenced on 14-6-2005 at Information Department of US embassy in Yangon and it is being attended by U Hantha Myint, Dr Aung Moe Nyo, U Tun Myaing, U Thein Zan, U Soe Win, Daw Aye Aye Mar, Dr Than Win, U Win Thauing, U Kyaw Hoe, Daw Than Ngwe and U Zau Bwe of NLD.

Likewise, the training course conducted by the British embassy starting from 22-9-2005 is being attended by 11 trainees including U Hantha Myint of NLD. The course has no specific curriculum and it comprises English language speaking, the assassination of Bogoyoke Aung San, corruption in world's nations, computer, Internet news, world trade order and violations of human rights and law in small countries.

The training courses conducted by these embassies are aimed at feeding sugar-coated poison to youths in media world of Myanmar. Thus, they can be dubbed media poison courses. The inexperienced youths in the media world here especially are likely to be coloured. The youths attending the courses have not improved their English language proficiency. In fact, the training courses elicit information and reactions regarding education, health, social and economic affairs of Myanmar from the trainees.

It is found that conducting illegal courses at the embassies in cooperation with the NLD means violating the diplomatic codes of conduct and interfering in the Myanmar's internal affairs blatantly.—MNA

ကမ္ဘာ့သွေးတိုးရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့ ၂၀၀၆-ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ (၁၃) ရက်

သွေးတိုးရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ

- ၁။ ကိုယ်အလေးချိန် ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ရန်ထိန်းသိမ်း၍ အဝမလွန်အောင် နေထိုင်စားသောက်ပါ။
- ၂။ ပုံမှန်ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုပြုလုပ်ပါ။ နေ့စဉ် နာရီဝက်၊ တစ်နာရီခန့် ခပ်သွက်သွက် လမ်းလျှောက်ခြင်းကဲ့သို့သော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှု ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- ၃။ ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်၊ အသီးအနှံ များစားသုံးပါ။
- ၄။ စိတ်ဖိစီးမှုနည်းပါးအောင် နေထိုင်ပါ။
- ၅။ အငန်ဓာတ်ပါသော ငါးပိ၊ ငါးခြောက်၊ ဟင်းချိုမှုန့် စသည့်အစားအစာများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၆။ အဆီကို လွန်စွာ စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၇။ အရက်ကို အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၈။ ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၉။ သွေးတိုးရောဂါရှိပါက သွေးပေါင်မှန်မှုန့်ချိန်၍ စနစ်တကျ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Malaysia to establish international centre to fight cyber-terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 May — Malaysia will establish an international centre to fight cyber-terrorism, local media reported Sunday.

The centre, to be called "International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Terrorism" or "IMPACT", will provide an emergency response to cyber attack on the economy or trading system of various countries in the world, said Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Badawi made the remarks in his keynote address at the closing of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2006 in Texas of the United States.

The IMPACT is not just a Malaysian concern, but is conceived as a partnership between

governments as well as between governments of the world and the international private sector, said Badawi.

Leading names in the world such as America's Symantec Corporation, Japan's Trend Micro and Russia's Kaspersky Lab have agreed to be key partners and to serve on IMPACT's International Advisory Board to be established soon.

The centre will be modelled after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta which provides expertise on the handling of viruses and outbreaks of diseases around the world, said the Prime Minister.

To begin with, IMPACT will focus its activities in three key areas, namely, training and skills development, security certification and research and development, and a global emergency response centre.

The IMPACT will be situated in Cyberjaya, right at the heart of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor.

MNA/Xinhua



Bangladeshi children cool themselves with water leaking out of an Army vehicle during distribution of drinking water in the Sanir Akhra area in Dhaka on 6 May, 2006. —INTERNET

"Golden week" benefits China's neighbours

BEIJING, 8 May — For Hu Mingming, a female Chinese fashion designer, golden week means lying on the sand at the picturesque Phuket Island in Thailand and enjoying seven days of sunshine.

It is the fourth time Hu has spent her week-long holiday on Phuket Island, one of the first international tourist sites for

Chinese. Like Hu, more and more Chinese choose to spend their holidays outside China.

Statistics with the

Thailand tourism authority show Chinese tourists made more than 100,000 trips to Phuket Island in 2005, and the figure is

expected to top 150,000 this year.

A Chinese expert said China's holidays have benefitted more and more neighbouring countries since China began its first full week holiday to celebrate National Day in October 1999.

Having an entire week off means that Chinese tourists have enough time to head out the country. During this week's golden holiday, the neighbouring countries have been the top choices for Chinese tourists, according to latest figures from the National Tourism Administration.

MNA/Xinhua



A Darfur refugee woman and her son collect their monthly rations of oil and corn soya blend from a food distribution centre at Gaga refugee camp, eastern Chad, on 5 May, 2006.

INTERNET

Unemployment to rise due to economic slowdown in Thailand

BANGKOK, 8 May — Thailand's unemployment rate is projected to rise to 2 per cent this year, up from 1.8 per cent the previous year due to the economic slowdown attributed mainly to the surge in oil prices, according to the Kasikorn Research Centre (KRC).

Affected by the climbing oil price, high interest rates and the slowdown in investment and consumption, the economic growth this year is expected to fall down, causing employment decline.

Once some businesses begin to slash jobs, workers in the agricultural sectors and those who do independent jobs such as barbers and hawkers would suffer.

These workers have no access to social wel-

fare and job security. They lack bargaining power as they have no organization or labour union to look after their interests, said the research centre.

Wilaiwan Sae Tia, chairwoman of the Thai

Labour Solidarity Committee, said the group is keeping track of the unemployment rate among workers in textile, electronics and steel industries.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood kills 7 in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 May — At least seven people died in a river flood on Saturday in western Nepal, local police officer confirmed here Sunday.

"At least seven people, including four of a family, were killed when the flooded local Badigard rivulet swept away a hotel at Adhikarichaur Village in Baglung District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu," Shiva Hari Baskota, deputy superintendent of police at District Police Office, said in a Press statement.

The flooding of the rivulet was triggered by incessant rainfall in the area in the afternoon, the statement said.

The heavy rainfall began at around 2 pm local time (0815 GMT) while the hotel was swept away at 4 pm local time (1015 GMT), the statement said.

The flood swept away

the hotel run by Sher Bahadur Poudel. Poudel, his wife and their two children of 8-year-old and 5-year-old were among those killed. Other two lo-

cals and a herder, whose identity could not be ascertained, were also swept away and killed in the incident, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



Shepherds rest in the shade, along with their cattle on a summer afternoon in Kolkata, India, on 6 May, 2006. Blistering heat wave today swept most places in north India with Hissar sizzling at 46.6 degree Celsius (115.88 Fahrenheit) and many other places recording their hottest day of the season so far, according to a news agency. —INTERNET

Nepali Govt to hold dialogue with guerillas soon at high level

KATHMANDU, 8 May — Nepali Minister for Physical Planning and Works Gopal Man Shrestha on Saturday said that the dialogue to be held with the guerillas would be quick and of a high level, state-run Radio Nepal reported here Sunday.

"Shrestha expressed the view that both the sides should exercise flexibility in order to give a fruitful end to the talks," the radio said.

"Talks should be held void of arms and an interim government including the guerillas should be constituted following the weapons management and supervision," the radio quoted Shrestha as saying.

The government announced a ceasefire, withdrew the terrorist-tag and Red Corner notice issued against the gueril-

las, Shrestha said.

Welcoming the government ceasefire and withdrawal of the Red Corner notices and terrorist-tag, guerillas supremo Prachanda, three days ago, sent a draft of the code of conduct to be adhered to by both sides during the talks period.

"Sunday's Cabinet meeting will discuss the draft and send a reply to the guerillas soon," Shrestha said.

The government and the guerillas would start talks once a code of conduct is agreed upon, Shrestha said.—MNA/Xinhua

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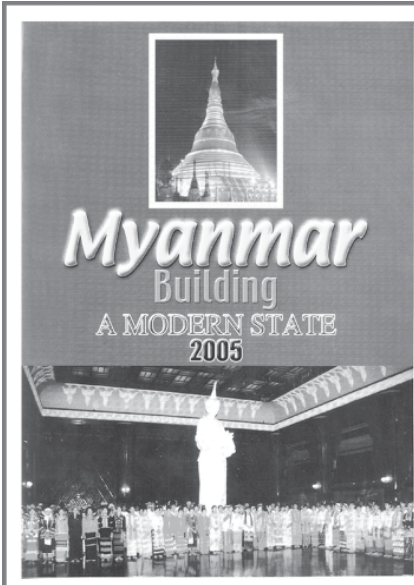
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Gulf Arab leaders seek peaceful end to Iran crisis

RIYADH, 7 May— US-allied Gulf Arab leaders met in Riyadh on Saturday to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis between Iran and Western nations over Iran's nuclear ambitions, officials and analysts said.

Gulf Arab countries, wary of Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, share US concerns about Iran having a nuclear bomb but fear another military conflict in the region after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

"We are consulting on a balanced position that protects the safety, progress and stability of this region," Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said told reporters on arrival at the Saudi capital, the largest city in the Gulf.

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Venezuela approves oil partnership contracts

CARACAS, 7 May— Venezuela's National Assembly on Friday approved Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) partnership contracts with 16 foreign and local firms to create joint ventures for exploiting 15 oilfields. The assembly announced the creation of 21 joint ventures set by the national oil corporation with its collaborators.

The joint ventures will pump nearly 400,000 barrels per day, almost 13 per cent of Venezuela's total output. Venezuela is considered the world's fifth crude oil producer. — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

China to improve 200,000 sq km of erodible land in 5 years

BEIJING, 7 May— China will improve 200,000 square kilometres of land suffering from soil erosion in upcoming five years, said sources with the Ministry of Water Resources.

The proportion of soil erosion land in the country's total territory will drop from present 36 per cent to 34 per cent in the period.

Following the land improvement scheme, farmers will have more arable land, said E Jingping, Vice-Minister of Water Resources.

kilometres of soil erosion fields.

Currently, 3.56 million square kilometres of land in China suffer from soil erosion and 1.74 million square kilometres of land experience desertification, government statistics show. —MNA/Xinhua

Statistics with the ministry show that during the past five years, China improved 540,000 square



The shaolin martial monk delegation demonstrated hard Qigong at the Window of the World in Changsha on May 4. —INTERNET

China estimated to import 301 mln tons of iron ore in 2006

BEIJING, 7 May — China is estimated to import about 301 million tons of iron ore in 2006, an increase of 10 per cent from 2005, according to the China Iron and Steel Association.

Last year, China imported 275 million tons of iron ore and produced 349 million tons of crude steel. The association predicted that China would produce 528 million tons of iron ore this year, an increase of 48 million tons from last year. Total crude steel production is estimated at 384 million tons for 2006 and iron ore demand is predicted to reach 558 million tons. —MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean walks past an advertisement board of currency exchange at a bank in Seoul, on 8 May, 2006. The South Korean won rose 1.26 percent against the dollar on Monday, touching its highest in more than eight and a half years at one point, helped by dollar offers by exporters and gains in domestic shares. —INTERNET

China plans massive restructuring of coal mining industry

BEIJING, 7 May — China plans a massive restructuring of its coal industry which will see the closure of many smaller mines or their amalgamation into five to seven major conglomerates, the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) has said.

Each of the conglomerate will have a capacity of producing more than 100 million tons of coal a year, the SDRC said in a policy paper published recently.

The success of the restructuring plan will depend on the closure and merger of the country's

numerous small mines, which will be completed during the 11th five-year plan period (2006-2010), the papers said. The plan also aims to improve the technical standards of the mines and their efficiency in resource utilization.

By 2010, large mines shall have 95 per cent of their jobs done by machines, compared to 80 per cent for medium-sized mines.

The paper foresees national annual coal output reaching 2.45 billion tons by 2010, with death toll per million tons of coal reducing to 1.6. —MNA/Xinhua

Zambian official says women still marginalized in world

LUSAKA, 7 May— Women in all over the world are hard working but their efforts are restricted to home and child, tending duties and marginal activities in the informal sector, the Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) has said.

ZFE President Dan Musenge was quoted by Friday's *Zambia Daily Mail* as saying that in Africa and other parts of the world, women's participation in employment, business and other income

generating enterprises has been highly constrained by age, old traditions and culture, taboos, attitudes and religious doctrines.

He told an ongoing workshop on promoting women entrepreneurship

through employers organizations in Africa that women need to have equal rights of access to employment and business opportunities.

"Women participation in the modern sector remains low both in their

numbers and hierarchical grading. In the main, therefore, women remain left out of employment and mainstream business activities," he said.

He urged the governments in the region, employers and others to make sustainable and deliberate efforts to increasingly engage women participation in meaningful economic activities.

Musenge said the education policy must deliberately allow more access to women in schools and other institutions of learning so as to equip them with basic knowledge and skills necessary to engage in productive business activities and entrepreneurship development.

MNA/Xinhua



A man takes a photo of the Rolls-Royce 101EX in Singapore, on 8 May, 2006. The 101EX, Rolls-Royce's latest experimental car, was unveiled for the first time in Asia in Singapore on Monday. — INTERNET

Indonesia to build more sugar cane plantations

JAKARTA, 7 May — Indonesia plans to establish more cane plantations in a bid to boost its sugar production, Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantono said here on Friday.

Anton said that the country has prepared for the plan in Southeast Sulawesi Province, which includes 25,000 to 30,000 hectares of land.

Meanwhile, the plan for Merauke Regency, Papua Province, is still under negotiation, he said.

In Merauke, a private company plans to set up plantations in two locations and each location covers about 25,000 to 30,000 hectares of land, said the minister.

The production will begin in the next three years, he added.

Indonesia earlier aborted the plan to import 90,000 tons of sugar due

to the expected sufficiency of domestic production.

The country consumes about 2.5 to 2.6 million tons of sugar each year.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan provides \$4.08m to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 May — Japan has approved the utilization of the Counterpart Fund of 286 million Nepali rupees (4.08 million US dollars) for the implementation of nine projects, Radio Nepal reported Saturday.

The government of Japan has approved seven different projects in the agriculture (including fishery) sector, according to the radio report.

These projects will be implemented by various agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Wie frustrated as rain wipes out 3rd round

INCHEON (South Korea), 8 May— Rain washed out the third round of the SK Telecom Open on Saturday, frustrating Michelle Wie's hopes of a good finish after she had become the first woman to make the cut in a major men's tour event for 61 years.

The Hawaiian schoolgirl will tee off on Sunday for the final round in joint 17th place after firing a three-under 69 in the second round.—MNA/Reuters



China's Zhang Ning (L2) holds up the trophy atop a victory podium at the 2006 Uber Cup badminton tournament in Tokyo, on 6 May, 2006. Title-holding China took the Uber Cup for the fifth time in a row here on Saturday with a 3-0 convincing victory over the Netherlands.—INTERNET

Cadiz relegated after losing 3-1 to Getafe

MADRID, 8 May— Cadiz were relegated back to the Second Division after only one season in the Primera Liga when they fell 3-1 away to Getafe on Sunday.

The Andalucians took the lead after 21 minutes through Argentine striker Lucas Lobos, but second-half goals from Ruben Pulido, Sergio Pachon and Riki put them down with already-relegated Malaga.

Alaves, in 18th place, look favourites to join Cadiz and bottom team Malaga with one game left to play after losing 3-0 away to Real Zaragoza.

They are two points short of 17th-

placed Espanyol who lost 2-0 in the Nou Camp on Saturday to champions Barcelona. Barca are top with 82 points, 13 ahead of Valencia in second place who were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Real Madrid, level on 69 points with Valencia, had the chance to move three points ahead of them with a win against Villarreal in the Bernabeu later on Sunday.—MNA/Reuters

Henry hat-trick gives Arsenal perfect farewell

LONDON, 8 May— Thierry Henry scored an emotional hat-trick as Arsenal said farewell to Highbury with a 4-2 win over Wigan Athletic to earn a place in the Champions League qualifying round on a dramatic last day of the Premier League on Sunday.

The win enabled the Champions League finalists to finish fourth and heralded an all-night party at the ground they are leaving after 93 years.

The victory lifted them above north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who lost 2-1 at West Ham United after a food poisoning episode in the Spurs camp.

Manchester United made sure of second place and automatic entry to the Champions League with a 4-0 home thrashing of Charlton Athletic, leaving them a point clear of Liverpool, whose 3-1 victory at Portsmouth was in vain.

Champions Chelsea signed off with a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle United.

With the title, UEFA

Cup and relegation places already decided, the day began with only two issues at stake—the battles for second and fourth place. Arsenal made the first move in the eighth minute with a close-range Robert Pires effort.

Wigan equalized two minutes later through Paul Scharner and took a 33rd-minute lead with a bizarre goal when David Thompson caught out goalkeeper Jens Lehmann with a 35-metre near-post free kick.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Thierry Henry scores his third goal against Wigan Athletic from the penalty spot during their final English Premier League soccer match at Arsenal's Highbury Stadium against Wigan Athletic, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Real go second with 3-3 draw against Villarreal

MADRID, 8 May— A dramatic late equalizer from Julio Baptista moved Real Madrid up to second place in the Primera Liga on Sunday after they came from behind to draw 3-3 with Villarreal in the Bernabeu.

Two goals from Baptista either side of a header from Zinedine Zidane on his last home appearance in a Real shirt secured a point after Diego Forlan had threatened to upstage the Frenchman with two goals to put Villarreal in front.

Real have 70 points with one game left to play, 12 short of champions Barcelona, who beat city rivals Espanyol 2-0 in the Nou Camp on Saturday. Valencia are third with 69 after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Atletico Madrid.

Fourth-placed Osasuna failed to make sure of playing in the Champions League for the first time next season when they let slip a one-goal lead to lose

2-1 at Racing Santander.

At the other end of the table Cadiz were relegated back to the Second Division after only one season in the Primera Liga when they fell 3-1 away to Getafe.

Alaves, in 18th place with 36 points, must beat Deportivo Coruna at home in their last game to have any chance of catching King's Cup winners Espanyol, in 17th with 38, and avoid joining relegated Cadiz and Malaga.

Real took the lead after 23 minutes when Raul headed Robinho's cross into the path of Baptista who let fly with a scorching volley. The visitors were soon back in contention when Juan Roman

Riquelme's corner was nudged into his own goal by Real defender Alvaro Mejia in the 31st minute.

Forlan burst down the

right eight minutes later and fired across Iker Casillas into the far corner to put the visitors in front.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane of France (L) fights for the ball with Villarreal's Juan Roman Riquelme during their Spanish first division soccer match at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Juve retain three-point lead with one match left

MILAN, 8 May— Juventus moved closer to their 29th Serie A title with a 2-1 home win over Palermo on Sunday.

Second-placed AC Milan won 3-2 at Parma, leaving Juventus three points clear of their rivals with one game to go.

In next week's final round of games, Milan are at home to AS Roma and Juventus play away to Reggina but at a

neutral ground.

The only way that Milan can now lift the title is if they win their final game and Juventus lose, leaving the teams tied but the crown going to Milan who have the better head-to-head record.

The battle for fourth place, which brings a place in the third qualifying round of the Champions League, will also go down to the wire after Fiorentina defended their two-point advantage over Roma.

Fiorentina crushed Reggina 5-2 while Roma won 1-0 at home to Treviso.

Juve's final game at the Delle Alpi Stadium before it undergoes extensive reconstruction was a tense affair -- on and off the field.

Czech Pavel Nedved fired Fabio Capello's side ahead in the 31st minute before Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic made it 2-0 six minutes into the second half.

Palermo fought back with a superb shot from Denis Godeas in the 62nd minute and Juventus were forced to hang on against some intense pressure in the final half hour.—MNA/Reuters



Belgium's Kim Clijsters raises her trophy after winning against Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 6-2 in the WTA J&S Cup in Warsaw, Poland, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Rooney's injury shifts balance of Eriksson's squad

LONDON, 8 May— Wayne Rooney's broken toe has exposed the paucity of striking talent available to England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson as he makes his final ponderings before naming a 27-man provisional World Cup squad on Monday.

The Swede is likely to name Rooney in the squad and, depending on the state of the injury, will probably take him to Germany hoping the Manchester United man might be fit to make an impact in the knockout stages.

Michael Owen, a proven tournament operator but also fighting to fully recover from a broken toe, will remain first choice for the starting team while Peter Crouch is also a certainty for the squad and could find himself in the 11.

Eriksson may have taken five strikers anyway but will certainly need to if he plans to carry Rooney through the early

stages. That means Jermain Defoe can expect the nod, despite struggling to make the Tottenham Hotspur first team.

Charlton Athletic's free-scoring Darren Bent should also get the chance to take his yeoman, but uninspired talents to the finals.

Owen apart, none of those names are likely to strike fear into the cream of the world's defenders and the fact that the likes of James Beattie, Emile Heskey and even Robbie Fowler have also been mentioned as possible inclusions shows just how little Eriksson has to choose from.—MNA/Reuters

Blair, Merkel top-paid leaders in Europe

BERLIN, 8 May — British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are Europe's best paid leaders, each earning more than 260,000 euro (329,800 US dollars) a year, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by management consultancy Hay Group and published in German magazine *Wirtschaftswoche* on Saturday, put Blair's annual salary at 268,500 euro, just ahead of Merkel at 261,500.

Slovakian Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, with a yearly salary of 39,100 euro, was the lowest paid leader in the 13 European countries surveyed. Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcin-

kiewicz was just ahead of Dzurinda at 53,400 euro.

US President George W Bush earns an annual salary of 400,000 dollars.

Despite being the best paid leader in Europe, Blair earns only 5 per cent to 10 per cent what the top executive in a British blue-chip company makes, the study said.

Merkel, meanwhile, earns 10 per cent to 15 per cent of what a top German manager makes.—MNA/Reuters

US Democrats pledge probes of Bush, not impeachment

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Democrats will launch a series of investigations of the Bush Administration if they take control of Congress in November but are not out to impeach President George W Bush, a top Democrat said on Sunday.

House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said Democrats would hold hearings on the use of intelligence in the lead-up to the Iraq war and investigate the high price of energy and prescription drugs if they win the extra 15 seats they need for a House majority in the mid-term elections.

But Pelosi denied Republican claims that her party would move quickly to impeach Bush.

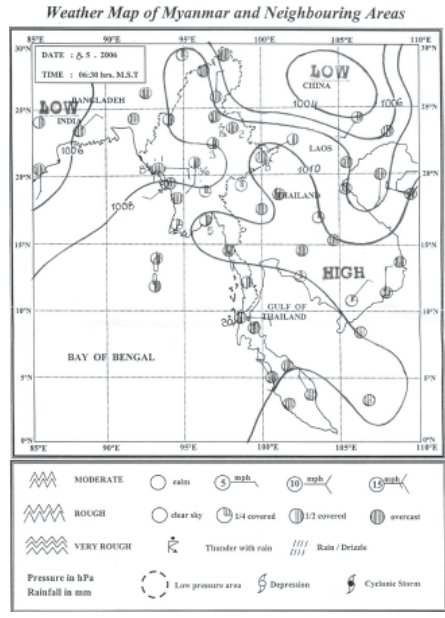
"I said we'd be having hearings on the war, we'd have hearings. But I

don't see us going to a place of impeachment," Pelosi said in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press. "Investigation does not equate to impeachment. Investigation is the requirement of Congress. It is about checks and balances."

In Congress, the majority party controls the chairmanship and agenda of all committees, where most laws are drafted and investigative and subpoena power is held.

With Bush's public approval rating at an all-time low and Republicans fearing they could lose control of both houses of Congress in November, Democrats are laying out plans for an aggressive start to the new Congress.

Michigan Representative John Conyers, the senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, has called for the creation of committee to recommend grounds for possible impeachment of Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney.—MNA/Reuters



One of the new thirty three new recruits of the Vatican's elite Swiss Guard gestures during a swearing in ceremony in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican on 6 May, 2006. —INTERNET

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Tuesday, 9 May
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am 5. ကဗျာပန်းဆွဲယူဟို</p> <p>8:00 am 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am 7. Song of yesteryears</p> <p>8:20 am 8. ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တံတား</p>	<p>8:30 am 9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 10. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (စာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (စာတုဗေဒ)</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:00 pm 5. စိစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်</p> <p>5:10 pm 6. "မူးလျှင်မမောင်းနဲ့ မောင်းလျှင် မမူးနဲ့" (လူမင်း၊ သူလူဟံသာ၊ အိမ်အိမ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p>	<p>5:15 pm 7. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm 8. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 10. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြည့်အကျိုး</p> <p>6:45 pm 11. ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ အမူအကျင့် ကောင်းများ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး ဖြိုင်ပွဲ (ဆုချီးမြှင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား)</p> <p>6:55 pm 12. ဖွံ့ဖြိုးသာယာကောင်းပြကုမ္ပဏီ</p> <p>7:05 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မဗုဒ္ဓ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</p> <p>8:00 pm 14. News</p> <p>8:15 pm 15. International news</p> <p>8:30 pm 16. Weather report</p> <p>8:45 pm 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အိမ်မက်ကွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)</p> <p>9:00 pm 18. The next day's programme</p>
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Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 9 May
Tune in today

<p>8.30 am Brief news</p> <p>8.35 am Music: -Can't get out of my head (Kylie)</p> <p>8.40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8.45 am Music: -I love Rock and Roll</p> <p>8.50 am National news / Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -A thousand miles</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -Give a little love</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40pm Lunch time music -Tears in heaven -You are not alone -Honey</p> <p>9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level () Unit ()</p> <p>9.10 pm Article</p> <p>9.20 pm Weekly sport reel</p> <p>9.30 pm Music for your listening pleasure -For you I will -Will be yours -Because of you</p> <p>9.45 pm News -Slogan</p> <p>10.00 pm PEL</p>	<p>8.30 am Brief news</p> <p>8.35 am Music: -Can't get out of my head (Kylie)</p> <p>8.40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8.45 am Music: -I love Rock and Roll</p> <p>8.50 am National news / Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -A thousand miles</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -Give a little love</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40pm Lunch time music -Tears in heaven -You are not alone -Honey</p> <p>9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level () Unit ()</p> <p>9.10 pm Article</p> <p>9.20 pm Weekly sport reel</p> <p>9.30 pm Music for your listening pleasure -For you I will -Will be yours -Because of you</p> <p>9.45 pm News -Slogan</p> <p>10.00 pm PEL</p>
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WEATHER

Monday, 8 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State, scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay Division, isolated in Kayah and Mon States, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant days temperatures were NyaungU, Minbu and Aunglan (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Hsipaw (1.77) inches, Meiktila (1.41) inches and Nay Pyi Taw City (0.91) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-5-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 8-5-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 8-5-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 7-5-2006 was (9.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 8-5-2006 were Tr at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (5.87) inches at Mingaladon, (6.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 7-5-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Andaman Sea, partly cloudy in the South and North Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 9-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers are likely scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Namtu mine, meets service personnel, attends collective growing of physic nut plants

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence who was in Mongton, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North) together with Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials went to Mongton to observe development and trading there on 6th May.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to No-1 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines after the inspection of thriving seasonal crops, roads and bridges along Mongton-Namtu road.

At Kyarsakan Mining Yeiktha, Deputy General Manager U Tin Aung presented reports to

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspects Bawdwin smelting plant.— MNA

INSIDE

We would like to call on the entire national people to carry out the extended cultivation of physic nut plants as a national duty in the interests of the nation and their own.

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PERSPECTIVES

Weather and Water Level Forecast for 2nd week of May, 2006

Bay Inference:

The southwest monsoon may advance to southern part of Myanmar during the second week of May. Weather will be partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Weather Forecast:

Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated about 5 to 7 days in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, and about 3 days in the remaining states and divisions.

Water Level Forecast:

The water levels of Ayeyawady River are forecast to rise above the present water level by 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo, and Katha, 60 cm (about 2 feet) at Mandalay and Sagaing and 30 cm (about 1 foot) at NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay and Hinthada.

The water levels of Chindwin River are forecast to rise above the present water level by 90 cm (about 3 feet) at Hkamti and Homalin and 30 cm (about 1 foot) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa.

SNLD has connections with armed insurgents Is causing regional instability, and bad blood among the nationalities with selfishness

Ten resign from SNLD due to party's misdeeds

YANGON, 8 May — Chairman of Hsipaw Township Shan Nationalities League for Democracy of Shan State (North) U Sai Ngho Kun, Secretary 2 Daw Nang La Pyi, organizer Daw Nang Hkam Li, executive U Shwe Toe, executive Daw Nang Nyunt Nyunt, and members U Thein Tun, Daw Hla Nu, U Sai Ba Zai, U Hsam Sai, and U Ba Thein altogether 10 resigned from SNLD of their own volition yesterday after collectively submitting their signed letters to the party headquarters and the respective local authorities.

In the signed letters, they said that they joined the SNLD after 1988. They formed and took part in the township SNLD with the aim of helping serve the locals' interest and regional development. But the SNLD Headquarters' activities have connections with insurgents, and are aimed at causing regional instability and bad blood among the nationalities.

They have witnessed that the SNLD Headquarters is trying to forcefully install narrow racism into national races and break up national unity.

There is weakness in regional development as the SNLD does not encourage youths to attend classes. They were disappointed with the party head office as it is leading the wrong way against the National Convention and the seven-step Road Map.

They quit the SNLD headquarters, Hsipaw Township SNLD and the party functions of their own volition to join hands with the locals for regional development while earning a sincere living. They support the National Convention and the government's efforts to implement the seven-step Road Map.

The Hsipaw Township SNLD was formed with 10 executives. All the 10 including chairman U Sai Ngho Kun have quit the party.

MNA