

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 25

Fullmoon Day of Kason 1368 ME

Thursday, 11 May, 2006

True patriotism

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



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence (R) taking part in physic nut plants growing ceremony of Central Command. — MNA

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends physic nut plants growing ceremonies in Patheingyi, Mandalay

YANGON, 10 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, attended the weeding and fertilizer broadcasting ceremony at 200 acres of summer paddy plantation at

Thammataw Village in Patheingyi Township on 6 May morning.

Division Manager U Aung Kyin of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on test-cultivation of five kinds of paddy.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han viewed collective weeding and fertilizer broadcasting.

Hsinthwelat, Shwe Myanmar, Shwe Manaw,

MR-9 and Shwe Thweyin paddy strains are thriving at the 200 acres of summer paddy field.

They also attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants, organized by MCDC, at No 1 Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm (Yedaguntaung) in Patheingyi Township.

So far, MCDC has put 87 acres of land under 104,400 physic nut plants.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of six-storey Zaygyo Market building and 25-storey condominium tower in Mandalay. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 11 May, 2006

Fullmoon Day of Kason, the Buddha Day

Today, the fullmoon day of Kason, is a day of religious significance for Buddhists. It is also known as the Buddha Day. It is called so because it was on this day that Prince Siddhattha, the would-be Buddha was born, He became enlightened and He left this world of endless sufferings and attained Nirvana.

It is a fine tradition of Buddhists to celebrate the Fullmoon Day of Kason every year by pouring water at Bo trees usually planted at the corners of pagoda precincts. It was under a Bo tree that Lord Buddha became enlightened and delivered His first sermon, the Dhamma Cakka, to the five disciples.

In a previous existence, Hermit Sumedha, the embryo Buddha performed meritorious deeds that could open up two paths for him. The first path would enable him to attain Parinivirna direct. If he followed the second path, he would have to go through many more existences before attaining Parinivirna. He chose the second path because he wanted to save others. It was also on the fullmoon day of Kason that Dipankara Buddha prophesied that the hermit would one day become a Buddha.

In reverence of Lord Buddha, the Buddhists, young and old, observe the fullmoon day of Kason by pouring water at Bo trees. Pouring water at Bo trees is not the sole reason for the significance of the fullmoon day of Kason. On this day, Buddhists keep Sabbath, do meritorious deeds, visit pagodas and monasteries and pay obeisance to the monks. This is a tradition Myanmar people have preserved for thousands of years.

The spirit of sacrifice and the desire to save others are prominent virtues of the Buddha. Myanmar people have great reverence for Lord Buddha and His teachings. Therefore, whatever they do, they do so not only for their own interests but also for the welfare of others. And they believe that one's sincere goodwill has the power to overcome all kinds of hardships and difficulties.

We are convinced that all Myanmar people will do various kinds of meritorious deeds on this auspicious day, upholding the fine traditions of their forefathers.

Oppose those...

- * 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

Mass movements on prevention against dengue fever launched

YANGON, 10 May — A mass movement on prevention against dengue fever, jointly-organized by Department of Health under the Ministry of Health was launched in Sangyoung Township, Yangon West District this morning.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa went there to give encouragement to those participating in the mass movements on prevention against dengue fever.

First, officials concerned reported to them on preventive measures against dengue fever with the help of charts while Chairman of Yangon West District PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and Secretary of Sanchaung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Aung reported to them on weekly measures for prevention against dengue fever.

Next, the mayor and the vice-mayor inspected sanitation tasks carried out by health staff, departmental personnel and members of social organizations and frankly gave encouragement to the townselders.

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 11 May—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to the Union of Myanmar.

Born in Singapore on 5 August 1954, Mr Chua joined the Foreign Service in 1979 after graduating with a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) degree in Political Science from the then University of Singapore. In 1985, he obtained a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA.

Mr Chua has served as First Secretary in the Singapore Embassy in Washington from 1987 to 1988 and as Counsellor in the Singapore Embassy in Tokyo from 1991 to 1995. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he held the posts of Deputy Director in various Directorates from 1995 to 1999. He then served as Counsellor in Manila from 1999-2000 and as Consul-General in Ho Chi Minh City and San Francisco, from January 2001 to December 2002 consecutively. He was the Director of the Consular Directorate from January 2003 to February 2004. Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong is currently the Director of the Technical Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Chua is married and has two children.—MNA

KOICA donates computer accessories to MCPT

YANGON, 10 May — A ceremony to donate computer accessories to be used at IT courses, organized by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, was held at Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, resident representative of KOICA Mr Cho Sang-Woo and the deputy resident representative, officials of MCPT and guests.



Vice Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint (R) shakes hands with Mr Cho Sang-Woo of KOICA. — COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U

Aung Myint delivered an opening speech and accepted the computer accessories donated by KIOCA.

Resident representative of KOICA Mr Cho Sang-Woo explained of the purpose of the donation. — MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယဝတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးဝတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း အတွက် မဖြစ် မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော် ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

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Famous artists' works to be exhibited

YANGON, 10 May — Mandalay Association (Yangon) is preparing to exhibit works of famous artists on 25 June at Yadanabon Arts Gallery in Pabedan Township for two weeks.

Those wishing to display their works may register at Mandalay Association (Yangon), No 628/632, on Merchant Street in Pabedan Township and to send their works to the association by 19 June. More information is available at Ph 388603. — MNA

Ayeyawady, Mon sail up to semifinals

YANGON, 10 May — The second round knock-out matches of the 11th Inter-State/Division Women's Football Tournament 2006 continued at the designated football grounds in Yangon this afternoon.

In the third quarterfinal match held at Aung San Stadium, Ayeyawady Division trounced Sagaing Division 6-1. The woman of the match award went to Yi Yi Myint of Ayeyawady Division.

In the fourth quarterfinal match held at Padetha Sports Ground in South Okkalapa Township, Mon State beat Shan State (South) 4-1. Khin Moe Wai of Mon State was presented with the woman of the match award. — MNA

ထုတ်တုန့်နှင်းဆဲ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



The cruise ship Calypso stands at anchor berthed at Tilbury port, in London, England, on 5 May, 2006, as the Dutch passengers disembark. The cruise ship with 708 people on board caught fire on early Saturday, 6 May, 2006, in the English Channel, soon after setting out from Tilbury, issuing a mayday signal at 0250 GMT, when a fire broke out in the ship's engine room. —INTERNET

Bush nominates Air Force General as CIA head

WASHINGTON, 9 May — President George W Bush on Monday nominated Air Force General Michael Hayden as CIA Director, setting up a battle with the US Congress over his military background and key role in Bush's domestic spying programme.

Hayden is set to face tough questions in



Air Force Gen Michael Hayden (L), nominee for CIA Director, meets US Senator John Warner (R-Va) outside Warner's office on Capitol Hill in Washington on 9 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Two dim dwarf galaxies found around Milky Way

WASHINGTON, 9 May—Two dim dwarf galaxies are the Milky Way's newest-known galactic companions, astronomers studying a vast swath of the sky reported on Monday.

This brings the total number of dwarf galaxies in the Milky Way's cosmic neighbourhood to 14. But theorists believe there could conceivably be hundreds more.

The two newly detected dwarfs were found in the direction of the constellations Canes Venatici (the hunting dogs) and Bootes (the herdsman), scientists studying the

Sloan Digital Sky Survey said in a statement.

The little galaxy found in Canes Venatici is about 640,000 light-years from the Sun, a stone's throw in cosmic terms. A light-year is about six trillion miles (10 trillion kilometres), the distance light travels in a year. The dwarf found in Bootes is about the same distance from the Sun.

Even though they are close, these galaxies were hard to spot because they were so dim, a defining characteristic of dwarf galaxies.

The new galaxy in Bootes is the faintest discovered, with a total luminosity of 100,000 Suns.

Some astronomers theorize that there should

be hundreds of clumps of so-called cold dark matter — slow-moving subatomic particles left over from the earliest period of the universe — orbiting the Milky Way, which contains Earth.

Each of these clumps should be massive enough to host a dwarf galaxy, but so far only 14 have been found.

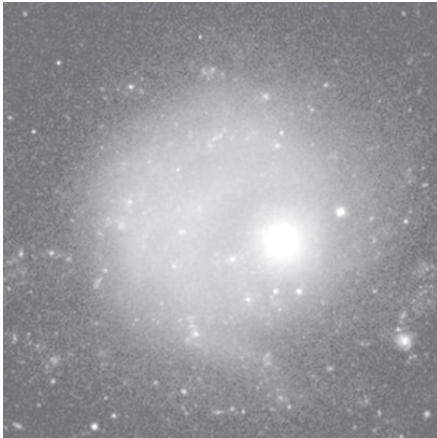
MNA/Reuters

the Senate, although administration officials were confident he would be confirmed, unlike Bush's Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers who failed to gain enough support from senators last year. "He's the right man to lead the CIA at this critical moment in our nation's history," Bush said in making the announcement with

Hayden at his side in the Oval Office.

Hayden, 61, the No 2 US intelligence official who directed the National Security Agency until last year, would replace Porter Goss. Goss was forced to resign on Friday amid criticism over his ability to lead the espionage agency in an era of post-11 September reforms.

MNA/Reuters



A dwarf spiral galaxy in an undated image released by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. The blue knots indicate new star formation. Two dim dwarf galaxies are the Milky Way's newest-known galactic companions, scientists studying the survey said in a statement on Monday. —INTERNET

Apple Computer wins court battle with Beatles

LONDON, 9 May — Apple Computer is not liable for trademark infringement against Apple Corps, the music company owned by the Beatles, a judge in London's High Court ruled on Monday.

Apple Corps, owned by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono and the estate of George Harrison, argued the computer company had violated a 1991 trademark agreement by moving into the music business through its market-leading iTunes online store.

Apple Computer argued in court hearings in London earlier this year that iTunes was primarily a data transmission service, which is permitted by the agreement.

The 1991 out-of-court settlement, which included a 26-million-US-dollar payment by Apple Computer, set out areas in which each party would have exclusive use of their respective fruit-shaped logos.

"I find no breach of the trademark agreement has been demonstrated," Mr Justice Mann said in his judgment. "The action therefore fails."

MNA/Reuters

Car bomb near Baghdad courthouse kills five, wounds 10

BAGHDAD, 9 May— A car bomb went off near a main courthouse in western Baghdad on Monday, killing at least five people and wounding 10, an Interior Ministry source said.

Last week, a roadside bomb killed at least nine people and wounded 46 near a courthouse in eastern Baghdad.

The courthouse targeted on Monday

is responsible for most cases in the capital's Karkh sector, where there are many guerilla strongholds. Last month, gunmen killed a senior judge who was the head of the Karkh courthouse. Iraqi courts have passed a string of sentences, including death penalties and life in prison, in recent months against guerillas fighting the US-backed government. —MNA/Reuters

Man wants refund for fighter jet purchase

BEIJING, 10 May — A Chinese businessman who bought a Russian fighter jet online wants his money back after finding it could not be shipped to China, state media reported on Tuesday.

Zhang Cheng, a Beijing businessman, bid \$24,730 (13,330 pounds) and paid a \$2,000 deposit for the former Czech air force plane on Chinese-based eBay, Xinhua news agency said.

But legal experts informed Zhang that the MiG-21, located in Idaho in the United States, was "almost impossible to ship back", Xinhua said, quoting the Beijing Times. Moreover, the seller had clearly confined the destination of the plane to the United States and Canada, Xinhua quoted a member of eBay's public relations staff as saying.

Chinese Web surfers

have accused Zhang of trying to gain fame, but others suggest it merely shows the improved living standards of the Chinese,

Xinhua said.

The buyer, however, said he was building a collection. "I like to collect valuable items," he said.

"I have the buying power and my company has an empty space where I can display the plane."

Internet



A MiG-21 fighter jet is seen at Pula airport in Zagreb, Croatia, in a 2000 file photo. A Chinese businessman who bought a MiG-21 online wants his money back after finding it could not be shipped to China, state media reported on Tuesday. —INTERNET

Singapore, Brunei police forces sign MoU

SINGAPORE, 9 May — The police forces of Singapore and Brunei signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on fighting against transnational crime here on Monday.

According to *Channel NewsAsia* report, the three-year MoU will help strengthen and consolidate cooperation between the two police forces in the areas of information exchange and

conduct of coordinated exercises.

Visiting Crown Prince of Brunei Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah witnessed the signing of the MoU by Singapore Police Commissioner Khoo Boon Hui and his Bruneian counterpart Zainuddin Jailani.

The Crown Prince arrived in Singapore on Sunday for a five-day official visit at the invitation of Singapore's

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng. Earlier on Monday, the Crown Prince received a ceremonial welcome and called on Singapore President S R Nathan at the Istana, the President's official residence.

Prince Billah, who is also the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, was conferred the Distinguished Service

Order by the President for his outstanding contribution in fostering close ties and cooperation between the two police forces.

The Crown Prince is scheduled to call on Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong respectively during his stay in the city state.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ပျံ့နှံ့ရေးအား ခေတ်ကျော်ရွှား



Brunei's Crown Prince Billah Bolkia (R) shakes hands with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on 9 May, 2006.—INTERNET

2,500-year-old imperial tomb excavated in N-E China

XI'AN, 9 May — Chinese archaeologists have discovered another ancient treasure trove of jade, gold and bronze artifacts in a massive complex of tombs that predates this area's famous terracotta warriors by more than 300 years.

The tomb is believed to be that of a ruler who lived more than 2,500 years ago in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. Not far away is the world-renowned burial site of

China's first emperor, who lived 2,200 years ago, where thousands of terracotta warriors were discovered in the 1970's.

At the newly discovered site a large

number of bronze, jade and gold objects, as well as weapons and musical instruments, have been unearthed from the tomb complex, located at the Liangdai Village, Han-

cheng City of Shaanxi Province.

Chinese archaeologists have found a total of 895 tombs and 64 chariot pits dating back to the Zhou Dynasty (1100-221 BC). Sun Bingjun, head of the excavation team, said two of the tombs belong to a ruler and his wife who lived during the early part of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC).

Archaeologists came to this conclusion after discovering six large bronze vases which were an ancient symbol of rule. Lacquerware with patterns of dragon, another symbol of imperial rule, and a large number of gold and jade objects were also found.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers rest near a pit dug to investigate suspected imperial era tombs in Beijing, on 7 May, 2006. The suspected old tombs were discovered at the construction site of the shooting range for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games where work has been suspended. Picture taken on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Carbon monoxide poisoning kills nine in N-W China coal mine

LANZHOU, 9 May — Nine miners died and three others were sickened on Sunday afternoon in a carbon monoxide poisoning at a coal mine of Baiyin City, northwest China's Gansu Province.

The accident happened around 5 pm on Sunday in Jing'an Township of Jingyuan County, said information from the government of Baiyin City.

The coal mine is licensed, with an annual production capacity of 30,000 tons.

The three sickened miners are out of danger after receiving medical treatment.

Cause of the poisoning incident is under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

Test confirms 25th bird flu death in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 9 May — International tests have confirmed a 30-year-old Indonesian man who died last month had bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Monday, taking the country's death toll from the virus to 25.

Joko Suyono from the ministry's bird flu information centre told *Reuters* the man had been in contact with sick fowl, the usual mode of transmission of the virus to people. "A 30-year-old male from west Jakarta who died on 26 April — has been confirmed positive of bird flu by a Hong Kong laboratory," Suyono said.

Indonesia has the world's second highest bird flu death toll for humans after Vietnam. But the government has resisted mass culling of birds, citing the expense and impracticality in a country where keeping a few chickens or ducks in backyards is common.— MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 May — A US soldier was killed and another wounded on Sunday when US and Iraqi forces fought guerillas in Iraq's northern town of Tal Afar, some 70 kilometres west of Mosul, the US military said on Monday.

"A soldier from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armoured Division was killed and another soldier was wounded on 7 May near Tal Afar," the military said in a statement.

It said victims were assisting Iraqi security forces clear a building "from which several anti-Iraqi forces were firing at civilians, Iraqi security forces and Coalition Forces". — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese tourists lost in their own backyard

BEIJING, 10 May — More than 3,000 local tourists got lost in the crowds on Beijing's vast Tiananmen Square over the week-long May Day public holiday, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

Mobile police units set up on the square, south of the Forbidden City, handled 3,568 missing person cases, with 1,661 made on May Day alone, the *Beijing News* said.

According to police

equipped with loudspeakers and able to broadcast missing person messages in multiple dialects, 70 percent of those temporarily lost were adults. Some people lacked travelling experience, and

some older people and children couldn't remember their relatives' phone numbers, the *Beijing News* quoted Wang, a policeman, as saying.

Several million people visited Beijing during the

May Golden Week — a national holiday in which 120 million trips were taken across the country, the *China Daily* said on Monday.

China's week-long May Day, Lunar New Year and National Day holidays — established in 1999 to stimulate spending — spur one of the world's biggest human migrations as millions travel home, to tourist sites and increasingly, abroad.

But despite burgeoning travel-related revenues — May Golden Week generating a record 40 billion yuan (3 billion pounds) alone — official media have raised concerns about frequent traffic accidents and the strain on tourist infrastructure and heritage sites.—Internet



Thousands of travellers flock to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, on 2 May, 2006. More than 3,000 local tourists got lost in the crowds on Beijing's vast Tiananmen Square over the week-long May Day public holiday, a newspaper said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

China's longest-living twin ligers celebrate 1st birthday

HAIKOU, 9 May—A pair of twin-brother ligers, a rare lion-tiger hybrid, have become superstars in China's southernmost island province of Hainan after becoming the first ligers in the country to reach their first birthday. Tens of thousands of tourists visited the liger brothers at Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park during the week-long May Day holiday that ended on Sunday, hoping to catch a glimpse of the rare animals. At least 10,000 people signed a red banner when the park celebrated the ligers' birthday on 2 May. People expressed the hope that the twins would be strong and healthy, the *Hainan Daily* reports. Zookeepers even made the twins a special birthday

cake out of beef and eggs. The ligers, born on 2 May, 2005, are named "Ping Ping" and "An An", which together translate as "safe and sound". Their mother Huan Huan is a six-year-old tigress and their father is a four-year-old lion named Xiao Erhei. The couple first gave birth to a liger in June 2004 but the cub died of respiratory failure 72 hours later.—MNA/Xinhua

World Blood Donor Day to be launched in Thailand

BANGKOK, 10 May—The World Blood Donor Day will be launched in Thailand on 24 June to provide recognition and gratitude to voluntary blood donors and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the King's Accession to the throne. The event, with the theme "I'm... and I save lives", is the first to be hosted in a developing country. The opening ceremony is scheduled to

kick off on 14 June at Lumpini Park and National Blood Centre in Bangkok. World Blood Donor Day was initially launched in South Africa in 2004 to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Dr Karl Landsteiner who discovered ABO blood group. Dr Rachanee O'Charoen, Director of the National Blood Centre, said on Tuesday that

Thailand has successful carried out national voluntary blood campaign, which serves as a model for other countries. Of blood donors in Thailand, 95 per cent are voluntary. The country has a low rate of transfusion-transmissible infections such as HIV and hepatitis viruses among their blood donor populations. At present, the kingdom recruits 1.2 million blood units per year, or 2 per cent of the total population. Still, it is short of 1.6 million needed. Among the voluntary blood donors, 65 per cent donate one time every year. One healthy person can donate four times per year on a regular basis. Rachanee urged a strengthening of the efforts in promoting voluntary blood donation in Thailand and in the world despite the continuous increase in the donation each year.

—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia may do selective polio vaccinations

JAKARTA, 9 May —Indonesia reached almost 24 million children in its last polio immunizations but may have another vaccination round in some regions to be sure of stamping out the disease by 2008, officials said on Monday. Over the past year polio, once considered virtually wiped out globally, has infected hundreds in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country with 220 million people. Naydal Rusdal, a health ministry official, said up to 99.6 per cent of the targeted 24 million children across the archipelago were vaccinated in last month's fifth round of immunization.

"With the success of the fifth round of immunization it is hoped that there would be no more cases of polio and therefore the target for Indonesia to be free of polio can be met," Rusdal told a news conference.

However, another Health Ministry official, Yusharmen, said the government may conduct another round of vaccinations in some parts of Aceh, East Java and North Sumatra provinces, but gave no timeframe.

The World Health Organization's Regional Adviser for Immunization and Vaccines Development, Arun Thapa, said Indonesia had made tremendous progress, adding that the outbreak of the disease "is almost contained" in Indonesia.—MNA/Reuters



One-year-old twin ligers, a rare lion-tiger hybrid, Pingping and An'an frolic with each other in the Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park and Botanical Garden in Haikou city. The pair have become superstars in China's southernmost island province of Hainan after becoming the first ligers in the country to reach their first birthday. It is said that there are less than 10 ligers all over the world.—INTERNET

Fisherman nets ancient statue in Greece

ATHENS, 10 May — A Greek fisherman has handed over to authorities a large section of an ancient bronze statue brought up in his nets in the Aegean Sea, officials said on Monday.

The male torso was located last week near the eastern Aegean island of Kalymnos, the Culture Ministry said in an announcement.

Other scattered pieces of bronze statues found in the

area include a head, legs and arms, but it is unclear whether these could match the horseman's torso.

Internet

The one-meter (3-foot) high find belonged to a statue of a horseback soldier, and would have been part of the cargo of an ancient ship that sank in the area. It was taken to Athens to be cleaned and dated.

Together with the torso, the fisherman brought up two small bronze pieces believed to belong to the statue, and a wine-jar from the ancient city of Knidos — in what is now Turkey — dating from the first century B.C., the ministry said.

The seas around Kalymnos are rich in ancient wrecks and have yielded several impressive finds in recent years, including a large female statue now exhibited at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. The fisherman who netted it in 1995



An undated picture provided by the Greek Culture Ministry on 8 May, 2006 shows the torso from an ancient statue of a horseback soldier fished out of the Aegean Sea last week. The 1-metre (3-foot) fragment was found by a fisherman off the island of Kalymnos and handed over to authorities.—INTERNET

Rain, hail storms kill seven in central China

CHANGSHA, 9 May — Rain and hail storms that had raged in central China's Hunan Province since last Thursday have left seven people dead and four others missing.

Seven cities and 21 counties in the province suffered the disastrous weather, the provincial civil affairs department said on Monday.

Rainstorms triggered mountain torrents and landslides, which destroyed 87,500 hectares of

farmland and dilapidated 3,500 houses, causing a direct economic loss of 443 million yuan (54.7 million US dollars). The disasters affected the normal life of 1.42 million people in the Province, among whom 14,100 were relocated, the department said.

The provincial government immediately launched an emergency scheme when the disasters occurred and ordered governments of all levels to spare no efforts in the relief work. The rainstorms subsided on Monday morning.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, rescuers evacuate local residents by boat in Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province, on 9 May, 2006.—INTERNET



Fireworks light up St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square in Moscow, on 9 May, 2006. Russia marked its 61st anniversary of their victory during the World War II on 9 May, 2006.—INTERNET

2 million babies die in first 24 hours each year worldwide

UNITED STATES, 9 May—An estimated 2 million babies die within their first 24 hours each year worldwide and the United States has the second worst newborn mortality rate in the developed world, according to a new report.

American babies are three times more likely to die in their first month as children born in Japan, and newborn mortality is 2.5 times higher in the United States than in Finland, Iceland or Norway, Save the Children researchers found.

Only Latvia, with six deaths per 1,000 live births, has a higher death

rate for newborns than the United States, which is tied near the bottom of industrialized nations with Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia with five deaths per 1,000 births.

“The United States has more neonatologists and neonatal intensive care beds per person than Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, but its newborn rate is higher than any of those countries,” said the annual State of the World’s Mothers report.

The report, which analyzed data from governments, research institutions and international agencies, found higher newborn death rates among US minorities and disadvantaged groups. For African-Americans, the mortality rate is nearly

double that of the United States as a whole, with 9.3 deaths per 1,000 births.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the worst place in the world to be a mother or child, with Scandinavian nations again taking the top spots in the rankings by the Connecticut-based humanitarian group.

Sweden heads the list, with Niger last. (10 worst and best)

The “Mothers’ Index” in the report ranks 125 nations according to 10 gauges of well-being — six for mothers and four for children — including objective measures such as lifetime mortality risk for mothers and infant mortality rate and subjective measures such as the political status of women.—Internet

Vietnam coffee industry still ailing

HANOI, 10 May—Vietnam’s coffee industry faces several weak points, including few product items, high prices and low quality, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* on Tuesday quoted an agriculture official as saying.

According to Le Hung Quoc, head of the Cultivation Department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam has few coffee products, mainly Robusta coffee strain products, while their selling prices are high due to high labour and watering costs. The official also said the quality of Vietnamese coffee beans is low because growers pick ripe and green coffee fruits at the

same time.

Regarding coffee sales, he said that most of Vietnamese enterprises have yet to participate in the trading mode of future contracts, and they often have to export coffee via intermediaries, not directly to foreign buyers. Another weakness of the industry is the underdeveloped coffee processing.

To overcome the shortcomings, the ministry has mapped out major coffee development

orientations, including reducing acreage of robusta coffee trees, increasing that of arabica coffee ones with higher economic value, applying more advanced farming and processing techniques, diversifying coffee products for export, and partaking more actively in international coffee trading floors.

Vietnam, the world’s second biggest coffee exporter, shipped abroad 356,000 tons of coffee

worth 404 million US dollars in the first four months of this year, down 23.4 per cent in volume but up 20.8 per cent in value against the same period last year, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.—MNA/Xinhua

This juvenile Lionfish, measuring between three and four inches long, was discovered by divers from the New England Aquarium in the Atlantic waters of the Bahamas, the aquarium announced during a press availability on 4 May, 2006 in Boston.
INTERNET



EU launches public consultation on EU-China trade relations

BRUSSELS, 10 May—The European Union (EU) on Monday launched a public consultation designed to form part of its forthcoming major strategic review of trade and economic relations with China.

The EU executive European Commission will invite all interested parties to comment on how the EU should manage its relationship with China in the decade to come.

The Commission’s communication on the EU’s trade and economic relationship with China is

due to be published in the last quarter of 2006.

The rise of China as an economic power is a defining development of the early 21st Century, said the Commission in a Press release, adding that it will bring opportunities and challenges both for China and the rest of the world.

“China’s growing market offers real new commercial opportunities for EU exporters and investors. China’s own strong export capacity offers a new competitive challenge for EU producers and exporters,” said the Commission.

MNA/Xinhua

Six executed bodies found in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 May—Iraqi police patrols found six bodies killed in execution-style in different parts of Baghdad on Monday, a police source said.

“A police patrol found six bodies, which were blindfolded, bound and riddled with bullets,” captain Ahmed Abdullah told *Xinhua*. Some of the bodies were showed signs of torture and with bullet holes in their heads and chests, Abdullah said.

A Sunni Arab leader complained last week that the central morgue of Baghdad received more than 1,000 unidentified bodies in April alone, most of them were Sunnis.

“More than 1,000 unidentified bodies have

been admitted to Baghdad central morgue, most of them Sunnis and many were shot in the head with signs of torture,” Adnan

al-Dulaimi, who heads the largest Sunni Arab bloc in Parliament, told reporters.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi civilian killed, 3 wounded in minibus attack

BAGHDAD, 10 May—Gunmen ambushed a minibus carrying government employees in western Baghdad on Monday morning, killing the driver and wounding three employees, a police source said.

“Unknown armed men opened fire at about 8:00 am (0400 GMT) at a minibus carrying employees of the Higher Education Ministry in the Yarmouk neighbourhood,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah told *Xinhua*.

The victims were heading to work when the gunmen opened fire, killing the

driver and wounding three others, he said.

Militant groups frequently attack Iraqi security forces and government employees, as sectarian violence and power vacuum prevailed in the war-torn country after three years of US-led occupation.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers inspect munitions confiscated during a raid in various villages near Baquba, on 9 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Fullmoon Day of Kason

Teik Yan (Myeik)

Kason is the second month of the Myanmar calendar made up of twelve months from Tagu to Tabauing. According to the treatises, it was learnt that the term "Kason" was written as "Kuson" or "Kuuson" in Bagan Period. Whatever it is, the word Kason means the month when water is poured.

The month of Kason falls in the mid-summer, and temperature reaches at its peak at the time. So, the ancestors left some sayings such as "Dry in Tagu and parched in Kason" and "Too hot in Kason and Nayon". Many men of the letters of successive periods including Maha Atula Mingyi and Minister Letwe Thondara composed poems featuring salient points about Kason.

The month of Kason represents Taurus, the second sign of the zodiac, lunar mention of Visakha, constellation of elephant, flower of Zagar, and the festival of pouring water at Maha Bo tree.

The festival held in the month of Kason is the pouring of water at the Bo tree. From time immemorial, Myanmar Buddhists have held the ceremony to pour water at the Bo tree on a grand scale nationwide on the Fullmoon Day of Kason in accordance with fine traditions. At the height of summer, the land is parched, and leaves of trees, including those of the Bo tree are known to wither in Kason. Then, devout Buddhists pour scented water at the Bo trees with the aim of

keeping the trees, which are sacred to them, lush and green all-year round. That has been preserved as the tradition of pouring water at the Bo trees.

A Bodhi tree is one on which a Lord Buddha places some reliance to attain omniscience and realize the Four Noble Truths. The Bodhi trees under which the four Lord Buddhas who attained enlightenment in this Badda World were Kukko (Albizzia lebbek) tree of Lord Buddha Kakusan, Yaythaphan (Ficus glomerata) tree of Lord Buddha Konagum, Banyan (Ficus indica) tree of Lord Buddha Kassapa, and Bo (Ficus religiosa) tree of Lord Buddha Gotama.

Fullmoon Day of Kason is fourfold blessed, because it was on this day that Lord Buddha Dipankara prophesied to the Hermit Sumedha that he would become Lord Buddha Gotama, that the Embryo Buddha was born, that Prince Siddhattha attained enlightenment, and that Lord Buddha Gotama entered Maha Pari Nirvana (Demise). So, Fullmoon Day of Kason is designated as the Buddha Day.

All the Buddhists are therefore exhorted to preserve the fine tradition of pouring water at the Bo trees in reverence to the Lord Buddha and perform good deeds with good volition on Fullmoon Day of Kason or the Buddha Day.

Translation: MS
Kyemon:10-5-2006

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Hungarian pilot Zoltan Veres flies his Extra 300 aircraft over the centre of Budapest, Hungary, on 9 May, 2006. St Stephen basilica is seen in the background. — INTERNET

Study says Mexicans paid \$ 1.8 billion in bribes

MEXICO CITY, 10 May — Mexicans paid an estimated 1.8 billion US dollars to traffic cops, city hall clerks, garbage collectors and other officials last year, according to a study on Tuesday.

Mexicans paid bribes — known in Mexico as "mordidas" or "little bites" — 10 per cent of the time they dealt with govern-

ment officials last year, according to a study by the Mexican chapter of Transparency International.

This included run-ins with police, applying for permits and even having mail delivered, and the group estimated Mexicans paid out about 1.8 billion US dollars last year.

When Vicente Fox

became President of Mexico in 2000, he ended 71 years of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which critics say was riddled with nepotism, theft and other abuses of power. Mexicans had expected Fox's administration to bring a reduction in public corruption.

MNA/Reuters

Senior CIA official under investigation, resigns

WASHINGTON, 10 May — The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s third-ranking official, Kyle Foggo, is under investigation and has resigned, local media reported Tuesday.

Foggo's resignation on Sunday followed the stepping down last Friday of CIA director Porter

Goss.

Foggo was promoted by Goss as the CIA's executive director after Goss took office as the spy agency's chief in September 2004.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the CIA's internal investigative department were investigating whether

Foggo was improperly involved in awarding defence contracts to a businessman and into his connection with Randy Cunningham, a former lawmaker from California, who had been sentenced to more than eight years in prison for accepting bribes.

MNA/Xinhua

သွေးတိုးရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends physic nut...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected thriving 37.55 acres of summer paddy in Patheingyi Township.

They also viewed thriving summer paddy and seasonal crops at No 2 Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm of Central Command Headquarters.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected physic nut plantation of the local battalion and attended the ceremony to cultivate physic nut plants on 50 acres of land at No 2 Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm.

Lt-Col Thet Tun of Central Command reported on growing of physic nut plants in the area of the command headquarters. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Central Command has put 610,607 acres of land under physic nut plants against the target of 605,383 acres.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress of 6-storey Mandalay Zaygyo Plaza and 25-storey Condominium Tower on 84th Street between 27th and 28th Streets in Mandalay.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects nurturing of physic nut saplings at No 2 Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm of Central Command. — MNA

Myanmar-Mandalay Co Chairman U Than Win briefed them on progress of the construction tasks. Mandalay Zaygyo Plaza and Condominium Tower from the first to six floors will be built with a car park each in addition to eight lifts and 12

escalators.

At present, finishing tasks are being undertaken at six layers of Zaygyo Plaza, and five stories of Condominium Tower have been built.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint views fertilizer broadcasting ceremony at summer paddy plantation in Patheingyi Township. — MNA

Talks on health to mark World Health Day given

YANGON, 10 May — Organized by Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a talks to mark World Health Day took place at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township this afternoon, attended by Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai.

First, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech and the medicines donated by MMCWA (Central) were given to chairpersons of township MCWAs in Yangon West District.

Afterwards, Yangon West District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Ni Ni Sein pre-

sented 1,300 membership applications to Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Next, Assistant Director of Health Department (Central) U Aung Kyaw Kyaw gave a talk on the motto of World Health Day 2006.

MNA

Kangyidaunt Township Court opens

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May — The opening of Kangyidaunt Township Court in Ayeyawady Division took place in front of the building on 4 May, attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint

Aung and Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court U Thein Soe.

The division judge and the chairman of district PDC formally opened the court.

The commander unveiled the signboard of the building constructed at a cost of K 12.6 million allotted by the State.

The commander inspected reconstruction of Pashin Creek-spanning concrete bridge on Pathein-Ngathaing-chaung-Betye Road.

He attended the providing of relief aid to flood victims held at Kyangin PDC Office, and presented K 20 million, 495 bags of rice and clothes donated by

Ayeyawady Division PDC, and officials, relief items to the victims.

Donations totalled 525 bags of rice, 1,700 corrugated iron sheets, 50 viss of edible oil, 100 viss of salt, 150 viss each of onion and fish, clothes and K 26.048 million.

The commander inspected arrangements for reconstruction of two-railroad bridge on Phartashin Creek on Kyangin-Myanaung Road and progress of renovation and construction of 160-foot-long Padok Creek-crossing concrete bridge on Betye-Ngathaing-chaung creek, and gave instructions on the project to the officials. —MNA



Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai speaking at the talks on World Health Day. — MNA

Donate blood

Health care services, cash and kind provided to 106 older persons

YANGON, 10 May — Organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Supervisory Committee, the ceremony to provide health care services and donate cash and kind to older persons was held at Eye Specialist Hospital on Natmauk Road in Tamway Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony.

First, the commander gave a speech. Daw Mar Mar Wai explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Medical Superintendent Dr M Ja Naw of the hospital reported on eyes operations.

Next, the commander

and wife accepted K 1 million for the older persons donated by Managing Director U Aung Myat of Mother Trading Co Ltd; K 1 million and 360 bottles of provimin medicine by U Win Lwin-Daw Myat Myat Maw (Kyaw Tha Co Ltd); 26 pairs of glasses worth K 500,000 by U Zaw Naing-Daw Khin Mar Swe; K 100,000 by U Hla Htay-Daw Tin Nwe Oo (Hmancho Traditional Medicine House); and K 100,000 by Yangon Command MCWA. Certificates of honour were presented to the donors.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presented K 1 million to the funds of the hospital to Medical Superintendent Dr M Ja Naw.

Chairperson Daw Nan Shwe Yin of Yangon East District MCWSC handed over MCWA membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein presented gifts to specialists and nurses who participated in the eye operations.

Likewise, Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Dr Hla Myint gave gifts to the medical superintendent and doctors who provided health care services to the older persons.

After the ceremony, the commander and wife helped the older persons wear glasses and presented cash assistance and viewed health care services. Later, they presented cash and kind to the older persons.

Yangon Division MCWSC gave health care services to 106 older persons. Of them, 40 older persons underwent eye operations, 26 were given with glasses, and 40 were provided with general medical



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

treatments.

Afterwards, K 5,000 each were donated to the older persons who underwent eye operations, and K 3,000 each to those under general medical treatment, totalling K 458,000. — MNA

Minister inspects product factories

YANGON, 10 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung arrived at No 2 (A) wood product factory of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Amarapura on 8 May morning and heard reports on tasks by Managing Director of U Kyi Sein of Myanmar Teak Wood Industries and Managing Director U Win Tun of MTE. After hearing reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and viewed the factory.

In the afternoon, the minister and officials proceeded to No 103 saw mill in Amarapura and they were conducted round by Factory Manager U Maung Maung Gyi. On arrival at No 2(B) wood product factory, the minister and party were reported on the procedure of the factory. When they arrived at Hi-Tech furniture factory in Pyigyidagun Township, Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw explained the facts about the factory. Next, they inspected the production of the factory and furniture to be exported. — MNA

New generation sets foot on Hockey

YANGON, 10 May — Organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation, the new generation Marathon Hockey competitions took place at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch this morning.

After the competition, President of Myanmar Hockey Federation Brig-Gen Myo Myint (Retd) presented cash awards to students from BEHS-1 Mingala Taungnyunt, BEHS-1 Hlegu, BEHS (branch) Hmawby, BEHS of Indaing and North Okkalapa.

Later, wellwishers made cash donation and provided sports gear to MHF in a bid to raise Myanmar's Hockey standard.

MHF's President Cup Hockey Tournament for new generation was scheduled to be held in October 2006 at the same pitches. — NLM



U Hla Sein (Hla Sein & Brothers Co) presents one set of net to Myanmar Hockey Federation President Brig-Gen Myo Myint (Retd).

MHF

YMBA pays respects to 224 75-and-above years old persons

YANGON, 10 May — A ceremony to pay respects to 75-and-above old persons in commemoration of the Centennial Celebration of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) was held at the building of YMBA at 77, Yegyaw Road, Pazundaung Township, at 1 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmye Bonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa, SSMNC member Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, members of the panel of patrons of the Organizing Committee for YMBA Centennial Celebration, Chairman U Bo Ni of YMBA and executives, wellwishers and local people.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, Chairman U Bo Ni supplicated on the purpose of organizing the



The ceremony to pay respects to 75-and-above years old persons to mark the centennial celebration of YMBA in progress at YMBA Building. — MNA

centennial celebration.

Shwekyau ng Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Puññavamsa of Myanaung delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Afterwards, Chairman U Bo Ni and Patron U Khin Maung Htwe (Khin Maung Htwe-Seikkan) explained matters related to the centennial celebration of YMBA.

Those present paid respects to 224 75-and-above old persons.

Chairman of Pazundaung Township Peace and Development Council U Htay Win and party, YMBA Chairman U Bo Ni and executives presented cash assistance and gifts to them.

On behalf of the older persons, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Aye Naing expressed gratitude.

The Organizing Committee for YMBA Centennial Celebration offered 'soon' to 107 members of the Sangha from States and Divisions at the YMBA building.

MNA

Commander meets service personnel bound for Cocogyun



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win gives instructions to employees who will discharge duties in Cocogyun Township. — MNA

YANGON, 9 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win met service personnel at Thakayta Jetty this morning.

The service personnel will serve their duties in Cocogyun Township. The commander explained development tasks for the township.

He then presented K 403,000 for service personnel and those working in Cocogyun Township to officials concerned.

The commander also presented 212 books on religion worth K 161,150 donated by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and various kinds of books, tapes and CDs,

cupboards, solar cells, inverter, batteries and microphones worth K 913,198 to Chairman of Cocogyun Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Wai.

Wellwisher U Win Naing-Daw Cho Cho (Pyae Sone Win Naing Co) presented TVs, cassettes, DVD and sound boxes valued at K 1,134,000 to Chairman U Myint Wai. The com-

mander inspected MV Taunggyi bound for Cocogyun Township.

MNA

Fires break out in Tiddim, Aungmyethazan Townships

YANGON, 10 May — A fire broke out at the house of U Mo Khan Sein of Lwepwa Ward in Tiddim Township, Chin State, at about 3 am on 8 May. The fire started from embers in the kitchen. Members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Fire Services Department extinguished the fire. One house was destroyed in the fire.

Likewise, another fire broke out in the basement of a two-storey building of U Aik Yi at 159, between 22nd and 23rd streets and 83rd and 84th streets in Pale Ngweyaung Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, at 7.40 pm yesterday. The fire started from a short circuit of the generator. Over 160 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Fire Services Department put out the fire.

Polyethylene bags, dry orchids and wires worth K 20,000 were burnt.

MNA

Commander attends collective growing of physic nut plants

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May — A collective growing of physic nut plants in Kengtung Station was held at the model plantation of the local battalion of Kengtung on 6 May.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, senior military officers, departmental officials, officers, other ranks and their families.

First, the commander presented physic nut saplings to officials. Next, the commander and wife grew physic nut plants. After the inspection of thriving physic nut plants and rubber, the commander gave necessary instructions.

Together with the officials, the commander looked into thriving summer paddy in Loikhte village of Kengtung. And, the commander met with the local peasants and fulfilled their needs. Following the inspection of clearing up the garbage in Namkhin creek, the commander gave necessary instructions.

After the commander had overseen construction tasks of the bridge on Kengtung-Mongkhat road, he fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Archaeological sites excavated in ancient Myaungmya

YANGON, 9 May — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung gave instructions to officials concerned on implementation of plans to expose and conserve archaeological buildings in Myaungmya that was well-known as Akyay (Lower) Bagan in the First Myanmar Empire when Bagan culture thrived.

On 4 May, Director-General of the Archaeology Department U Kyaw Win and party with the help of local authorities measured the brick road and Koesudan pagodas, and Shwegugyi Pagoda constructed by King Alaung Sithu in Myaungmya for renovation of the cultural edifices without infringing their original styles.

On 5 May, the group conducted feasibility study and fixed plots and systems to excavate Byetaik mound in Cholaygon Village, and the mounds of ancient palace and walls of ancient Myaungmya city. The director-general presented K 4 million funded by the Ministry of Culture for the project through officials.

The Shwegugyi Pagoda will be renovated without compromising its original style under the supervision of the engineers of the branch office in Bagan of the Archaeology Department, and those wishing to donate cash to the project may contact Myaungmya District PDC.

MNA

Cash donated to missionary work

YANGON, 9 May — The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the

Ministry of Religious Affairs organized a ceremony to present cash to carry out missionary

work at home and abroad, at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

U Aung Than-Daw Thazin Myint Aung and family (Power Palace Hotel) of Budh Gaya Pilgrimage Group presented K 3.6 million, Yangon Budh Gaya Pilgrimage Group, K 3 million, and Daw Nyo Nyo Myint and family, K 1.1 million to Paikkyon Parahita Monastery to Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, heads of department, and officials.

MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts cash donation for internal and external missionary tasks from a wellwisher. — MNA

Departmental course of Immigration and Population Ministry opens

YANGON, 9 May — The departmental course No 18 of the Ministry of Immigration and Population was opened at Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin Township on 8 May with a speech by Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than.

Altogether 100 male trainees of Assistant Supervisors from the Immigration and National Registration Department are attending the 6-week course.

MNA

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department speaking at opening of on-job training course No 18. — IMMIGRATION



150 rebel soldiers surrender to UN mission in Congo

KINSHASA, 10 May — Mayi-Mayi rebels turned in their weapons last weekend to the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the southeastern province of Katanga, the National Army force of the DRC (FARDC) said on Monday.

A total of 50 armed men and 100 children soldiers from the group Gedeon had surrendered to the UN blue berets in Mitwaba, 400 kilometres north of Lubumbashi, capital of Katanga, the FARDC said in a communique.

The FARDC launched military operations against the Gedeon group of the Mayi-Mayi militia last November. The fighting has left 170,000 people displaced and many villages in the

region burned and looted.

The communique did not say whether the head of the group, Kyungu Kasongo, was captured in the operations.

In April, the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC, known by its French acronym MONUC, began to deploy blue berets to the central region of Katanga.

The Mayi-Mayi militia is the largest non-governmental military group in the DRC. Though the group's top leader has

joined the country's transitional government, faction leaders of the group still hold sway across large swaths of Katanga and have caused great unrest.

MNA/Xinhua



Sixteen-year-old Alba Cordero rests in the ring at Cappiello Brothers Gym in Brockton, Massachusetts on 8 May, 2006. Cordero has been boxing for a year and a half and is undefeated in five fights. Brockton is home of former boxing champion Rocky Marciano. INTERNET

Colombia postpones signing FTA with US

BOGOTA, 10 May — Colombia will postpone signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States because its English version was inconsistent with the original bilateral pact, Colombian Trade Minister Jorge Humberto Botero said on Monday.

Botero said if the US did not revise mistakes in the English version, Colombia would not sign the agreement.

The US side submitted the English version of the bilateral free trade agreement to Colombia for review one week ago. But Colombia found that there was considerable discrepancy between the two versions on the items in agricultural and livestock breeding as well as services.

The two sectors, affecting market access and employment, drew wide attention and caused a heated debate between the two nations in the negotiations. The divarication on the above-mentioned issues led to a deadlock in the final negotiations earlier this year.—MNA/Xinhua

China urges world MPs to build harmonious world

NAIROBI, 9 May — A key Chinese lawmaker on Monday urged world parliamentarians to build a harmonious world through taking an active part in international affairs at the 114th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly held in Nairobi.

Cheng Siwei, the vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, told world parliamentarians that peace and development are the two major issues of the times and mankind has a long way to go in addressing them.

He urged parliamentarians to work hard to build a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity.

“With global industrial restructuring and accelerated flow and transfer of production factors, countries are linked by ever closer economic ties and greater interdependence. World economic development is now in an important period of opportunities,” Cheng said in general debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world.

“At the same time, considerable destabilizing and uncertain factors and traditional security threats still exist, and nontraditional security threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, pollution, natural disasters and infectious diseases, have become prominent.

The negative impact of economic globalization is more evident and the North-South gap is widening,” said the leader of the Chinese delegation to the IPU assembly.

Cheng asked his colleagues all over the world to try their best to make true the dream of harmonious world.

MNA/Xinhua



New Orleans Hornets head coach Byron Scott, right, walks off the stage after congratulating point guard Chris Paul, left, following a news conference in Oklahoma City, on Wednesday, 10 May, 2006. Paul won the NBA's Rookie of the Year award after helping the Hornets double their win total in a season where they were forced out of their home city because of Hurricane Katrina. — INTERNET

UN evacuates Darfur camp after attack

KALMA CAMP (Sudan), 10 May — UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland, aid workers and journalists were forced to evacuate a refugee camp in Darfur on Monday after a demonstration spun out of control and an aid worker was attacked.

The melee at the Kalma Camp in South

Darfur occurred after thousands of Darfuris were protesting to demand international troops be posted there to protect them.

The violence began when a female refugee shouted that an aid worker was a member of the Janjaweed militia. The crowd then attacked a UN vehicle with axes and stones, shattering its windows.—MNA/Reuters

Romanian woman breastfeeds her child in front of a military tent after fleeing her house in the flooded village of Chiselet, 85 km (53 miles) south-east of Bucharest, Romania, on 2 May, 2006. Hundreds of Romanians fled their homes when the swollen Danube River breached waterlogged dikes in a south-western region, authorities said. INTERNET



No agreement reached on draft UN resolution on Iran

NEW YORK, 10 May — Foreign ministers of six major powers had reached no agreement on a draft UN resolution to rein in Iran's controversial nuclear ambitions after two hours of intensive discus-

sions on Monday, said an official with the US State Department.

According to the official, who declined to give his name, the ministers did not spend much time discussing the draft resolu-

tion proposed by Britain and France, but focused on exchanging views on the strategic approach to Iran's nuclear issue in the future.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hosted talks and a dinner for her counterparts from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the European Union in a bid to find some common ground on their approach to Iran's nuclear issue. The talks and dinners were held at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

MNA/Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (404) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Thai textile, garment exports continue to grow in Q1

BANGKOK, 9 May— Thailand's textile and garment exports continued to grow in the first quarter of this year, increasing by 9 per cent to 1.67 billion US dollars, according to the Department of Foreign Trade.

Rachane Potjanasuntorn, the department's director-general, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying on Monday that the country's exports of garments were worth 868.3 million US dollars and that of textiles worth 803.1 million US dollars during the January-March period.

The United States still became the largest textile and garment export destination worth 523.2 million US dollars, up 12.3 per cent. The EU and Japan came second and third worth 326.3 million US dollars and 69.4 million US dollars, up 15.1 and

4.8 per cent respectively.

The country's textile imports in the first quarter of this year totalled 697.1 million US dollars, down 2 per cent from the same period last year.

Most imports were used as raw materials for local production.

Key import destinations included China, Taiwan, Japan and the United States.

Rachane said the textile and garment exports continued to rise in the first quarter because local textile industry operators could adjust themselves more efficiently to production and export competition on the world market.

As well, they could expand the export base on the European and Asian markets, including Turkey, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos and the United Arab Emirate — *MNA/Xinhua*

"Ring back" tone helps Chinese to promote business

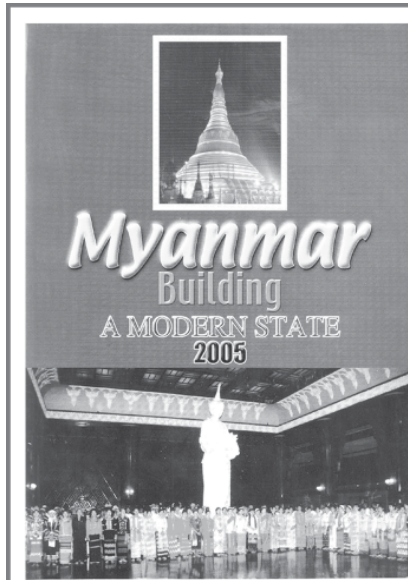
BEIJING, 9 May— Following short message service (SMS), Chinese people have begun to exploit another use of cell phones, colouring ring back tone, to promote business and help manage public affairs.

The so-called Colouring Ring Back Tone (CRBT) of cell phones, which comes in the form of melodious music or refreshing sound effects, has recently been applied by Pinggu District of Beijing to promote its peach blossom festival this April.

After dialing the cell

phones of Pinggu residents before and during the festival, people would hear a popular song praising the beauty of peach blossoms and a recorded message saying "The Eighth Beijing Pinggu International Peach Blossom Festival will open on 16 April. We welcome you to join the joy. Pinggu is the world's largest peach growing base with 14,667 hectares covered by peach blossoms this season. Welcome to Pinggu!"

"The number of visitors to this year's peach blossom festival grew around 30 per cent



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Bangladesh's exports grow 19% in nine months

DHAKA, 9 May — Bangladesh's overall exports grew by 1.2 billion US dollars or 18.98 per cent in the first nine months of the current financial year, riding on continuous good performance by knitwear products, *The Daily Star* reported on Monday.

According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) statistics, during the July-March period of 2005-06 fiscal year (July 2005-June 2006), exports fetched 7.52 billion dollars, up 18.98 per cent from 6.32 billion dollars during the corresponding period of last fiscal.

Knitwear products continued to maintain robust growth, posting a 30.8 per cent rise. Knitwear items during the period earned 2.68 billion dollars against 2.05 billion dollars during the same

period of the last financial year. Export of woven garments has also been able to maintain a moderate growth during July-March period of FY06, fetching 2.97 billion dollars, up by 10.77 per cent over the corresponding period of last fiscal.

According to Bangladesh Knitwear Manu-

facturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), knitwear exports saw a regular rise in some major markets after quota phase-out from January last year.

Exporters hoped the trend will continue in the coming months. Besides, the BKMEA has embarked on an aggressive campaign in some major markets

including the United States to increase income from this sector.

Knitwear apart, export earnings from leather, raw jute, frozen food, petroleum by-products, textile fabrics, bicycle and computer services also recorded growth during July-March period of the current fiscal year.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China to hold Internet Culture Exposition in October

BEIJING, 9 May— China will hold an Internet culture exposition in October in an effort to create a healthy Internet environment.

According to the Ministry of Culture, the fourth Internet Culture Exposition will be held in Beijing from 26 October to 29 October and preparations are under way. The exposition is aimed at promoting a healthy

Internet environment and the government's role in cleaning up the Internet and using advanced information technology to create a healthy and moral Internet culture, said Tuo Zuhai, an official with the Culture Ministry.

The theme of this year's exposition will be "Internet connects the world. Innovation leads to the future". Tuo said that the exposition will be

composed of two parts: business to business (B2B) and business to consumers (B2C).

There will be presentations of animation work from Chinese producers, international interactive entertainment and equipment for Internet cafes.

The exposition will also hold an Internet music award ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua



A female goat licks what is said to be a cloned boer goat minutes after giving birth to it in the hands of Chinese researchers at the Anhui Agricultural University in Hefei, eastern China's Anhui Province on 8 May, 2006.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးကို တိုးတက်စေရန် နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခံ့

States target cigarette fire risks

NEW YORK, 9 May—A growing number of states are pushing to combat the top cause of fire deaths by requiring tobacco companies to sell only “fire safe” cigarettes, which go out more quickly if left unattended.

Tobacco companies have fought such mandates for decades, but their success appears to be waning: Since New York put the nation’s first fire-safe cigarette requirement into effect in 2004, California and Vermont have passed similar laws. A fire-safe cigarette bill that passed in Illinois awaits the governor’s signature, and a bill in New Hampshire is poised for a final vote this week.

Comparable bills have been considered in at least a dozen other states during the past 18 months. Legislation in Congress would require fire-safe cigarettes nationally.

New York State Fire Administrator James Burns, president of the National Association of

State Fire Marshals, says tobacco companies should move on their own to sell only fire-safe cigarettes. “We shouldn’t have a patchwork of cigarette fire safety,” he says.

Cigarette fires have been the top cause of US fire fatalities for decades, killing tens of thousands of people in the past 30 years, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a research group that provides data for state and federal fire codes.

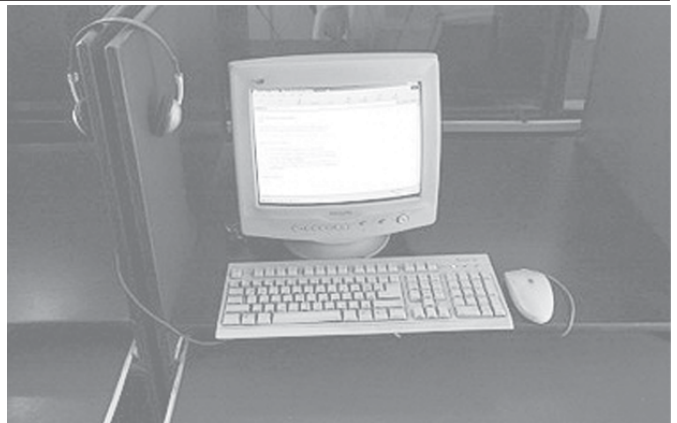
Deaths have declined with falling smoking rates, but cigarette fires still kill 700 to 900 people a year.

Senior citizens suffer disproportionately. They die in cigarette fires at almost four times the rate of other Americans, NFPA research shows.

Nationwide, nearly one in 10 fatal building fires begin with a cigarette and end with the death of a senior citizen.

“The technology for fire-safe cigarettes has existed for decades,” says NFPA President James Shannon. Tobacco companies “can make this life-saving change right away (and) ... save thousands of lives.”

Internet



Computer at an Internet cafe. Hong Kong’s High Court ordered four Internet Service Providers (ISP) to disclose the personal details of 49 people suspected of downloading three local movies without authorization.—INTERNET

China’s electronics giant's net profits down 35.2% in 2005

BEIJING, 9 May— China’s electronics maker Haier announced in a recent annual report that the company’s net profit dropped 35.2 per cent to 239 million yuan in 2005.

This was in sharp contrast with two other electronics makers Midea and Gree in China.

Gree reported a 21.11-per-cent rise in net profits to 510 million yuan last year, while Midea said its net profits hit 382 million yuan, a growth of 11 per cent, according to a report published by the 21st Century Business Herald on Friday. Officials from Haier Electronics Group Co attributed the falling profits to the rising cost of raw materials and tough competition.

In order to reverse the downward trend, Haier has decided to cut the company’s spending on marketing refrigerators and air conditioners.

This would help increase Haier’s sales income by 370 million yuan, the annual report said.

Chen Gang, an analyst with Orient Securities, pointed out that Haier must increase investment to win the battle with competitors.—MNA/Xinhua



The Berlin’s TV tower decorated as a soccer ball is illuminated in Berlin late on 9 May, 2006.

INTERNET

Indonesia asks for balanced roles of big countries

JAKARTA, 9 May — Indonesia would ask big countries such as China, Japan, the United States and India to have a balanced role so as to safeguard the security of Southeast Asia,

during the upcoming ASEAN defence ministerial meeting, Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said here on Monday.

Talking to reporters before attending a Cabinet meeting, the minister said “We ask the roles of the big countries to be balanced and (their presence) to mutually benefit all parties and the interest of each ASEAN member country.”

“Conflict in Southeast Asia or from outside the region must be prevented, otherwise they will disturb the stability in the region,” he said. The minister said that currently there was potential of conflicts in the field of border demarcation and development of natural resources.

MNA/Xinhua

Cultural exchanges to deepen Sino-Russian strategic partnership

BEIJING, 9 May — Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Li Changchun on Monday urged both China and Russia to enhance cultural exchanges in a bid to keep deepening bilateral strategic partnership of cooperation.

“Cultural exchanges help increase the understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries and bolster the comprehensive growth of bilateral ties,” Li said while visiting an exhibition of Russian fine arts at China’s National Art Museum in Beijing.

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said he believed that such activities would also provide opportunities for the people of both countries to learn from each other and help maintain the diversity of the world culture.

The exhibition,

including 110 Russian masterpieces dating from the 18th to the early 20th Century, is a key programme of the “Year of Russia” in China, which opened in March during Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to China. The current Year of Russia in China and the Year of China in Russia, scheduled for 2007, were a pioneering project in the history of bilateral relations. Li acknowledged. “I am convinced that the activities would help improve mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries and further reinforce the China-Russia strategic partnership of cooperation.” —MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia issues coins to enhance awareness of endangered species

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 May — Malaysia’s central bank issues its third series of coin series for creating public awareness of endangered animals and birds in Malaysia, the bank said here on Monday.

The coin series with the theme “Endangered Marine Animals and Reptiles” is part of the bank’s Coins in Education Programme, it said in a statement.

The new series will be available to the public in 12 issues representing 12 selected endangered marine animals and reptiles, the bank said.

The first two issues of the new coin series, featuring the Green Turtle and Hawksbill Turtle, were released on Monday. Bottlenose Dolphin, Painted Terrapin, Olive Ridley Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Dugong, Siamese Freshwater Crocodile, Whale Shark, Malayan Gharial Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile and Irrawady Dolphin will be featured in the next 10 issues of the series. — MNA/Xinhua



A scene from the game “Lumines Live” for the Xbox 360 system featuring music by singer Madonna (pictured within the game) is shown to the audience at the Microsoft Xbox 360 2006 E3 media event in Hollywood on 9 May, 2006. Microsoft officials announced plans for enhancements to the Xbox 360 system. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Almost 70,000 turn up for Keane's United testimonial

MANCHESTER (England), 10 May—Almost 70,000 fans filled Old Trafford on Tuesday to honour former captain Roy Keane's contribution to Manchester United.

Ireland midfielder Keane, 34, who joined Celtic in January after more than 12-1/2 years and close to 500 games for United, was given a fitting send off by the Manchester fans in a testimonial match won 1-0 by the home team.

Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal in the second half.

Keane, who won seven league titles and four FA Cups with United, swapped the green and white hoops of Celtic for the red of the Manchester club at halftime.

Playing one final time for United manager Alex Ferguson, who hailed Keane as one of the club's finest players of all time, the Irishman set up the winning goal for Ronaldo.

"You get clubs who are happy to come second or third. Not United," Keane said in the match programme. "The fans don't deserve anything less than winning and that's what the manager and the club are about."—MNA/Reuters

Barca decide against commercial shirt sponsorship

MADRID, 10 May—Spanish champions Barcelona have decided to stick with tradition and not have a sponsors logo on their team shirts.

"The Barcelona shirt will not carry any commercial brand, the decision has been taken," club president Joan Laporta told radio station RAC-1 on Monday.

The Catalan club were involved in negotiations with Chinese authorities and Austrian online betting firm BetandWin over shirt sponsorship earlier this season but neither deal materialized.

Laporta confirmed the club was trying to negotiate a new television deal with Spanish television channel La Sexta as part of its plans to increase income and reduce debts, which were running at 188 million euros (240 million US dollars) at the start of the year.

Barcelona wrapped up their second league title in a row last week and meet Arsenal in the final of the Champions League in Paris on May 17.—MNA/Reuters



England wicket-keeper Geraint Jones takes a catch during a training session at Lord's cricket ground in London, on Tuesday, 9 May, 2006. The England cricket team are due to face Sri Lanka at Lord's on Thursday in the first test of a three test match series.—INTERNET

Kalou to miss World Cup after losing court appeal

AMSTERDAM, 10 May—A civil court in Rotterdam has rejected an appeal by Feyenoord's Ivorian striker Salomon Kalou against the decision of Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk to deny his application for Dutch citizenship.

Kalou will miss the World Cup after a judge ruled on Tuesday Verdonk's demand that Kalou should pass a naturalization exam was justified.

Netherlands coach Marco van Basten had guaranteed him a spot in his World Cup squad if he got his Dutch passport.

Verdonk told Parliament in March that Kalou did not fulfil the criteria for fast-track citizenship and would have to

retake a Dutch language and culture test.

Van Basten said on Feyenoord's website on Tuesday: "Now he should focus on the qualification for the European championship, but overall it is sad for him that after a year and a half the whole case is still not closed."

Kalou's lawyer said he would persevere with his application.

MNA/Reuters

FIFA give Spain go-ahead to extend season

MADRID, 10 May—FIFA has allowed Spanish football authorities to extend their league season until May 20 to deal with a fixtures pile-up.

FIFA had wanted all league games to be completed by this weekend to allow players involved in the World Cup to be released by May 15. The pile-up was caused by the postponement in April of the game between Sevilla, playing in the UEFA Cup final on Wednesday, and Barcelona.

World football's governing body has now given its go-ahead to a new match schedule which means the Sevilla vs Barcelona game takes place this Saturday, as will those games that do not affect Champions League places. The fixtures between Sevilla and Real Madrid, and Osasuna and Valencia will then be played on May 16 on the eve of the Champions League final when Barcelona play Arsenal.

Non-Barcelona players involved in the World Cup will be released on May 17, two days later than originally planned.—MNA/Reuters



Cleveland Indians' Grady Sizemore steals second as Kansas City Royals' second baseman Mark Grudzielanek jumps to catch the ball during the fourth inning of an MLB baseball game on 9 May, 2006, in Kansas City, Mo.—INTERNET

Bulgaria stun Japan with early and late strikes

OSAKA (Japan), 10 May—Bulgaria struck in the opening and dying seconds to beat World Cup-bound Japan 2-1 in a Kirin Cup friendly on Tuesday.

Portsmouth's Svetoslav Todorov stunned Japan with a sharp near-post finish to put the visitors ahead just 53 seconds into the opening game of the three-team tournament.

Striker Seiichiro Maki equalised after 76 minutes, diverting a fierce drive from substitute Alex into the net from close range to boost his claims for a World Cup place.

Substitute Hristo Yanev snatched a fortuitous winner for Bulgaria in injury time with a 30-metre free kick that evaded his team mates and crept inside Yoshikatsu Kawa-guchi's far post.

"I don't think we deserved

to lose," said Japan coach Zico, whose side play their opening match at the World Cup in just over a month's time.

"I thought we played well but once again we failed to take our chances and we got punished for it."

Japan largely dominated after going behind with midfielder Yuki Abe forcing a tremendous save from Stoian Kolev and striker Keiji Tamada crashing a left-foot shot against the post.

Bulgaria, missing most of their first-team regulars, face Scotland in Kobe on Thursday. Both teams failed to qualify for the World Cup in Germany.

MNA/Reuters

Spurs demand food poisoning game be replayed

LONDON, 10 May—Tottenham Hotspur asked the Premier League on Tuesday to order that their game against West Ham last weekend be replayed.

Ten Tottenham players went down with food poisoning the night before Sunday's game which Spurs lost 2-1, allowing Arsenal to take fourth place in the Premier League and pip them to the last Champions League spot.

Before kickoff Spurs

had requested the game be postponed for a day but were offered only a two-hour delay by Premier League officials.

"In being given no viable option to postpone the match other than a two-hour delay to kickoff, our players were denied the possible opportunity of

competing in the Champions League, while our fans have been left with a sense of suspicion and injustice at the way subsequent events unfolded," Spurs chairman Daniel Levy said in a letter to Premier League chairman Dave Richards.

"Clearly, our govern-

ing body put us in an impossible situation and gave a significant advantage to Arsenal in competing for that fourth position."

In response a Premier League spokesman said that as far as it was concerned the clubs had fulfilled the fixture. However, he said Spurs' letter would be considered by the three-man Premier League board on Wednesday. Levy said Tottenham had the backing of other Premier League (FAPL) clubs in requesting a replay.

"We now have confirmation from a majority of Premier League clubs that they would support a replay and in similar circumstances would expect the game to have been postponed," Levy said.

MNA/Reuters



Julia Schuff of Germany returns a backhand from Emma Laine of Finland during their first-round match at the WTA Qatar German Open tennis tournament in Berlin. Schuff won 6-1, 6-4.—INTERNET

Singapore Navy launches sixth stealth frigate

SINGAPORE, 10 May — The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) launched its sixth stealth frigate, *RSS Supreme*, at the Singapore Technologies Marine shipyard Tuesday.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), *RSS Supreme* is the final frigate to be built locally, which will undergo harbour and sea trials in the next phase of construction.

Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean and Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen were present at the launching ceremony.

According to MINDEF's Formidable-class frigate programme, the six new stealth frigates will replace the RSN's missile gunboats which have been in service for more than 25 years.

Designed by Direction des Constructions Navales (DCN), a renowned French shipyard, the frigates are equipped with advanced sensor and weapon systems and will enable the RSN to undertake a wide spectrum of missions with their enhanced anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, according to MINDEF. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Socceroo Mark Milligan, left, and Michael Beauchamp, juggle a ball after being named for the Australian World Cup squad in Sydney, Australia, on Wednesday, 10 May, 2006. The Australian team, who last qualified for a World Cup in 1974, will play Japan in their first match in Germany on 12 June. — INTERNET

Iran letter faults US, makes no nuclear proposals

UNITED NATIONS, 10 May — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has written US President George W Bush a rambling 18-page treatise detailing alleged American foreign policy misdeeds and defending scientific research as "one of the basic rights of nations".

The document, a copy of which was obtained by *Reuters* on Tuesday, argues generally that globally shared religious values should govern political life but makes no proposals for resolving the West's concerns over Teheran's nuclear ambitions.

Iran insists it is enriching uranium — and

improving its techniques — solely to produce electricity for domestic consumption, while the West argues the programme is a cover for making nuclear weapons.

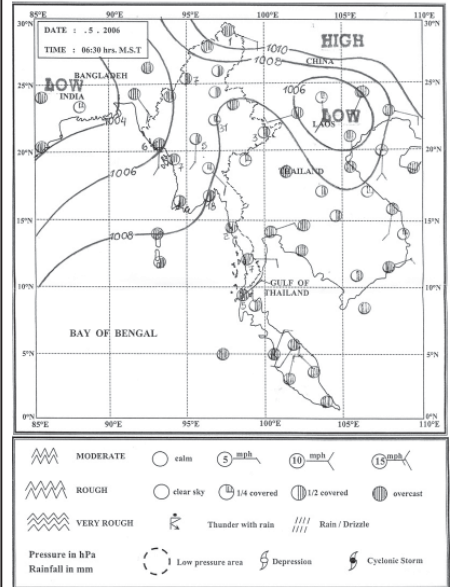
The letter, received by the White House on Monday but not made public, was the first publicly announced personal communication from an Iranian President to his US counterpart.

The UN Security Council is weighing a British-French draft resolution, backed by the United States, demanding Iran suspend enrichment, but parts of the text have run into opposition from veto-wielding Russia and China.

Ahmadinejad's letter appears to draw analogies between the 2003 US invasion of Iraq and US threats against Iran, suggesting the United States lied to justify the war and is now suffering the consequences.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 10 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Shwebo, Magway and Hpa-an (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Sagaing (1.38) inches, Namhsan (1.30) inches, Mandalay (1.22) inches, Putao (0.98) inch, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and PyinOoLwin (0.70) inch each and Thaton (0.66) inch.

Maximum temperature on 9-5-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 10-5-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 10-5-2006 was (82%). Total sunshine hours on 9-5-2006 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 10-5-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, (0.70) inch at Kaba-Aye and Tr at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (5.87) inches at Mingaladon, (7.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.59) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (16:50) hours MST on 9-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 11-5-2006: Widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine State, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 thundery conditions in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 11-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 11-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 11-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 11 May
View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မတာဏှာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာဏှိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိန္နိတ၊ ဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့ (အဖွဲ့ဝင်) မကွေးတိုင်း၊ ငမဲမြို့၊ ကန်လည်မင်း၊ ပရိယတ္တိစာသင်တိုက်၊ ပဓာနနာယကဆရာတော် အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသုမာဂလ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ကဆုန်လပြည့် ဗုဒ္ဓနေ့ တရားတော်နှင့် ဗုဒ္ဓဘိဓက အနေကဏ္ဍတော် တရားတော်

- 8:15 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 8:30 am**
6. International news
- 8:45 am**
7. Hill of Dhamma
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. ဓမ္မဗုဓာတေးအစီအစဉ်
- 4:45 pm**
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm**
5. Cute little dancers
- 5:10 pm**
6. "အိန္ဒိယစာပေတော်" (မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ငှက်ပျော့ကြော်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ နှင်းတော်ရည်ဆောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 5:15 pm**
7. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းပြိုင်စီမံလမ်းစဉ်စာစုမည်

- 5:30 pm**
8. ကဆုန်လပြည့်နေ့စားဖူး
- 5:40 pm**
9. ကုသိုလ်ပန်းစေ သွန်းညှောင်စေ
- 6:00 pm**
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ဖန်ပန်းလှလှ" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:30 pm**
13. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင် ဉာဏိသာရ၏ ကဆုန်လပြည့် ဗုဒ္ဓနေ့တရားတော် (သံဃေဓနိယလေးဌာန) (ဗြူး၊ ပွင့်၊ ဟော၊ စံ)
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
- 8:00 pm**
15. International news
- 8:00 pm**
16. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရှေ့နေ" (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 8:00 pm**
18. မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးပိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ ဓမ္မတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများဖြင့် တရားတော်
- 8:00 pm**
19. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, 11 May
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
-Happy boys
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
-Lucky you
8.50 am National news / Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-Keep on smiling
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
-Pray
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40pm Lunch time music
-Power of love
9:00 pm Feature honouring Full Moon Day of Kason
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Pouri
9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-Could this be love (Jennifer Lopez)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Kanbalu gets new gymnasium

YANGON, 10 May — A new two-storey gymnasium of Kanbalu in Shwebo District, Sagaing Division, was opened on 7 May.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the new gymnasium and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveiled the signboard of it.

The building is 120 feet long and 90 feet wide, and was constructed at a cost of K 75.6 million.

At the opening ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented sports gear worth K 1.3 million to Sagaing Division Sports and Physical Education Committee and eight townships in Shwebo District.

After the ceremony, the commander and the minister also attended the opening ceremony of two tarred roads going around the market of Kanbalu.

On 6 May, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint went to Phowintet Village in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Division, and attended the launching of the generator constructed at a cost of K 3 million in the village. The 20-kw generator was donated by Sayadaw of Nyeinchan Shwepyi Monastery in Mandalay Saddhamma Jotika Ashin Pannananda and it will supply the village from 6 pm to 10 pm daily.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attend the launching of generator in Phowintet Village, Wetlet Township. — SPED

NLD (Central) has no specific, clear political policy

It is in no position to take leadership role due to personality cult, localism and sectarianism among party members

Local residents have low opinion of the members

Members getting tired of NLD

Eight members resign from Tanai Township NLD

YANGON, 9 May—Chairman of executive committee of Tanai Township National League for Democracy in Myitkyina District, Kachin State, U Kahson Hsin Wah, vice-chairman U Saka Hsin Wah Naw, executives U Sha Raw Waung, U Phaw Ouk Gam Aung, U Makaw Tu Khaung and U La Kyuam Shwe Kya Tan and two members signed letters of resignation of their own accord and sent them to the National League for Democracy (HQ) and respective administrative bodies.

Then, the eight submitted in person their letters of resignation to Tanai Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission on 6 May afternoon and held a ceremony to collectively present letters at the venue.

Present on the occasion were the chairman of Tanai Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission the township law officer, the township judge, the head of township Immigration and National Registration Department, the township education officer, the head of township Health Department, the township bank manager, and members of the sub-commission.

Executive U Sha Raw Waung acted as MC.

On behalf of the eight, U Kahson Hsin Wah explained the causes of their resignation from the NLD, saying that the NLD (Central) had no specific and clear political policy; that they felt disappointed

at the disunity among the NLD leaders; that the party was in no position to take leadership role due to personality cult, localism and sectarianism among party members; that the NLD (Central) failed to provide effective leadership in regional development undertakings, and in consequence, local residents had a low opinion of the members and they were no longer in the mood to carry on their political duties assigned; that the entire nation including their region had witnessed fruitful results of the drives for national solidarity and development the government had been carrying out in the interests of the nation and the people; that they would participate in the regional development tasks hand in hand with local authorities, and would organize local people in the tasks; and that getting tired of the NLD that was self-centered and focused all its attempts on seizing power, they decided to resign of their own volition.

U Kahson Hsin Wah presented the materials they used when they were membership to the NLD, to the chairman of the sub-commission.

Originally, Tanai Township NLD Executive Committee was formed with nine members. Now, six members including chairman U Kahson Hsin Wah have resigned from the NLD and the other three executives were away from their town, and so Tanai Township NLD has been extinct.

MNA

INSIDE

The festival held in the month of Kason is the pouring of water at the Bo tree. From time immemorial, Myanmar Buddhists have held the ceremony to pour water at the Bo tree on a grand scale nationwide of the Fullmoon Day of Kason in accordance with fine traditions. At the height of summer, the land is parched and leaves of trees, including those of the Bo tree are known to wither in Kason. Then, devout Buddhists poured scented water at the Bo trees with the aim of keeping the trees, which are sacred to them, lush and green all-year round.

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TEIK YAN (MYEIK)

Weather Forecast for 11-5-2006

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas
One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).