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Irrigation facilities projects inspected in Thaton



Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspects progress in construction of Mayangon Sluice Gate in Thaton. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing heard reports on progress in implementation of Mayangon Sluice Gate Project by Deputy Director U Soe Myint Tun of Irrigation Department at the project site



in Thaton Township on 7 May.

The minister inspected construction of the road linking Mayangon Village and Kyaikkaw Village. At the physic nut plantation in Zaymathwe Village in Thaton Township, the commander viewed nurturing of 330,600 saplings on 27.55 acres of land.

In Thaton Township, 1,162.25 acres of land have

been put under 1,394,700 physic nut plants.

At Donthami River Pumping Project site, Assistant Director U Aung Win Hlaing of Water Resource Utilization Department reported on construction of the project tasks. Next, the commander inspected progress of the project.

On completion, the project will irrigate 33,000 acres of farmland. — MNA

Ceremony to mark World Red Cross Day of Shan State (East) held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — A ceremony to mark World Red Cross Day 2006 of Shan State (East) took place at the hall of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee on 8 May, attended by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Shan State (East) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, senior officers, departmental officials, social organizations and Shan State Red Cross Supervisory Committee members.

First, the commander made a speech and

presented the prizes to the winners of essay and red cross skill demonstration competitions to mark World Red Cross Day.

Afterwards, Shan State (East) MCWSC Chairperson Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials awarded the prizes to the winners of essay competitions at high school and middle school levels and red cross skill demonstration competitions.

After the ceremony, the commander and wife and those present viewed the documentary photos of educative talks on health, works of prize-winning essays and pamphlets and cordially greeted Red Cross Brigade members. — MNA

INSIDE

“Not anyone of our people want to harbour insurgents. The insurgent remnants taking refuge at the border can still survive because of the assistance provided to them by a certain power. The insurgents are trying to terrorize the local people in the border areas.”

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HEIN MYINT

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 14 May, 2006

Towards hypertension free society

Health is a prerequisite for the entire national people if each and everyone is to enjoy healthy life and longevity. In an effort to enable the entire national people to enjoy health and happiness, the Health Department as well as the people are to make concerted efforts in all aspects.

The government is extensively engaged in public health care services including prevention of diseases and treatment since it is paying serious attention to uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

The Ministry of Health and related staff members are imparting knowledge on health and alerting the public on disease outbreaks and other measures as part of the drive to provide public health care services.

Hypertension is one of the killer diseases and systematic measures are to be taken to prevent it. Over 50 per cent of the population above 50 years have high blood pressure. Approximately, 1.5 billion (one fourth of the adults) of the world's population is hypertensive.

In Myanmar, according to nationwide surveys, the prevalence of hypertension is approximately 20 per cent and it affects men and women in all socio-economic groups. It is very important to know whether one has hypertension or not.

If one has been diagnosed to be hypertensive, one is to undergo medical treatment systematically. Moreover, he or she should seek professional advice to control high blood pressure.

Hypertension, if untreated, can affect "the target organs" and lead to complications like stroke, heart attack and kidney failure and sudden death.

The people are to keep the body weight within a healthy range, to eat a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat dairy and foods low in fat, to avoid salty food and excessive intake of alcohol, to increase physical activity, to quit smoking and avoid stressful situations in order not to be hypertensive.

Therefore, as hypertension can be prevented and controlled, it is incumbent upon the people to detect hypertension in its early stage and treat it in time to be able to enjoy a healthy life and longevity.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရမည့်နေ့

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တရားဝင်ပြောကြားချက်

- * 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

World Red Cross Day celebrated in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — The World Red Cross Day 2006 was celebrated at the town hall of Myitkyina in Kachin State on 8 May. The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairperson of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Nu Nu Swe, wife of the commander, Commander of Myitkyina Air Base Brig-Gen Zaw Tun and senior military officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations, donors and guests.

The commander spoke on the occasion. Next, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory

Committee Head of Kachin State Health Department Dr Maung Maung Myint reported on World Red Cross Day. Afterwards, for Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee, Dr Maung Maung Myint accepted K 500,000 each donated by Northern Command and Kachin State PDC; K 100,000 each by Kachin State MCWSC and Kachin State Women's Organization; K 300,000 by bus lines in Myitkyina; and K 100,000 each by other wellwishers totalling K 2 million. After the ceremony, the commander and wife and party viewed documentary photos showing activities of Kachin State Red Cross Society.

MNA

Chinese labourers work at the assembly line of China Yituo Group tractor factory in Luoyang city in China's central eastern Province of Henan 12 May, 2006. China Yituo Group is one of the largest tractor manufacturers in the country employing more than 20,000 workers. China's gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2006 grew 10.2 percent from a year earlier, fuelled by strong growth in investment and industrial output, the National Bureau of Statistics said. — INTERNET



ICRC says Rice, Rumsfeld block access to secret detainees

GENEVA, 13 May — The United States has again refused the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to terrorism suspects held in secret detention centres, the humanitarian agency said on Friday.

The overnight statement was issued after talks in Washington between ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger and senior officials, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

Singapore installs vehicle speed warning device in resort island

SINGAPORE, 13 May — A vehicle speed warning device has been installed at the entrance of Sentosa, a resort island in southern Singapore, to enhance road safety, Channel News Asia reported Friday.

"Mr Kellenberger deplored the fact that the US authorities had not moved closer to granting the ICRC access to persons held in undisclosed locations," the Geneva-based agency said.

It is hoped that the device can help remind motorists to keep to the speed limit of 40 kilometres per hour on the island by telling them how fast they are driving.

Kellenberger said: "No matter how legitimate the grounds for detention, there exists no right to conceal a person's whereabouts or to deny that he or she is being detained."

No driver is penalized for the time being and the management of the island said that it is to decide whether to install more of such devices at other parts of the island after a month-long test.

The former senior Swiss diplomat said that the ICRC would continue to seek access to such people as a matter of priority.

The device, said to be the first in Singapore, is also used for collecting data for future needs such as improving the island's traffic management system, according to the report.

The main objective of his annual visit this week was for the ICRC to be granted access to "all persons held by the US in the context of the fight against terrorism, an issue he first raised with the US Government over two years ago", the agency said.

Currently, the Sentosa Island receives more than 1,000 vehicles each day.

Antonella Notari, chief ICRC spokeswoman, noted that Kellenberger had first raised the issue with former secretary of state Colin Powell and Rice, then National Security Adviser, in January 2004.

"We have just received a negative response again," Notari said on Friday.

The agency recognized there were legitimate grounds for holding foreign terrorism suspects who posed a threat to the United States, she said.

Putin makes veiled warning over Iran military strike

Moscow, 12 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday issued a veiled warning to the United States not to take any military action against Iran over its nuclear ambitions.

Speaking in his address to the nation, Putin said Russia stood "unambiguously" for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the world. But, in an apparent reference to mounting tension between the United States and Iran, though without mentioning either by name, he said: "Methods of force rarely give the desired result and often their consequences are even more terrible than the



Russian President Vladimir Putin. INTERNET

original threat." Russia agrees with the West that Iran should not have nuclear weapons. But

it disagrees on two main points: whether Iran is actively seeking a bomb and whether sanctions would be effective in persuading Teheran to curb its nuclear work.

Russia holds a veto in the United Nations Security Council, which would vote on any international action against Iran. A draft resolution urging Iran to stop enriching uranium was submitted last week. Moscow said it needed changes. —MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်တုတ်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



Technicians stand in front of a video wall of the master control room in the International Broadcast Center of the Soccer World Cup 2006 in Germany in Munich, southern Germany, on 12 May, 2006. The Soccer World Cup begins with the opening match in Munich between Germany and Costa Rica on 9 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Nokia introduces sporty smartphone

HELSINKI, 12 May — Nokia, the world's largest mobile phone maker, introduced on Wednesday the Nokia 5500, a handset designed for sports enthusiasts.

The new model, tri-band Nokia 5500 Sport (GSM 900/1800/1900) is scheduled to sprint into stores in the third quarter of this year. The Nokia 5500 Sport displays its sleek, sporty design with an athletic lifestyle appeal and features all the technology that every active-minded consumer needs, such as "text-to-speech", which reads text messages to the user, 750-song music storage capacity and an integrated pedometer.

combines the passion and spirit of sports with the latest in mobile communications. It's an ideal companion for an active, urban lifestyle," says Heikki Norta, Senior Vice-President, Mobile Phones, Nokia.

"There is a very sizeable audience of consumers who demand sport-inspired products, even if they are not professional athletes themselves. The Nokia 5500 Sport offers these consumers a mobile phone suited to their specific needs — during a jog in the park, a day at the beach and even that dress-to-impress first date," he said. The stainless steel Nokia 5500 Sport is expected to retail for about 300 euros before taxes and subsidies. —MNA/Xinhua

British Attorney General says Guantanamo should be closed

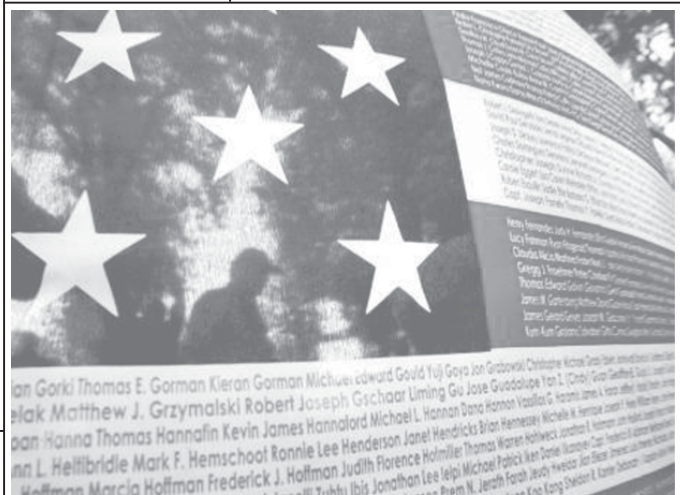
LONDON, 12 May — The British Government's top legal adviser called on Wednesday for the closure

of the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, which he said had become a symbol of injustice.

"The existence of Guantanamo Bay remains unacceptable. It is time, in my view, that it should close," Attorney General Peter Goldsmith said of the naval base in Cuba where up to 500 foreign terrorism suspects have been held.

In the most outspoken criticism of Guantanamo yet by a senior British official, he said it would be right as a matter of principle to close the centre and added: "I believe it would also help to remove what has become a symbol to many — right or wrong — of injustice."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W Bush's closest ally in the war in Iraq, has called Guantanamo "an anomaly" that should be dealt with. MNA/Reuters



An anti immigration rights supporter is seen through a US flag during a rally in Washington, on 12 May, 2006. US President George W Bush and many members of the Republican-led US Congress are divided over how to address the issue of up to 12 million illegal immigrants working in the United States, with conservatives pressing for tougher border security. —INTERNET

US oil executive shot dead in Nigeria

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 13 May — An executive of the US oil service company Baker Hughes was killed in an apparently targeted attack in Nigeria's southeastern oil city of Port Harcourt on Wednesday, authorities said.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to a five-month campaign by Niger Delta militants to cripple the oil industry in the world's eighth largest exporter, but a diplomat and an oil company source said they thought not. "The American was shot by a man on a motorcycle. The motorcycle pulled up beside him and shot him," Rivers State Police Commissioner Samuel Agbetuyi told Reuters.

services for big oil companies, was not immediately available for comment. MNA/Reuters

The Houston-based company, which drills oil wells and performs other



Children at a special kindergarten in Zhaozhuang city, Shandong province are moulding figurines with plasticine for their mothers on the occasion of a unique activity named "moulding mama's figurine for mama" on 11 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Four Marines killed in Iraq tank accident

BAGHDAD, 13 May — Four US Marines died in Iraq when their tank rolled off a bridge into a canal and they drowned, the military said Friday.

The US command said the deaths were not caused by hostile action.

The accident happened on Thursday when the four Marines with Regimental Combat Team 5 were travelling in a US M1A1 Main Battle Tank near Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad in Anbar Province. Many of Iraq's Sunni-led guerilla groups are based in the area.

The names of the deceased were being withheld pending notification of their relatives, and the accident was under investigation, the military said. Their deaths raised to at least 2,434 the number of members of the US military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. —Internet

Iran ready for dialogue on nuclear dispute

JAKARTA, 12 May — Visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said here Thursday that Iran was ready to have a dialogue with the United States and other Western countries to overcome the standoff on the dispute of its nuclear programme, but he accused the countries of imposing double standard on the issue.

The Iranian President made the statement in an interview with the local Metro TV station.

He reaffirmed that the people of Iran try to make

the use of the nuclear energy for peaceful use, has been accused of other intention.

"This all are just political charges. But we are ready

to speak to everybody to engage in dialogue with everybody," said Ahmadinejad.

The President reaffirmed that Iran would use

the technology to produce energy for power plants and also for other applications including medicine industry, agriculture and it has nothing to do with nuclear weapons or military purposes.

"There is a tension come from the practice of double standards. There are few powers in the world respond to manipulate science and technology in the world, use it to dominate other nation in the world," he said.

Regarding to the possible sanction from Western countries, the President said that it would not be effective as the country has low dependency on the Western countries and the people of Iran would support the government.

MNA/Xinhua

စတီဗွန်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



The artist Sahra is seen inside a ball made of metal elements during a rehearsal for the 'kicks and balances' show at the Kokerei Zollverein in Essen, Germany, on 12 May, 2006. The open air show 'kicks and balances' is performed during the soccer World Cup 2006 at the match cities Gelsenkirchen, Dortmund and Cologne.

INTERNET

Briton breaks ice swim record

OSLO, 12 May — A British adventurer broke the world record on Friday for the longest ice water swim by enduring freezing temperatures for 1.2 km (0.75 miles) in a fjord deep inside the Norwegian mountains.

Any normal person would hyperventilate and drown from shock within a few minutes of jumping into near freezing water but Lewis Gordon Pugh swam — wearing only a cap, racing trunks and goggles — for 23 minutes and 50 seconds to break his own 1 km record.

"I'm ecstatic," he told Reuters by telephone. "It was the hardest cold water swim I have ever done because the water is so fresh." The human body

is less buoyant in fresh water than in salty seawater.

Last year 36-year-old Pugh swam for 1 km in the Barents Sea off the northerly island of Spitzbergen and in 2003 he swam 5 km around North Cape, Europe's most northern point.

He has swum around the Cape of Good hope in South Africa and in the Indian Ocean.

But he said Friday's swim, in a fjord still three-

quarters covered by ice and beneath Europe's largest glacier Joste-dalsbreen, pushed his body to its limit.

"After many years of training I can control the initial shock (when entering the water) but it took my body to the edge swimming for that long," he said.

After the initial shock the body feels a searing, burning sensation, Pugh said. After 15 minutes of swimming, Pugh said he lost feeling in his hands and feet.—Internet



Lewis Pugh trains in Cape Town, South Africa, in a small pool filled with chunks of ice to bring the water temperature down to below 1 degree Celsius (34 F), in this 1 December, 2005 file picture. Pugh broke the world record on Friday for the longest ice water swim by enduring freezing temperatures for 1.2 km (0.75 miles) in a fjord deep inside the Norwegian mountains. —INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 May — Two US soldiers were killed on Thursday when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle southwest of Baghdad, the US military said.

"Two Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers died at approximately 9 am, 11 May when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb during a patrol southwest of Baghdad," the military said in a statement. The latest death brought to about 2,415 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

French bullfighter Sebastian Castella performs a pass during San Isidro's bullfighting fair at Madrid's Las Ventas bullring, on 12 May, 2006. Madrid celebrates its patron saint San Isidro every year with a fair which includes cultural events and concerts, as well as three weeks of bullfights.

INTERNET



Nineteen women in Britain rescued in sex-trafficking raids

LONDON, 12 May — Police rescued 19 women on Wednesday after launching dawn raids across the country as part of an operation against sex traffickers.

Nine men and one woman were arrested on suspicion of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and conspiracy to control prostitution for gain, the Metropolitan Police said.

Thirteen of the women were found at an address in Paddington, west London and six in Birmingham.

They were all taken by

officers from the Clubs and Vice Unit to a special reception unit where health professionals, interpreters and sexual offences investigators were on hand.

"I hope this morning's operation will send out a clear message to the organizers of this vile trade that we will find them and we will seize their assets," said Chief

Superintendent Ian Dyson of the Metropolitan Police.

Last September, 19 women from countries including Greece, Turkey, Poland, Latvia, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong were rescued in a high-profile raid on a Birmingham massage parlour. Four people were arrested for managing a brothel. —MNA/Reuters

Bookish Britain overtakes America as top publisher

LONDON, 12 May — Readers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean made bestsellers last year of *The Da Vinci Code* and the latest Harry Potter adventure, but British publishers for only the

second time in 20 years churned out more new book choices than their American counterparts. US output dropped for the first time since 1999 while the number of British titles surged 28 per cent, according to new data from research firm Bowker.

Britain, with one-fifth the population of the United States, has long been the world's largest publisher of new books per capita in any language, but a steep decline in US publication of general adult fiction and children's books helped boost the Britain's total volume to the top English-language spot.

MNA/Reuters

"Xinhua" to enhance cooperation with "Kyodo"

BEIJING, 12 May — Tian Congming, president of Xinhua news agency, said on Thursday that Xinhua would cooperate with Japanese counterpart Kyodo News Service, especially on 2008 Olympic Games reporting. Tian said in a meeting with visiting Kyodo president Ishikawa Satoshi that Xinhua and Kyodo had maintained steady cooperation.

"As the state news agency of China, host country of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Xinhua will strive to help all foreign media and news agencies, including Kyodo," Tian said.

MNA/Xinhua

China values friendly ties with Singapore

BEIJING, 12 May— Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu said Thursday that the government had always cherished its friendly ties and cooperation with Singapore and hopes to develop relations further.

Hui told visiting Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew that China was delighted the two countries had maintained good relations over the years and high-level contacts had promoted mutual understanding and trust. Singapore is the largest investor in China among member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Hui said China and Singapore had cooperated

and coordinated well in improving China-ASEAN relations and boosting regional cooperation.

He expressed China's appreciation for Singapore's adherence to the one-China policy and opposition to "Taiwan independence".

He also thanked Lee for his personal contribution to the development of China-Singapore ties.

Lee said Singapore was delighted with China's achievements in recent years

and believed that China would overcome the difficulties and challenges in its development.

He said Singapore was ready to cooperate closely with China to boost the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties to achieve common prosperity. Lee arrived in Beijing Wednesday morning on an eight-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

MNA/Xinhua



People work at the construction site of the Liuwu Bridge, a project for the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on 11 May, 2006.—INTERNET

62 suspected human smugglers arrested in US

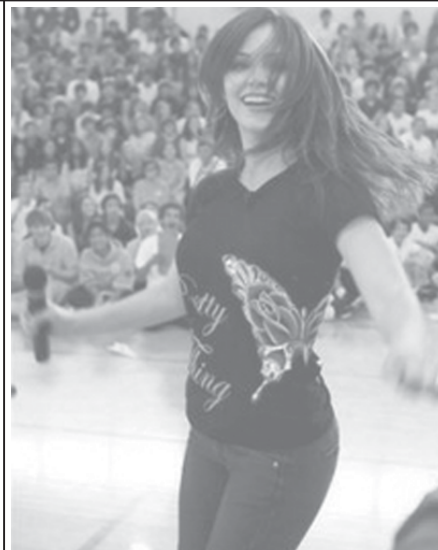
WASHINGTON, 12 May — A multi-agency task force arrested 62 people on charges of human smuggling after a two-month crackdown operation, authorities of the US city of Phoenix said on Wednesday.

Police, Customs and immigration enforcement agents also detained 528 illegal immigrants in the crackdown along the border of Arizona, the biggest US entry point for illegal immigrants coming across the US-Mexican border.

A total of 11 weapons, 62 vehicles and six real estate locations valued at 1.7 million dollars were seized. Some 4.8 million dollars in cash, 5 kilos of cocaine and more than 1 kilos of marijuana were also found in the operation.

Authorities said those arrested ranged from members of small-time organizations to operators of criminal syndicates who make money bringing mostly Mexican immigrants across the desert.

Arizona passed a state law that makes human smuggling, already a federal felony in the US, a state crime last August. — MNA/Xinhua



'American Idol' finalist Katherine McPhee, 22, dances as she visits her Notre Dame High School on 12 May, 2006, in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles.—INTERNET

Shotgun goes off at auction, shooting two

BELLEVUE (Iowa), 11 May— An auction to benefit a family whose home burned down went off with a bang. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. Darrell Clasen and John Moellers were both shot when a 10-gauge shotgun accidentally discharged at the auction on Sunday.

Police said a 10-year-old boy put a shell in the gun, which was on a table of things to be auctioned. A man later picked up the gun and it discharged, police said.

Moellers was hit in the shoulder. Clasen was struck in the arm. Both men were taken to a hospital where they were treated and released. Clasen said he heard the gun go off.

"It was loud," he said. "I could see the smoke from the gun and then I felt it. It didn't hurt, but it was like a burning sensation." Clasen said both he and Moellers were going to be OK. He said no one is holding a grudge.

"Everybody learned a lesson," he said.

There were about 200 people at the benefit and the boy apparently was able to put the shell in the gun unnoticed because of the noise of the crowd, police said.

The benefit was being held for a family whose home burned down last month.—Internet

Killer British male nurse who poisoned to play "hero" jailed

LONDON, 12 May — An attention-seeking nurse who murdered two patients and poisoned 15 others at an Oxfordshire Hospital was jailed for 30

years on Wednesday.

Benjamin Geen, 25, secretly administered toxic doses of drugs to patients, causing them to suffer severe breathing difficulties that needed immediate resuscitation — which he would then get a kick out of giving.

At Oxford Crown Court, Geen was given two life sentences to run concurrently for the murders and 8 years for the assaults, also to run concurrently.

During his trial last month, prosecutors said Geen derived a thrill from taking patients to the brink of death at Horton General Hospital in Banbury, Oxfordshire, so that he could revive them. Two of this victims, David Onley, 77, and Anthony Bateman, 66, did not recover and died in January 2004.

MNA/Reuters



A Humboldt penguin with an amputated wing stands as a vet checks its x-ray at the veterinarian hospital of San Sebastian University in Concepcion city, about 515 km (320 miles) south of Santiago, Chile, on 12 May, 2006. —INTERNET



The three actors who play Billy Elliott, from left, James Lomas, 16, of Sheffield, Liam Mower, 13, from Hull, and George Maguire, 15, from Essex, perform on stage at the Victoria Palace theater in London to mark the third anniversary the musical, on 12 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Beijing suffers worst drought in 50 years

BEIJING, 12 May — China's capital Beijing is suffering its worst drought in 50 years, with only 17 millimetres of rainfall reported this year, down 63 per cent from the same period last year.

The lack of rain is already challenging the city's water supply, said experts at a meeting on flood control and drought prevention.

The city's 16 large and medium-sized reservoirs

presently hold 1.31 billion cubic metres of water. Beijing's water supply bureau said consumption totalled 3.45 billion cubic metres last year, including 1.49 billion cubic metres of drinking water.

The city is home to 15.36 million permanent residents and over four million transients. Most of Beijing's surface water resources are stored in reservoirs but even the

Miyun Reservoir — the largest storage facility in North China — holds only 992 million cubic metres of water this year.

The reservoir, with a capacity of 4.375 billion cubic metres, provides two thirds of the drinking water for the Beijingers and needs at least one billion cubic metres to maintain supplies, said Jiao Zhizhong, director of Beijing water supply bureau.— MNA/Xinhua

Thousands evacuated in central Philippines amid landslide threats

MANILA, 12 May — Thousands of residents from nine villages of Sogod Town in Southern Leyte, central Philippines were evacuated Friday due to several reported landslides brought on by heavy rains of tropical storm, local radio reported.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said telephone lines in Sogod Town were not operational, according to the DZMM radio report.

Parts of Southern Leyte and other areas in the Visayas area experienced power failure because of the storm "Caloy", it said.

As of 5:00 am Friday, the national weather bureau detected "Caloy" at 30 kilometres southwest of Catarman, Northern Samar, with a maximum sustained winds of 100 kilometre per hour.

The weather authority said Southern Luzon and Samar provinces will

experience stormy weather. The rest of Visayas will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

An average of 19 tropical storms and typhoons strike the Philippines every year, killing hundreds of people through floods, landslides and other hazards induced by strong winds and heavy rains.—MNA/Xinhua



Liu Yunshan (3rd R, front), head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also a member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, poses for a group photo with a delegation of mainstream media from Russia during their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 11 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Philippines says oil tanker explodes off coastline

MANILA, 12 May — The Philippine Coast Guard said on Thursday an oil tanker had exploded off the coast of Bataan Province, west of Manila.

George de Jesus, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard, told Reuters rescue operations were underway. Radio reports said two crew members were critically injured. There were no immediate reports of fatalities or the cause of the explosion.

The Philippines' largest oil refiner, Petron Corp, has a 180,000 barrels per day oil refinery at Limay on the southern tip of Bataan. No one from the company was immediately available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

Minority accounts for one-third of US population

WASHINGTON, 12 May — About one in every three US residents was part of a group other than single-race non-Hispanic White, according to figures released by the US Census Bureau on Wednesday.

In 2005, the country's minority population was 98 million, or 33 per cent of the total of 296.4 million, while the non-Hispanic, single-race White po-

pulation stood at 198.4 million, accounting for 66.9 per cent of the total, the figures showed.

The information was based on estimates of the US population for 1 July, 2005, the Census Bureau said. Hispanics, already the largest minority group, was also the fastest-growing, rising by 3.3 per cent to 42.7 million from 1 July, 2004, to 1 July, 2005.

The second largest minority group was Blacks, which reported a

population of 39.7 million, followed by Asians (14.4 million), American Indians and Alaskan natives, native Hawaiians and other Pacific islanders. The growth in the Hispanic population of 1.3 million during the period accounted for nearly half, or 49 per cent, of the national population growth of 2.8 million.

The Black population increased by 1.3 per cent or 496,000, and the Asian population rose by 3 per

cent or 421,000 during the one-year period.

The non-Hispanic, single-race White population accounted for less than a fifth (19 per cent) of the nation's total population growth.

Of the total population, 36.8 million people, or 12 per cent, were aged 65 and older; 5.1 million aged 85 and older; and 186.2 million, or 63 per cent, were working-age adults (18- to 64-year-old) in 2005.—MNA/Xinhua



A tourist views Longmen Grottoes in the city of Luoyang in China's central province of Henan, on 12 May, 2006. 'Longmen Grottoes' is one of China's UNESCO World Heritage sites in Henan Province. Longmen has more than 2,300 grottoes with 110,000 Buddhist images, over 80 dagobas and 2,800 inscribed tablets on cliffs with a length of one kilometer along the Yishui River, where Buddhism was first introduced to China during the Eastern Han Dynasty (25 - 220), according to Xinhua News.—INTERNET

Storm kills five, injures about 200 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 12 May — Five persons were killed and some 200 others injured in a storm that hit nine sub-districts of two western districts of Bangladesh on Wednesday night, officials said on Thursday.

Local official Akteruzzaman Bablu said four people were killed in western Sirajganj District, 143 kilometres west of Dhaka in the cyclonic

storm that lashed the district Wednesday night for about an hour.

He said about 150 others were injured in the storm. The deaths were

caused by house collapse, trees and electric poles fall.

Bablu said road communication in the district was disrupted as trees fell on streets. He said the administration with the help of local people are trying to clear the roads.

In the meantime, the private television channel NTV said five sub-districts of western Manikganj District, 62 kilometres west of Dhaka, were hit by a storm Wednesday night in which one person died and around 50 others were injured. According to report, about 2,000 houses were destroyed by the storm in the two districts. The wounded persons were getting treatment in the local hospitals.

MNA/Xinhua

One more case of H5N1 bird flu confirmed in Poland

WARSAW, 12 May — A new case of the lethal H5N1 bird flu was confirmed in the central Polish city of Lodz, the country's General Administration of Animal Quarantine said Wednesday.

The new H5N1 case was detected in a dead swan, which was found on the wetland of the city's lake area.

It is the first H5N1 case that has been found for the past month in Poland, shortly after a Polish chief veterinary said on Sunday that the country had been free of the disease since the open of the quarantine zone in the northwest city of Bydgoszcz, where a bird flu case was found in late March.

Local authorities have disinfection measures taken in the quarantine zone where fishing is banned. They also dispatched hovercrafts to observe the birds living there.

Poultry farms near the spot are under surveillance, and farmers there have been asked to report if there is any sign of bird flu. — MNA/Xinhua



A performer runs over a mural of the Huaca Cao Viejo, a grand pyramid of the ancient Moche pre-hispanic Peruvian culture, located at a ceremonial site called El Brujo (the Wizard) dated from around 100 to 800 years AD, on the northern coast of Trujillo, on 12 May, 2006. The site of Huaca Cao Viejo was opened for visitors after the Wiese Foundation restored and covered the site.—INTERNET

Discussions of pensioners-14

Hein Myint

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held its press conference No 1/2006 in Lashio on 17 January this year, press conference No 2/2006 in Lashio on 21 February 2006 and press conference No 3/2006 in Yangon on 9 April the same year.

The press conference No 1/2006 explained in detail the surrender made by some members of the brigade 241 led by Than Gyaung (a) Sao Khun Kyaw of SSA (South) and the capture of other members. Questions raised by journalists were answered by commanding officer of brigade 241 Sai Phone (a) Phone Tint, company commander Sai Htoo, sgt Sai Tun Kyaw and cpl Khaing Win, and U Khun Maung Nge and U Khun Aung of Silu village, on behalf of the locals who were tortured by the SSA-S. According to their answers, we have known the womanizer leaders of the SSA-S led by Ywet Sit, sexual violence against women, poppy cultivation, opium and stimulant pill production, forced recruitment in villages, torching of villages, murdering of innocent people and committing of terrorist acts, circulation of counterfeit notes, extorting money and other misdeeds committed by the SSA-S.

The press conference 2/2006 dealt with matters concerning crimes against people committed by Than Gyaung (a) Sao Khun Kyaw of SSA-S, a former insurgent of ABSDF; and ABSDF insurgent groups and its terrorist acts against the nation and the people. At the interview, personal experiences were given by ABSDF members, who came back to the legal fold, other ABSDF members and SSA-S members, and Yunus (a) Aung Cho Oo, who got involved in blowing up bombs at three crowded places in Yangon.

The press conference No 3/2006 clarified with concrete evidence the conspiracies of terrorist groups including NCUB, NCGUB, KNU, FTUB, ABSDF, NLD (LA), NDD, DPNS, SSA-S and VBSW to destroy peace and stability and public lives and property; and the political plot of terrorist mastermind Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai, Secretary of FTUB, and group to use the ILO as the forum to attack Myanmar.

When we, the pensioners, met the above-mentioned matters became our topics.

"The press conferences in 2006 explained with firm evidence the destructive acts committed by terrorist insurgents and their perpetration to kill people by blowing up bombs", one of us started the conversation.

"As for me, I was pleased to hear the news about the capture of the insurgents of SSA-S brigade 241 and the surrender of some of them as they could not escape since the people do not support the insurgents, but cooperated with the Tatmadaw. It is a clear message to the insurgents that the people who are enjoying the fruits of peace will never accept them", another joined in the discussions.

Then, we all took part in the discussions.

"Yes. When the KNUs tried to take a foothold

Local people suffered more in the regions where battles broke out. They could be subject to murder or torture for no reason. They had to face constant fear alongside hunger and poverty. Their lives were so pitiful. We sympathize them.

in the delta region, they were all killed or captured by the Tatmadaw due to the participation of the people who were against the insurgents."

"Not anyone of our people want to harbour insurgents. The insurgent remnants taking refuge at the border can still survive because of the assistance provided for them by a certain power. The insurgents are trying to terrorize the local people in the border areas."

"Since internal strife broke out, no insurgent has ever served the interests of the nation and the people. The insurgents were even destroying the infrastructures built by the government. We have not seen any of the previous governments as active and successful as the Tatmadaw government in carrying out the national development task."

"The insurgents are committing destructive acts including blowing up of railroads and motor roads, robberies, extorting money, forced recruitment, blackmarketeering, opium and stimulant drugs trafficking, smuggling of timber and precious stones, blowing up of infrastructures, forced relocation of villages, and rape and trafficking of young women."

"Local people suffered more in the regions where battles broke out. They could be subject to murder or torture for no reason. They had to face constant fear alongside hunger and poverty. Their lives were so pitiful. We sympathize them."

"As for the insurgent leaders, insurgency is the means to earn their living, as they are even enjoying a prosperous life. They set up businesses in the other country. They take many wives. On the other hand, their followers, especially the ones who were forced into joining the insurgency, face death in the end."

"According to those who returned to the legal fold, Ywet Sit has two married wives and many mistresses. He has ruined the lives of many young women. Commander Mein Sit of brigade 758, SSA-S, has 40 wives, commander of 756 Khut Laung has about 20 wives. Thangyaung was found to have committed road robberies, murders and raping women. All the insurgent leaders are engaged in opium and stimulant drug trafficking. This shows their true image."

"It indicates that they are the ones who are licensed to rape."

"But, I have learnt that subordinates no longer get their pay because the neighbouring country is speeding up its seizing opium and stimulant tablets, thereby hindering their drug business."

"The group leadership fixed the number more than needed in recruiting new members in villages, and they fined a village at the rate of K 500,000 to K 600,000 for a recruit if it failed to meet the number of recruits they demanded. So, they are doing very well in business now."

"Ywet Sit group is not the only one to do so. When I was in the military operation in Kayin State, I witnessed all levels of KNU leaders were making money like that."

"You had served as a serviceman for many years, and I am sure you are knowledgeable about KNU. The Tatmadaw Government and KNU are negotiating for peace long, but there has been no progress, why?"

"In my opinion, the Tatmadaw Government has managed to make peace with 17 national race armed groups. Some groups have exchanged arms unconditionally for peace. So, you can get it easily if you just think about it. I remember when the Tatmadaw started to take State duties, it also held peace talks with KNU, and peace was within the reach of both sides. But, a leader of the big power came to the neighbouring country and provided KNU with millions of US dollars and that broke up the peace negotiation. KNU has occupied all the chairmanships of groups of insurgents such as NCUB, DAB and NDF. So, it shows that

without doubt that such groups are under the influence of foreign advisers."

"Maybe, some of KNU members can have a correct view why the government has made peace with all the armed groups except KNU. I am sure the members have witnessed that the regions that have made peace have enjoyed considerable development. I think peace talks will make progress if there are many KNU leaders who have correct outlook and positive attitude to serve the interests of the nation and the people especially local residents."

"Now, it has come to the government's knowledge that KNU is committing terrorist acts. But the government is taking great care in its words and deeds because there might be hindrance to the peace negotiation. It also asked KNU to refrain from committing terrorist acts. However, many concrete evidences have been discovered that KNU keeps on committing terrorists acts and is plotting schemes. So, KNU members should have considered their acts to know whether their stance is correct or not."

"Fortunately, security guards managed to expose the scheme to fire heavy weapons as soon as the planted bombs exploded to destroy the railroad. If bombs exploded, a lot of passengers would be killed. What a despicable scheme they plotted!"

"It was a historic evidence that in the time of the previous government, KNU blasted a passenger train and that left a lot of people dead and wounded. They abducted young women and exchanged them for arms and ammunition in the neighbouring country."

"Insurgents should have stopped such inhumane acts. But, they are acting like gentlemen when they are in interviews with foreign broadcasting stations. How bad it is!"

"Reliable evidences have been exposed that ABSDF, NLD (LA) and VBSW terrorist groups blasted three busy places in Yangon on 7 May last year. NCGUB Sein Win and FTUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai masterminded and NDD Thein Win's hard-core UGs abetted the acts. And Thein Win's hard-core members confessed to the acts. However much foreign radio stations are protecting such terrorists acts, in the end the people have come to know who committed the acts. It is apparent that although the groups are shouting democracy and human rights, they are receiving foreign aid and they are committing acts to cause mass protests and unrest in the country."

"Their foreign masters consider similar cases to be terrorist acts when they occur in their countries. But, when bombs exploded and a large number of innocent people were killed in other countries, they branded them as democracy movements. Unless they had conducted courses on explosives for expatriate insurgents and provided them with various forms of aid, violent bomb explosions would not have occurred."

"We people do not accept any terrorist acts of the insurgents who are targeting the people. Surely, the aboveground terrorists, UGs and expatriates will keep on committing terrorist acts with the support of their foreign masters. So, we people are to be vigilant and collectively protect our nation from such dangers."

"Certainly, we do not need to be afraid of the dangers of the insurgents and their masters if the government, the Tatmadaw and the people work together with Union Spirit and patriotism. What we need is that we all must remain constantly vigilant at all times."

When our pensioners' discussion reached its peak, my good lady told us that lunch was ready, and so we stopped our conversation to have our meal.

Translation: TMT + MS

Kyemon, 13-5-2006

Matters related to ensuring smooth and secure transport coordinated



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win speaking at coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport. — MNA

YANGON, 13 May — The coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport was held at Yangon Command yesterday evening.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and

Secure Transport Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech. Next, rector and pro-rectors of universities and colleges in Yangon, supervisory committee and

departmental officials and chairmen of the bus lines reported on the matters of running ferries, traffic rules and arrangements for secure transport. After hearing reports, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended to the needs and gave instructions on regular running of ferries

for the universities to be reopened soon and CNG buses, minimizing loss and wastage of fuel oil, reduction of traffic accidents. Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. — MNA

Central Command grows 300 acres of physic nut plants

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Multi-purpose farm No 1 of the Central Command Headquarters put 300 acres under physic nut in Mongmaw region, Myitha Township, Kyaukse District on 9 May.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw planted a physic nut sapling and inspected the growing of physic nut plants by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Ne Win, officers and other ranks and their families.

The commander also looked into the physic nut farms of local regiments

and units. The deputy commander gave an account of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. The commander gave instructions and rendered assistance to the farm.

In 2006, the command has grown physic nut plants on 2,214 out of 4,710 acres.

MNA

Division MCWSC Chairperson meets Hmawby Township MCWA members

YANGON, 13 May — Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech in meeting with Hmawby Township MCWA members at the Township MCWA Office yesterday morning.

Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Dr Hla Myint reported on the future tasks of the committee, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Nweni Ohn on movements of the

association in 2005-06, Hmawby Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Nu Nu Wai on activities of the township association.

Chairperson of Yangon North District MCWSC Daw Saw Shwe handed over membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

After the ceremony, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and guests visited the delivery room and day care school of the township association, and presented cash assistance

to the expectant mothers and snacks to children.

MNA

Title-recipient monks, nuns in Sagaing division honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended a ceremony to honour the title-recipient Saydaws and nuns in the division held at Sasana Beikman in Monywa on 6 May.

First, the commander and congregation received the Nine Precepts from Monywa Arsawkayon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita. Next, the commander supplicated on religious affairs and presented offertories to the title-recipient Saydaws and nuns. At the ceremony, 28 title-recipient Saydaws and 8 title-recipient nuns totalling 36 were honoured.

Later, the commander and officials visited the five-acre summer paddy plantation of farmer U Myat Tun Aung in Boteqon Village in Wetlet Township, Shwebo District.

MNA

Growing of physic nut launched in Hopong

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint attended a physic nut-growing ceremony at Tashano village in Hopong Township on 9 May.

Also present at the ceremony were local authorities, departmental officials and local farmers.

The commander and those present collectively grew physic nut plants as poppy substitute crops.

Later, the commander went to Kyaukkacha village and attended physic nut-growing ceremony at the village Basic Education High School. The commander presented 150 baskets of physic nut seeds and 50,000 physic nut saplings to the local farmers of Hopong, Hsihsaing and Nyaungshwe townships.

A local farmer expressed thanks and the ceremony ended. After that, those present viewed test running of physic nut oil-used power tillers.

MNA

Cyclist killed in explosion in Penwegon

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — A man was killed in an explosion near the mile post No 119/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, three furlong south of Khingyi Village, Penwegon, Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Division, at 12.35 pm yesterday.

He was Nga Zaw (a) Nga Pha, 22, son of U Myint Shwe, from Pyidawtha Ward, Tawkywein Village. He earned his living by collecting odds and ends. The explosion occurred while he was riding a bicycle with a green bag. Upper part of his body and the bag were blown up into pieces.

The incident is under investigation by officials.

MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai visits Day Care School in Hmawby Township.



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspects physic nut nursery in Zaymathwe Village in Thaton Township. (News on page 1) — MNA

Mandalay Mayor inspects sanitation work, physic nut and honey orange plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected upgrading of 62nd street in Chanmyathazi Township and 32nd street in Chanayethazan Township on 9 May morning.

The mayor viewed sanitation tasks at Thingaza Creek for proper flow of water from 89th Street to

86th Street in Aungmyethazan Township, and attended to the needs.

The mayor inspected physic nut and honey orange plantations in the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm No 1 of YCDC in Yedaguntaung region of Patheingyi Township. Officials reported on thriving 104,400 physic nut plants on 87 acres of land. —MNA

Semifinals of Golden Belt Traditional Boxing Challenges held

YANGON, 13 May — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the semifinal matches of the Golden Belt Challenges of the Third Myanmar Traditional Boxing Championship at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this afternoon.

Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of the Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation U Win Myint and executives and guests.

Traditional boxers from Light Flyweight Class, Flyweight Class, Bantamweight Class and Middleweight Class took part in the eight matches.

The matches of the semifinals for the remaining classes continue tomorrow at the same venue. —MNA



A semifinal match of Golden Belt Challenges of the Third Myanmar Traditional Boxing Championship in progress at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna. — NLM



WOMEN'S SOCCER CONTINUED:

Players of Ayeyawady Division and Mon State fighting for the ball in their competition in second semifinal of the 11th Inter-State/Division Women's (Open) Soccer Tournament at Aung San Stadium Saturday. Ayeyawady beat Mon 2-1. — NLM

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR DISTRICT NEWS

All villages in Kayin State equipped with self-reliant libraries



Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu accepts a TV set donated by U Han Aye.

HPA-AN, 2 May — A ceremony to mark the completion of the establishment of 1,686 self-reliant libraries in Kayin State was held in conjunction with the various kinds of books, TV, cassette and radio sets donation ceremony at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an on 29 April.

It was attended by Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu, Secretary Lt-Col Aung Maw Maw, authorities from Hpa-an, Kawkaik and Myawady District PDCs, officials, members of Kayin State USDA and social organizations, wellwishers and local people.

On the occasion, 113 wellwishers and local authorities donated books, TV, cassette and radio sets worth K 6,863,340. So far, total amount of K 11,872,615 have been accepted in cash, books and materials for self-reliant village libraries.

Kyemon

Cash donated to Thayet Township MCWA

THAYET, 3 May — The Annual General Meeting of Thayet Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held on 1 May at the hall of Thayet District with addresses by Thayet District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung San and Chairperson of Thayet District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Nilar Myint. Dr Khin Maung Htay of Thayet District Health Department gave talks on health care services and role and activities of MCWA. Next, Thayet District PDC Secretary Major Aung Thwin presented K 500,000 for Thayet Township MCWA to Chairperson Daw Khin Htay Lwin. — *Kyemon*



Thayet District PDC Secretary Major Aung Thwin presents K 500,000 for Thayet Township MCWA to Chairperson Daw Khin Htay Lwin.




 In this photo released by
 China's Xinhua news
 agency, a workman shows a
 'World Cup cake' in a cake
 shop in Shanghai, east
 China, on 13 May, 2006.
 Soccer's World Cup finals
 kick off next month in
 Germany.

INTERNET



One million Chinese tourists to visit Thailand in 2006

BANGKOK, 13 May — At least one million Chinese tourists will visit Thailand in 2006, generating revenues of 26 billion bath (689 million US dollars), Thailand's Kasikorn Research Centre (KRC) has said. A total of 800,000 Chinese tourists visited Thailand last year, generating revenues of 20 billion bath (530 million US dollars), the *Thai News Agency* quoted the KRC as saying Friday.

KRC said growing from a tiny market a decade ago, China is now ranked among the top 10 biggest markets and is one of the fastest-growing markets for Thai tourism. This reflects the strength of the Chinese economy and the Chinese Government's policy to encourage its people to travel. Nevertheless, both domestic and international factors have played a role in making the Chinese tourist market for

Thailand to develop in a rather volatile pattern over the last decade, said the KRC. But the overall picture is such that from over 450,000 visitors in 1996, Thailand received over 800,000 Chinese tourists in 2005. According to statistics collected by the Tourism Authority of Thailand for 2004, some 780,000 Chinese tourists spent over 19 billion bath during their stays in Thailand.

MNA/Xinhua

Investigation launched into British police chase death

LONDON, 13 May — An investigation was launched on Friday after a stolen car being chased by police crashed into a group of pedestrians, killing one woman and leaving three others including two children seriously injured.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) said it was looking into Thursday's pursuit in South Shields, Northumbria.

Local media said an armed man had forced the owner of the car to hand over the keys before driving away at speed.

"My thoughts are

with the families and friends of the deceased and the injured," IPCC Commissioner Nicholas Long said in a statement.

"This incident was a tragedy of the worst kind. An innocent woman lost her life while out walking on a sunny afternoon.

"Our investigation will seek to establish whether the pursuit that led to her death was in line with driving procedures laid down by Northumbria Police Force and whether any actions could have been taken to prevent this tragic death."

MNA/Reuters

Annan presses US to start direct talks with Iran

VIENNA, 13 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the United States again on Friday to enter direct talks with Iran to ease a crisis over Iranian nuclear work, which Washington has rejected.

"I have... stated very clearly both in private contacts with the American Administration and publicly that I think it is important that the United States come to the table and join the European countries and Iran to find a solution," Annan said at a Vienna summit of European and Latin American countries.

In response, US Am-

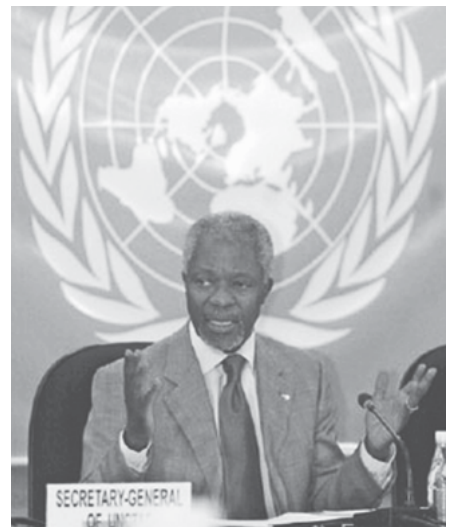
bassador John Bolton released a statement at the United Nations in New York, saying: "This is not a bilateral issue between the US and Iran. It is an issue between Iran and the world."

Bolton said the United States supported European and Russian negotiating efforts and "we see no point in direct negotiations".

Annan said in Vienna he was calling for direct talks "because I really believe that as long as the Iranians have the sense they are negotiating with the Europeans... and what they discuss with them will have to be discussed with the Americans and then (brought) back again to them... they will not put everything on the table."

Annan made a similar suggestion on US public television last week. He has long been pushing for a diplomatic solution to avoid a resort to UN sanctions or even military action, a last-resort option the United States has not ruled out.

"I've asked all sides to lower their rhetoric and intensify diplomatic efforts to find a solution,"



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

Annan told reporters.

"I'm happy that the (Security Council) discussions seem to have led to a situation where everyone agrees that not only should one come back to the table and negotiate but there should be a comprehensive package proposed for

discussions by all."

In the latest effort to resolve the crisis, Britain, France and Germany, with backing from the United States, Russia and China, are to unveil in the next 10 days a package of inducements and penalties for Iran. — MNA/Reuters

Robot using undulating fin to swim unveiled in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 13 May — The world's first robot which can swim like a fish by using an undulating fin instead of a propeller has been unveiled in Singapore, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Friday.

It was designed and made by students and professors in Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU), who

have been observing and studying fish fins' movements for two years.

The environment-friendly robot can swim quietly underwater, though not as fast as those with normal propellers do, the report said, adding that the size of the fin can be re-configured by changing the number of spokes.

Aiming to accomplish a complete robotic

fish in two years, the researchers hope to conduct further studies of the undulating fin so that it may replace the normal propeller one day.

They expect that such smart swimming vehicles can be used in surveillance, spying, demining, sea floor mapping and biological research when equipped with cameras or compasses. — MNA/Xinhua

6 killed as bus plunges into pond in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 13 May — At least six people were killed and 34 others injured when a passenger bus plunged into the Indo-Nepal friendly pond of Koshi barrage in Sunsari District in eastern Nepal Friday morning, District Police Office (DPO) confirmed.

Four people were killed on the spot while two others died on the way

to hospital after the bus heading for Gaighat from Dharan skidded off the road, some 400 kilometres east of Kathmandu, the DPO said in a Press statement.

The accident happened as the bus tried to avoid a bicycle in a turning of a Koshi barrage dam, according to the Sunsari-based DPO.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan heatwave toll rises to 51

ISLAMABAD, 13 May — A scorching heatwave in central parts of Pakistan has killed at least 51 people in the past week, with temperatures rising as high as 50 degrees Celsius, officials said on Friday.

At least 19 people have died since Thursday in Pakistan central province of Punjab, where authorities reported 31 deaths earlier this week, health officials said.

Another person died in the largely desert, southwestern province of Baluchistan on Wednesday.

Hundreds of people had also been admitted to hospitals after fainting due to heatstroke and gastroenteritis, officials said. — MNA/Xinhua

CDC says cases of rare eye infection rise to 122

CHICAGO, 13 May — US health officials have now confirmed 16 more cases of a rare fungal infection that prompted Bausch & Lomb Inc. to halt sales of a product and sent its shares into a nosedive.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Friday it has confirmed a total of 122 cases of *Fusarium keratitis*, an infection of the cornea that can cause blindness and eye loss. That has up from 106 confirmed cases earlier this week.

Bausch & Lomb last month recalled its ReNu with MoistureLoc brand of contact lens solution after

a large percentage of patients with the infection were found to have used that product. Shares of the eye products company have fallen nearly 35 per cent since the start of the year. The CDC did not say how many of the new cases used a Bausch & Lomb product, but as of May 9, a total of 93 per cent of contact lens wearers confirmed with the infection used a ReNu product.

Of those, 63 per cent reported using ReNu with MoistureLoc, 20 per cent reported using Bausch's ReNu MultiPlus and 10 per cent reported using an unspecified ReNu product.

MNA/Reuters

Ethanol biodiesel eats into US corn stockpiles

WASHINGTON, 13 May — The booming ethanol industry will consume 20 per cent of this year's US corn crop, the government forecast on Friday, and soy-based biodiesel also is taking off.

Biofuels will bolster corn and soybean prices, the Agriculture Department said in its first look at this year's crop harvest. Voracious demand for corn from ethanol makers will help cut the corn (maize) surplus in half by fall 2007, or 1.14 billion bushels.

"Renewable energy is making a difference" in the corn and soybean markets, said USDA chief economist Keith Collins.

Some 2.15 billion bushels (54 million tons) of this year's corn crop was projected to go to ethanol plants, up 34 per cent from the 1.6 billion bushels (40.6 million tons) now being used yearly.

USDA projected 2.3

billion lbs (1 billion kilograms) of soyoil would be used in biodiesel in the year beginning September 1, up 1.1 billion lbs (500 million kilograms) from this year.

"We may get 3 US dollars (a bushel) corn on the farm this year," said private consultant John

Schnittker, because of ethanol and a big demand for exports. It has been a decade since the season-average farmgate price was that high.

Corn and wheat futures prices shot upward at the Chicago Board of Trade, based on USDA's forecasts of smaller crops than

last year and tightening supplies. At mid-day, corn for July delivery sold for 2.57-1/2 US dollars, up 10-1/4 cents a bushel. July wheat was up 11-1/2 cents, to 4.03-1/2 US dollars a bushel. July soybeans were 6.13-1/2 US dollars, up one-half cent.

MNA/Reuters



Brides and bridegrooms take an oath during a group wedding for nonnative youth at the Culture Square in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province on 12 May, 2006. Some eighty-two couples from other areas attended the ceremony here on Friday. — INTERNET

India's Supreme Court refuses to stop "toxic" ship

NEW DELHI, 13 May — India's Supreme Court refused on Friday to stop a former cruise liner that environmental activists say has hundreds of tons of toxic material on board from entering Indian waters.

Greenpeace and other groups say the 46,000-ton *Blue Lady* contains more than 900 tons of asbestos and is sailing for Alang in the western state of Gujarat to be scrapped.

Indian yards lack the modern technology to safely handle such waste, putting the health of workers at risk, activists say.

The court instead referred the matter to an expert panel appointed by it earlier this year to look into the working conditions at Alang, home to scores of family-run shipbreakers.

"We will not pass any (banning) orders without a report," a judge said after hearing a plea by the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Environment.

The court set the next hearing for July, when it would consider the evidence of experts, but environmental groups say the *Blue Lady* was expected to enter Indian waters in late May after setting sail from Malaysia. — MNA/Reuters

No guests complain over fat fee at German hotel

BERLIN, 13 May — A German hotel owner who charges guests according to their weight defended himself on Thursday

against accusations he was discriminating against fat people.

Juergen Heckrodt said the 50 cents (0.64 US cent) per kilogramme rate he charges for his Hotel Ostfriesland is competitive for local three-star hotels and added there is a 74-euro (94 US dollars) limit for a double room for those who refuse to get on the scale.

"It's not discrimination at all," Heckrodt told the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper. "First of all, there's the upper limit. And besides that I don't force anyone onto the scale. Nevertheless, no one has yet to say 'no, forget that'."

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

WWII bomb found in Bangladesh water body

DHAKA, 13 May — Fishermen Friday found a 40-kilo bomb while fishing in a water body in Bangladesh's northeastern Kishoreganj district, 149 kilometres from Dhaka, police officials said Saturday.

When contacted by phone, Shariful Alam, additional police head of Kishoreganj, said they have informed the matter to Bangladesh Army bomb experts to examine and detonate it.

He said maybe the bomb was used during the World War II.

Alam quoting local people as saying that a war plane crashed during the World War II. Maybe the plane, that crashed there, was carrying the bomb.

He said the bomb has been seized and kept in local police headquarters.

MNA/Xinhua

FEDs search former CIA No 3's home, office

WASHINGTON, 13 May — Federal agents on Friday searched the home and office of the CIA's former third-highest ranking official who is under investigation because of ties to a figure in a congressional bribery scandal.

Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, who announced his retirement from the CIA on Monday, is being investigated by five agencies due to his long-standing friendship with defence contractor Brent Wilkes, an unindicted co-conspirator in the bribery case that landed former

US Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California in prison, officials said.

On Friday, the CIA declined to say whether Foggo was still employed by the spy agency.

Federal agents with sealed search warrants showed up at Foggo's of-

fice at CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia, and at his nearby home.

Live news footage showed plainclothes agents and a white Chevrolet van outside a modest split-level brick house in a quiet Virginia suburb.

MNA/Reuters

Koreas plan first train run in 55 years

SEOUL, 13 May — North and South Korea plan to send the first trains across their heavily fortified border in 55 years when they test rail links later this month, the South's Unification Ministry said on Saturday.

South Korea is keen for trains to cross the border. There are two sets of tracks that run from the South and into North Korea, but South Korean officials said the North's powerful military has been reluctant to sign off on a plan for through trains.

Officials from the two Koreas this week held their 12th round of talks on the rail links in the North Korean border city of Kaesong. The talks ended early on Saturday.

They agreed to have test runs that will cover a small length of track on rail links on the east and west coasts of the peninsula, the two said in a

statement released by the ministry.

"(The South) agreed to provide necessary equipment to help the North complete the final stage of railway construction," the statement said. The two will work out final details of the test runs in the coming days, the statement said.

South Korea has provided most of the capital and material to link the two Koreas by rail.

The western rail link would help in the shipment of goods in and out of an industrial park in Kaesong where South Korean companies produce goods at factories using cheap North Korean labour and land. — MNA/Reuters



Alligators can be seen along the canal banks next to Florida's I-75 highway in an undated photo. An alligator grabbed and killed a Florida woman who disappeared while jogging near a canal, a medical examiner determined on Thursday. — INTERNET

ကြော်ငြာများ လက်ခံပြီ

- ဒို့ကျေးရွာများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအရပ်ရပ်ရှိ မြို့နယ်ပေါင်း (၃၀၀) ကျော်သို့ စောင်ရေ (၁၄၀၀၀) ကျော်ဖြင့် တစ်လနှစ်ကြိမ် ဖြန့်ချိလျက် ရှိပါသည်။
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- ဆက်သွယ်ရန်-အမှတ် (၂၂)၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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Chinese Premier orders tightened forest fire control measures

BEIJING, 12 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has instructed fire fighting units to tighten forest fire control measures after a spate of recently fires.

He said it was important to implement prevention measures, monitor possible risks and promote education.

Fire fighters on Wednesday succeeded in subduing two forest fires that started on Monday in northeast Heilongjiang Province.

On 5 May, a fire broke out in virgin forest in the Greater Khingan Range in northern China's Inner Mongolia region and was extinguished two days

later after 2,000 fire fighters, police and forestry officials were mobilized.

MNA/Xinhua

Universities bigger than British drugs sector

LONDON, 12 May — Britain's universities said on Thursday they contributed more than 45 billion pounds to the economy and employ 1.2 per cent of the workforce.

The report from Universities UK said the sector now contributed more to the economy than the pharmaceutical and aircraft industries.

"The growth of the higher education sector now puts it among the UK economy's major industries," said Professor Drummond Bone, Universities UK's president.

Five years ago, the group said the equivalent figure was close to 35 billion pounds.

The figures come as university employers and lecturers are locked in a bitter dispute over pay.

Lecturers have been refusing to mark student's work or set exams in their

pursuit of a 23-per cent pay rise over three years.

The report, which was compiled at the University of Strathclyde for Universities UK, said the sector earned about 16.9 billion pounds a year in 2003-2004, compared with 12.8 billion a year in 1999-2000.—MNA/Reuters

Germany, Lithuania discuss energy issues

BERLIN, 12 May — Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel and visiting Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas held talks here on Wednesday, exchanging views on bilateral relations and energy issues.

During their talks, Merkel stressed that the construction of the North European Gas Pipeline (NEGP) through the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany was not

aimed at any other countries, local media reported.

Brazauskas said that Lithuania was willing to cooperate with Germany in energy issues.

Russia and Germany signed a basic agreement on the construction of NEGP last year, which has aroused fears in Baltic Sea countries such as Poland and Lithuania, according to local reports.

MNA/Xinhua

German export rises in March

BERLIN, 12 May — Germany exported goods worth 77 billion euros (97.4 billion US dollars) in March, representing a rise of 18.1 per cent compared with the same month in 2005, official figures released Wednesday showed.

Imports rose 28.3 per cent to 62.7 billion euros (79.3 billion US dollars), leaving a trade surplus of 14.3 billion euros (18.1 billion US dollars), said the Federal Statistics Office.—MNA/Xinhua

Sao Paulo, once murder hotspot, gets tamer

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 12 May —The murder rate in the world's third-biggest metropolis — a caldron of vice and poverty — is dropping sharply and mirroring a trend witnessed in New York City in the 1990s.

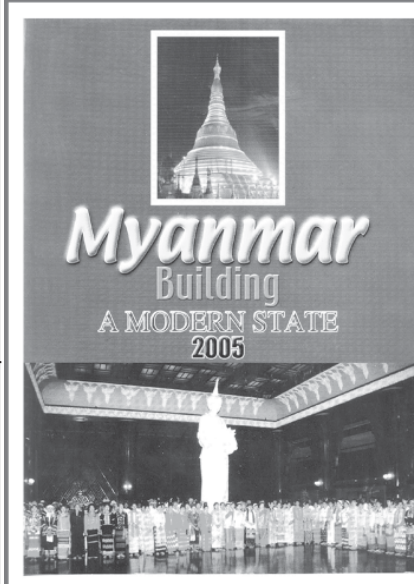
It has plunged 54 per cent in the last seven years in greater Sao Paulo to about 23 for every 100,000 residents and fell further in the first three months of this year, official data show.

Sao Paulo is now slightly less deadly than Cleveland and a bit more dangerous than Philadelphia.

Globally, crime researchers have linked drops in murder to everything from higher literacy rates to the legalization of abortion. —MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 10 May shows that "Freedom of the Sea" sails into the Hudson River near New York, on 10 May. "Freedom of the Sea", the biggest passenger liner in history has a total tonnage of 158,000 tons. With a length of 339 meters, it can accommodate some 4,300 passengers and 1,300 crewmembers at the same time. The biggest luxury passenger ship set off its inaugural trip from Hamburg, Germany on 25 April, and it finally arrived in New York by crossing the Atlantic. —INTERNET



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Nigeria arrests suspected human trafficker with 13 teenagers

LAGOS, 12 May — Nigeria Immigration Service has recently arrested a suspected human trafficker who tried to cross the Nigeria-Niger border with 13 boys and girls, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported on Wednesday.

Alhaji Hassan Kangiwa, comptroller of the Katsina State Immigration Com-mand, was quoted as saying that the human trafficker named Felix Omorka was nabbed by the joint border patrol team of the immigration command on Sunday. "The suspect was trying to cross to Niger Republic through an illegal route in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina on Sunday," Kangiwa said, adding that he was trying to cross to Niger Republic en route to Libya and subsequently to

Europe.

Kangiwa explained that the suspect was travelling with seven boys and six girls, together with his wife and her sister to Europe. The boys and girls were from Nigeria's southern state of Delta, Edo and Anambra, he said, noting that 14 Nigerian passports hidden in a sack of gari were also recovered from the suspect.

Kangiwa said the suspect and the 13 boys and girls as well as the wife and her sister had all been taken to the im-migration headquarters in the capital Abuja for further investigation.—MNA/Xinhua

Five garbage collectors killed in bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 May — Five garbage collectors were killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in western Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said. "An explosive charge went off at about 9:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) in the Abu Jaafar al-Mansur Square, killing five garbage workers and wounding another," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi court investigator was assassinated on his way to work in western Baghdad on Thursday, a police source said.

MNA/Xinhua

GM Europe seeks nearly 1,000 British job cuts

RUESSEL-SHEIM (Germany), 12 May — General Motors Europe has proposed cutting nearly 1,000 jobs this year at its Ellesmere Port plant in Britain as it scales back production of the Opel/Vauxhall Astra model, GME President Carl-Peter Forster told reporters on Wednesday.

He said the carmaker was negotiating with labour representatives who wanted to spread production cuts over other GM plants in Europe that make the Astra, but that the idea was "not super-attractive".

MNA/Reuters

ဝညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

China finds no human cases of bird flu in N-W region

BEIJING, 12 May — China has found no evidence of humans being infected by bird flu in the remote northwestern province of Qinghai, where an outbreak of the H5N1 strain among wild birds was reported last week, said a Ministry of Health spokesman on Wednesday.

Experts have travelled to the infected region in Yushu County, about 800 kilometres from the provincial capital Xining, and medical measures have been tightened to halt the spread of the virus, said Mao Qun'an.

However, he warned against complacency as the possibility of a large-

scale outbreak cannot be ruled out.

The Ministry of Agriculture confirmed on 5 May that wild birds found dead in Yushu were infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

The virus killed thousands of migratory waterfowls in the Qinghai Lake a year ago and the

World Health Organization (WHO) says the form of the H5N1 virus is almost identical to the strain found in recent outbreaks in Nigeria, Iraq and Turkey.

The Chinese Ministry of Health issued a notice last week, requiring all local health authorities to report any human cases of unknown pneumonia and anatomize dead

bodies.

In China, 12 people are known to have died of bird flu and six have survived. Worldwide, 115 people have died in nine countries. The virus remains a disease in birds and is hard for humans to catch, but health experts worry that the virus could mutate into a form that easily transmits among humans. — MNA/Xinhua



Damara (FRONT) and Akari, two young male cheetahs at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, relax in the shade on 4 May, 2006. On 16 May, the two males will head to Milwaukee County Zoo as part of a cooperative breeding program. The cubs, along with their two sisters, were born on 23 November, 2004 and were the first litter of cheetah cubs ever born at the National Zoo in its 115-year history. — INTERNET

New EU health website launched

BRUSSELS, 12 May — In 2005 at least one third of the European adult population, 130 million EU citizens, browsed the web in search of information on health. However, searching for health-related information is not always easy.

To help European citizens answer their health questions, the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU), on Wednesday launched the "Health-EU Portal".

The Health-EU Portal is a gateway to simple and sound information on 47 topics that range from babies' health to bio-terrorism, and from infectious diseases to health insurance. It is aimed at citizens, patients, healthcare professionals and scientists alike.

"The translation of the Portal into all 20 official EU languages means that up to 1.5 billion people worldwide can use it to help them to make healthy choices," said EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou.

The 600,000 euros (about 780,000-US-dollar) project is an initiative of the EU Public Health Programme 2003-2008 with financial support from the Interchange of Data between administrations, institutions and associations in health. — MNA/Xinhua



America's Cup Defender Alinghi of Switzerland (R) and America's Cup Challenger Mascalzone Latino-Capitalia Team of Italy prepare to round the windward mark on the third flight of their match race during the second day of the Valencia Louis Vuitton Act 10 in Valencia, eastern Spain, on 12 May, 2006. The races in Act 10 will count towards a bonus point system leading up to the 32nd America's Cup in 2007. — INTERNET

Heat mask useful for cold-induced asthma

NEW YORK, 12 May — A heat exchange mask, designed to improve comfort in cold temperatures, also seems to protect against asthma triggered by breathing cold, dry air, according to a report in the medical journal Chest.

Asthma occurs when the airways tighten, limiting breathing. Cold, dry air is one of the most common triggers of an asthma attack.

The Qxtec Personal Respiratory Heat Exchanger, marketed by Louisville, Kentucky-based AllergyZone, works by conserving the heat and

humidity of exhaled air and applying it to inhaled air. As such, the device does not require batteries. "The mask was originally designed to make breathing more comfortable" for people working or playing in cold environments, lead author Dr David A Beuther, from the University of Colorado at Denver, told Reuters Health. MNA/Reuters

Larger breasts coner higher cancer risk

NEW YORK, 12 May — Women with larger breasts have a greater risk of developing breast cancer before menopause than smaller-breasted women do, a new study shows. While the findings are useful for breast cancer researchers, they have no real implications for women themselves, the study's principal author, Karin B Michels of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, told Reuters Health. "If you have small breasts, you're not safe," she stressed. "Screening should be for all women, not only for women with larger breasts." MNA/Reuters

Scientist says climate killed off mammoths, not humans

LONDON, 12 May — Climate shifts were probably responsible for the extinction of the mammoth and other species more than 10,000 years ago, not over-hunting by humans, according to new research published on Wednesday.

Radiocarbon dating of 600 bones of bison, moose and humans that survived the mass extinction and remains of the mammoth and wild horse which did not, suggests humans were not responsible.

"That is what this new data points out," said Dr Dale Guthrie of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

"It is not that people weren't hunting these creatures. But climate would have reduced the numbers considerably," he added in an interview.

Various theories have been put forward to explain the disappearance of the mammoth and the wild horse, Equus ferus, which coincided with the arrival of humans from Central Asia in North America more than 12,000 years ago.

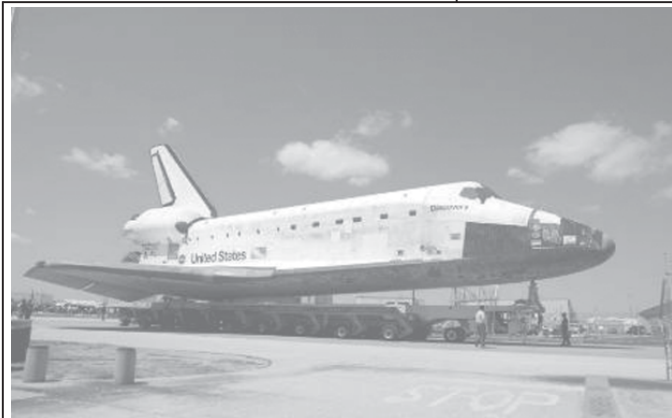
One hypothesis suggested a virulent disease was responsible for the extinctions. Another theory was that by killing grazing animals, humans triggered changes in vegetation that resulted in the mass deaths. The Blitzkrieg, or overkill theory, said human hunters devastated most large mammal species and drove some to extinction. "But contrary to that theory, my dates show numbers of bison and wapiti (elk) were expanding both before and during human

colonization," Guthrie explained.

His radiocarbon research, reported in the journal Nature, shows there was a 1,000-year different

between the demise of the wild horse and the woolly mammoth which Guthrie said is in consistent with other theories.

MNA/Reuters



The space shuttle Discovery is rolled from the Orbiter Processing Facility 3 to the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 12 May, 2006. Discovery will be attached to the external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters that will carry it into space. Discovery is scheduled for a July 1, 2006 launch. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Celta coach Vazquez agrees contract extension until 2007

MADRID, 13 May— Celta Vigo coach Fernando Vazquez has been rewarded for leading the Primera Liga team into next season's UEFA Cup with a one-year contract extension until 2007.

"I am delighted to be continuing at the club and this contract gives me some stability," Vazquez told a news conference on Friday.

"We have yet to define our objectives for next season but we are confident we can keep moving forward year on year and build on what we have achieved this season. "Sevilla have done that and won the UEFA Cup this year, and we'll have to see if we can win it next year."

Celta have been one of the surprise packages in the league and with one game left to play have already secured a place in Europe.

They are assured of sixth spot and play Getafe at home in their last game of the season on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Berlusconi says Shevchenko wants to move to England

ROME, 13 May — AC Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko wants to leave the Serie A club and move to England, club owner Silvio Berlusconi said on Friday.

"He wants to leave. He wants to go to England," Berlusconi, who is Italy's outgoing prime minister, told a group of students in front of the Prime Minister's Office.

Shevchenko has been frequently linked with a move to English champions Chelsea and recently held a meeting with Berlusconi at his residence.

The former European Footballer of the Year joined Milan from Dynamo Kiev in 1999.

Shevchenko confirmed at a Press conference at Milan's training ground on Friday that he had discussed with Berlusconi the possibility of leaving the club.

"It is useless hiding things — I was with the president, we talked

of many things and also about the possibility that I could leave," said the forward.

"There hasn't been a definitive decision. I want to be clear, we are only talking. This has nothing to do with my relationship with Milan, there has always been a great deal of affection, as with my teammates and coaches."

"The decision that I am considering regards above all my family," added Shevchenko, whose wife is American.

"I want to say another thing to the fans who have always been and will be very important to me — it is not about financial matters either, that would be absurd.

MNA/Reuters



Mexico's Andres Guardado, front, control the ball as Democratic Republic of Congo's Christian Kinkela challenges at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Mexico, on 12 May, 2006. The match is Mexico's last tune-up at home before beginning a road trip of friendly matches en route to this 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. —INTERNET



Nadia Petrova from Russia reacts after winning her quarterfinal match against her compatriot Dinara Safina at the German Open tennis tournament in Berlin, on 12 May, 2006. Petrova won in three sets by 3-6, 6-4 and 6-3. —INTERNET

Injury forces Hewitt to miss Hamburg Masters

CANBERRA, 13 May— A leg injury has forced Lleyton Hewitt to withdraw from next week's Hamburg Masters, casting a shadow on his preparation for the French Open.

Hewitt strained a muscle in his left calf muscle while training last week and despite receiving constant physiotherapy, he has been unable to recover in time.

"We have given Lleyton every opportunity to prove his fitness before embarking on this campaign," Hewitt's coach Roger Rasheed said in a statement.

"Unfortunately he failed a fitness test last night and we've decided to stay home for the next few days, where we believe the best treatment is available.

MNA/Xinhua

England key Gerrard has West Ham in his sights

LIVERPOOL (England), 13 May— Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard says all thoughts of next month's World Cup will be pushed out of his mind until after Saturday's FA Cup final against West Ham United.

"I would not be doing my job if I was thinking about the World Cup," said the 25-year-old midfielder, who will be a key figure for England in Germany.

"I will give this weekend 100 per cent and then I can turn to what I hope will be an exciting summer.

"If we give a good result there it will get me in the right frame of mind for the World Cup."

Liverpool will start as favourites to beat West Ham at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, where Gerrard will captain his side in the FA Cup final for the first time.

He already had one winners' medal to his name, having been in the side that beat Arsenal 2-1 in the 2001 final.

"It will be a special moment. I have always dreamed of playing in cup finals but I will be captain

this time, and that makes it very special to me," said Gerrard.

"I have won the Cup in Cardiff before, but this will be my first time as skipper and we need to do the job properly.

"It is good to finish the season off with a final. We have done well in the league and to finish as strongly as we did is the most important thing.

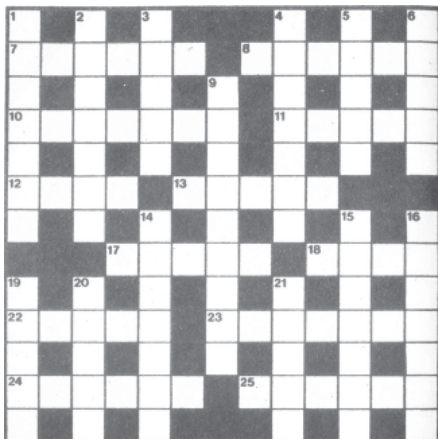
"But to have gone on a big cup run has been great.

I would not say it is as big as the Champions League but it pushes it pretty close. It is an important trophy and we need to deliver."

Liverpool have beaten West Ham, who have won the FA Cup three times in their history, twice in the Premier League already this season on the way to finishing third.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Part of violin
- 8 Judgment, sentence
- 10 Do a bunk
- 11 Carrion-feeding animal
- 12 Summit
- 13 Control, manage
- 17 Awe
- 18 Combination of nations
- 22 Deep humming
- 23 Skit (4-5)
- 24 Idle chatter
- 25 Saunter

DOWN

- 1 Father of Hebrew people
- 2 Priory church
- 3 Ardent
- 4 Paving surface
- 5 Flax cloth
- 6 Rot
- 9 Navy controller
- 14 A poison
- 15 Intoxicant liquid
- 16 Confused struggle
- 19 Old saying
- 20 Goods lift
- 21 Flat fish

Beckenbauer says Klinsmann should go if Germany exit early

BERLIN, 13 May — Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann should be replaced if his team exits the World Cup early, Franz Beckenbauer said in a radio interview on Friday.

"If he and his team are ejected from the tournament early, if their performance is disappointing ... then (his position) would be unsustainable,"

Beckenbauer told ARD radio.

Beckenbauer suggested the German Football Association (DFB) should have a replacement for Klinsmann "on the back-burner" in case the coach no longer continued in his position after the month-long tournament, which begins in Germany on 9 June.

MNA/Reuters



Iran's Rasol Katabi (L) fights for the ball with Spiez' Bruno Baumgartner (R) during a friendly soccer match in Spiez, Switzerland, on 12 May, 2006. The Iranian national soccer team is preparing for the FIFA 2006 soccer World Cup in Germany, in the Bernese Oberland until 18 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Vietnamese soccer players detained for match fixing

HANOI, 13 May— Two players of a Vietnamese soccer club have been detained for match-rigging, local media reported on Friday.

Ho Van Loi and Huynh Hong Son, who play for the Saigon Port Club, received a total of 121.5 million Vietnamese dong (VND) (7,600 US dollars) from the Song Lam Nghe An club to help it win the 2000-2001 national championship and were thus detained on Thursday, the *New Hanoi* reported.

Song Lam Nghe An assistant coach, Nguyen Huu Thang, gave 250 million VND (15,700 dollars) to 15 Saigon Port players via an intermediary named Truong Tan Hai, also a Saigon Port member. Thang and Hai were detained in January and March, respectively.

MNA/Reuters

Oxfam says rich states neglect Congo crisis

KINSHASA, 13 May — Rich countries are not giving enough money to help fight a humanitarian crisis in Congo, where more than 1,000 people die daily from violence, hunger and disease, an international charity said on Saturday.

Oxfam International said donors had committed only 94 million US dollars of the 682 million US dol-

lars needed for a Humanitarian Action Plan for Democratic Republic of Congo launched by the

United Nations, the Red Cross and aid agencies in February.

But donors had invested more than 459 million US dollars in support of presidential and parliamentary elections set for 30 July. The first multi-party polls in the Congo in 40 years are aimed at drawing a line under years of dictatorship, war and chaos.

Oxfam's Democratic Republic of Congo country manager, Juliette Prodhon, said while the international community was right to back the polls "voting alone won't cure the problems".

Rich country governments have a moral obligation to act when 1,200 people are dying every day from conflict-related causes, Prodhon said in an Oxfam statement sent to Reuters.

"To their shame Italy, Germany and France have committed nothing or al-

most nothing to the appeal, whilst the contributions of countries like the US and Japan remain miniscule compared with the size of their economies," she added.

Oxfam said even the response of consistently faithful donors like Finland, Sweden and Canada had been disappointing.

A five-year war in Congo, which sucked in neighbouring countries, officially ended in 2003 with a deal enforced by UN peacekeepers, but fighting by rebels and renegade militias has raged on in the violence-prone east.

"Democratic Republic of Congo remains one of the world's forgotten disaster zones with an estimated 3.9 million people that have died as a result of the conflict in the past 8 years," Oxfam said.

MNA/Reuters



Elton John performs on stage at the Victoria Palace theater in London to mark the third anniversary of the musical Billy Elliot, on 12 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Saturday, 13 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division, isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below normal in Kachin and Shan States, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nyaung U and Chauk (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Phyarpon (2.24) inches, Katha (1.97) inches, Machanbaw (1.26) inches, Yangon (Central) (1.15) inches and Taunggyi (1.02) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 12-5-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 13-5-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 13-5-2006 was (89%). Total sunshine hours on 12-5-2006 was (3.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 13-5-2006 were (0.39) inch at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.15) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (7.01) inches at Mingaladon, (8.39) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 12-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of thundery condition in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 14-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 14-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 14-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Sunday, 14 May
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယု မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ဝရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ မွေဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
- 2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ မွေဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အနုပညာပညာရှင်၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိန္နီဘိဝံသ (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
- 7:55 am
- 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာ
- 8:05 am
- 7. အစိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
- 8. ဆက်သွယ်ဆင့်ပွား အိပ်မက် တံတား
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Say it in English

- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
- 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
- 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:35 am
- 4. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"
- 11:50 am
- 5. ပုံနှိပ်စဉ်ပင် ကာလိစံပြကျေးဇူးတန်ခွင့်
- 12:10 pm
- 6. Myanmar Video feature "နင်းဆီ စီးရင်း" (ဒွေး၊ သုတေသန၊ တွန်းအိန္ဒြာစိုး၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်) ဒါရိုက်တာ - (မောင်ပြည့်ဝ - ပန်းဆော်)
- 1:50 pm
- 7. Musical programme
- 2:05 pm
- 8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:10 pm
- 9. "စည်ကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဘေးကင်း ဖွာ" (ကျော်ရဲ အောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မေတ္တာ၊ လင်းစာနည်စော်၊ ပွင့်) ဒါရိုက်တာ - (ခင်စော်၊ မြင့်စိုး (ဝ/သ ရန်ကုန်)
- 2:20 pm
- 10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:30 pm
- 11. ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ အဖွဲ့အကျင့် ကောင်းများ ပုံနှိပ်တော်မူပေး ပြိုင်ပွဲ (ကုန်မြင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား)
- 2:45 pm
- 12. International news
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song

- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
- 4. သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အစောင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာ အထူးပွဲ) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Dance of national races
- 5:30 pm
- 7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 10. Discovery
- 6:45 pm
- 11. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 6:55 pm
- 12. Musical programme
- 7:05 pm
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကံကောင်းခြင်းအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 8:00 pm
- 15. International news
- 8:00 pm
- 16. Weather report
- 8:00 pm
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၄၄)
- 8:00 pm
- 18. The next day's programme



Sunday, 14 May
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Sunny
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Super trouper
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Get back
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural Images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: The young ones
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Children's Delight -Story for children -The old man in the moon -Songs for children
- 9:00pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music/Latest Hits/Let's Improve English Through Songs -Feeling -Oh girl
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Commander inspects regional development in Hsenwi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing viewed thriving Hsinshweli summer paddy plantation in TadaU field in Hsenwi and Hsinshweli high yield strain paddy plantation in Ward 1 in Hsenwi on 9 May.

Before his inspection, he heard reports on cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy plantation by officials. The commander attended the ceremony to launch the 11-kv hydel power line in SeiU Village.

Shan State (North) USDA U Sai Naw Kham Oo, Shan State (North) Manager of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise U L Zaw Hsam, U Kan Na of the local national race group and retired headmaster U Sai Kyaw

Myint formally opened the ceremony, and the commander launched the power line.

The commander inspected the power station, four miles from Kunkauk Village and SeiU-Kunkauk power line.

Next, the commander attended the ceremony to donate TV set, radio and publications for SeiU, Kunkauk and Namsalat Villages held at BEHS (Branch) in SeiU Village. The commander handed over K 12.5 million provided by the State for regional development to U Kan Na of the local national group.

Afterwards, the commander oversaw Namhmyin Creek Dam near SeiU Village. He also inspected the 500 acres poppy-substitute crops and bee-keeping farm in Manmaw region and attended to the needs.— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Weather Forecast for 14-5-2006

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Liverpool win a thrilling FA Cup final on penalties against West Ham

Liverpool win 3-1 on penalties

LONDON, 13 May—West Ham took an early two-goal lead with a Jamie Carragher own goal and Dean Ashton's close range strike, before Djibril Cisse pulled one back.

Steven Gerrard lashed home an equaliser after the break before Paul Konchesky's speculative cross put West Ham ahead.

Gerrard's stunning last-minute strike forced extra-time and Pepe Reina saved from Bobby Zamora, Konchesky and Anton Ferdinand in the shoot-out. And Ashton was instrumental as West Ham shocked Liverpool and took the lead after 21 minutes.

Ashton's brilliant pass released Lionel Scaloni, and his cross was unwittingly turned past Reina by the rushing Carragher.

And another error, this time by keeper Reina, handed West Ham a two-goal advantage six minutes later.

Etherington's tame shot should have posed no problem for Reina, but he fumbled the ball at the feet of Ashton, who bundled home from close range.

Liverpool desperately needed to hit back quickly, and after Peter Crouch had a header ruled out for offside, Cisse threw the favourites a lifeline after 31 minutes.

Reina made amends for his earlier mistake with two crucial saves in the space of seconds just after the re-start. As the clock ticked around to 90 minutes, Gerrard was Liverpool's saviour again when he struck a first-time drive from fully 35 yards that flew past Hislop.

Extra-time began and Riise almost scored a goal to rank alongside Gerrard's with a long-range drive that flew just over the angle.

Liverpool win 3-1 on penalties.—Internet

Relief supplies for disaster victims in Pyapon

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Strong wind victims in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Division, were provided with relief supplies at a ceremony held in Kyaiklat on 8 May.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered a speech and presented K 3.8 million and 76 bags of rice donated by Division National Disaster Preparedness Management Committee and clothes by the command to

the victims through District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Ye Htut.

Commander of Division Police Force Police Col Than Tun presented 13 kinds of aid donated by the Myanmar Red Cross Society; and an official, medicines by Division Health Department to the officials concerned.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung inspected the upgrading of Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maubin Road and visited the Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Maubin.— MNA



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard (L) lifts the English FA Cup in front of team mates and Britain's Prince William after defeating West Ham United in the final soccer match, at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales 13 May, 2006.—INTERNET