

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 12 May, 2006

## Four political objectives

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- \* National reconsolidation
- \* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- \* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

## Four economic objectives

- \* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- \* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- \* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- \* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

## Four social objectives

- \* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- \* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- \* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- \* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

## Vice-Admiral Soe Thein attends Htidaw hoisting, consecration ceremonies at Thakya Marazein Pagoda in Thanlyin Station

YANGON, 11 May — A ceremony to put religious objects in the upper reliquary and hoist Shwe Htidaw (umbrella) atop Thakya Marazein Pagoda was held at the pagoda on Hanthadipa Hill in Thanlyin Station this morning.

Present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Zeyalinkara Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikhadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti of Myingyan and Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State

Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife Daw Aye Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials, Tatmadawmen and family members of Defence Services (Navy) and wellwishers.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw



U Kyaing San Shwe offers Seinbudaw donated by Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family to a Sayadaw. — MNA

*Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and U Kyaw Nyunt offer Hngetmyatnadaw donated by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and family to a Sayadaw. — MNA*



Bhaddanta Kitti.

U Kyaing San Shwe and wife and family offered Seinbudaw (diamond bud) donated by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family to a Sayadaw; Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and U Kyaw Nyunt, Hngetmyatnadaw donated by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw

Mya Mya San and family to a Sayadaw; Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Shwekyar Thingan (robes) to a Sayadaw; and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, a Sasana Flag to a Sayadaw. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kitti delivered a sermon, and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and the congregation shared merits gained.

Chairman of the Pagoda Construction Committee Commodore Soe Myint presented a certificate of honour and cash rewards to U Zaw Min Zin of Thakka Moe Nay Min Co Ltd, Mya Layyin (See page 8)

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 12 May, 2006

**Continue to enhance the values of YMBA**

It was on 10 May, 1906 that senior students of Yangon College founded the Young Men's Buddhist Association, YMBA, with an object of promoting Myanmar nationality, Myanmar language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education. The centenary of the Association was observed at the National Theatre in Yangon on 9 May.

The motto of the Association "Love your own race, promote your religion and encourage education" fired the entire national people with anti-colonialist sentiment and enthusiasm of national freedom. In 1910, YMBA meetings were held in Yangon and major towns and then branch associations were formed. No longer wishing to live in servitude, the young men of the branch associations contacted each other and decided to strive for independence.

On 1 October, 1917, a conference between the headquarters of YMBA and its branch associations was held in Pinyin. The conference presented the wishes of the people to the colonialist government. On 28 November, 1917, leading members of YMBA went to India, met with Lord Montagu and put forward the nine demands of national interests. One of the demands was that a university be opened in Myanmar. It was at the eighth YMBA conference held in Pyay that over 2,000 YMBA branch associations were amalgamated into GCBA (General Council of Burmese Association). The second conference of GCBA held in October, 1921, demanded for home rule. And according to the resolutions of the YMBA conference held on 17 June, 1922, national schools were established to promote the national educational standard.

Since the nation became independent, the YMBA has been constantly engaged in activities that promote the interests of Myanmar nationals, Buddha Sasana and national education. It regularly holds examinations on Buddhism to imbue young generations with the knowledge about religion and culture and to promote Buddha Sasana. Nowadays, the YMBA is also carrying out the work of national interests by holding courses on maternal and child health and by taking part in anti-drug campaigns and in the fight against AIDS.

During the past 100 years, the YMBA has been engaged in all the work of national interests. We believe that it will continue promoting Myanmar nationality, Myanmar language and literature, Buddha Sasana and education in the next 1,000 years or so.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်  
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ**

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း အတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရအောင် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလအတွက်  
(၁၄-၅-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့  
နှင့်  
(၂၀-၅-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့

- မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရ**
- \* 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

**Commander lays cornerstones for religious building in Kyaikto**

YANGON, 11 May — A ceremony to lay cornerstones of Sasana Beikman (Religious Building) in Kyaikto, Mon State, was held on 5 May and Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of the South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the commander and officials laid cornerstones and sprinkled scented water over them.

Afterwards, the commander also attended the 1st cash donation ceremony for the building held at the Dhammayon of Kyaikpawlaw Buddha Image. At the ceremony, wellwishers contributed K 42.8 million to the construction funds.

After the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing went to No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyaikto and met with teachers. At the meeting, he provided cash assistance to teachers. Next, he inspected the progress of a two-storey school building and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, he proceeded to Khamait Village in Kyaikto Township and participated in the physic nut cultivation ceremony. In the village, there are 6,000 physic nut saplings on five acres. — MNA

**Title recipient Sayadaws honoured**

YANGON, 11 May—Sayadaws in Taunggyi Township who received religious titles were honoured at a ceremony held at the Dhammayon of the Atula Marazein Buddha Image in the township on 29 April.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint supplicated on religious affairs to the Sayadaws. The commander, general staff officers and departmental heads offered alms to the six title recipient Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Chairman of Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee TatU Ottayayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhadanta Panñasiri delivered a sermon. — MNA

**K 6,739,570 for storm victims**

YANGON, 10 May , A total of K 6,739,570 was presented for storm victims in Gwa and Kyeintali townships in Rakhine State on 6 May.

Held in Taungup, the relief aid presentation ceremony was opened with an address by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

A townselder spoke words of thanks. The relief was collectively contributed by local people and entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon, the commander visited Wanfaik bridge construction project at Maei-Kyaukpyu section of Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway. He observed progress in building the bridge and laying of the approach road.

At the briefing hall of the project, he heard a report on salient points of the project. He made arrangements for speedy completion of the facility. — MNA

**Commerce Minister to participate in India-Myanmar trade meeting, ASEAN Economic Ministerial meeting**



Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein (L) and party seen at the airport. — MNA

YANGON, 11 May— A delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein left here by air this morning to participate in the 2nd joint committee meeting for trade of Myanmar and India to be held in New Delhi, India, and 12th ASEAN economic ministerial meeting in Manila, the Philippines.

The delegation also includes Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Myo Oo, Director U Tint Thwin, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Executive U Tun Aung.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar K Mitra, officials of UMFCFI and departmental officials. — MNA

**Six filling stations open around the clock**

YANGON, 11 May— In a bid to supply compressed natural gas (CNG) to vehicles around the clock, six filling stations in Yangon have been equipped with generators.

General Manager U Thein Htay, an official of MOGE which operates under the Ministry of Energy said the move aimed to reduce time-consuming and to avoid delays at filling stations.

The six special filling stations are No 006 in Dagon Myothit, No 002 in Bayintnaung, No 009 in Hlithethaya, No 012 in Danyingon, No 014 in Shwepyitha and No 015 in Dagon East. — NLM

# Indonesia seeks to enhance coop with China

JAKARTA, 10 May—The energy sector constitutes one of the key areas where Indonesia and China can best explore mutually beneficial relations and substantiate the strategic partnership signed last

year, an Indonesian senior official said Tuesday. Indonesia is a rich source of oil, gas and other mineral resources but the lack of investment has prevented the country from benefiting from

the natural resources, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said. The country has proven oil reserves of 8.6 billion barrels but the potential reserves could reach as high as 87 billion barrels, which remain unknown due to the lack of investment, he said.

Indonesia also has huge deposits of gas, iron, gold, copper, nickel and coal but they cannot bring a maximum benefit to the country with so little exploration and extraction.

“We need investment coming to this country in order to explore and extract these resources. In return, investors can provide security of supply to their countries...our neighbours and our friends,” he said.

Indonesia and China have been cooperating closely in power plant projects, involving initiatives from both the two governments and the private sectors.

MNA/Xinhua



A man stands in front of the Picasso painting entitled 'The Three Dancers' at the Hayward Gallery in London, on 10 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## One quarter of Dutch employed labour force over age of 50

BRUSSELS, 10 May—Nearly one quarter of the employed labour force in the Netherlands were in the age category over 50, partly owing to ageing of the population and partly because more older people were working, said Statistics Netherlands (CBS) on Tuesday. The amount of people over the age of 50 belonging to the employed labour force has increased by 60 per cent over the past decade, said the CBS.

The increase of over-50s working at least 12 hours a week is partly the result of ageing of the population. Between 1996 and 2005, the amount of people in the age group 50-74 increased by one fifth to 4.3 million.

Older people also more often had jobs. Labour participation of over-50s rose from 28 per cent to 37 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua



In this 6 May, 2006 photo, a local man rows his dugout canoe through a flooded neighbourhood in Asidonopo, 300 km (186 miles) from Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam.—INTERNET

## US, Afghanistan forces see more Iraq-like attacks

WASHINGTON, 10 May—US forces are tracking a worrisome rise in Afghanistan of tactics used by guerillas in Iraq, but have no conclusive evidence that those methods have been brought by rebels coming from Iraq, a senior US commander said on Wednesday.

With about 23,000 troops, the United States currently has its largest force in Afghanistan since its military involvement there began in October 2001, Pentagon figures showed. “We are winning, but the war is not yet won,”

Army Lt Gen Karl Eikenberry, the top US

commander in Afghanistan, told a Pentagon



## ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ



A 300,000-ton floating dock, the largest of its kind in the world, went into production on 10 May, 2006 in northeast China's coastal city of Dalian. Developed and built by the COSCO Shipyard Group Co, Ltd, the dock, which is 340 metres long, 76 metres wide and 27 metres deep, is capable of repairing 300,000-ton crude oil carriers, bulk freighters, and container ships, and rebuilding or converting other large watercraft.—INTERNET

## Poll finds Blair most unpopular Labour PM since 1960s

LONDON, 10 May—Merely 26 per cent of Britons were satisfied with Prime Minister Tony Blair, making him the most unpopular Labour prime minister since the 1960s, according to the latest opinion poll,

The opinion poll to be published in Wednesday's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said that Blair's satisfaction rating was one percentage point less than Harold Wilson's support rating in May 1968 after a devaluation

of pound sterling. The YouGov survey, in which 1,910 people were questioned online on Monday and Tuesday, also showed that support for Blair's Labor Party stood at 31 per cent, compared with 37 per cent for the Conservatives, the main opposition.

The survey reinforced an opinion poll released on Tuesday which put Labour at its lowest level since 1992. The Populus survey conducted by *The Times* newspaper showed Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown had a respective 30 per cent and 31 per cent support.

MNA/Xinhua

## Poisoned dinner kills three people in Turkey

ANKARA, 10 May—Three people died and 111 others were hospitalized after having a poisoned dinner in a town in Turkey's central province of Nigde, semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Tuesday.

Gevher Nesibe Hospital Head Doctor Professor Mehmet Doganay was quoted as saying that many women and children were brought to hospitals in provinces of Nigde and Kayseri after they had dinner served during a funeral in a house in Karanlikdere hamlet of Bortown in central Anatolian city of Nigde.

MNA/Xinhua

# China says diplomacy is best option for solution to Iranian N-issue

BEIJING, 10 May — China said on Tuesday diplomatic means remain the best option for the solution of the Iranian nuclear issue.

“The Iranian nuclear issue now stands at a critical moment. We urge all parties concerned to remain sober-minded, patient and restrained, show flexibility and refrain from worsening the situation,” Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Liu Jianchao said.

Diplomatic talks are also in the interests of all parties concerned, Liu acknowledged.

Liu also reiterated that the Chinese Government has always disapproved of the use of sanctions or force in international affairs.

The Chinese side hopes that the relevant parties would go on taking a constructive attitude and

resolve the Iranian nuclear issue peacefully through diplomatic means.

Last Wednesday, France and Britain, backed by the United States, proposed a new draft resolution to the UN Security Council demanding Iran suspend all enrichment activities immediately or face possible sanctions.

The draft invokes Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, under which the

Council can resort to economic or diplomatic sanctions, or even military action, to ensure its decisions are implemented.

After intensive discussions on Monday, the foreign ministers of China, the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany failed to reach agreement on the draft UN resolution.

MNA/Xinhua

## ဝက်ပျံ့အား ခေတ်ကျော်ပျံ့



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (L) and Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (R) speak during a news conference after their meeting at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, on 10 May, 2006.—INTERNET



Oxen are guided by Thai officials during an annual Royal Plowing ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 May, 2006. 'The oxen ate grass and drank water, which means that this year the water will be sufficient, and food, vegetable and crops will be plentiful,' Sithiporn Chiraphan, an Agriculture Ministry official, quoted the astrologer as saying.—INTERNET

## Oil price rebounds to \$71.08

LONDON, 10 May— Oil climbed nearly one US dollar a barrel on Tuesday as a solution to Iran's nuclear standoff with the West remained elusive.

London Brent crude settled up 87 cents to 71.08 US dollars a barrel while US light crude gained 92 cents to 70.69 US dollars, off a session high of 71.45 US dollars. US oil ended off 42 cents on Monday following losses of more than one US dollar earlier in the session after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wrote to US President George W Bush.

It was the first letter from an Iranian head of state to a US President since Washington broke off relations after the 1979 Islamic revolution. But the United States was dismissive of the letter, which made no proposals for resolving the West's concerns over Teheran's nuclear ambitions.—MNA/Reuters

## Million in US have poor vision, go without help

CHICAGO, 10 May — About one in 15 Americans has eyesight so poor they could not pass a driver's license vision test but most of them go without correcting the problem, a study released on Tuesday said.

The situation is most severe among Blacks, Hispanics, the poor and those without insurance, said the government report published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

“Our findings suggest that lack of access to health care and insufficient financial resources may prevent some people from getting the corrective lenses they need so they can see well,” said Mary Cotch

of the National Eye Institute, one of the authors of the report.

Elias Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, of which the eye institute is part, said it was the first national survey on vision since the mid-1970s “and it confirms that uncorrected visual impairment is a major public health problem.”

“The good news is that we now have information on the extent of visual

impairment in the United States that will be available to policymakers as they seek to address health care issues at the local, state, and national levels,” he added. The

impaired vision estimate was based on more than 13,000 people whose vision was checked as part of a national health survey done from 1999 to 2002.—MNA/Reuters

## Gold prices hit highest level since 1980

NEW YORK, 10 May— Gold prices surged Tuesday above \$700 an ounce — a level not reached since 1980 — as funds bought into the market, driven by weakness in the dollar, political tension in the Middle East and overall upward momentum in the commodities markets.

These persistent factors have been pushing gold prices to multi-decade

records for months now. Gold has risen 40 percent since late November,

when for the first time in two decades the most-active contract broke through \$500 an ounce.

Surpassing \$700 an ounce “is important, insofar as it reinforces the overall uptrend of the market. There are people looking for much, much higher,” said Bernard Hunter, director of precious metals at Scotia Mocatta, a division of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Hunter said prices will likely consolidate at this level, then once again start heading higher. Some market watchers are expecting gold to breach the \$1,000-an-ounce mark.

June gold futures on the New York Mercantile

Exchange rose to a peak of \$702.20 an ounce Tuesday, before settling at \$701.50 an ounce, up \$21.60 on the day.

If gold does continue rising into the coming weeks, it will mark the first time the yellow metal has spent significant time trading above \$700.

The all-time record, set in January 1980, was \$875 an ounce, but it was reached in a huge day-and-a-half surge, and then gold futures fell “back under \$700 before you could blink an eye,” said Peter Grandich, who writes the mining and metals markets commentary The Grandich Letter.

Internet

## First Belgian smoker convicted for puffing in public place

BRUSSELS, 10 May — For the first time in Belgium, a smoker has been convicted on charges of puffing in a public building.

The defendant lit up in the Youth Courthouse in the northwestern city of Ghent, local media reported on Tuesday. When questioned about what he was doing the guy turned aggressive and refused to put out his cigarette. Because he refused an out-of-court settlement, the smoker was taken to court.

The judge imposed a 143-euro (182 US dollars) fine and recommended that the defendant stop smoking. In Belgium smoking in public buildings can result in a fine of up to 1,650 euros (2,096 dollars) and a two-year prison sentence.

MNA/Xinhua



Gold reserve bars in a bank. Gold prices breached 700 dollars for the first time in 25 and a half years in both London and New York as investors ploughed cash into the precious metal amid rising concerns over the Iranian nuclear crisis.—INTERNET

## Iranian President says awaits reaction to US letter

TEHRAN, 10 May — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran said on Tuesday he was awaiting a reaction to a letter he sent US President George W Bush, although US officials have called it a diversion in a dispute over Teheran's nuclear plans.

In the letter, the first from an Iranian head of state to a US President since Washington broke off relations after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Ahmadinejad said he was proposing "new ways" to resolve many problems facing humanity.

But a copy of the 18-page letter, sent on Monday, showed it focused mainly on alleged American wrongdoings and contained no ideas for ending the standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Asked by reporters about the letter,

Ahmadinejad said: "We will wait to see the reaction of the recipient and we will act based on the reaction."

Ahmadinejad was speaking before leaving for Indonesia to attend a Developing Eight (D-8) summit. US officials were sceptical about the purpose of the letter.

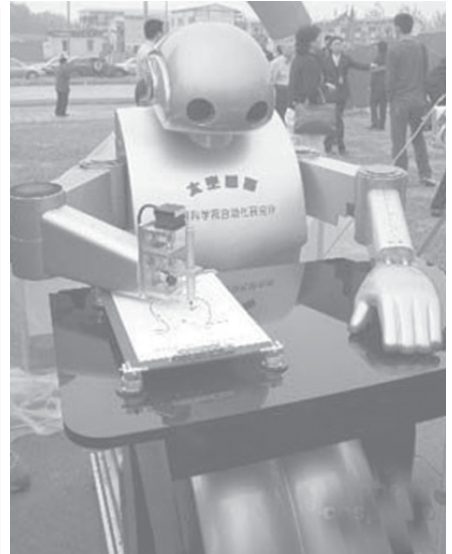
"Certainly one of the hypotheses you'd have to examine is whether and in what way the timing of the dispatch of that letter is connected with trying in some manner to influence the debate before the Security Council," US director of national intelligence John Negroponte said on

Monday. Iran has been reported to the UN Security Council for failing to convince the world that its nuclear programme is purely for civilian purposes, as it says, and not for making weapons as the United States and other Western nations suspect.

MNA/Reuters



The new Opel Antara is presented during the opening of the GM Europe Design Centre in Ruesselsheim, central Germany, on 10 May, 2006.—INTERNET



Beiqi draws for the viewers at the Beijing Olympic Park, on 9 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## Eleven bodies found in Tigris near Baghdad

SUWAYRA (Iraq), 10 May —The bodies of 11 Iraqis, including the headless corpse of a 10-year-old boy, were found dumped in the Tigris River south of Baghdad on Tuesday, police sources said.

The bodies, nine of whom were beheaded, were discovered near the Sunni town of Suwayra, 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Baghdad. Seven of them were wearing Iraqi security forces uniforms.

Police said the victims had been killed four or five days ago. All had their hands tied.

Police could not confirm the motive for the killing but sectarian violence has increased sharply since the February 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine sparked a wave of reprisals.

The dumping of bodies — many of them bearing signs of torture — is a common occurrence in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

## Wildfires trigger state of emergency in Florida

MIAMI, 10 May — Florida Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency and put the National Guard on alert to fight wildfires that have scorched thousands of acres and caused deadly traffic accidents, officials said on Tuesday.

Firefighters battled three major fires and nearly 20 smaller ones that are burning brush, grass and trees throughout the state. While rainstorms were moving

across the parched state on Tuesday, Florida is typically very dry in May, raising the risk of wildfires until the summer afternoon downpours begin in June.

"This is our 'normal' fire season," said John Saddler, a fire manager for the Florida Division of Forestry. Saddler said conditions were so dry that it would take a significant amount of rain to make a difference.

At least four people

have been killed in smoke- and fog-related highway crashes — two in a five-car pile-up on Interstate 95 in Brevard County on Sunday and two in accidents in Palm Beach County on Monday, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Bush declared a state of emergency Monday night and put the National Guard on stand-by alert. National Guard crews prepared three helicopters with giant water buckets to join the fight against the fires. —MNA/Reuters

## Sunstroke kills at least eleven in west India state

NEW DELHI, 10 May — The ongoing heat

wave in west India's Orissa has killed at least 11 people as mercury soared to a maximum of 44 degrees Celsius, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported on Tuesday.

The local government confirmed 11 deaths since last month though local media reported more have died.

The state had been hit by a severe heat wave in May 1998 with about 2,000 people dead. North India's Uttar Pradesh also reported on Monday that the heat wave claimed 16 since last week.

MNA/Xinhua

## Gunmen kidnap two Iraqi Army contractors near Tikrit

TIKRIT (Iraq), 10 May — Unknown gunmen ambushed a civilian car and kidnapped two contractors working for the Iraqi Army on Tuesday, said a source from the US and Iraqi liaison office in Tikrit.

"Unidentified armed men in their car opened fire at the contractor's car and forced them to stop on the main road between Tikrit and Ujwa (Saddam

Hussein's hometown)," the source from the Tikrit Joint Coordination Centre told *Xinhua*. The gunmen dragged the two Iraqi contractors from their car and kidnapped them, he said.

The contractors were providing food for the Iraqi military troops, according to the source.

Meanwhile, gunmen opened fire at a taxi travelling north of Tikrit,

some 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing a person and wounding two others, said the source. The police later identified the victims as Iraqi Army soldiers wearing civilian clothes, added the source.

Guerrillas frequently target contractors working in Iraq, accusing them of being collaborators with the US occupation forces.

MNA/Xinhua



Italian actress Monica Bellucci, the new muse for the Dior's lipstick 'Rouge Dior,' appears during a presentation to launch the beauty product by the French fashion house in Paris, on 10 May, 2006.—INTERNET



**Ivory Coast nurse vaccinates a child against polio in Koumassi in 2005. Ivory Coast is planning to vaccinate more than five million children against polio on both sides of the line dividing the government-held south from the rebel-held north, the Health Ministry said on 10 May, 2006. —INTERNET**

## China's version of WHO report to prevent chronic diseases launched

**BEIJING, 10 May —** The Chinese version of a World Health Organization (WHO) global report on the prevention of chronic diseases was jointly launched by China's Ministry of Health (MOH) and the WHO on Tuesday.

"Without action, an estimated 388 million people will die globally from chronic diseases in the next 10 years. Over 80 million of those deaths will be in China," said Catherine Le Gales-Camus, assistant director-general of the WHO's non-communicable diseases and mental health department.

The report, preventing chronic diseases: a vital investment, focuses on prevention of major chronic conditions, primarily heart disease, strokes, cancer, asthma and diabetes.

Robert Beaglehole, director of the WHO's department of chronic diseases and health promotion, said 80 per cent of chronic disease deaths occurred in low and middle income countries, adding that 35 million died globally in 2005 due to chronic diseases.

Communicable diseases are now the top killer of Chinese people, as they account for around 80 per cent of total deaths in China, which is one of the nine selected countries featured in the report, said Kong Lingzhi, the MOH's senior official in charge of disease control.

China currently has nearly 350 million people smoking cigarettes, 160 million with abnormally high blood pressure and 300 million tipping the scales as either overweight or obese, according to the MOH. —MNA/Xinhua

## Seven killed in E China traffic accident

**HANGZHOU, 10 May—** Seven people were killed and three injured in a traffic pile-up in Lin'an City, East China's Zhejiang Province, on Monday.

The accident occurred at 6:50 am on the city

outskirts when a truck collided with two motored tricycles and a tricycle that came in the opposite direction.

All four vehicles plunged off the road into a field about 4.5 metres below the road.

Five of the 10 people on the tricycle and motored tricycles died at the scene and another died on the way to hospital. The other four were taken to hospital where one died after emergency treatment.

The cause of the accident is under investigation, police say.

MNA/Xinhua

## Egypt, World Bank sign loan deal to fight pollution

**CAIRO, 10 May —** Egypt signed on Monday a soft-loan agreement totalling 20 million US dollars with the World Bank to help the country fight industrial pollution, the official MENA news agency reported.

The loan to be paid back in 20 years with an eight-year grace period will be earmarked for the Second Pollution Abatement Project (SPAP) aimed at diminishing the number of air pollutants emitted by Egyptian factories, said the report.

Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Fayza Abu el-Naga and Emanuel Emby, World Bank office director in Cairo, inked the deal.

In statements after the signing ceremony, Abu el-Naga said that the money would be used for controlling the levels of pollution at industrial facilities and starting environment-friendly services.

Rapid industrialization in the past few years has resulted in some environmental problems in Egypt, especially in the country's capital of Cairo, the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and Suez.

MNA/Xinhua

## Four arrested for stamp investment fraud in Spain

**MADRID, 10 May —** Spanish police have arrested at least four people for an alleged stamp investment fraud, Spanish news media reported on Tuesday.

In the operation, police raided two major stamp collection companies allegedly involved in the investment fraud, which could afflict an estimated 200,000 investors, reports said, quoting police and court sources.

Afinsa Bienes Tangibles, the world's third biggest collectibles firm, and Forum Filatelico are suspected of defrauding money from investors, by a "no-lose" stamp-sales programme based

on overpriced stamps and other collectibles.

The exact amount of money involved was not disclosed by the police, but it is believed that many of the victims are retired people with an average investment of 150 to 300 euros (180 to 360 US dollars).

The investigation of the alleged fraud was a coordinated action launched by the National Court, financial crime prosecutors and tax authorities.

MNA/Xinhua



**An Egyptian farmer works on a field with his cows at the village of Mhalet Ingag in the Nile delta, some 150 km (93 miles) north of Cairo, on 10 May, 2006. —INTERNET**

## Saudi sees oil prices holding strong this decade

**RIYADH, 10 May—** Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said on Tuesday he expected oil prices, just off record highs, to hold steady "this decade" and

reiterated that the world's top exporter was willing to raise its crude output if needed.

Naimi also said global refining capacity will remain a concern for the next four years, and called on consuming and producing nations to lift obstacles facing the industry.

"I believe oil prices during this decade will hold steady," Naimi told a Euromoney conference, but did not give a price range and said price movements are hard to predict.

"As for the kingdom's production, we are willing to increase it if there is a need and the new additions to production will be of light crude."

Oil held near 70 US dollars on Tuesday with US light crude up 15 cents

at 69.92 US dollars a barrel and London Brent up 29 cents at 70.50 US dollars.

Naimi said earlier this month that oil prices above 70 US dollars per barrel are not in the interest of producers or consumers. US oil prices hit record levels above 75 US dollars a barrel last month, partially due to worries that Iran's standoff with Western nations over its nuclear programme could hit Teheran's exports.

OPEC supplies about a third of the world's oil, but has been unable to rein in oil prices. Saudi Arabia, OPEC's top producer, holds the lion's share of the cartel's spare capacity, but has repeatedly said there were no demand for extra barrels of its heavy crude which is more difficult to refine.

MNA/Reuters



**Iraqi soldiers stand on guard outside a damaged market after a suicide bomb attack the previous night in Tal Afar town near Mosul, about 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on 10 May, 2006. —INTERNET**

# Safe Staffing Saves Lives

**Tekkatho Tin Aung**

The 12th of May is the International Day of Nurses. Myanmar joined the International Council of Nurses in 1961.

The theme for this year's International Day of Nurses is "Safe Staffing Saves Lives".

It is known to all that in the past, a nurse named Nightingale holding a lamp in her hand in the dark cared for wounded soldiers and she was then called Nightingale with a lamp.

The Crimean War broke out between England and France in March 1854. Day in, day out Nurse Nightingale gave medical treatments to wounded soldiers stationed inside and outside the barracks in the battlefield. On her return to London after the battle, she was accorded a rousing welcome by Queen Edward VII and citizens, and presented gifts and awarded medals.

She established the first-ever Nightingale Nurses Training School in the compound of St. Thomas Hospital in London in 1860 with £ 50,000 awarded to her by the people. Then, she opened a midwifery training school. Later, there emerged nurses

training schools in many world countries.

Nightingale, the mother of nurses, who pioneered nursing services, passed away at the age of 90 on 13 August 1900.

At the 8th International Red Cross Conference held in London in 1907, Hungary Red Cross Society made a suggestion that persons who showed brilliant performances in nursing services be awarded.

The 9th International Red Cross Conference held in 1908 passed a resolution to set up Florence Nightingale Award and Florence Nightingale Fund in honour of Florence Nightingale, the model in the world of nurses. Nightingale Award came into being on 12 May 1920, the birthday of Nurse Nightingale, and the date was designated as "The International Day of Nurses".

Veteran nurses Daw Khin Ohn Mya, Daw Thein Kyi and Daw M Yaw Nam of Myanmar won Nightingale Award for their brilliant performances in which the nation and the people can take pride. And their brilliant performances are exemplary behaviours for today's youth nurses.

World nations hold commemorative ceremonies to observe the International Day of Nurses on 12 May.

Myanmar also observes the International Day of Nurses by holding talks and essay competitions under the topic of this year's motto "Safe Staffing Saves Lives" in the run-up to the Day and presenting prizes to the winners on 12 May (today), providing educational funds for the children of nurses, honouring nurses who won Medal for Outstanding Performance in Social Field, and paying respects to retired elderly nurses. These ceremonies will be held on a grand scale at respective nurses associations (branches) in hilly regions and plains across the nation.

Only with the development in the public health care sector, can public health care be stepped up, and the public health care sector will be safe.

With this context, the Myanmar Nurses Association is implementing the Community Home Base Care (CHBC) Project in 42 townships in states and divisions. Now, the project is picking up speed thanks to the contribution of local administrative bodies, local residents, social organizations and wellwishers.

I write this article with the conviction that the motto for the International Day of Nurses (2006) will come to fruition by implementing the points delivered by President of the Myanmar Nurses Association Day E Barbaro to urge her fellow nurses:

- (a) to disseminate the art of first aid to the people on a wide scale,
- (b) to enhance knowledge of the people to choose a balanced diet, and
- (c) to contribute towards health care for pregnant women and children.

Translation: MS

**Myanmar also observes the International Day of Nurses by holding talks and essay competitions under the topic of this year's motto "Safe Staffing Saves Lives" in the run-up to the Day and presenting prizes to the winners on 12 May (today), providing educational funds for the children of nurses, honouring nurses who won Medal for Outstanding Performance in Social Field, and paying respects to retired elderly nurses. These ceremonies will be held on a grand scale at respective nurses associations (branches) in hilly regions and plains across the nation.**

## Survey shows Britain tops European jobs' league

LONDON, 11 May — Britain has the worst problem with anti-social behaviour in Europe, fuelled by alcohol and a lack of discipline in homes and schools, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The survey of 7,000 people across six of the biggest European Union member states found 76 per cent thought the problem was worst in Britain, followed by France (75 per cent) and Germany (61 per cent).

Almost 70 per cent thought that "booze culture" caused anti-social behaviour.

"This research is a wake-up call," said Gloria Laycock, a crime researcher at the Jill Dando Institute at University College London, which devised the survey.

Britons have been

frequently condemned as the worst binge drinkers in Europe and the relaxation of laws to allow pubs and bars to apply for round-the-clock opening has not helped that reputation.

"Increasing our access to alcohol cannot be the answer, and it is time that the government addressed perceptions of this problem," Laycock said.

The survey also found that half of respondents thought tougher sentences and punishment would help improve behaviour.

Yobbish behaviour

by Britons abroad, often fuelled by excessive drinking, led the Foreign Office to announce in April that it would start charging fees to help citizens who get in trouble overseas. As thousands of English soccer enthusiasts prepare to travel to Germany this summer for the football World Cup, British police are appealing for good behaviour from fans.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government pledged ahead of last year's election to curb crime, vandalism and drunkenness.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ သူနာပြုအသင်း  
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်  
**အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သူနာပြုနေ့**  
**Safe Staffing Saves Lives**  
ပြုစုအားပြည့်ဝမှု-လုံခြုံစိတ်ချ ပြည်သူ့ဘဝ  
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ (၁၂)ရက်  
သူနာပြုတက္ကသိုလ် (ရန်ကင်း)

*A woman walks into the Pfizer Inc world headquarters building in New York City in this on 15 July, 2002 file photo. The US Food and Drug Administration said on Thursday it approved Pfizer's Chantix tablet to help cigarette smokers stop smoking. — INTERNET*



## Vice-Admiral Soe Thein attends...

(from page 1)

Htidaw Hoisting Team of Defence Services (Air), and those participated in building the pagoda.

After the Htidaw hoisting ceremony, the Sayadaws consecrated the pagoda.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, U Kyaing San

Shwe and wife, U Kyaw Nyunt and officials poured scented water at Bo tree in the precinct of the pagoda. The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu. *MNA*



*Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents Shwekyar Thingan to a Sayadaw.*

*MNA*



*Lt-Gen Myint Swe, U Kyaing San Shwe and U Kyaw Nyunt hoist Seinbudaw (diamond bud) atop Thakya Marazein Pagoda. — MNA*

## Mu River Bridge (Thaphanseik) inaugurated in Kyunhla Township

YANGON, 11 May — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and De-

velopment Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye together with Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to inaugurate Mu River Bridge (Thaphanseik) in Kyunhla Township on 7 May.

Wellwisher of the bridge Managing Director U Tin Maung of Honda Myanmar Co Ltd explained about his contribution to the construction of the bridge. A local thanked for building the bridge.

Chairman of Shwebo District PDC Lt-Col Than Tun, Director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Swe and wellwisher U Tin Maung formally opened the bridge.

The commander unveiled the signboard of the bridge. Next, the commander and the minister planted trees to mark the opening of the bridge.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 11

million by an entrepreneur and K 9.5 million by locals. It is a wooden bridge measuring 235 feet by 18 feet. At Thaphanseik Dam, the commander and the minister heard reports on irrigation of the dam 305,955 acres of farmlands reported by officials.

They also attended the ceremony to put Kyunhla-Thaphanseik gravel road (Thaphanseik) into service near Thaphanseik Village. The commander presented gifts to departments concerned. Afterwards, the commander and the minister viewed participation of locals in the physic nut plant growing ceremony in Kyigon Village of Kyunhla Township. Next, they attended the ceremony to open Kyunhla-Thaphanseik gravel road (Kyunhla).

Kyunhla-Thaphanseik Gravel Road measuring 7.5 miles by 12 feet was built at a cost of K 13.7 million.

*MNA*

## Cash and kind donated to self-reliant libraries in Kachin State

YANGON, 11 May — A ceremony to donate cash, TV sets and radio, and publications to already-opened 1,555 self-reliant libraries in Kachin State undertaken by Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information took place at the city hall of Myitkyina, Kachin State this morning.

Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint made a speech, saying that village self-reliant libraries have been set up for the rural people to gain wide knowledge and for the development of human resources in rural areas. Priority is given to education in order to keep abreast of international community in knowledge age. All the people throughout the nation need to be equipped with correct conviction. Rural people now will have easy access to reading in the libraries. All over the world, our country is the one, which facilitates self-reliant libraries in every village. All are to maintain the libraries for perpetual existence.

Later, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivered an address

saying that in accordance with the guidance of Head of State, self-reliant libraries have been opened in rural areas. Out of 61,949 villages in the country, so far a total of 53,554 villages have been equipped with self-reliant libraries through strength of the State, strength of local people and strength of wellwishers. Donation of the wellwishers will produce benefits for the libraries, he added.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint donated K 1.3 million to the deputy minister for information. The deputy minister also accepted K 100,000 donated by chairperson of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee

Daw Nu Nu Swe, K 100,000 by chairperson of Kachin State WAO Daw Tin Tin Htay, K 2 million by video entrepreneurs and a building and furniture, one generator and 193 various kinds of books worth K 3,114,110 and a set of computer worth K 800,000 by the wellwishers in Myitkyina.

The commander accepted K 2 million donated by the wellwishers and deputy commander K 1.5 million by the wellwishers, and Brig-Gen Zaw Htun of Myitkyina Station K 1.2 million by the wellwishers.

Director U Maung Pe of IPRD also accepted K 100,000 each by the entrepreneurs of Myitkyina Township, a

total of 225 books worth K 178,250, CD-ROM and Myanmar Encyclopedia worth K 150,000 by U Gee Nat of KMD and KMD (Bhamo), a set of TV and satellite worth K 310,000, a set of TV and VCD worth K 306,000 and sets of TV, radio and publications.

After that, the commander and the deputy minister greeted those present and the ceremony ended.

Today's donation amounted to K 31,438,329 in cash.

Also present at the ceremony were senior military officers, local authorities, members of USDA, social organizations and wellwishers

*MNA*



*Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts cash for self-reliant village libraries from wellwishers. — MNA*

## Myanmar to attend Int'l Federation of Customs Brokers Association Conference

YANGON, 11 May — President of Myanmar Customs Brokers Association U Myo Thant and Executive Daw Mya Mya left here by air today to participate in the conference of International Federation of Customs Brokers Association to be held from 13 to 16 May in Beijing, People's Republic of China. The Federation was based in Ottawa, Canada.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials.

*MNA*



## Thriving physic nut plantations, nurseries...

(from page 16)

dredging of diversion canals at the dam, and upgrading of Thittatkon diversion weir for ensuring more storage of water. While in Myitha Township, they inspected quality paddy, pre-monsoon long staple cotton and physic nut plantations.

At the junction of Wundwin, Thazi and Meiktila townships near mile post 351/2 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attended the physic nut plants cultivation ceremony of Meiktila District.

They also viewed 170 acres of physic nut plantations of Taw Win Co near Tamagon Village in Wundwin Township and similar plantations of

Meiktila District Police Force and departments concerned.

They also inspected thriving physic nut plantations of private entrepreneurs. In Meiktila, they attended the physic nut plant cultivation ceremony in Meiktila Station and viewed harvesting of Myaseinyaung strain summer paddy at Ground Training Base.

Next, they also attended the ceremony to grow physic nut saplings at the air base.

In the afternoon, they inspected 3.5 acres of physic nut plantation in Pyawbwe Township General Administration Department and 12 acres of the plantation in Yamethin Township. At night, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived back Nay Pyi Taw City. —MNA



**Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects thriving Myaseinyaung strain paddy plantation of Ground Training Base. — MNA**

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets...

(from page 16)

township levels and members of social organizations. First, Secretary of Toungoo District PDC Maj Thein Htay and Chairman of Bago District PDC Lt-Col Aung Min reported on cultivation of summer paddy, beans and crops, physic nut plants and arrangements for monsoon paddy and regional facts.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported on measures in the fields of economic, education, health, social welfare, agriculture and breeding as well as arrangements to be made for cultivation of 3 million

monsoon paddy in Bago Division during 2006-2007.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech on the occasion, saying that departmental personnel were to take cooperative measures with the local people in the drive for raising of living standard of State's service personnel and the local people. The officials at division, district and township levels were to carry out the development tasks of the State with concerted efforts to be more successful. Bago Division is one of the six leading divisions of the State. The

service personnel were to step up the sustained economic development. According to the reports by the officials concerned, achievements had been found in the agricultural sector exceeding the target. Not only cultivation of paddy but also ten main crops and perennial crops would be extended to earn foreign exchanges for the State. The departmental officials were to render assistance to the local peasants. The departmental personnel, the local people and members of social organizations were to carry out extended cultivation of physic nut

plants which could produce bio-fuel. The basic requirements of the development of the State were peace and stability, economic development and development of intellectual property. The Head of State laid down 24 - region development and five rural development tasks and border areas development projects to be implemented. The Government was taking measures for the equitable development in the State and the service personnel were to participate in the development tasks with harmonious efforts. The officials and the local peasants were to try their best to cultivate 400,000 summer paddy and 3 million monsoon paddy, urged Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

Upon arrival at Thaukyekhat hydel power project in Htonebo village, 12 miles from Taungoo, Director of Hydel Power Department Construction-3 U Tint Lwin briefed Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on the location of the project and progress of work.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of the project and

inspected places chosen for building dam and hydel power plant.

Construction group-3 of the Hydel Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power would construct Thaukyekhat hydel power station. When completed, it is to produce 670 million kilowatt hours per year.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Ketumadi all-round crops plantation in Southern Command where the plantation in-charge Lt-Col Pyone Cho reported on cultivation of sugarcane and perennial crops, reclamation of farmlands and measures for extended growing of crops and assistance of the department. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave supplementary reports.

In connection with

the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on reclamation of farmlands and growing of marketable crops to exceed the target. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into reclamation of farmlands and cultivation of crops. Ketumadi all-round crops plantation is located between Kyunkon village and Doinn village near Yangon-Mandalay Highway. 2000 acres of fallow and vacant land were reclaimed and sugarcane was cultivated on 900 acres and paddy on 400 acres. Arrangements were made for extended growing of paddy and sugarcane on the remaining acres during 2006-2007.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than returned to Nay Pyi Taw City in the evening. —MNA



**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence presents physic nut saplings to an officer. — MNA**

## Football coaches course concludes



**MFF President U Zaw Zaw presents gift to instructor Mr Rovert Lim Lee Huat at conclusion of course for B licence football coach. — NLM**

YANGON, 11 May—The conclusion of the third B licence football coaches course jointly organized by the Asian Football Federation and the Myanmar Football Federation took place at the National Football Training Centre this afternoon.

General Secretary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik and course instructor Mr Rovert Lim Lee Huat of the AFF delivered speeches. The director-general presented completion certificates to the newly-graduated coaches.

Twenty-two persons completed the course that was launched on 20 April. — MNA

## Myaing Hay Wun Food Centre celebrates its 10th anniversary

YANGON, 11 May—Myaing Hay Wun Food Centre at 8th-mile junction here held its 10th anniversary celebration today at the centre in conjunction with the special sales to mark the 10th anniversary.

The shops of Dumex, Preety-T, Yay Nan Thu Zar, Wai Di, Golden Bell, S IIM, Li Fashion, Paramount, Ninesix, Ever Top, Walco, Green Elephant were staged at the sales which will last 13 May.

At the celebration, lucky draw programme was also held. Operation Manager Daw May Thu Myint acted as till master of ceremonies and Managing Director Daw Own Mar Myint extended greetings. —MNA



**A staff presents prize to a winner at 10th anniversary of Myaing Hay Wun Food Centre.—MNA**

## Bo trees poured with scented water at pagodas on Fullmoon Day of Kason

YANGON, 11 May — Today is Fullmoon Day of Kason when Buddhist devotees pour scented water at Bo trees yearly in commemoration of paying homage to Paribhoga Zedi dedicated to the Lord Buddha.

On Fullmoon Day of Kason, famous pagodas and religious buildings were thronged with devotees and pilgrims, and people offered water, lights, flowers and joss sticks to the pagodas and Buddha images.

Organized by the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the 23rd ceremony to pour water at Bo tree was held at Maha Bo Tree at the north-east corner of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. On the occasion, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the pagoda board of trustees and devotees poured water at Bo trees.

A similar ceremony took place at Sule Pagoda at 9 am. Members of the Sangha, members of the pagoda board of trustees and religious association took part in the water pouring ceremony. The Bo tree at Sule Pagoda was packed



World famous Shwedagon Pagoda being crowded with Buddhist pilgrims on 11 May (Fullmoon Day of Kason). —NLM

with devotees from the morning to the evening.

At Botahtaung Pagoda, a ceremony to hoist Htidaw (umbrella), Seinbudaw (diamond bud), and Hngetmyatnadaw atop Maggin

Dhamma Zedi was held this morning. It was attended by Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung

Than Win and officials. In the afternoon, the ceremony to pour water at Bo tree was held at Botahtaung Pagoda. Till evening, Buddhist devotees poured water at the Bo tree.

The eighth water pouring ceremony took place at Bo tree of Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) at 9 am today. Secretary of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Myat Hla explained the purpose of pouring water at Maha Bo tree.

Later, the pagoda board of trustees, pilgrims and devotees poured water to the Bo tree.

Similar ceremonies were held at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Shwephonepint, Kyaikwaing, Kyaikkasan, Moegaung, Ngadatgyi, Chaukhtetkyee, Koehetkyee, Meilamu and other pagodas in Yangon from the morning to the evening.

In addition, ceremonies to pour water at Bo trees were held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning. On the occa-

sion, Chairman of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association Ven Mok Tak, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and departmental officials poured water at the Bo tree.

Likewise, Myanmar Budh Gaya Missionary Organization and Hninzigon Home for the Aged observed the ceremony to mark the Buddhist Day which falls on Fullmoon Day of Kason by pouring water at Bo trees at the respective venues.

MNA



Buddhist devotees pour water at Bo Tree in the compound of Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) on 11 May (Fullmoon Day of Kason). — NLM

### Fullmoon Day of Kason observed at Loka Marajin Buddha Image

YANGON, 11 May— The 11th Patthan reciting ceremony of the Loka Marajin Buddha Image took place along with the pouring of water at the Bo tree in the compound of No 1

Waing Monastery on Parami Road, South Okkalapa Township here this afternoon.

Members of the Sangha recited parittas. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nāninda delivered a ser-

mon, followed by sharing of merits.

Members of the Sangha and lay persons poured water at the Bo tree in the pagoda precinct.

MNA



Girls pouring water at Bo Tree in the compound of Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda on 11 May (Fullmoon Day of Kason). — NLM



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, on 10 May, 2006. Stocks edged lower on Wednesday before a Federal Reserve meeting expected to result in an interest rate increase.—INTERNET

## Study says women attracted to men who like children

LONDON, 11 May — Women can pick up cues about how men feel about children from their faces and use the subtle signs to rate them as potential partners, scientists said on Wednesday.

The team of researchers from the United States showed that an affinity for children and male hormone levels play a role in determining how attractive men are to women.

"Our data suggest that men's interest in children predicts their long-term mate attractiveness even after we account for how physically attractive the women rated the men," said James Roney of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In the study of nearly 70 men and women, an interest in children was linked to long-term partnership potential while women were attracted to men with higher testosterone levels as short-term romantic mates.

"The study provides the first direct evidence that women's attractiveness judgments specifically track both men's affinity for children and men's hormone concentrations," said Dario Maestripieri of the University of Chicago, and a co-author of the study.

MNA/Reuters

## HK Customs seizes 3.9 tons of elephant tusks

HONG KONG, 11 May — Hong Kong Customs officers have seized 3.9 tons of unmanifested elephant tusks, worth about eight million Hong Kong dollars (103,305 US dollars), from a 40-foot container in Kwai Chung.

Hong Kong Customs examined the container with the mobile X-ray vehicle scanning system at Kwai Chung Customhouse on Tuesday and found the elephant tusks inside a concealed compartment.

The container originated from Douala, Cameroon, and was shipped to Hong Kong on 3 May. It was declared to be carrying timber.

Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department confirmed the elephant tusks were scheduled endangered species listed under the Animals & Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance. — MNA/Xinhua

## Putin sees arms race booming at new technological level

Moscow, 11 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday urged the international community to pay attention to the fact that the arms race has reached a new technological level.

"It is too early to speak about an end to the arms race. In fact, it is unfolding, and has reached a new technological level, thus posing a threat of the appearance of an arsenal of so-called destabilizing weapons," Putin said in his annual state of the nation address at Kremlin.

"Since guarantees that weapons, including nuclear ones, will not be taken to outer space are still lacking, there is a threat of creating and spreading nuclear low-yield explosives," Putin said.

"Moreover, the mass media and experts discuss the possibility of using intercontinental ballistic missiles without nuclear warheads," the President said. "The launch of such a missile may result in inadequate response from a nuclear state, including full-scale retaliation using strategic nuclear forces."

"At the same time, not all have managed to escape from the stereotypes of bloc thinking and the prejudices we inherited from the era of global confrontation, despite

radical changes in the world.

And this seriously hampers the search for adequate and joint responses to common problems," the President said.

Therefore, Putin said Russia's military and foreign policy doctrines should provide answers to the most urgent problems, including how to fight not only terror, but also "the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons in present-day conditions and along with our partners."

MNA/Xinhua

## US states underestimate obesity problem

NEW YORK, 11 May — The obesity problem in individual US states appears much greater than official health surveys have indicated, according to a new study.

The problem, researchers found, is that the telephone surveys used to estimate states' obesity rates are prone to error — namely, that female respondents underestimate their weight, on average, while men often add inches to their actual height.

National estimates of the obesity epidemic, however, are more on target, because the methodology used is different.

It is estimated that one third of US adults are obese, and that national statistic is probably a close reflection of reality, according to Dr Majid Ezzati, an associate professor of international health at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

But, Ezzati told Reuters Health, his team's findings indicate that individual states' obesity levels are "grossly underestimated".

The disparity between national and state-level obesity estimates stems from differences in how the data are collected by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Nationwide data are gathered through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), where respondents are interviewed in person about their height and weight, and then asked to have a physical exam.

State statistics are

collected via the Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System (BFRSS), which asks respondents to give their height and weight over the phone.

By comparing infor-

mation from this survey with data from the NHANES project, Ezzati and his colleagues found that every US state's obesity burden was underestimated.— MNA/Reuters



From left to right, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Fayza Aboulnaga, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda and Turkish Minister of State Kursad Tuzmen examine Indonesian spices during a tour of a trade exhibition after the opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting of the D-8 Summit in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, on 11 May, 2006. Ministers from the D-8 group of developing countries began meeting on Thursday to lay the groundwork for a summit this weekend. —INTERNET

## Indian police seize explosives in west city

NEW DELHI, 11 May — Indian police seized a huge cache of explosives and weapons in Aurangabad City of west India Maharashtra, NDTV reported Wednesday.

The police found more than 30 kilogrammes

of RDX, which are used for making high impact bombs, 47 rifles, 40 magazines and 2,000 rounds of live ammunition when raiding an undisclosed location in Aurangabad, according to the Anti-Terrorist Squad of the

Mumbai police.

One person was arrested and two others were detained, the police source said, adding that they are believed to be operatives of Lashkar-e-Toiba.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thunderstorms kill 3 in Texas

WASHINGTON, 11 May — At least three people were killed in the southern US state of Texas when thunderstorms hit the state overnight, media reports said on Wednesday. An elderly couple died in a destroyed mobile home in Collin County and a teenager was found dead in a home in neighbouring Grayson County, the Associated Press reported.

The storms destroyed at least 26 homes, and 10 people were hospitalized and dozens of others were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Neighbouring Arkansas was also hit by storms early Wednesday.

Meanwhile, US experts on Wednesday urged residents living in storm-prone Florida to brace for the worst and hope for the best during the Atlantic hurricane season between 1 June and 30 November, saying that they could not rule out another disaster like last year's Hurricane Katrina, which killed over 13,000 people.

Experts at the University of Colorado predicted nine hurricanes, five of them particularly intense, to form in the Atlantic basin during the hurricane season this year.

MNA/Xinhua

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Yangon, Myanmar

**Invitation to Tender Notice**

Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Ceramic Industries for a 500 tpd Cement Manufacturing Plant which is to be established at Tatkone Township, Mandalay Division. Tender forms and detail informations are available on payment of Kyats 20000/- (Twenty thousand only) at Myanma Ceramic Industries, Planning Department within Office hour, starting from 10th May, 2006. Closing Date of Tender is 8th June, 2006 (Thursday) (15:00) hour, Myanmar Standad Time. Please contact Phone No. 562036, 578226 for detail information.

**Managing Director  
Myanma Ceramic Industries**

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE & REVENUE  
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
INCOME TAX DIRECTORATE**

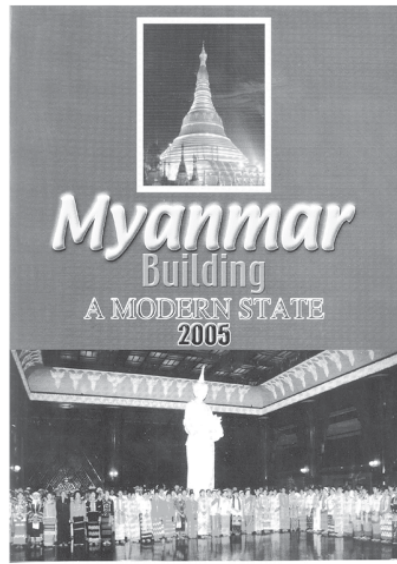
**NOTICE FOR FILING OF RETURN OF  
INCOME**

- All Co-operative societies which have been assessed to tax under the Income Tax Law and those Co-operative societies having income amounting to Kyats 30001 and above during the income year 2005-2006 are also required to file the return of income, duly filled-in and signed by the chairman or the secretary of the society concerned, in the respective Township Revenue Offices not later than 30 June 2006. Moreover, Companies, Joint venture enterprises and other taxpayers who are covered by the Income Tax Law are also required to file the return of income duly filled-in and properly signed in the respective Township Revenue Office not later than aforesaid date.
- Persons having income amounting to Kyats 30001 and above solely under the head "Salaries" during the income year 2005-2006 are not required to file the return of income in respect of their salary income as the tax had been paid thereon by way of deduction at source. However, the employer is responsible for furnishing the Annual Salary Statement in the respective Township Revenue Office not later than 30 June 2006.
- Prescribed forms of return of income and Annual Salary Statement are available free of charge at the Township Revenue Offices. The Return can be filed in the person or sent by registered post. A receipt will be issue by the Township Revenue Office concerned in case the return is filed in person.
- Further information can be obtained from Township Revenue Offices and Companies Circle Tax Office.

**(Thein Naing)  
Director  
Income Tax Directorate  
Internal Revenue Department**



Local villagers of Baiquanzi village water the land, which was left unused for 2 years because of the consecutive drought, in Zhongning County, Northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on 9 May, 2006. Most areas in the middle part of this region have had no effective rain for more than 600 days. Effective actions have been carried out by local government and farmers to enhance the irrigation work in the struggles against the severe drought.—INTERNET



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**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ  
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့**

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**Workshop on bird flu opens for  
Cambodian journalists**

PHNOM PENH, 10 May— A two-day workshop on bird flu opened here Monday by Cambodian Information Minister Khieu Kanharith for print, radio and television journalists. The back-to-back workshop was part of the overall support of the United Nations to the government's

efforts to combat the spread of bird flu.

The workshop aims to improve journalists' awareness of basic information on bird flu, high risk, behaviours, practical prevention measures and recognition and response to bird flu in animals and humans.

"Through the workshop, UNICEF wants to help Cambodian journalists do their job better and be able to contribute to the national efforts to prevent and control the spread of Avian influenza," said Mare Vergard, chief of Communication under UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

According to the World Health Organization figures, bird flu has killed more than 100 people worldwide since late 2003. Cambodia has 6 people killed by the virus and two of them were killed this year.

MNA/Xinhua

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Yangon. 12 May 2006

**Vietnam to  
prosecute 33  
for heroin  
production**

HANOI, 10 May— Vietnam will prosecute 33 local people for producing heroin from opium at large scale in the country, local newspaper *People's Army* reported on Tuesday.

A 48-year-old man named Trinh Nguyen Thuy and 32 underlings made 48 kilos of heroin out of 500 kilos of opium in the capital city of Hanoi and its neighbouring province of Bac Ninh. They had also traded and transported 576.5 cakes of heroin (nearly 201.8 kilos) and 700 kilos of opium until Thuy's arrest last August.—MNA/Xinhua

**Indonesia supports Iran nuclear  
programme for peaceful means**

JAKARTA, 10 May— Indonesia supported Iran's nuclear proliferation programme for peaceful means, but rejected its use for military purpose, Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said here on Tuesday.

He made these remarks just before Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad starts his six-day visit to Indonesia on Tuesday. He said that President Ahmadinejad will discuss nuclear issue with his Indonesian counterpart President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Wednesday. "Therefore it is the first chance for us to hear directly from President Ahmadinejad about what is the response of Iran on the matter being discussed in New York now," Wirajuda said, adding "We support the nuclear proliferation for peace purpose, for energy, because it is the principal right of each country."—MNA/Xinhua

**Three teenagers arrested over  
bank robberies in Canada**

OTTAWA, 10 May — Police in Vancouver area in western Canada have arrested three teens under age 15 in connection with a string of bank robberies in the surrounding Lower Mainland area.

The teen were arrested on Saturday. They are suspected of involvement in the robbery of two Vancouver banks, as well as a string of other bank robberies, local media cited police as saying Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

Golden jubilee celebrations of ascent of 2 peaks marked in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 11 May — Nepal organized the Mt Manaslu and Mt Lhotse Golden Jubilee Symbolic Celebration in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Mt. Manaslu and Mt Lhotse, state-run Radio Nepal reported here Wednesday.

Japanese mountaineer Toshio Imanishi and Nepalese national Gyalzen Sherpa were the first who conquered the 8,163-metre-high Mt Manaslu, the eighth highest peak in the world, on 9 May, 1956.

A Swiss expedition comprising Ernst Reiss and Fritz Luchinger had first reached the summit of the 8,516-metre-high Mt Lhotse, the fourth highest peak in the world, on 18 May, 1956.

Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil

Aviation of Nepal Govinda Prasad Pandey affixed the first cancellation mark of the first day issue of postage stamp of Mt Manaslu and Mt Lhotse at the function.

“Nepali Government has given high priority on the development of mountain tourism, and has begun a tradition of celebrating golden jubilee of the first ascent of the mountains higher than 8,000 metres of the country,” Pandey said at the function.

Japanese Ambassador

to Nepal Tsutomu Hiraoka said it was a matter of pride that the first mountaineer to scale Mt Manaslu and the first woman to ascent Mt Qomolangma from Nepali side were Japanese nationals, and it justifies the keen interest of Japanese people on Nepalese mountains and the Himalayan range.

MNA/Xinhua



Visiting pilgrims play Swiss horns during the weekly general audience by Pope Benedict XVI in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, on 10 May, 2006.— INTERNET

BSkyB signs English soccer TV deal with Setanta

LONDON, 10 May — Subscriptions paid by pubs and clubs to UK pay TV company BSKyB will include the English Premier League soccer games for which Irish pay-TV company Setanta has won the rights from 2007, BSKyB said.

“In addition, Sky and Setanta have reached an agreement in principle under which Setanta's Premiership coverage will also be available to residential customers on the digital satellite platform,” British Sky Broadcasting Group said in a statement on Tuesday.

BSkyB's commercial customers will now be able to receive all 138 live Premiership matches each season without the need for separate subscriptions or a new delivery platform.

On May 5, BSKyB won the rights to broadcast two thirds of 138 live top-flight English soccer matches per season for three years starting in 2007, with Setanta winning the other 46 games.

BSkyB is paying nearly twice as much per game as it did for its existing deal and is losing exclusivity, while less well-known Setanta is positioning itself to attract more British TV watchers by landing the games.

MNA/Reuters



This is an effect photo of the new China Science and Technology Museum. The foundation-laying ceremony for the museum was held on 9 May, 2006. Located in the National Olympic Park, the new site for the museum possesses an area of 48 thousand square metres and will be partially opened to public during the 2008 Olympic Games.—INTERNET

Mauritius tourism arrivals up 8.3% in April

PORT LOUIS, 10 May — Tourist arrivals in Mauritius rose 8.3 per cent in April over the same month a year ago, mainly due to peak season Easter holidays for the island's leisure industry, officials said on Tuesday.

The number of tourists visiting Mauritius was 57,361 in April against 52,971 in the same month of 2005, a Tourism Ministry report said.

Tourism is a vital economic pillar for Mauritius, along with textiles, sugar and financial services, with

the tiny island paradise attracting more than 700,000 visitors and generating around 800 million US dollars every year.

“It's mainly because of the Easter holiday which is always a good time for us and while we didn't see that much growth in

our traditional market, Europe, we did see growth in arrivals from Asia, Africa and America,” a tourism official said.

Arrivals from Europe, which accounts for more than 60 per cent of the total, rose by only 0.5 per cent in April.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam trials bird flu vaccine production

HANOI, 10 May — Vietnam is producing poultry vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 on a trial basis, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

The Veterinary Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has instructed the Central Veterinary Medicine Company to make 200,000 doses of H5N1 vaccines, the agency quoted the institute's director Truong Van Dung as saying.

He said the institute has also researched into how to vaccinate ducks at younger age.

If ducks are vaccinated against H5N1 as early as they are just one day old, it would facilitate bird flu prevention.

Vietnam has so far this year vaccinated over 70 million fowls in 57 cities and provinces nationwide, the ministry's Department of Animal Health said, noting that the country plans to complete the first batch of vaccination among 120 million poultry by early June, and conduct the second batch on the same fowls between August and October.

MNA/Xinhua



Michael O'Leary, chief executive of Irish low-fare airline Ryanair, simulates a take-off in a Ryanair aircraft before a news conference at Marignane airport in Marseilles, France, on 10 May, 2006. European low-cost carrier Ryanair named Marseille in France as its latest base on Wednesday as it continues to expand in continental Europe.—INTERNET

China agriculture fair to attract record exhibitors

BEIJING, 10 May — The Fourth China Agricultural Trade Fair (CATF) is due to attract a record number of exhibitors when it opens in Beijing on 16 October for a five-day run.

Vice-Minister of Agriculture Niu Dun said at a preparatory conference on Tuesday that the fourth CATF would attract more exhibitors and buyers from Russia, the United States, the ASEAN and other countries and regions. The fourth CATF would continue to maintain a special area for enterprises and products from Taiwan, said Niu.

To mark the start of the Chinese Government's campaign to create a new socialist countryside, the latest China-made agricultural products and technologies would debut at the CATF. The annual CATF is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, and supported by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

## SPORTS

## Liverpool's Reina wins Premier League Golden Gloves Award

LONDON, 11 May — Liverpool's Spanish goalkeeper Pepe Reina has won the Premier League's Golden Gloves Award after keeping 20 clean sheets this season.

Reina's performances put him ahead of Manchester United's Dutch keeper Edwin van der Sar (18) and last year's winner Czech Petr Cech of champions Chelsea (17).

American Brad Friedel of Blackburn Rovers and German Jens Lehman of Arsenal (both 16) completed the top five.

The 23-year-old Reina, who joined Liverpool last July from Villarreal for six million pounds (11.19 million US dollars), made 33 league appearances after replacing Jerzy Dudek as first choice.

Reina helped Liverpool reach the Champions League first knockout round, where they were eliminated by Benfica, and the FA Cup final, which they played against West Ham United on Saturday.

They also finished third in the Premier League with 82 points to secure a Champions League qualifying place.

"He (Reina) has used this season as a springboard on to the international scene and has seen off the challenge of some world class players to keep the most clean sheets," said Matt Appleby of Barclays, whose company makes the award.

Reina began his career with Barcelona and made his debut for the Catalan side at aged 18. He was on the losing side against Liverpool in the 2001 UEFA Cup semifinal. — MNA/Reuters



Trinidad and Tobago's Collins Samuel (12) attacks Clayton Ince of Peru during a friendly match held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 10 May, 2006. The match ended in a draw. Trinidad's team had already qualified for this summer's World Cup in Germany. — INTERNET

## Osasuna coach Aguirre to leave at end of season

MADRID, 11 May — Osasuna coach Javier Aguirre has told his players he will leave the Primera Liga club at the end of the season.

"It's his decision and he has taken it for a reason," Osasuna midfielder David Lopez told a news conference on Wednesday.

"He has been here four years, has done very well, and now he has a chance to go to a bigger team. We understand the decision and wish him all the best."

The former Mexico coach, whose contract ends in June, has been linked

with a move to replace Pepe Murcia at Atletico Madrid.

The 47-year-old led Osasuna to their first King's Cup final last June, where they lost 2-1 to Real Betis, and has taken them into Europe the last two seasons.

The Navarrans, who are fourth in the Primera Liga with one game left to play, are on course to make it into the Champions League for the first time next season.

Unsettled Deportivo Coruna coach Joaquin Caparros is a target for Osasuna to replace

## Sevilla beats Middlesbrough 4-0 to lift UEFA Cup

BRUSSELS, 11 May — Sevilla trounced Middlesbrough 4-0 Wednesday in the UEFA Cup final in Eindhoven, the Netherlands to clinch its first European trophy.

The harsh final score spoiled the farewell game for Middlesbrough coach Steve McClaren, who will take over England for Sven-Goran Eriksson after the World Cup.

Enzo Maresca scored two goals, and Mali's Frederic Kanoute and Brazil's Luis Fabiano each added one for Sevilla.

Middlesbrough got close around the hour-mark with a few good chances and a disputed penalty incident, but the English team was left to rue an easy opportunity missed by striker Mark Viduka, who could not get past goalkeeper Andres Palop from close range in the 52nd minute.

Middlesbrough, which twice faced elimination and a three-goal deficit in the quarterfinals and semifinals, could not pull off such a feat in the final against a more sophisticated side.

Sevilla's first goal in the 27th was the product of teamwork and highlighted a Latin touch.

While Argentina forward Javier Saviola lured one defender away from the centre, Luis Fabiano moved into the open space where he was served a perfect cross from right back Daniel Alves. Luis

Fabiano produced a header as powerful as it was delicate, flicking it off the right post for the opener.

Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, playing with a protective mask after his cheekbone was broken two weeks ago, still lunged at the ball but could not keep it out.

The 33-year-old Australian, who is to play for his country at the World Cup, was making his first start since he was hurt in a collision with West Ham striker Dean Ashton on April 23 in a 1-0 loss in the English

FA Cup semifinals.

Middlesbrough forwards fared badly. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was noteworthy for his complaints to the referee and Viduka's most dangerous action came in front of his own goal late in the first half when he miscued a clearance that whistled past his own goalmouth.

Middlesbrough though, had recovered from worse. Twice it was three goals down and recovered to reach the final, and each time Massimo Maccarone scored the decider.

So it was no surprise

that McClaren brought on the Italian in the second half, but it at first exposed more holes in defence. Kanoute barely missed an open header in the 48th minute, and two minutes later Adriano curled a shot wide.

Then came the moment which might have turned the match. Chris Riggott headed to Viduka, who was wide open 6 metres from the line, but he could not finish it off.

Despite a terrifying blast, Palop threw himself at the ball and pulled off the save of the match in the 52nd. — MNA/Xinhua



Sevilla's Frederic Kanoute scores his side's 4th goal during the UEFA Cup final soccer match between FC Sevilla and Middlesbrough FC in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, on 10 May, 2006. Sevilla won the match 4-0. — INTERNET

## Tower sphere turned into giant ball for World Cup

BERLIN, 11 May — The sphere of Deutsche Telekom's television tower in Berlin has been transformed into a giant soccer ball, a month before the start of the World Cup.

More than 8,000 pink and silver strips — the col-

ours of World Cup sponsor Deutsche Telekom — were attached to the "visitor's globe" by climbers hanging on cables.

The decoration will stay on the 368-metre tower, which was built in Communist East Berlin in 1969, for 60 days.

The World Cup begins on 9 June and the final will be played in Berlin on 9 July.

MNA/Reuters

## German soccer official criticizes FIFA referee choice

BERLIN, 11 May — A German soccer official has criticized FIFA's choice of World Cup referees and said UEFA Cup final referee Herbert Fandel should have been picked.

"One referee who usually only works in the student city league in Singapore is going to the World Cup and Fandel is sent off into the cold — and no one knows why," Manfred Amerell, referee

spokesman for the German Football Association (DFB), said on Wednesday.

He said Norway's Terje Hauge should also have been among the 23 referees chosen by FIFA for the finals starting on 9 June.

"You can't treat the public as if they're dumb," said Amerell. "If he (FIFA president Sepp Blatter) talks about the best referees, then a couple of the best, at least from Europe, are missing."

FIFA's referees committee made its decision after fitness tests at a workshop in Germany in April.

Fandel, 42, will take charge of Wednesday's UEFA Cup final between Middlesbrough of England and Sevilla of Spain in Eindhoven.

MNA/Reuters



Vera Zvonareva from Russia returns a ball during her second round match against her compatriot Nadia Petrova during the German Open tennis tournament in Berlin, on 10 May, 2006. Petrova defeated Zvonareva 6-1, 7-6 (7-3). — INTERNET

# Poll shows Americans have bleaker view of country's direction

WASHINGTON, 11 May — Americans currently have a bleaker view of the country's direction than at any time in more than two decades, according to the latest *New York Times*/CBS News poll published on Wednesday.

Seventy per cent of respondents to the poll said the country was heading in the wrong direction, compared with 23 per cent who said they approved of the direction in which the country was heading.

The findings suggested that Americans were more pessimistic about the country's direction than at any time in the 23 years that the *Times* and CBS News have asked the question.

US President George W. Bush's approval rat-

ings for his handling of foreign policy, Iraq and the economy have fallen to the lowest levels of his presidency in the poll. Only 39 per cent of respondents said going to war in Iraq was the correct decision, down from 47 per cent in January, and two thirds said they had little or no confidence that Bush could successfully end the war.

Sixty-three per cent disapproved of the President's handling of foreign policy in general. On the

issues that have been at the top of the national agenda in recent months, in particular immigration and gasoline prices, just 13 per cent approved of Bush's handling of rising gasoline prices, and about a quarter said they approved of his handling of

immigration.

Bush's overall job approval rating has hit a new low of 31 per cent in the poll, the lowest approval rating of any president in 50 years; only Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter were viewed less favourably.—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Syria tells Western countries not to meddle in its internal affairs

UNITED NATIONS, 11 May — The United States and other Western countries should stop meddling

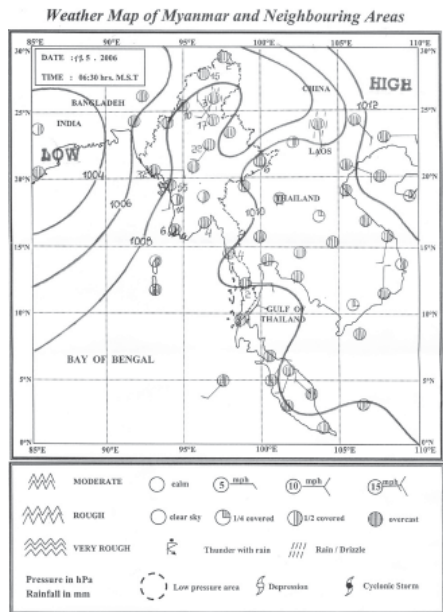
in the internal affairs of Syria and Lebanon, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Fayssal Mekdad said on Tuesday.

The remarks came as France has worked out a draft resolution in the UN Security Council urging Syria to respond to Lebanon's call to establish formal diplomatic ties and demarcate their common border.

"I think what they have to do is to have Syria and Lebanon solve their own problems. They have nothing to do with Lebanon," Mekdad told reporters.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her French counterpart Philippe Douste-Blazy were to meet at the UN late Tuesday to discuss the Syria-Lebanon issue.

*MNA/Xinhua*



### WEATHER

Thursday, 11 May, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States and scattered in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures was Hpa-an (38°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Katha and Kyaukpyu (2.25) inches each, Mogok (1.77) inches, Ann (1.34) inches, Sittway (1.26) inches, Mandalay (0.87) inch, Magway (0.67) inch and Kengtung (0.63) inch.

Maximum temperature on 10-5-2006 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 11-5-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 11-5-2006 was (76%). Total sunshine hours on 10-5-2006 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 11-5-2006 were (0.23) inch at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (6.10) inches at Mingaladon, (8.03) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.59) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (15:45) hours MST on 10-5-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 12-5-2006:** Widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Rain or thundershowers are likely in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 12-5-2006:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 12-5-2006:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 12-5-2006:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to Italy's Potito Starace during the second round of the Rome Masters tennis tournament, in Rome, on Wednesday, 10 May, 2006. Federer won 6-3, 7-6 (2). INTERNET



Friday, 12 May  
View on today

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**  
2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဒ္ဒါဂါရိက၊ အပ္ပမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာ ဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am**  
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**  
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**  
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**  
6. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍနည်း
- 8:00 am**  
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:05 am**  
8. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:15 am**  
9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am**  
10. ကျောက်ကြီးပေါက်တံတား
- 8:30 am**  
11. International news
- 8:45 am**  
12. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**  
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**  
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**  
5. အခင်းသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းစဉ် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနစ် (သင်္ချာအလှူပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:10 pm**  
6. Song of national races

- 5:25 pm**  
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:40 pm**  
8. "အန္တရာယ်ဆိုတာ လက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ" (စိုးသူ၊ နန်းတလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်စန္ဒာလှိုင်)
- 5:45 pm**  
9. Song of yesteryears
- 6:00 pm**  
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**  
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**  
12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညောင်ရင်
- 7:05 pm**  
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "ဖန်ပန်းလှလှ" (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 8:00 pm**  
14. News
- 8:00 pm**  
15. International news
- 8:00 pm**  
16. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**  
17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "ရှေ့နေ" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 8:00 pm**  
18. The next day's programme



Friday, 12 May  
Tune in today

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music:  
-Under the sun
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music:  
-Beg
- 8.50 am** National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music:  
-Sure
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music:  
-Love & affection
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40pm** Lunch time music  
-Say it again  
-Yesterday  
-You are
- 9.00 pm** WOM  
-Thailand, Cambodia, Korea, Brunei, China, India
- 9.15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request  
-It's your love  
-From the heart  
-She's the one
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

## Thriving physic nut plantations, nurseries inspected in Kyaukse, Meiktila Districts

YANGON, 11 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 Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, gave instructions on participation in carrying out five rural development tasks, and agriculture and livestock breeding tasks to officers, other ranks and

family members of regiments and units at the hall of Mandalay Station on 7 May morning.

They viewed 287,000 physic nut saplings near Mandalay Station Hall and the physic nut nursery at Central Command Headquarters.

They inspected fish breeding at the command headquarters. At the local battalion in Tagundaing, they inspected over 20,000 physic nut plants.

In Kyaukse, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports

on nurturing of physic nut saplings at the nursery near Tasoe-Myitha Road presented by District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Tin Ohn. At the nursery, 34,400 physic nut saplings are put on 29 acres of land. They inspected 3,060 physic nut plants of Kyaukse District Police Force.

They viewed physic nut plantations near Thittatkon Diversion Dam in Myitha Township, (See page 9)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects the canal of Thittatkon Diversion Dam in Myitha Township. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets families of Tatmadawmen, attends collective growing of physic nut plants, inspects Thaukyekhat hydel power project



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than views the site for construction of Thaukyekhat Hydel Power Station and the dam near Htonbo Village of Toungoo Township. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence left Nay Pyi Taw City for Yeni, Bago Division on 9 May. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than together with Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko arrived at Toungoo.

During the meeting with officers, other ranks and their families in Toungoo Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on extensive cultivation of physic nut plants which can help to gain more family income, and measures to be taken for cultivation and livestock breeding on a manageable scale and cordially greeted officers, other ranks and their families.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party attended

the ceremony to present and grow physic nut plants in Toungoo Station. Next, Lt-Col Thaw Tar of Southern Command reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on stockpiling physic nut saplings and arrangements for growing physic nut plants.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party presented physic nut cuttings and saplings to officials and inspected collective growing of physic nut plants on 100 acres of land. Arrangements have been made for growing of physic nut plants on 30,000 acres up to 2008 in Southern Command. Moreover, regiments and units, departments and local people will cultivate 500,000 acres of physic nut plants within three years in Bago Division.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel at division, district and (See page 9)

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**At the 8th International Red Cross Conference held in London in 1907, Hungary Red Cross Society made a suggestion that persons who showed brilliant performances in nursing services be awarded.**