

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 24

14th Waxing of Kason 1368 ME

Wednesday, 10 May, 2006

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

Prime Minister congratulates Korean counterpart

YANGON, 10 May— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, General Soe Win has sent a message of congratulations to Her Excellency Mme Han Myeong Sook, appointed as Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.—MNA

The aims of YMBA were to promote Myanmar nationality, language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education.

YMBA's performances contribute towards all four social objectives implemented at present

YMBA celebrates centenary at National Theatre



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the celebration of YMBA's centenary. —MNA

YANGON, 9 May — The Young Men's Buddhist Association celebrated its centenary at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were members of central panel of patrons of centenary of YMBA Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of Work Committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members, ambassadors, Charge d' Affaires ai of embassies, officials of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Office and departments, patrons of YMBA, chairman and executives, officials of sub-committees and members of YMBA and members of social associations. First, the Secretary-1, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Chairman of YMBA U Bo Ni formally opened the ceremony.

The Secretary-1 and the guests observed the booth to mark the centenary of YMBA.

Next, the Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said the imperialist British government annexed Myanmar and they enslaved the entire Myanmar national races. On 10 May 1906, 21 years after being fallen into servitude, U Ba Pe, U Maung Gyi and U Ba Yin, students of Yangon College, established YMBA at No 86, 28th Street, Yangon, the house of U Maung Gyi (Sir Maung Gyi).

(See page 8)

Chairman of YMBA U Bo Ni makes a speech at the celebration of YMBA's centenary.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 10 May, 2006

Increase production and speed up sale of jade and gems

Increase in exploration and production of natural resources plays a pivotal role in our effort to strengthen the national economy. More and more natural resources can be extracted with the use of human resources and technologies. In the past, extraction of precious stones was carried out only by the government but now there are many joint ventures between the government and national private gems companies.

Myanmar is a country rich in minerals and precious stones, especially gold, silver, jade, ruby, sapphire and pearl. As annual gems emporiums and mid-year gems emporiums are held regularly, the gems market in Myanmar is developing and the neighbouring countries as well as those in other parts of the world have become more interested in Myanmar's gems emporiums.

Extraction of gems calls for a lot of capital and hard work. Therefore, it is necessary to speed up the sale of gems extracted and to sell them at deserving prices. At present, gems emporiums are being held two or three times a year but they should be held more frequently according to production.

While efforts are being made for increased extraction of gems and systematic development of gems industries, serious attention should be paid to protection of environment. Respective ministries and regional authorities should closely supervise the extraction of gems so that it can be done in accordance with the Myanmar Gems Law and forests, rivers and creeks may not be destroyed.

We would like to call on all those in the gems industry to increase the production and speed up the sale of jade and gems in accordance with the developing gems market in Myanmar.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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

Minister inspects Mandalay Industrial Zones Development Project, Candy Factory (Kyaukse)

YANGON, 9 May — Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretariat member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang yesterday paid homage and offered provisions to State Central Working Committee for the Sangha Wakhinkon Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bahujana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Teikkha at Taungsalin Monastery in Chanaye-thazan Township, Mandalay.



Minister U Aung Thuang (C) inspects machinery spare parts. INDUSTRY-1

Next, Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Committee Minister U Aung Thuang visited the foundry shop, press shop, warehouse, machine shop of Mandalay Industrial Zones Development Project and gave necessary instructions to officials. Mandalay Taw Win Industrial Co Ltd Chairman U Aung Win reported on construction of the shops, production process, financial situation and profits. Then the minister made a speech.

On arrival at the automobile production department in Mandalay Industrial Zone, the minister studied 10-wheel trucks that can haul 35-ton loads and passenger buses which are run with bio-diesel. After that, the minister proceeded to Kyaukse industrial region and met with factory managers, officers and staff of the industrial region at the meeting hall of Ce-

ment Plant (Kyaukse). He next inspected the plant. Later, the minister visited the chocolate factory in the compound of the Candy Factory (Kyaukse) and production process of chocolate. The

minister also inspected construction progress of a new school building of Minsu Village BEHS donated by Myanma General and Maintenance Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1.—MNA

Industry-1 products special sales on 13 May

YANGON, 9 May — Consumer goods produced by Ministry of Industry-1 will be sold at reasonable price at the ministry's special sales on 13 May in Taunggyi.

The sale will be staged at Sports Ground in Taunggyi from 10 am to 8 pm.—MNA

Fire Brigade Day marked

YANGON, 9 May — The 60th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was marked at a ceremony held at the Sports Ground in Pyay, Bago Division (West) on

5 May, attended by Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Also present on the occasion were heads of department, members of social organizations, students of Education College, trainees of Nursing Training School and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

After viewing the skills demonstration of fire brigade members, Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min and party attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants held at the 100-acre farm near Titut model village in Pyay Township.

Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min and Patron of Women's Affairs Committee Daw Naing Naing Maw gave away physic nut saplings to those present and took part in the growing of physic nut plants.—MNA

Regional developments inspected in Lewe Township

YANGON, 9 May — USDA CEC Member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with officials of Division 5 of Myanmar Railways and the secretary of Pyinmana District and Lewe USDA arrived at Thitpokpin Village on 6 May.

At the hall of Myanma Timber Enterprise No 56 Saw Mill, the minister met with Village PDC members, villagers, local staff, USDA members, social organizations and students and gave instructions on the participation of local people in the regional development tasks.

Afterwards, the minister heard reports on the tasks and attended to the needs. Next, the minister proceeded to the site to build Thitpokpin Creek Bridge and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Thitpokpin Village BEHS (Branch), the minister fulfilled the requirements for renovation of the school. —MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min meeting with USDA members, employees and members of social organizations at Thitpokpin Village in Lewe Township.

RAILWAY



Mercury touches over 44 degrees Celsius in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 8 May—A scorching heat wave enveloped the Indian capital as the mercury touched 44.5 degrees Celsius Sunday for the second straight day, and officials predicted no major change in the temperature in the next two days.

“There has been no change in the temperature since Saturday and the temperature was 44.5 degrees — five degrees

above the normal level in this part of the year,” *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a weather official as saying.

A low-pressure area developing in southeast Uttar Pradesh could bring some respite in the form of thunderstorms in New Delhi Monday evening, he said.

The temperatures would remain 42-44 degrees Celsius for

two days, the official said, adding the rise in temperature was normal for this part of the year.

The temperature in north India would remain three to five degrees above normal for the next 48 hours, he said.

Srinagar, capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, recorded 32.4 degrees Celsius, 10 degrees above normal.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese shareholder stands in front of an electronic stock board in Shanghai, on 8 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Moldovan plane makes emergency landing in Turkey

ANKARA, 8 May —A Moldovan freight plane made an emergency landing in a mountainous area in the southern Turkish city of Antalya on Sunday morning, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Subgovernor of Antalya Gunhan Sarikaya told *Anatolia* that crew of the plane called their executives on Sunday morning, saying their plane made an emergency landing at a place they did not know. All the crew members were safe and sound, said the official.

Turkish authorities immediately sent out security teams to search the region near Ugurlu Village of Alanya town to find the plane and

crew members, Sarikaya added.

It was the second emergency landing in Turkey over the weekend.

On Saturday, a Turkish Airlines (THY) jetliner made an emergency landing in the eastern Turkish city of Malatya due to bad weather conditions, *Anatolia* reported on Sunday. The jetliner was bound from Istanbul to the southeastern city of Diyarbakir with 166 passengers and seven crew members on board when it made the landing at the Erhac Airport.

Later, the plane took off again and landed at the Diyarbakir Airport safely, said *Anatolia*.

MNA/Xinhua

Dollar touches one-year low against euro

LONDON, 8 May—The dollar recovered after hitting fresh one-year lows against the euro and sterling on market expectations that the Federal Reserve will soon end its cycle of tightening US interest rates, analysts said. The euro struck 1.2787 dollars in early European trading on Monday, its highest point since 12 May, 2005.

In late European trade, the euro fell back to 1.2725 dollars from 1.2726 dollars late on Friday in New York.

The dollar fell to 111.48 yen, from 112.46 dollars on Friday.

Sterling hit 1.8688 dollars in early trading, its highest level since May

12, before falling back to 1.8588 dollars, unchanged from its level on Friday.

“The soft April jobs report at the end of last week appeared to seal the case for only one more interest rate hike from the Fed before a pause,” Calyon

analyst Mitul Kotecha said, explaining the fall of the dollar earlier in the day.

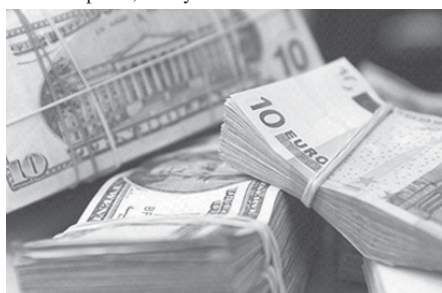
Dealers said that the dollar had recovered later Monday as investors adopted more cautious positions ahead of a decision on US interest rates

on Wednesday.

With an increase in the key interest rate to 5.00 percent seen as a done deal, the focus is on the post-meeting statement for any hints on whether the Fed will pause in its two-year monetary-tightening cycle.

“There are still some expectations that the Fed will raise its interest rates to 5.25 percent but the statement is likely to be dovish,” said Mamoru Ashimoto, a deputy general manager at Shinsei Bank. US job creation weakened last month to its slowest pace since after Hurricane Katrina in August but wages took off in a warning sign for the Federal Reserve, dealers said.

Internet



Bundles of US dollar and euro banknotes at a foreign exchange counter in Paris. The dollar recovered after hitting fresh one-year lows against the euro and sterling on market expectations that the Federal Reserve will soon end its cycle of tightening US interest rates, analysts said. —INTERNET

Mexico bus crashes into mountainside, kills 20

MEXICO CITY, 8 May —At least 20 people were killed on Saturday when a bus travelling in Mexico’s central state of San Luis Potosi crashed into a mountainside, local Press reports said.

A bus tyre blew out and caused the driver to lose control on a highway outside the city of Rioverde and crash, throwing some passengers out of the windows, *El Universal* newspaper said in a report on its website. Other reports said as many as 23 people died. Another 14 people were injured, including the driver, who fled, *El Universal* said.

The bus from the Autonaves line was travelling between the cities of San Luis Potosi and Ciudad Valles within the state, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters

Mild quake jolts New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 8 May — An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter Scale Sunday evening rocked the national capital New Delhi and neighbouring Gurgaon in Haryana but there were no immediate reports of casualties, according to *Indo-Asian News Service*.

The tremors were felt around 9.35 pm local time.

The epicentre of the quake lay between Delhi and the Haryana Town of Rohtak, about 100 kilometres from New Delhi, officials said.

A quake also rocked parts of Gujarat at around 8.30 pm, they added. — MNA/Xinhua

Human immune-system protein makes HIV more infectious

LONDON, 8 May — Scientists have found that the human form of immune-system protein, cyclophilin A, changes the shape of HIV particles to make them more infectious, the latest issue of the *New Scientist*

reported. Cyclophilin A, is found inside HIV-1 when the virus attacks human and monkey cells, researchers at University College London were quoted as saying.

The researchers, who infected cells from Old

World monkeys with HIV-1, found that cyclophilin A changed the shape of the virus particles. This trick made the virus vulnerable to attack by TRIM5-alpha, part of the monkeys’ innate immune system, which stops it in its tracks, but it was a different story when they infected human cells with HIV-1. They found that the human form of cyclophilin A still changed the shape of the virus particles, but only to make them more infectious.

HIV-1 has the ability to tolerate cyclophilin A activity when it gets into human cells and the virus is using cyclophilin A to help it replicate, leading researcher Greg Towers was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers secure the scene of a bomb attack in Baghdad, on 8 May, 2006. A roadside bomb and a car bomb exploded in quick succession wounding 17 civilians, including four policemen, in an apparent ambush, in eastern Baghdad on Monday, a source in the Interior Ministry said. INTERNET

Bolivia nationalization further sidelines US

WASHINGTON, 8 May — By nationalizing Bolivia's energy industry, President Evo Morales lived up to a pledge to be Washington's nightmare and highlighted waning US influence in Latin America.

Last week's action from the leftist, whose allies are US adversaries Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, was another step in the region's retreat from US-prescribed free-market economics.

And the United States can do little to stem a tide of Latin American voters turning to leftists like Morales who rail at free

trade and foreign investment for failing to improve the lives of the region's impoverished majority.

"It is a genie that is not going to be put back in the bottle," said Peter Hakim, head of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank.

It was Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela that held an emergency summit with Morales to manage the aftershocks from his decision to send troops to gas fields, alarming investors, rattling markets and angering foreign governments.

The US public response to the nationalization was merely for spokesmen to cautiously express concern over the potential economic impact.

That belied the importance for Washington of Morales' decree to take over the oil and gas industries, giving government energy company YPFB control over production and the state a 51-per-cent stake in several foreign companies.

"The socialism championed by him and Chavez is an increasing threat to the United States and its economic model that has

dominated for decades. That's what's at stake here," said Larry Birns of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs think tank.

"But with the US under-reaction, you'd think the United States is condemned to be an observer," he said.

Unable to forge region-wide support for its policies, the superpower and region's traditional patron will have to depend more and more on bilateral cooperation, such as the free-trade deals it has been hammering out in recent years, analysts say.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မုခွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ပွား



On the afternoon of 7 May, a rare superior mirage appeared on the sea of Penglai near east China's Shandong Province. —INTERNET

Rare mirage lasts for four hours off east China shore

JINAN, 8 May — Thousands of tourists and local residents witnessed a mirage of high clarity lasting for four hours off the shore of Penglai City in east China's Shandong Province on Sunday.

Mists rising on the shore created an image of a city, with modern high-rise buildings, broad city streets and bustling cars as well as

crowds of people all clearly visible.

The city of Penglai had been soaked by two days of rain before the rare weather phenomenon occurred.

The mirage took place during the week-long Labour Day holiday. The small city received over 30,000 tourists on Sunday.

Experts said that many mirages have been recorded in Penglai, on

the tip of Shandong Peninsula, throughout history, which made it known as a dwelling place of the gods.

They explained that a mirage is formed when moisture in the air becomes warmer than the temperature of sea water, which refracts rays of sunlight to create reflections of the landscape in the sky.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi resident helps a wounded man after a clash with Iraqi and British soldiers near the British helicopter crash site in Basra, 550 km (341 miles) south of Baghdad, on 6 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Germany paid over \$10m for Iraq hostages

BERLIN, 8 May — The German Government paid more than 10 million US dollars in ransom to win the freedom of two men held hostage in Iraq for 99 days, public television station ARD reported on Saturday, quoting security sources.

German weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* also reported a ransom had been paid for the two engineers brought home this week, putting it at several million dollars more than the sum paid for Susanne Osthoff — a German woman held in Iraq last year.

Reports at the time quoted unidentified diplomats as saying the government paid a ransom of 5 million dollars to Osthoff's captors. — MNA/Reuters

FMD spreads to 17 Vietnamese localities

HANOI, 9 May — The foot-and-mouth disease has spread to 17 cities and provinces across Vietnam, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* reported on Monday.

Lam Dong Province on 19 April reported the outbreak in Duc Trong District after samples from pigs in the district were tested positive to the type O of foot-and-mouth virus. By that time, over 2,250 pigs and bulls in Duc Trong were infected with the disease, some 800 of them died. The number of pigs, bulls and buffaloes hit by foot-and-mouth disease in Lam Dong has risen to nearly 4,000, of which nearly 1,500 died, by late April. Meanwhile, the disease had stricken nearly 300 bulls, buffaloes, and pigs in Quang Nam. Last week, the Vietnamese Government asked relevant sectors and localities to take urgent measures to combat and prevent the disease. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian miners freed after two weeks

BEACONSFIELD, 7 May — Two Australian gold miners trapped for two weeks 3,000 feet underground walked

unaided out of the mine early Tuesday, freed by rescue teams drilling round-the-clock by hand through hard rock.



A miner smiles and gestures with his thumb as he walks away from the mine head as a rescue operation continues to free two men trapped at the mine in Beaconsfield, Australia, on 8 May, 2006 —INTERNET

After initial medical tests underground, Brant Webb, 37, and Todd Russell, 34, strode purposefully from the mine's main lift shaft.

They hugged family and friends before clambering into two ambulances, still laughing and joking with friends.

Webb and Russell were buried after a small earthquake 25 April trapped the safety cage they were working in under tons of rock in the Beaconsfield Gold Mine. Miner Larry Knight, 44, was killed. The rescue came hours before Knight's family planned to hold his funeral.

For 300 hours, the two miners huddled in the 4-foot-tall cage, too short to stand up in, until rescuers broke through the last crust of hard rock to reach them. Mine manager Matthew Gill said the men were in good health.

Teams of specialist

miners bored through more than 45 feet of rock over the past week with a giant drilling machine to reach the men.

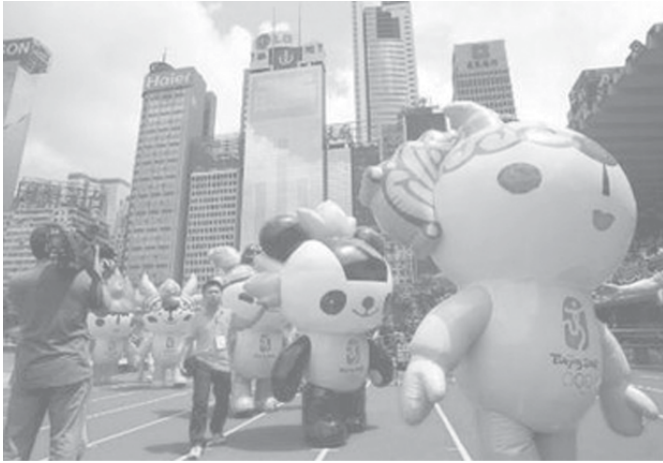
Cutting the final sections of the escape tunnel was slow and difficult, as the men used hand tools to avoid causing a cave-in.

The rescue ends a drama that riveted the nation, with TV crews camped in the mine parking lot, and residents of the close-knit community waiting anxiously at the mine gates to welcome the two men, now considered heroes.

Television networks cut live to the news that the men were saved. A fire engine drove through Beaconsfield, a town in the southern state of Tasmania, its siren wailing to alert the local residents to the news.

A church bell not used since the end of World War II rang out in celebration.

Internet



Five Friendlies, mascots of the 2008 Beijing's Olympic Games, walk on a street during a parade celebrating Youth Day, which marks the history of the 4 May movement, a revolution against feudalism launched by Chinese young people in 1919, in Hong Kong on 7 May, 2006. The mascots of 2008 Beijing's Olympic Games are called (from R) Beibei, Jingjing, Nini, Yingying and Huanhuan. —INTERNET

Roh Moo-hyun launches Asian tour for energy cooperation

SEOUL, 8 May —South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun left for Mongolia on Sunday to launch his 3-nation Asian tour in a bid to seek closer cooperation in energy, mineral resources with Mongolia, Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Roh was set to hold summit with Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar to discuss measures to boost bilateral cooperation during his four-day state visit to the country. Roh is the second South Korean president

visiting Mongolia. Former South Korean president Kim Dea-jong paid a visit to the country in May, 1999. Following the visit to Mongolia, Roh will fly to Azerbaijan on an official visit and hold meeting with his counterpart Ilham Heydar Oglu Aliyev on 11 May to seek measures on closer

cooperation in energy and resources.

On 12-14 May, Roh will visit the UAE, the second largest oil exporter to South Korea, and hold a summit with UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Roh will return home on 15 May.

MNA/Xinhua

Somali pirates release hijacked cargo vessel

NAIROBI, 8 May 8—Somali pirates have released a cargo vessel they seized off the coast of the Horn of Africa country after a businessman paid a 25,000-US-dollar ransom, a maritime official said on Sunday.

The United Arab Emirates-flagged ship, which was heading to the port city of Kismayu carrying goods for businessmen there, was seized on 27 April by Somali gunmen and commandeered to a coastal town near Harardheere, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of the capital Mogadishu.

One crew member was killed and two others seriously injured during the hijacking. The pirates freed the *MV Al-Taj*, its Libyan captain and nine Indian crew on Saturday.

"We are informed that the Kismayu businessman paid 25,000 US dollars so that the gunmen could release the vessel and her crew," said Andrew Mwangura, of the Seafarers Assistance Programme, a Kenyan-based organization representing sailors in the region. "She is now (sailing) back to Dubai with her cargo intact," he said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

No pollution occurs as ice melts in China's Songhua River

BEIJING, 8 May —The benzene-related pollutants in northeast China's Songhua and Heilong rivers remain at a safe level during the spring thaw period, China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said Saturday.

"The water quality in the Songhua and Heilong rivers is steady and no pollution has occurred," read a statement from the SEPA.

The thaw period had finished, but the benzene, nitrobenzene and aniline contents in the two rivers

did not exceed the national standards of both China and Russia, said the SEPA.

The Songhua River, a tributary of the Heilong River which is also called Amur River in Russia, was heavily polluted last year after a chemical plant explosion upstream on 13 November, causing some 100 tons of benzene-related pollutants to spill into the river and endangering the water supply for millions of residents along the river.

MNA/Xinhua



A man works in a construction site in Hefei, central China's Anhui Province on 8 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Indian heat wave kills 53

LUCKNOW, 8 May —The death toll from a blistering heatwave across India climbed to 53 and weather forecasters predicted worse to come with temperatures already above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Six more people had died "of heat stroke in the last 24 hours taking the toll to 25," in Uttar Pradesh said state police official Mukesh Singh.

All the dead were poor and homeless, he said from the state capital Lucknow. Two of the dead were children.

The other deaths were reported from eastern Orissa state where 27 people died of heat-related problems over the weekend. One death was also reported in the holy city of Amritsar in Punjab state. In Lucknow the day temperature was likely to rise in the next 24 hours,

RK Verma, director of the state Meteorological Department, told AFP on Monday. "Hot winds are likely to sweep the plains of Uttar Pradesh, making life more miserable," he

warned. In New Delhi the temperature climbed to 44.5 degrees Celsius at the weekend and dust storms were expected by Wednesday. "The temperature should come

down by at least one or two degrees in the next 48 hours," said meteorologist RD Singh. Neighbouring Haryana state registered temperatures above 47 C (117 Fahrenheit). —Internet



An Indian covers his face to protect himself from heatwave. The death toll from a blistering heatwave across India climbed to 53 and weather forecasters predicted worse to come with temperatures already above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). —INTERNET

Fresh migrant wave lands on Canary beaches

MADRID, 8 May —More than 450 African migrants packed into precarious longboats landed on the Canaries over the weekend as the Spanish islands faced a fresh wave of illegal immigration from West Africa, media reports said on Sunday.

In one 15-hour period on Saturday, 259 illegal immigrants landed on the beaches of Tenerife after making the perilous voyage from the African mainland, authorities on the island told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts seas near Taiwan

HONG KONG, 8 May —An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale jolted the sea waters south of Taiwan at 9:55 am (Hong Kong Time) Sunday. According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the epicentre was initially determined to be 21.5 North Latitude and 120.7 East Longitude, about 130 kilometres southeast of Kaohsiung. — MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in small planes collision in Germany

BERLIN, 9 May — Two people were killed after their glider collided with a small plane near the Bavarian city of Aschaffenburg on Sunday, the German news agency DPA reported.

The collision occurred when the two small planes were landing at an airfield near Aschaffenburg, police said. — MNA/Xinhua



Indian students decorate the front of a photograph of Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore with flowers during celebrations of his 145th birth anniversary in Kolkata on 9 May, 2006. Nobel Prize winning poet Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary was celebrated across West Bengal, with a university set up by him breaking tradition and marking the occasion with songs, dances and poetry.

INTERNET

New Yorker starts Atlantic row for "AIDS"

GOREE ISLAND (Senegal), 9 May — A 41-year-old New Yorker set off from West Africa in a 24-foot wooden boat on a 3,000-mile solo row across the Atlantic on Sunday, hoping to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and commemorate the slave trade.

Victor Mooney crawled on his hands and knees through the colonial slave house on Goree Island — facing the Senegalese capital Dakar — before emerging at the "Gate of No Return" through which Black slaves once boarded waiting vessels.

He then swam to his boat and set off westwards for New York's Brooklyn Bridge in his boat, John Paul the Great.

He is due to retrace the route of vessels that took tens of thousands of captives from African

slaving ports to the Americas.

"As an African American, as a descendant of some part of West Africa, I feel my ancestors saying 'Welcome home'. I am sure they will guide me as I go in this direction," he said. "There are two objectives — HIV/AIDS and to memorialize our (enslaved) ancestors," Mooney told *Reuters* earlier as he packed military food rations, sea charts, all-weather gear and medical supplies into his boat. —MNA/Reuters



A performance artist known as 'Space Cowboy' swallows a sword while underwater at the Manly Aquarium in Sydney on 9 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Vietnam to raise spending on education, healthcare next year

HANOI, 9 May — Vietnam with current population of over 83 million is expected to increase its state spending on many fields, including education and healthcare, by 44-142 per cent in 2007, local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* reported Monday.

Under a new state spending scheme, budget allocation for state administrative management in plains in 2007 is planned to stand at 73,570 Vietnamese dong (VND) (4.6 US dollars) per resident per annum, up 44 per cent over the rate in 2004 which is still applied now. The allocation for healthcare in islands will be 140,700 VND (8.8 US dollars) per head, up 142 per cent against 2004.

The state budget allocation for education (applied to people aged 1-18) in 2007 will be 565,400 VND (35.5 dollars) per head in urban areas, up 59 per cent against 2004; 664,000 VND (nearly 41.8 dollars) in plains, up 70 per cent; 817,200 VND (51.4 dollars) in mountainous areas, up 92 per cent; and 1,144,000 (71.9 dollars) in islands, up 89 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Elephant kills Blumarine designer's husband

MILAN, 9 May — The husband of Italian fashion designer Anna Molinari has been killed by an elephant in Zimbabwe while on safari, their company Blufin said.

Gianpaolo Tarabini, a regular visitor to Africa, was with a professional hunter and a friend in the Zambezi Valley on Friday when two elephants unexpectedly charged the group and one of them trampled him.

The 67-year-old set up the Blumarine fashion company with Anna Molinari in 1977. The eponymous line, known for its floaty and decorative print dresses, debuted on Milan's catwalks in 1981.

The two then launched their Anna Molinari line, which is now designed by daughter Rossella, in 1995 at the same time as the Blugirl range for teenagers. Tarabini ran Blufin SpA with their son Gianguido, who is responsible for the licensing part of the business.

Rossella Tarabini has flown to Zimbabwe and is arriving on Sunday, a spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand presents bird flu plan to neighbours

BANGKOK, 9 May — Thailand presented a bird flu action plan to its poorer Southeast Asian neighbours on Monday and called for international help for the region hit hard by the deadly virus.

The plan, covering key areas such as surveillance of poultry and control measures, was presented to officials from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar at a meeting in Bangkok.

"What we need to do is to translate what has been discussed and achieved on paper into a concrete plan," Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon told the meeting. The H5N1 virus reemerged in Asia in 2003. Since then it has spread to more than 48 countries and killed 114 people in nine countries across the world.

Vietnam, with 42 deaths out of 93 human cases reported, has the highest casualty rate but it has not had a human case

of H5N1 since November.

Thailand, once among the worst-hit countries, has earmarked 2.5 million US dollars to train and equip

officials from its poorer neighbours. But Kantathi conceded that the funds fell short of what was needed.

MNA/Reuters

Tanzania to test gas-to-liquid fuels on motor vehicles

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 9 May — Tanzania is to become the fifth African country that agrees to try out the gas-to-liquid (GTL) diesel fuel through its buses and trucks.

The move is aimed at improving local environment by reducing emissions from motor vehicles. So far Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan and Egypt have shown interest in the new fuel form but they are waiting for the right motor vehicles to cash in on the gas-to-liquid fuels.

Though very expensive

to capture and then convert, the gas-to-liquid technology is expected to produce cleaner and therefore environmentally friendlier fuel from natural gas that has been burnt in oil fields worldwide every day. Economists have estimated that 10 billion cubic feet of natural gas or equivalent to 1.7 million barrels of oil have burned off each day. —MNA/Xinhua

China to build two new port regions

BELING, 9 May — China plans to add two new port "clusters" to its existing three surrounding Shanghai, Shenzhen and Tianjin, the Ministry of Communications announced.

The two additional port groups are located on the Mainland side of the Taiwan Straits in southern Fujian, and in Hainan and southern Guangdong, *China Daily* quoted Communications Minister Li Shenglin as saying.

The plan is part of an effort to match the national 2006-2010 social and economic development programme, Li said.

The southeastern port cluster would be built around its centre of Xiamen, a business centre of Fujian Province joined by Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Putian and Zhangzhou.

Zhangzhou will serve as a destination for China's import of crude oil and natural gas, and all others will be mainly

handling containers.

The Fujian port blueprint is part of the central government's scheme of the Western Shore Economic Zone of

the Taiwan Straits. It was designed to help develop economic ties between the Mainland and Taiwan.

MNA/Xinhua



An electron micrograph image of a cluster of E. coli bacteria. The US Department of Agriculture on 5 May, 2006 said that an Oklahoma-based company has voluntarily recalled 156,235 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria. —INTERNET

Indonesia, Chinese youth to deepen cooperation

JAKARTA, 9 May — Indonesia and Chinese youth pledged to make full use of the existing mechanism for youth cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China to further deepen the people-to-people contact among young people, according to a statement by the ASEAN-China Lecture Series Monday.

Specific activities to be undertaken included ASEAN-China Youth Forums, ASEAN-China Youth Entrepreneurs Symposia, ASEAN-China Youth Camp and ASEAN-China Speakers' Forum, said the statement issued on the sidelines of three consecutive lectures by Chinese, Indonesian and Cambodian representatives at the ASEAN Secretariat building.

Topics to be addressed by these activities

ranged from sports, information and communication technology advancement to culture, added the statement. The activities aimed to encourage greater involvement of youth as stakeholders and future leaders of ASEAN-China cooperation, especially in the decision-making process, it said.

The statement also emphasized the necessity to establish a network of young ASEAN-Chinese entrepreneurs and professionals so that they could share and build up their capacity and skill to survive and compete in the globalized economy.

The seminar, to-

gether with the three speeches on Monday, was part of the ASEAN-China Lecture Series, which are held in China and ASEAN countries to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between both sides.

Since both sides formed dialogue relations 15 years ago, the ties between ASEAN and China have gone through three stages, namely the establishment of full dialogue framework in 1996, the establishment of friendly neighbourhood and mutual trust in 1997 and the establishment of strategic partnership in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

US helicopter gunships wound 3 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 May — US helicopter gunships bombed Pakistani territory along the Afghan border on Monday, injuring three people, the Geo TV reported. Eight others went missing after the bombing, according to the report.

The helicopters shelled the Angor Adda area, some 60 kilometres west of Wana, the headquarters of South Waziristan, in the afternoon. — MNA/Xinhua



The Eiffel Tower is bathed in blue light to celebrate the Europe day in Paris, on 9 May, 2006. — INTERNET



A United Airlines aircraft taxis on a runway at the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on 8 May, 2006. UAL Corp, parent of United Airlines, said on Monday its first-quarter loss rose 1.3 per cent as the company grappled with record high fuel prices, sending its shares down nearly 8 per cent by midday. — INTERNET

South Koreans show parental love with face lifts

SEOUL, 9 May — South Koreans traditionally used to say it with flowers or money, but now more are showing love and respect to their parents by giving mum and dad coupons for cosmetic surgery.

Local media has reported a boom in orders this year for botox treatments, face lifts and hair transplants to mark Parents' Day on Monday.

Cosmetic surgery clinics in Seoul said they have been booked solid for weeks with appointments made by children

for their parents.

Using surgery to enhance looks is common in South Korea, with few stigmas attached to having procedures done to make eyes rounder, noses more shapely and even calves slimmer.

Many parents pay for cosmetic surgery for their children as a graduation gift and it has become more common in recent years for children to return the favour.

"Appointments for procedures for Parents' Day have increased by over 50 per cent from five years ago," said Lim Ee-seok, the

president of the Theme Dermatology Clinic, a large cosmetic surgery facility in Seoul.

The most sought-after procedures at the clinic are botox injections, which range from 300,000 won to 600,000 won (322-645 US dollars) and surgery to remove wrinkles.

"Parents who have always sacrificed for their children are now more bold in asking for what they want," the *Herald Business* newspaper said in a story it carried on the subject.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists' discovery of new species of fish gives evolution clues

BEIJING, 9 May — A Chinese research team has discovered four fossils of a new species of fish dating back 400 million years which may provide clues to the evolution of fish.

Dr Zhu Min, the leading scientist from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, said on Sunday that the newly discovered species may represent a bridge between two vertebrate lineages that ultimately went on to dominate the modern world.

The find made by Zhu and his colleagues was published in the latest issue of the British journal *Nature*.

The fossilized creature, found in southwest China's Yunnan Province, combines features shown by ray-finned

bony fishes, including the majority of modern fish species, and by lobe-finned bony fishes, the group that spawned the ancestors of today's land vertebrates, Dr Zhu said.

The ancient fish, represented by chunks from four separate skulls, has a skull roof much like that of actinopterygian, the group that includes most modern fish, Dr Zhu said.

But the fine features of its anatomy may also shed light on the evolutionary origin of cosmine — a hard surface-tissue found in many fossil sarcopterygians, the fish that later gave rise to land vertebrates, he said.

Cosmine is characterized by a network of pores and canals in the tissue, overlaid by a single enamel-based layer, Zhu explained.

MNA/Xinhua

Tropical storm kills 16, injures 200 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 9 May — Sixteen people were killed and over 200 others injured as a tropical storm swept through parts of northern and western Bangladesh, including the capital Dhaka on Sunday evening.

Most of the people died in lightning, tree fall and wall collapse, officials in northern Mymensingh District said on Monday.

Ataur Karim, an official in Mymensingh, 192 kilometres north of Dhaka, said when contacted by phone five minor children died of lightning and over 100 were injured in the district Sunday evening.

Karim said the wind speed of the storm was around 76 kilometres per hour, which damaged hundreds of houses and badly damaged paddy crops, which were almost ready for harvesting.

He said the storm uprooted trees and flattened many electric poles, resulting in blackouts in some parts of his district.

Ainul Haque, official in the western Rajshahi, 268 kilometres from the capital, said the storm last for about an hour and smashed many houses and trees.

Haque said in his region over 70 persons were injured and five people were killed. "The storm badly damaged standing paddy crop and jute," he said.

According to reports, another six people died and some others injured in different districts during the tropical storm.

MNA/Xinhua



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a wreath laying ceremony to mark the upcoming Victory Day, in Moscow, on 8 May, 2006. Russia celebrates the Red Army's victory over the Nazis on 9 May.

INETNET

YMBA's performances contribute...

(from page 1)

He said the major aims of the association were to promote Myanmar nationality, language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education. The lofty aims led to awakening of patriotism among the national people.

The slogan, "Promote Myanmar nationality, language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education", came into the mind of the entire Myanmar people and the slogan opened the thousands of Myanmar patriots' mind to anti-imperialist and national liberation. Associations such as General Council of Burmese Association (GCBA), Wunthanu and Konmayi were formed in various townships and they organized people to strive for independence.

In 1910, YMBA Conferences were held in Yangon and other townships and branch associations were also formed. In the meantime, the youths who did not want the rule of the imperialists had connections with other associations and made attempts to regain independence. That was why it was said that independence struggle began at YMBA.

On 1 October 1917, YMBA and its subordinate associations held a conference in Pinyinna and presented public demands to the British government. Leaders of YMBA U Ba Pe, U May Aung, U Pe and U Pu met with colonial secretary Montagu in India on 28 November 1917 and made a nine-point demand including the establishment of a university in Myanmar that met the required standard.

YMBA on 19 May 1918 severely opposed footwear by Europeans including the British at pagodas. The association confronted the colonial government against prohibiting pilgrims from entering Shwedagon Pagoda through the western entrance.

GCBA held its second conference in October 1921, boycotting the Diarchy, and demanding the Home Rule. YMBA headquarters held its conference at the Jubilee Hall on 17 June 1922, successfully organizing Myanmar students quit schools running under the British government assistance to prolong the enslavement of Myanmar, and establishing a large number of National Schools for them. After the World War II, Thado Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Maung (Supreme Court Justice) acted as chairman and launched activities till the independence was regained. Hence, it can also be said that the political struggle to regain independence sprang from YMBA.

YMBA was able to vitalize nationalistic fervour of the entire nation and oppose the colonialist government and its oppressive rule in helping the nation regain independence.

In addition, the association uplifted the morale and moral conduct of the entire nation with the slogan "promote Myanmar nationality, language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education."

When the nation regained independence on 4 January 1948, the association hailed the independence by holding a test on Mangala Sutta or the 38 Blessings for new generation youths. It has become its noble tradition.

Since the nation regained independence, the asso-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, YMBA Chairman U Bo Ni formally open the ceremony to mark the centenary of YMBA. — MNA

ciation has been free from politics, but constantly engaging only in the racial, religious and educational affairs, helping new generation acquire required knowledge and moral education. Since 1949, it has been holding Mangala Sutta and Buddhist literature tests till now. About 50,000 sat for the tests in the 55th anniversary in 2004.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein awards a winner of examination of Buddology and Mangala Sutta.—MNA

The Abhidhamma course YMBA has been holding since 1967 has also helped produce good citizens having the knowledge and moral education. It is satisfactory to see the association implementing its programmes to promote race, language, religion and education.

YMBA set up milestones in its efforts to promote,

propagate and perpetuate the Sasana. The association established a literary distribution group during the time preparations were being made to convene the Sixth Buddhist Synod in the 1950s. The group after translating and scrutinizing 28 books on Pali Pitaka presented them to the Buddhist Association. YMBA published the pictorial on Buddhism in Myanmar as well as in English. It also published religious treatises compiled by eminent Buddhist monks. YMBA's tradition of presenting financial assistance for promotion of race, language, religion and education started when broker U Maung Gyi of SinOhDan Street, Yangon, bought shares from BOC in 1912 and contributed the profits for the cause. At the 15th donation anniversary, the association donated nearly K 34 million and over FEC 36,000.

A religious magazine "Yadanamon" that enhances the interests of the people and Sasana came out in 1969. Apart from Yadanamon magazine, another religious magazine "Manaw Thukha" has been in circulation since November 2004 to broaden the scope of new generation youths' sense and practice of Theravada Buddhism, depicting the enthusiasm the Association has showed in its performance.

The performances the Association has made for a hundred years in various sectors are countless.

It is heartening to learn that its performances contribute towards the all four social objectives the government has been implementing as national duty.

The 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, and uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation — have been laid down with the aim of enabling the people to stand tall with dignity and qualifications in the international community. The Association has been dedicated to national development tasks such as honouring those who pass matriculation exams with highest marks in

(See page 9)



YMBA Chairman U Bo Ni awards a winner of examination of Buddology and Mangala Sutta. — MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin awards a winner of examination of Buddology and Mangala Sutta.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung awards a winner of examination of Buddology and Mangala Sutta.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung awards a winner of examination of Buddology and Mangala Sutta.—MNA

YMBA's performances contribute...

(from page 8)
the whole nation, conducting courses on health care for mothers and children, participating in anti-narcotic drugs campaigns, and holding health education talks on HIV/AIDS. Unremittingly preserving and handing down its fine traditions to new generation youths in various periods, the Association has reached its 100 years.

It is natural that in implementing its objectives during the period, it achieved good outcomes when it could exert good opportunities, goodwill and perseverance and it got poor results when it could not do so due to lack of goodwill and hard work.

Anyway, it is very encouraging that the Association has magnificently stood, bringing its work guidelines to fruition at every opportune time. Taking lessons from strengths and weaknesses in the 100-

year period, all are to nurture their strength to enable the association to exist more than one thousand years with progress.

The Secretary-1 called on those present to honour the Sayadaws and laity of the association who made endeavours with might and main in the interests of the people and the Sasana throughout successive periods.

In conclusion, he wished the association a greater success in implementing its noble functions in line with the four social objectives.

Chairman of the YMBA U Bo Ni made clarification on facts about the association.

The Secretary-1 presented prizes and certificates of honour to Ma Su Zin Zin Soe (Myoma Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Shipin Phone Pwint Street, Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division), Maung Tun Tun Min



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein visits booths of YMBA's centenary exhibition. — MNA

(Parahita Myoshwekyau, Myanaung, Ayeyawady Division), Maung Phyo Pyae Sone (Pyinnya Dagon Monastery, Bongon Village, Budalin, Sagaing Division), Ma Ei Thu Phyo (Pinletaik Shwemannoak

Monastery between 67th and 68th Streets, Mandalay) and Ma Wut Yi Phyo (Zinpyongon Monastery, Chaukeindan Village, Einme Township, Ayeyawady Division) who got prizes in Buddhism and Mangala examinations

in the senior division. Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented prizes and certificates of honour to Ma Khittaya Kyi (Zetawun

Monastery, Pantein Myohaung, Ngaphe, Magway Division), Ma Win Pa Pa Khaing (See page 11)

Ambassador presents credentials

YANGON, 10 May— U Tin Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Finland, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Ms Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, on 20 April 2006, in Helsinki. —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends collective growing...

(from page 16)
Ayadaw Township PDC U Win Tin reported to him. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party grew physic nut plants and gave encouragement to the local people.

Upon arrival at Ayadaw Station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the ceremony of growing of physic nut plants in the station. Lt-Col Aung Min of Ayadaw Station reported to him. Physic nut plants will be grown on 234.59 acres of land in Ayadaw Station.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with military officers, other ranks and their families and cordially greeted them. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Minywa model village where they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of Local Battalion. At Minywa Model Village Basic Education Middle School, Chairman of

Minywa PDC U Kyaw reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on measures taken for rural development tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the needs and inspected physic nut plants grown in the village.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the ceremony of growing of physic nut plants in Minywa model village and gave encouragement to the local people and inspected a bio-gas power station there. The power station produces 25-kilowatt.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Aungmyaybonni Monastery, Myinmu Township where they paid homage to Sayadaw Bhandanta Pavara and Sayadaw Tipitaka Kovida Bhandanta Vasapala Lankara and offered provisions to them.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the ceremony of physic nut plants in Htihsaung planta-

tion, Myinmu Township. 30,000 physic nut plants will be grown in Htihsaung

to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on progress of work.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meeting with officers and other ranks of Ayadaw Station. — MNA

plantation. Lt-Gen Ye Myint later inspected flow of water into Kyaukphaya dam.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the ceremony of growing of physic nut plants in Sagaing Station and looked into construction of dam in Sagaing Township. Director U Hoke Kyi reported

Myint and party oversaw construction of Oregyi roundabout in Sagaing side of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and digging up drains both sides of the road. They were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay

City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress of work at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). At the briefing hall on Mandalay bank, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint re-

ported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on construction tasks of the bridge.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into measures taken for construction of approach road and upper structure of the bridge in Mandalay side of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). Total installation is 1,126 metres long. Now 1,118 metres has been covered in the installation of steel beam.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw construction tasks of short cut of Pyin-Oo-Lwin-Htonebo-Myintnge road. At the briefing hall, the Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd reported on progress of work and future tasks.

After the inspection of earth work, Lt-Gen Ye Myint left for Mandalay.



Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) under construction. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection...

(from page 16)

kept at the chamber of the pagoda, Padamy Myetshin Pagoda, paintings and Myanmar handicrafts.

On arrival at Duthawady River Crossing Hsipaw Bridge at the entrance to Hsipaw, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen San Myint Oo of Kyaukme Station and officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected development of Hsipaw by car.

At the briefing hall of Asia World Ltd's toll gate at the entrance to Kyaukme, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with departmental officials and gave instructions on concerted efforts to be made by departmental personnel for national and regional development and winning the trust of local people. And he called on service personnel at grassroots level to make collective efforts for national development.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Goattwin Bridge construction project site being implemented by Asia World Ltd in Nawngkhio Township where Project Engineer U Chit Tun reported on progress of work and future tasks.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on timely completion of the work, meeting the set standard and worksite safety.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects physic nut plants in model 100-acre plantation of North-East Command. — MNA

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived in Mandalay.

Yesterday morning, they left Mandalay and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.—MNA

MWAF gives educative talks on human trafficking

YANGON, 9 May — In an effort to fight against trafficking in persons, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation yesterday held a round-table discussion with young women in Dawbon Township at the hall of the township.

First, responsible persons gave educative talks on human trafficking and prevention of violation against women. A total of 400 young women and members of Dawbon Township Women's Affairs Organization participated in the discussion. Responsible persons replied to the queries raised by those present.

Leader of the Working Group for Protection and Rehabilitation



Daw Khin Aye, Secretary of the working group Daw Htoo Yaw and Leader of the Working Group for Prevention of Human Trafficking Daw Khin May Soe, Leader of the Working Group for Prevention of Violation against Women Prof Daw

Htay Htay, Leader of the sub working Group for Rehabilitation and Reintegration Daw Kyi Kyi Mya and members sub-working groups also participated in the discussion.

MNA

Members of MWAF discuss with young women at the hall of the township in Dawbon.—MNA

Talks on avian influenza on 20 May

YANGON, 9 May — The Microbiology Society of Myanmar Medical Association will give talks on the scientific and public health perspectives and on pandemic preparedness for avian influenza on 20 May from 9 am to 11.30 am at MMA on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

All interested persons are cordially invited to attend by MMA.

There is no registration fee for the talks.

MNA

Two teenage trafficked girls rescued

YANGON, 9 May — Two teenage girls of Kutkai Township in northern Shan State were rescued by authorities after due consultation with officials of Rulie in the other country on 7 May.

When the parents of the four girls including Ma Daung Nwanpa of Manta village, Kutkai Township, who were sold in the other country, reported the case to Muse police station on 4 May, authorities opened a legal case against human trafficker Ma Bya Muwu of Homon ward, Muse.

Members of the special anti-human trafficking group in Muse on 7 May dialled the possible numbers they found in the note book of Ma Bya Muwu, and came to know that of the four, the two girls, Ma Kai Kyan, 15, and Ma Kyan May Chin, 16, were still in the hands of the buyer Shauk Twom of the other country, and that he would take them to Lonlin and Kyanphone towns in the other country the next day.

The authorities took immediate action to rescue the two girls.

They in cooperation with their counterparts of Rulie were able to rescue the girls from Shauk Twom at Tarkwom village in the other country at 6 pm the same day. The authorities handed over the girls to special anti-human trafficking group in Muse. According to the two girls, four of them sold at yuan 400 each over two months ago, were subject to sexual abuse and hard labour.

MNA

WVO advanced organizing course opens

YANGON, 9 May — Organized by Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee, war veterans' advanced organizing course (No.8/2006) was opened at the War Veterans Training School in Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby township yesterday morning. The course opening ceremony was attended by

MWVO COC Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and members and officials.

In his opening speech, Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) said all members are to actively participate in successfully implementing the five future work programs laid down by WVO Conference-2005 and five main duties of MWVO COC

and seven-step Road Map of the State.

After the ceremony, he cordially greeted the trainees. The four-week course is being attended by a total of 50 member trainees from Kayin State, Mon State, Taninthayi Division, Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division.

MNA



YANGON, 9 May — Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung (L) accepts books on Buddhism presented by Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra on 9 May 2006.—MNA

YMBA's performances contribute...

(from page 9)

(Mahayon Monastery, Sagamy Village, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Division), Ma Hay Mar Lwin (BEHS, Ngathaingchaung), Ma Myat Mon Aye (BEHS, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Division), and Ma Wah Wah Tun (Thawka Myaung New Generation Youths Parahita Centre, Mon State).

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented prizes and certificates of honour to Maung Thant Zin Hlaing (Air Force, Myitkyina), Maung La Lin Aung (Taungsun, Bilin), Ma Hnin Mar (Songon Village, Budalin), Ma Hla Yamin Phyo (BEMS-1, Pathein), Maung Zaw Win Tun (Kyadawnyaung Chaung Village, Einme), Ma Aye Zin Myint (Sagamy Village, Myaungmya), Maung Si Thu Aung (Thabyegon, Myaungang), Ma Chaw Su Mar (BEPS, Indaing, NyaungU), Ma Shwe Sin Su (BEHS-4, Botahtaung), and Ma Win Pa Pa (Khu Hnit Ein Dan, Maubin) in the middle division.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented prizes and certificates of honour to Ma Su Shwe Yi Win (BEHS, Myaungang), Ma Ei Ei Phyu (Songon Village, Budalin), Ma Kyi Kyi May (Chaukeindan Village, Einme), Maung Thein Soe Aung (Thawka Myaung New Generation Youths Parahita Centre, Mon State) and Ma Hnin Hnin Wai (Abhara Mikayon Monastery, Myitkyina) in the junior division.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko presented prizes and certificates of honour to Maung Kyaw Min Oo (Ngathayaw Village, Yesagyo), Ma Nwe Nwe Win (Taungkhweye, Sinmyeswe), Ma Chu Lar Phaw (Inphalaung Village, Bilin), Maung Ai Hein (Pobbayon Monastery, Moemeik) and Ma Win Myat Theingi (BEHS-5, Sittway).

Patron of the Association Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Col Saw Myint (Retd) conferred Mangala Dhamma Jotikadhaja Title on Vice-Chairman of the Association U Kyaw Khin Myint and presented a certificate of honour to wellwisher Mr Takgi Mitsukazu of Japan.

Officials of the Association and departmental officials presented prizes to ten persons who won prizes (senior division), ten persons (middle division) and 50 persons (junior division). — MNA

Bo Tree planting-ceremony to be held on Full Moon Day of Kason

YANGON, 9 May — Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township will hold a ceremony to plant Bo Tree at 6.30 am on 11 May (Full Moon Day of Kason). The ceremony will be held on a grand scale under the patronage of Daw Aye May, 104, and Pho Chat, 96, of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged.

MNA

More vessels carrying palm oil arrive

YANGON, 9 May — The State has been importing palm oil from Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore and is distributing it at a reasonable price.

MT-AMA-3 carrying 2,900 tons of palm oil arrived at Asia World Port on 4 May. MT-Pacific Marine carrying 2,000

tons of palm oil also arrived at the same port at 5 pm today. More palm oil vessels will arrive here on 11 and 14 May, it is learnt.

MNA



Officials inspect MT Pacific Marine approaching Asia World Port Terminal in Yangon. — MNA

Server Operation Training Course, Database Management System Course opened



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivering an address at the opening of Server Operation Training Course and Database Management System Course. — C.P.T

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—The Server Operation Training Course and Database Management System Course sponsored by Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs were opened at the office of the ministry on 8 May morning with an address by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, the managing director of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and officials, the principal of the school, course instructors and

trainees.

The two-week course is being attended by 72 trainees from the ministries.

Accompanied by of-

officials, the minister inspected the running of such hotels as Shwe Nan Daw, Thingaha, Mya Taw Win, Shwe Myo Daw, Shwe Myanmar and

Kumudra in Nay Pyi Taw.

After hearing reports on functions of the hotels, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects Thingaha Hotel. — C.P.T

Books donated to libraries in Kayan Township

YANGON, 9 May — As a gesture of hailing the 4th Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, wellwishers donated 1,560 books worth K

217,630 to self-reliance libraries in Kayan Township today. At the book donation ceremony held at Kayan Township Information and Public Relations Department, on behalf of wellwishers from Yangon, Secretary of MWJA U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) and wife Daw Nu Yin explained the purpose of the donation and handed over books on general knowledge. — MNA

Lecture on national policy given

YANGON, 9 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 the organizing course No 20 of Kamayut Township USDA.

A total of 100 trainees attended the lecture. MNA

Spain holds 2 real IRA suspects in smuggling probe

MADRID, 9 May — Spanish police said on Sunday they had arrested two men from Northern Ireland suspected of running a tobacco smuggling operation to finance the Real IRA, an Irish republican splinter group. Police arrested the pair, suspected members of the dissident group, in the southern city of Malaga and seized nearly half a million packets of cigarettes worth more than one million euros (1.27 million US dollars) in Spain, according to a statement.

The arrests followed a two-year investigation that uncovered several people trafficking guns and tobacco from Spain's Mediterranean coast to finance the Real IRA, police said.

The statement added that the two were planning to ship the consignment to Britain, where a packet of cigarettes costs almost three times as much as in Spain.

Although the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the main republican guerilla group, has been observing a ceasefire for almost a decade, small breakaway groups such as the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA remain a threat. — MNA/Reuters

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**Forest fire
 continues in
 western Cuba**

HAVANA, 8 May— A
 blaze that erupted on
 Friday had so far affected
 600 hectares of forest in
 western Cuba, the forest
 fire brigade said on
 Sunday.

The brigade, along
 with forest workers,
 local volunteers and the
 Air Force, was still
 fighting the fire in the
 Caguazal region in the
 western province of
 Pinar del Rio.

More than 1,000
 people were cutting paths
 through the forest to halt
 the spread of the flames,
 while small aircraft and
 helicopters were dousing
 water on the fire in areas
 which is hard to access.

Authorities had not
 explained how the fire
 started, but said the
 drought, the worst in 105
 years, had increased the
 risk of a serious forest fire.

Pinar del Rio has
 been hit by 686 forest fires
 over the last 10 years, 45
 per cent of which began
 in May. Some 17,600
 hectares of forest have
 been damaged.

Since the beginning
 of this year, a total of 254
 fires have hit the region,
 damaging nearly 5,300
 hectares of forest.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Landslide hits
 Romanian village,
 no casualties
 reported**

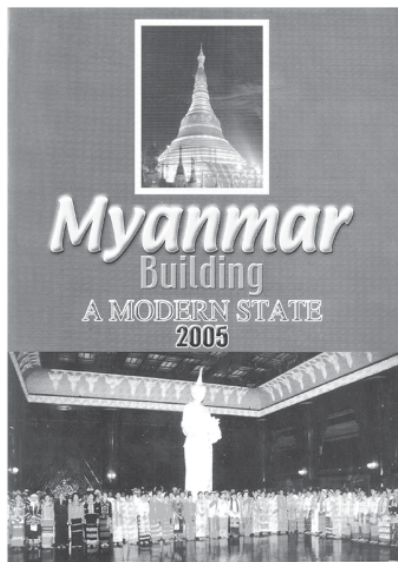
BUCHAREST, 8 May
 — A landslide hit a
 village in the southern
 Romanian county of
 Gorj, causing 182 houses
 to collapse, but there
 were no immediate
 reports of casualties,
 local media reported on
 Sunday.

The number of
 villagers afflicted by the
 landslide, which hit the
 village of Seciuri on
 Friday, rose to 544 on
 Sunday, the report said.

The county's govern-
 ment adopted emergency
 measures to evacuate
 the villagers and set up
 tents and makeshift
 accommodation to house
 them.

Scores of landslides
 have taken place this year,
 destroying houses, public
 facilities and roads in hilly
 areas in the east and south
 of the country.

MNA/Xinhua



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**Car bomb attacks kill over 30
 across Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 8 May—
 At least 32 were killed and
 another 86 wounded in a
 new wave of violence
 across Iraq on Sunday.

In the bloodiest
 attack, a powerful car
 bomb went off near a bus
 station in Iraq's southern
 Shiite holy city of Karbala,
 killing at least 21 and
 wounding 52 others.

"A suicide bomber
 drove his explosive-laden
 vehicle into a crowd of
 civilian vehicles near the
 station parking lot where
 buses line up to pick up
 passengers," a police
 source said on condition
 of anonymity.

The source said the
 bus station was close to

several government
 buildings and the road
 where the blast took place
 is usually used by the
 Multi-National troops in
 the province, some 110
 kilometres south of
 Baghdad.

Elsewhere, two
 suicide car bombs rocked
 Baghdad's northern dis-
 trict of Azamiyah on
 Sunday morning, killing a
 total of 11 people and
 wounding 34 others.

A suicide bomber
 blew up his explosive-
 laden vehicle near a
 position of the Iraqi Army
 close to the al-Dilal al-
 Arabiyah Square in
 Azamiyah neighbour-
 hood, killing 10 people

and wounding 28 others,
 police said.

Another suicide
 bomber drove his explo-
 sives-packed vehicle near
 the building of the state-
 run *al-Sabah* newspaper
 in Azamiyah and blew it
 up, killing one person and
 wounding six others,
 according to police.

In another develop-
 ment, Iraqi police patrols
 found eight bodies killed
 in execution-style in a
 rubbish container in east-
 ern Baghdad on Sunday
 morning. During the past
 24 hours, the police have
 found a further 43 bodies
 killed in apparent sectarian
 attacks, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Dam of Three Gorges project to be
 completed in late May**

YICHANG (Hubei
 Province), 8 May—
 Construction for the giant
 dam of the Three Gorges
 hydropower project on
 the Yangtze River was
 expected to finish on 20
 May, an executive with
 the China Yangtze River
 Three Gorges Project
 Development Corporation
 said Sunday.

"There are less than
 3,000 cubic metres of
 concrete left to be placed
 before the dam will finally
 complete nine months
 ahead of the schedule,"
 said Cao Guangjing,

deputy general manager
 of the corporation.

The completion of the
 construction for the dam,
 2,309 metres long and 185
 metres high, marks the
 principal part of the
 project, which is often
 compared to the Great
 Wall in its scale, is done,
 said Cao. The dam is
 situated near the Xiling
 Gorge, the eastern most
 gorge of the Three Gorges
 on the middle reaches of
 the Yangtze River.

The construction of
 the dam was divided into
 two phases — the right

and the left banks.
 Workers began in
 1998 to build the dam from
 the north bank of Yangtze
 River and finished the
 north part project in
 October 2002.

The right bank began
 to be built in July 2003.
 Now the two parts of the
 dam have joined as one,
 and most of the dam
 sections of the right bank
 have reached the same
 levels as the left one.

Launched in 1993, the
 Three Gorges Project,
 including the dam and 26
 generators on both banks
 of the Yangtze, is planned
 to be completed in 2009
 and by then, it will be able
 to generate 84.7 billion
 kilo watt per hour of
 electricity annually.

MNA/Xinhua

**Iran rejects UN
 steps against its
 N-programme**

TEHERAN, 8 May—
 Iran rejected any UN
 Security Council steps
 against the country's
 nuclear programme,
 Iran's Foreign Ministry
 spokesman Hamid-Reza
 Asefi said at a weekly
 news briefing on Sunday.

Asefi said that
 Teheran would not halt its
 uranium enrichment,
 warning that any steps
 taken by the Security
 Council against Iran's
 nuclear programme would
 cause confrontation with
 UN nuclear watchdog.

The spokesman
 made the remarks as the
 Security Council is
 preparing a resolution to
 press Iran to comply over
 its disputed nuclear
 activities.—MNA/Xinhua

**Water storage
 plan benefits
 west China
 villagers**

BEIJING, 8 May—
 More than 100,000 water
 storage pits have been built
 since the launch of a
 project in 2000 to help
 poor households in
 western China.

The scheme, set up
 by All-China Women's
 Federation, has benefited
 about 1.1 million farmers
 living in 22 provinces
 and regions. They each
 received 1,000-yuan (125
 US dollars) subsidy
 towards the cost of
 building the pits, said
 Monday's *China Daily*.

About 1,200 small-
 sized centralized water
 supply projects have also
 been created under the
 initiative.—MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

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Egyptian FM calls for changes to Mideast roadmap

CAIRO, 8 May — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said on Saturday that the roadmap plan for peace should be amended as it had expired in 2005, the official MENA news agency reported.

“The roadmap needs to be modified because its expiry date was last year in 2005,” Abul Gheit said on the sidelines of an international forum on dialogue among civilizations and cultures held in Egypt’s Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

He added that negotiation was the only way to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Abul Gheit expressed hope that a meeting of the Middle East Quartet of

international mediators, slated for Tuesday in New York, would help activate the roadmap plan and resume the stalled peace talks in a bid to ease off the suffering of the Palestinian people.

The Middle East Quartet comprising the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations brokered the roadmap, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure

Israel. Abul Gheit, however, did not say how the roadmap plan should be revised. Abul Gheit’s comment came two days after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that he was ready to resume direct peace talks with the newly-installed Israeli Government.

But Israel refused to negotiate with the Hamas-led Palestinian government as long as it failed to renounce violence, recognize Israel’s right to exist and accept previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

MNA/Xinhua



Mexicans from a Mexico City neighbourhood wearing period costumes re-enact the battle of Puebla on 5 May, 2006. The battle marked the defeat by Mexican troops and local Indians in the central state of Puebla of an invasion by a much better-equipped French force in 1862. Firing homemade shotguns loaded with gunpowder, hundreds of men dressed as female Indian peasants with blackened faces, straw hats and embroidered blouses fought mock running battles against French invaders in white bloomers. —INTERNET



Gavin Lee dances as Bert in a dress rehearsal of the London production of the musical ‘Mary Poppins’ on 10 Dec, 2004. Lee and Ashley Brown, who currently stars in the long-running musical, ‘Beauty and the Beast,’ will portray Bert the chimney sweep and the world’s most famous nanny when ‘Mary Poppins’ opens on Broadway, on 16 Nov, 2006, at the New Amsterdam Theatre, the producers announced on 8 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Storms damage houses in central Thailand

BANGKOK, 8 May — Summer storms struck the central province of Lop Buri Sunday morning causing damages of homes while thunderstorms and gusty winds are likely to hit most part of the country, especially the south, in the following days.

According to the meteorological department, dozens of houses in Lop Buri Province were damaged by falling trees and winds. Many trees were uprooted and signboards blown down. No injuries have been reported so far.

The strong winds are also triggering thunderstorms in some areas of the north and northeast, mainly in Khon Kaen, Kalasin, Roi Et, Nakhon Ratchasima,

Surin and Ubon Ratchathani.

The eastern region and the central plains are experiencing hot weather and scattered thunderstorms. Cloudy skies and scattered thunderstorms are predicted in Bangkok and surrounding areas. In the south, torrential rains are forecast in the lower east coast and one-metre-high waves are expected in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather office warns Pakistan may face drought situation

ISLAMABAD, 8 May —Pakistan’s meteorological office on Sunday warned an emerging drought in the country as no significant rains are expected in the country during the next two months.

Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman, Director-General of Pakistan Meteorological Department said that

during last winter the rainfall was about 40 per cent less than normal, whereas the snowfall in the catchment areas was also 20-25 per cent less.

Zaman said in a statement that during the next two months no significant rains are expected.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian FM, Rice discuss Iran’s nuclear issue

MOSCOW, 8 May — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Saturday had a telephone discussion with US Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice on the coming meeting of diplomatic Quartet and the Iranian nuclear issue.

The conversation “focused on the search for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear problem”, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

In Washington, a spokeswoman for the US State Department confirmed that Rice and Lavrov talked about “a number of issues regarding the Quartet” and the Monday meeting of five permanent members of the UN Security Council on Iran.

The Quartet, consisting of the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and Russia, is seeking to bring a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

MNA/Xinhua

Computer giant Dell to establish development centre in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 May — The world computer giant Dell plans to set up a technology and development centre in Malaysia, picking this country over India, Ireland and the Philippines, local media reported Sunday.

The decision was made following Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s visit to the Dell headquarters in Round Rock, Texas, on Friday.

The centre, to be situated in the intelligent city of Cyberjaya, will employ as many as 1,000 people and its range of business will involve high value-added activities,

including process design and software development.

Dell set up its first Malaysian manufacturing plant in Penang State in 1995, which has since grown to employ some 4,000 people. Earlier this year, it also launched an advanced enterprise support centre in Penang.

MNA/Xinhua



A two-year-old Indian boy cools off at a beach in Mumbai on 5 May, 2006. With the summer temperatures reaching up to 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit) people resort to different ways to keep cool. —INTERNET

SPORTS



San Jose Sharks goaltender Vesa Toskala, of Finland, stops a shot attempt by the Edmonton Oilers in the third period of Game 2 of an NHL hockey Western Conference semifinal series, on Monday, 8 May, 2006 in San Jose, Calif. San Jose won 2-1. —INTERNET

Spanish league propose new fixture arrangement

MADRID, 9 May— The Spanish Football League (LFP) has put forward a new proposal to FIFA in an attempt to solve the end-of-season fixtures congestion that is threatening to disrupt the remainder of the Primera Liga.

Spain's football authorities have been struggling to reach an agreement on how to accommodate the rescheduled match between Sevilla and Barcelona which was postponed on April 23 due to a water-logged pitch because both teams are involved in European finals.

They originally wanted to extend the season by a week and play the final round of matches on May 20, but the proposal was rejected by FIFA because it contravened an agree-

ment to release players involved in the World Cup by 15 May.

FIFA suggested playing the Sevilla - Barcelona match on May 20 without any players involved in the World Cup, but Spanish clubs said that this gave the Andalusian side, who could still qualify for the Champions League, an unfair advantage. The LFP took legal action in a Zurich court in an attempt to overturn the FIFA decision, but in the wake of the results of last weekend's league matches they have now put forward a new proposal.

They suggest splitting the final two rounds of league matches into two groups, with Sevilla - Barcelona taking place this weekend as well as all those games that do not affect the Champions League places.

Sevilla's match against

Real Madrid match and the Osasuna - Valencia game will then be played on Tuesday May 16, the eve of the Champions League final so that international players can be released the following day.

The remaining game

between Athletic Bilbao and Barcelona would then be played on May 20 without internationals because there is no longer anything at stake in that match. The LFP said they would give FIFA until 1500 GMT on Tuesday to accept the proposal. —MNA/Reuters

Zagallo says every team is afraid of Brazil

SAO PAULO, 9 May— Brazil's veteran technical director Mario Zagallo believes all the other World Cup teams fear facing the world champions.

"Everyone is afraid to play Brazil, that's the reality and I'm sure of it," the 74-year-old said on Monday.

"I certainly wouldn't want to be on the other side," he said during an event in Sao Paulo.

"The ones who say that Brazil are favourites are fearful, they're trying to shirk their responsibilities," he added.

Brazil have won the World Cup five times and Zagallo, who coached them to success in 1970 and was also at the helm in 1974 and 1998, said nobody wants them to win again in Germany.

"Of course, they don't want us to win. We're the only country who could become six-times champions and that would put a great distance between us and the rest."

"A win against Brazil is as good as winning the whole tournament," he added. —MNA/Reuters

Italy federation chief resigns

ROME, 9 May— Italy's Football Federation chairman quit on Monday after days of newspaper reports casting doubts on the organization's evenhandedness in appointing referees.

In his resignation letter Franco Carraro rejected all the accusations but said he needed to go for the good of the game.

"The federation's commitment in the coming days and months are so many and so large that it will need a management that is fully able to fulfil its functions and concentrate on itself," he said.

Carraro's departure comes amid a scandal fuelled by the publication of mobile phone conversations between key figures in the game with high-ranked personnel at Serie A leaders Juventus, and in particular the club's 68-year-old director general Luciano Moggi.

The transcripts date from the early months of the 2004-05 season at the

end of which Juve were crowned champions. Moggi dismissed their content as "a load of rubbish".

However, he apparently has a friendly relationship with Pierluigi Pairetto, the man charged with assigning referees to Serie A matches -- an Italian Football Federation (FIGC) post -- and FIGC vice-president Innocenzo Mazzini. That has left many in the Italian game wondering whether there really was any truth in the old suspicions of opposition supporters that the club known as the Old Lady of Turin had the referees in their pockets and the title race stitched up.

In a separate develop-

ment on Monday, Rome prosecutors announced they had placed Moggi under investigation for illegal competition with threats and violence.

MNA/Reuters



Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina returns a backhand to Roger Federer of Switzerland, during the first round of the ATP Rome Masters of tennis.

Federer won 6-2, 6-1. —INTERNET

Eriksson gives youth a chance with Walcott

LONDON, 9 May— Sven-Goran Eriksson's audacious selection of untried 17-year-old Theo Walcott for his World Cup squad shows just how much he fears losing the creative spark of Wayne Rooney.

Walcott, who is now set to break Rooney's record as England's youngest player later this month, was a shock choice on Monday as Eriksson tried to plan for the Manchester United striker's absence.

Though included in the squad, Rooney's broken foot means he is bound to miss at least the group phase in Germany -- if not the latter stages as well if Eriksson's men get that far.

His injury more than a week ago has been a devastating blow to England's hopes and has cast a shadow over the domestic game.

"I think it was time to come in with something new, something good and I think the players are very excited about it as well," Eriksson told reporters after selecting Walcott.

Arsenal's teenager, like Rooney, would occupy the space behind England's main front man Michael Owen, using his pace to run at defences from outside the area.

"He's best as a second striker, playing just behind a striker," Eriksson said. "But he's a different player to Rooney, of course." One of the differences is the experience to go with the talent. —MNA/Reuters

Huntelaar double hands Ajax victory in Dutch Cup final

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 9 May— Klaas-Jan Huntelaar struck in injury time to give Ajax Amsterdam a 2-1 win over champions PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch Cup final on Sunday.

Two minutes into the second half Huntelaar opened the scoring when he nodded in a Wesley Sneijder corner. PSV, though, hit back five minutes later when Michael Lamey equalized with a fierce shot.

Midway through the second half Ajax's Czech midfielder Tomas Galasek received a red card for his second booking but minutes later PSV defender Lamey was also sent off.

Extra time loomed but when Michael Ball failed to clear a cross from Nourdin Boukhari,

Champions CSKA want the BFU to award them a 3-0 victory after accusing Cherno More's Alexander Alexandrov of having an

invalid registration. The BFU's commission will consider the official protest on Tuesday.

"We have nothing to worry about," said Varna-based club president Krassen Kralev. "Alexandrov's documents are correct. It's only the start of the psychological war before the Cup final."

Cherno More meet 18-times winners CSKA in the final of the Bulgarian Cup on 24 May.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters



Dutch coach Ronald Koeman announces in a news conference that he'll be leaving Benfica, on 8 May 2006, at Benfica's Luz Stadium in Lisbon, Portugal. Koeman leaves Benfica to coach Dutch club PSV Eindhoven. —INTERNET

US beat Japan 3-1 in women's soccer friendly

TOKYO, 9 May— Striker Abby Wambach made a hat-trick to help the United States rally to beat Japan 3-1 in a women's soccer friendly in Kumamoto, Japan on Sunday.

A header from defender Azusa Iwashimizu gave Japan the lead after three minutes but Wambach pulled the Americans level with a 40th-minute penalty and added another two goals in the 72nd and 89th minutes. The result in Kumamoto left Japan winless against the United States in 17 meetings with three draws and 14 losses.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand hosts World Buddhism Conference

BANGKOK, 9 May — Thailand is hosting an international Buddhism conference, marking the World Vesak Day and the auspicious occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's ascension to the throne this year.

The World Buddhism Conference, hosted by Thailand for the third consecutive year, is organized at Buddha Monthon in Thailand's north province of Nakhon Pathom from 7-10 May.

More than 1,500 Buddhist leaders from 45 countries and regions across the world are participating in the four-day conference, chaired by Somdej Phra Puthajarn, a senior Thai monk, on behalf of the country's Supreme Pa-

triarch.

The theme of this year's conference is "Buddhist contributions to world peace and sustainable development".

The United Nations has designated the World Vesak Day, a holiest day of all Buddhists marking the birth, enlightenment and nirvana of the Lord Buddha, as a world significant day — the World Peace Day — and Thailand as the World Buddhism Centre.

The world Buddhist leaders are discussing ap-

proaches to publicize Buddhism worldwide and to effectively apply the Buddha's teachings to world peace, focusing on three principles, including happiness, peace and warmth.

An exhibition on World Vesak Day — the World Peace Day — was also organized at the four-day forum.

Thai Buddhists will all attend sermons at temples around the country on Vesak Day, falling on 12 May this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain says UFOs caused by natural forces, not aliens

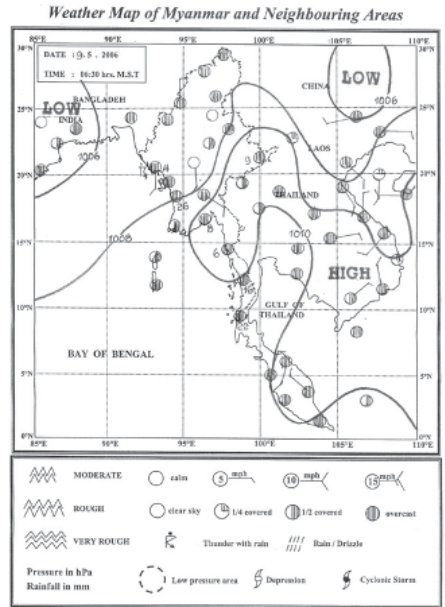
LONDON, 9 May — Hopes — or fears — that the Earth has been visited by alien life forms have been dismissed in an official report by British defence specialists.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed on Sunday a secret study completed in December 2000 had found no evidence that "flying saucers" or unidentified flying objects were anything other than natural phenomena.

The 400-page report, released under freedom of information laws to an academic from the northern city of Sheffield, concluded that meteors and unusual atmospheric conditions could explain UFO sightings such as bright lights in the sky.

"No evidence exists to suggest that the phenomena seen are hostile or under any type of control, other than that of natural physical forces," the report said, according to extracts quoted by the BBC.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Tuesday, 9 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan State and Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant days temperatures were NyaungU, Chauk and Minbu (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Pinlaung (1.38) inches, Thandwe (1.02) inches, Kawthoung (0.87) inch, Myeik (0.63) inch and Kyaukpyu (0.59) inch.

Maximum temperature on 8-5-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 9-5-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-5-2006 was (71%). Total sunshine hours on 8-5-2006 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 8-5-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, 0.32 inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (5.87) inches at Mingaladon, (7.17) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.59) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (16:15) hours MST on 8-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 10-5-2006: Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady 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 10-5-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-5-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%). (40%).



Hérons fight for food at a pond on Monday, 8 May, 2006 in Shanghai, China. The Chinese government last week reported an outbreak of bird flu in wild birds in remote western China in a further sign of the difficulties in controlling the virus' spread. — INTERNET



Wednesday, 10 May
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:20 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. သတ္တသတ္တာ စံနုတော်အနု (ကျွန်ုပ်တို့အတွက် ပြုလုပ်သော သီချင်းပုဒ်များ)</p> <p>7:55 am 5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>8:05 am 6. အတိတ်ပြင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am 7. မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စု ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p> <p>8:20 am 8. ဝုဏ်းနေ့လှည့်တံခွန်</p>	<p>8:30 am 9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 10. Let's Go</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. ဝေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အဝေးသံတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (ရုပ်ဖော)</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. Song of national races</p> <p>5:10 pm 6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:25 pm 7. Classical song</p> <p>5:35 pm 8. "တန်ခိုး" (ညီညီနေနိုင်၊ လွှဲပြောင်းလွှဲလွှဲ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> <p>5:40 pm 9. ကရန်ပုံနှိပ်ရေး၊ စားနပ်ရိက္ခာ</p>	<p>5:50 pm 10. ရွှေယံစုံလင်အာဇာနည်အစီအစဉ်</p> <p>6:00 pm 11. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 12. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 13. သုတေသနအဖွဲ့အစည်း</p> <p>7:05 pm 14. Musical programme</p> <p>7:20 pm 15. ဖြိုလုံးကျွတ်ဆင်နွှဲ ရွှေဘိုမြို့၊ ကရန်ပုံနှိပ်ရေးဌာန</p> <p>7:30 pm 16. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:35 pm 17. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>7:45 pm 18. ဘက်စုံတိုးတက် တို့ကျေးလက် (မိုင်းသောက်စံပြကျေးရွာ)</p> <p>8:00 pm 19. News</p> <p>8:05 pm 20. International news</p> <p>8:10 pm 21. Weather report</p> <p>8:15 pm 22. မဟာဝိသုတေသန (ဒုတိယပိုင်း) ကျွန်ုပ်တို့အတွက် ပြုလုပ်သည်။</p> <p>8:20 pm 23. The next day's programme</p>
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Wednesday, 10 May
Tune in today

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -Time after time</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Brighter day</p> <p>8:50 am National news / Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -First love</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -Some day</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Lunch time music -Don't wanna lose you now</p> <p>9:00 pm Variations on a tune -The end of the world</p> <p>9:15 pm Article</p> <p>9:25 pm Music at your request -Listen to your heart</p> <p>9:45 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends collective growing of physic nut plants, inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project

YANGON, 9 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence currently in Monywa, Sagaing Division, together with Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental personnel and made arrangements to fulfil the needs following a discussion of regional development tasks at the meeting hall of North-West Command on 5 May.

Accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Arid Zone Greening Department in Sagaing Division where they looked into physic nut plants there. During the inspection, Director of AZGD U Soe Hla reported on growing of physic nut plants. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. A total of 80,000 physic nut plants were grown in the nursery.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw growing of physic nut



Lt-Gen Ye Myint (C) strolling on Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) during his inspection tour of the bridge under construction. — MNA

plants in the compound of Director's Office of Sagaing Irrigation Department. At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions after hearing the reports presented by Director U Hoke Kyi.

After the inspection of growing of physic nut

plants in Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Office, Division Accounts Office and Division Superintending Engineer Office of Public Works, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party

looked into thriving physic nut plants between mile post Nos 20/5 and 20/4 in Ayadaw.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony of collective growing of physic nut plants in Kanpyu model village, Ayadaw, Chairman of (See page 9)

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While efforts are being made for increased extraction of gems and systematic development of gems industries, serious attention should be paid to protection of environment.

PAGE 2PERSPECTIVES

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection tour of Lashio, Kyaukme

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials on 7 May inspected the nursery of

36,000 physic nut saplings at the 100-acre farm of the command.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on thriving of physic nut saplings to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win who attended to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and

party viewed round development of Lashio by car.

At Yan Taing Aung Hsutaungpyi MyoU Pagoda, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party offered flowers and water to the Buddha images of the pagoda. And they observed Shewsin Padamya Myetshin Buddha image (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects construction of Goattwin Bridge in Nawngkhio Township. — MNA