

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 30

5th Waning of Kason 1368 ME

Tuesday, 16 May, 2006

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 2/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted the following ministers to retire with effect from today.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| (1) Maj-Gen Kyi Aung | Ministry of Culture |
| (2) Maj-Gen Sein Htwa | Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Ministry of Immigration and Population |

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 3/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung to retire with effect from today.

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 4/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nyunt Swe to retire with effect from today.

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 5/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Ministry reorganized

In order to effectively carry out the economic, nation-building and development tasks, the State Peace and Development Council has reorganized the Ministry of Electric Power as follows:

- (1) Ministry of Electric Power No (1)
- (2) Ministry of Electric Power No (2)

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 6/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Reassignment of duties of Ministers

The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned the following ministers to the portfolios shown against their names.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Maj-Gen Tin Htut | Ministry of Cooperatives |
| (2) Col Zaw Min | Ministry of Electric Power No (1) |

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 7/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Appointment of Ministers

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as the ministers of the ministries shown against each with effect from today.

- (1) Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Ministry of Hotel and Tourism
- (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Ministry of Electric Power No (2)
- (3) Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- (4) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Ministry of Culture

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 8/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Assignment of ministerial portfolios

The State Peace and Development Council has assigned Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe concurrently as Minister for Immigration and Population with effect from today.

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 9/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Appointment of Deputy Ministers

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as deputy ministers with effect from today.

- (1) Maj-Gen Aung Kyi Ministry of Immigration and Population
- (2) Dr Paing Soe Ministry of Health
- (3) Maj-Gen Kyi Win Ministry of Defence
- (4) Maj-Gen Aye Myint Ministry of Defence

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 10/2006)
4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME
(15th May 2006)

Appointment of members of CSSTB

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as Members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board with effect from today.

- (1) Brig-Gen Win Aung
- (2) Brig-Gen Soe Oo
- (3) Brig-Gen Nyi Tun
- (4) Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung

By Order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 16 May, 2006

Crush destructive elements within and without the Union

Nowadays, the government of the Union of Myanmar is systematically implementing plans for parallel development of various regions across the Union and for social and economic development of the entire national people and, as the people and the Tatmadaw are fully cooperating with the government, there have been tangible results in the political, economic and social sectors.

While the government is creating favourable conditions for peace and stability of the nation and for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democracy, the terrorists are committing a series of destructive acts such as murder, arson and planting mines to jeopardize the peace and stability of the nation, especially around Bago, Nyaungglaybin and Toungoo. Terrorists planted mines along the railroad between Penwegan, Bago, Toungoo, Pyu, Kanyutkwin, Tawkyweinn, Yedashe and Kyungon and in Kyaukkyi Township in Bago Division, killing and wounding innocent people. Not only that, these terrorists subjected the rural people living at the foot of the east Yoma mountain ranges to forced labour and torture.

However, in order to deceive the international community foreign masters and media, in cahoots with the terrorist destructionists, broadcast rumours that rural people had to flee their villages because of the attacks by the Tatmadaw. In reality, rural people had to flee because they were bullied and tortured by the KNU. KNU also forced families of the KNU rank and file to move to border areas to prevent them from meeting with the Tatmadaw. As the onus on the Tatmadaw to protect the life and property of the people, it is taking security measures to prevent the KNU from carrying out sabotage.

No matter what the insurgents and terrorists within and without the Union are doing to harm the interests of the nation and the people, we believe that the government and the people, always in oneness and in unity, will be able to crush destructive elements inside and outside the nation.

Donation centre opened for storm victims

YANGON, 15 May — A committee of Patrons and executives of Rakhine Social Organizations has opened a donation centre for the cyclone victims of Gwa Township, Rakhine State at Danyawady Missionary Monastery on U Htaung Bo Street in Bahan Township.

The wellwishers of Rakhine Thahaya Association, Kyaukphyu Association, Thandwe District Association and others donated K 2.2 million to the cyclone victims through the committee.

Everyone may donate cash and relief items to the victims at the donation centre by 15 June 2006.—MNA

Oppose Destructive Elements

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

Novitiation and ordination ceremony of Customs Dept held

YANGON, 14 May — Under the patronage of Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win, Customs Department held the 19th novitiation and ordination ceremony in conjunction with the ceremony to initiate women into nunhood at Aung San Tawya TatU Monastery on lower Mingaladon Street in Insein Township this morning. Customs Department Director-General U Khin Maung Lin and wife and staff families attended the ceremonies.

Presiding Sayadaw Maha Kamma Thana Cariya Bhaddanta Saddhama Kittisara and members of the Sangha invested the congregation



with the Five Precepts and recited parittas. Next, the director-general and staff families offered alms to the monks. At the ceremonies, 56 men were ordained, 14 boys novitiated and 34 women were initiated into nunhood.—MNA

Director-General U Khin Maung Lin and wife offer alms to a Sayadaw at novitiation and ordination ceremony.

MNA

Courses conducted at CTS

YANGON, 15 May — An advanced engineering course No 1, a basic engineering course No 9, an advanced vocational training course No 11 and clerical course Nos 42 and 43 were conducted at Central Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Dagon Myothit (North) this morning.

The attendance were Director-General of Education and Training Department U Than Win, deputy directors-general, directors, guests and trainees.

A total of 170 were attending twelve-week courses. After the opening ceremony, the Director-General inspected hostels, mess and beautifying tasks for the training school. — MNA

Vocational training courses for women open

YANGON, 15 May — Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened basic tailoring course No 42, advanced tailoring course No 14 and cotton weaving course No 3 at the Domestic Women's Training School in Kengtung this morning. Secretary of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw addressed the opening of the courses.

Likewise, similar courses were opened today at the domestic women's training schools across the country. The courses last 14 weeks from 15-5-2006 to 18-8-2006.

MNA

UMFCCI Vice-Presidents meet with Pakistani Ambassador at the office of UMFCCI.

MNA



YANGON, 15 May — Vice-Presidents of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing yesterday met Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry at the office of UMFCCI.

They discussed matters on trade promotion between the two countries, discussions to be made on economic cooperation, Myanmar businessmen to participate in trade fair and conference to be held in Pakistan and banking services.

MNA

Elbaradei says US must address Iran's security concerns

THE HAGUE, 14 May — Iran has legitimate security concerns that the United States must address if the crisis over Teheran's nuclear programme is to be resolved, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday.

"This is primarily a regional security issue," Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told a debate in The Hague.

"Iran is surrounded by countries that have nuclear weapons, Russia has nuclear weapons, Pakistan has nuclear weapons, Israel has nuclear weapons, Iraq has used chemical weapons against them. There is a sense of insecurity," he said. "When you talk about the Iranian issue, the only solution is a package that should inter alia include security issues."

ElBaradei said only full

engagement by the United States could address Iran's security concerns, as well as other grievances that have accumulated over the last 50 years.

"I'm happy to see that the US is becoming more and more engaged because ... a final solution to Iran needs the full engagement of the US," he said.

"When you are talking about security, there is only one country that can talk to

Iran and that is the US, it's not Europe. Europe can talk economics, it can talk trade ... but it cannot talk about hard security issues."

ElBaradei said while Iran still had to clarify a number of issues with the IAEA, inspectors had not seen any "significant" nuclear material being undeclared or diverted into weapons. "We haven't seen a clear and present danger. We haven't seen an imminent threat," he said, adding he agreed with suggestions by US officials that Iran was five to 10 years from a nuclear weapon.—MNA/Reuters



The 236-centimetre tall giantess Yao Defen (R) and her elder brother pose for the camera in a hospital affiliated to Anhui Medical University in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 12 May, 2006. INTERNET



A truck carrying supplies passes through walls of snow after the Srinagar-Leh highway is thrown open for traffic in Zojila, 108 km (67 miles) east of Srinagar, on 14 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Bolivia needs partners, not masters, Morales tells Europe

PARIS, 14 May — European companies must accept the role of "partners and not masters" in the exploitation of Bolivia's natural resources, President Evo Morales told AFP in an

interview as he visited France. Morales has given foreign energy companies 180 days to agree to new contracts with Bolivia's state oil firm YPF, which will then become the majority shareholder in

energy companies operating there.

Along with Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, he is at the vanguard of a leftist turn in Latin America which has Western oil companies and their political backers on edge.

"The Europeans must understand that we want to rebuild Bolivia and we're counting on democratic and peaceful structural changes, that is to say, without falling into armed conflict as in Colombia or Peru," Morales said.

"To that end, one of the changes is the nationalization of natural resources. We have started to nationalize hydrocarbons and we will continue this process with other natural resources." After Venezuela, Bolivia has the second largest reserves of gas in Latin America.

Internet

Mobile phone explosions worry Brazilians

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 14 May — At least five mobile phones have exploded over the last two months in Brazil, causing anxiety among phone users and making news headlines.

The incidents, representing only a fraction of the 89 million phones in circulation in Brazil, all involved Motorola phones.

The company said it was investigating and Brazil's telecommunication agency is pursuing the case as well. In the most recent incident on 30 April, the 34-year-old victim in Formosa, Goias State, had surgery for burns on her thighs and arms. She was driving with the phone in her lap when it exploded.—MNA/Reuters



Beyonce leaves the court after watching the New Jersey Nets play the Miami Heat in Game 4 of their NBA Eastern Conference playoff series in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 14 May, 2006. The Heat won 102-92 to lead the series 3-1. INTERNET



A PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) activist dressed as a sheep walks out of a taxi near the Australian Embassy in Cairo on 14 May, 2006. The activist delivered a bouquet of flowers to the embassy as a part of a campaign.—INTERNET

Activist seek ban on livestock trade

CAIRO, 14 May — An activist dressed as a sheep, under the watchful eye of Egyptian security, presented a large bouquet of flowers to the Australian Embassy in Cairo on Sunday as part of a campaign for a ban on live animal exports.

Jason Baker, director of Asia Pacific for the animal rights PETA, gave the flowers to consular officer Andrew Macksey to thank the Australian government for the temporary ban it imposed in February after a film showed animal abuse in Egypt.

"For once they (Australia) have made the right decision. Live exports of animals should now be banned permanently," Baker told reporters outside the embassy later.

The film, shot at Egyptian ports and abattoirs, shows sheep and cattle dragged off ships by their legs and ears and later slaughtered within sight of other

animals.

After the film appeared on Australian television, the Australian government sent a veterinary officer to investigate.

Australian ambassador Bob Bowker said his government hoped to have the live trade to Egypt resumed once it was confident that animals will receive humane treatment.

"We need a system for us to track the progress of Australian animals though the Egyptian system. We're working constructively with Egypt to improve animal welfare," he told Reuters.

But PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, says the long-distance trade in live animals is inherently cruel and should be banned worldwide.

Internet

Chavez says oil prices will jump if US attacks Iran

CARACAS (Venezuela), 13 May — Oil prices will jump if the United States Government moves against Iran, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday.

"If the United States attacks Iran openly, militarily, the price (of oil) will shoot up much more," Chavez told reporters in Vienna, comments that were broadcast over Venezuela's state television station.

He said threats against Iran had "made consumers nervous", which has pushed up the price



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez

of oil.

US light crude dropped 1.32 US dollars to 72.00 US dollars a barrel on Friday on signs that high oil prices were hurting the economy.

The United States has threatened to sanction Iran if it does not suspend its nuclear enrichment programme.

Chavez, a harsh critic of US President George W Bush, was speaking at the sidelines of a summit of Latin American and European leaders in Austria.

MNA/Reuters

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EU investigators say US pressured media on torture

WASHINGTON, 13 May — A member of the European Parliament said on Thursday that the White House has pressured journalists not to name certain European countries in their reports about CIA detention practices on the continent.

Claudio Fava of Italy,

charged with writing a European Parliament committee report on possible secret CIA prisons and detainee transfers in Europe, did not identify the journalists, newspapers or television networks he said had been pressured.

"We think that the detailed confirmation we have of pressure being exerted by the White House on journalists not to name certain European countries is an extremely important point for our work," said Fava, who was visiting Washington as part of a 13-member delegation from the European Parliament, the European Union's legislature.

Administration officials were not immediately available for comment. Speaking at a news conference, Fava did not say why he believed the Bush Administration would want to stop media outlets from identifying European countries and he provided no further details.—MNA/Reuters

'Mission Impossible III' sinks 'Poseidon'

LOS ANGELES, 14 May — It was bottoms up for "Poseidon," as the cruise ship disaster remake failed to topple "Mission: Impossible III" from a second week atop the nation's box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Mission: Impossible III" clung to No 1 with a \$24.5 million take during an anemic North America box office weekend that saw the Tom Cruise action film drop 49 percent from its opening weekend.

Internationally, "Mission: Impossible III" raked in another \$70 million to bring its two-week earnings overall to \$214 million. "It's not a bad start," said Rob Moore, Paramount's president of worldwide marketing, distribution and operations. "Poseidon," which reportedly cost \$150 million-plus to make, debuted in second place with what was described as a solid weekend opening of \$20.3 million.

"You've got two PG-13

action movies vying for the top spot and each earned over \$20 million. I think that's pretty strong for Mother's Day weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian of Exhibitor Relations Co Inc, which tracks box office performance.

But the overall North America turnstile take was more than 13 percent behind the comparable 2005 period, the first time in seven weeks that box office receipts dropped over last year's figures.

"The top 12 films for this weekend are down about 13.5 percent for comparable weekend last year. Hollywood has been on a roll for seven weeks," Dergarabedian said, adding the upcoming weekend has two potential blockbusters that could again float all boats.

"This was a solid but not spectacular weekend leading up to a big week ahead with 'The Da Vinci Code' and 'Over the Hedge.' This will be classic counter-programming," he said.

The Robin Williams comedy "RV" was third with \$9.5 million, Lindsay Lohan's "Just My Luck" debuted in fourth with \$5.5 million and "An American Haunting" was fifth with \$3.7 million. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theatres, according to Exhibitor Relations. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Mission: Impossible III," \$24.5 million.
2. "Poseidon," \$20.3 million.
3. "RV," \$9.5 million.
4. "Just My Luck," \$5.5 million.
5. "An American Haunting," \$3.7 million.
6. "United 93," \$3.6 million.
7. "Stick It," \$3.2 million.
8. "Ice Age: The Meltdown," \$3 million.
9. "Silent Hill," \$2.2 million.
10. "Hoot," \$2.1 million.—Internet

Two killed while making bomb in S-W Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 May — Two persons were killed and four others wounded while the bombs they were making exploded in Bangladesh's southwestern Satkhira District Friday, local official confirmed Saturday.

Satkhira District government official Ruhul Quddus said the sound was heard and a police team sent to see the matter. He said the blast occurred while some gangsters were making bombs for attacking their rivals of dispute on land. Quddus said the gangsters occupied 150 acres of government fellow lands forcing 250 landless families to leave the area.

MNA/Xinhua



A man films 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

Nigeria boosting protection for pipelines

ILADO (Nigeria), 14 May - President Olusegun Obasanjo ordered stepped-up protection for pipelines after a gasoline blast killed up to 200 people, but Nigerians said Saturday that impoverished villagers would keep tapping the pipes to pilfer fuel.

Rescue workers tried to finish collecting the dead for burial in mass graves by sundown. But at least 22 charred bodies floated in the tidal mangrove swamps east of the main city of Lagos — miles from the site of Friday's disaster in Ilado village.

Police said there was no sign that the fire at ruptured

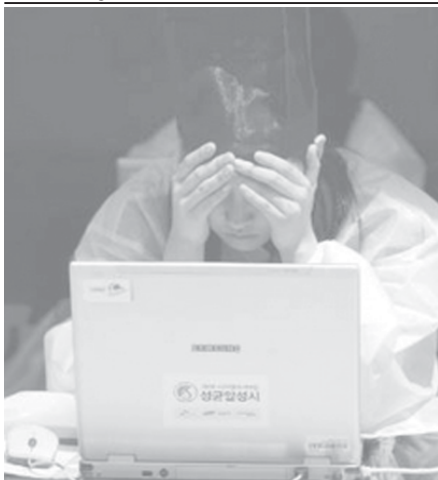
pipeline was sabotage and they assumed villagers had punctured it to steal fuel. They said 150 to 200 people died in the flames when the gasoline ignited.

Obasanjo, who was on a state visit to Indonesia, ordered an investigation into the cause of the inferno, Radio Nigeria reported. He also called for increased

protection of the country's vast web of pipelines, the radio said.

But Nigerians said little could keep poor villagers from rupturing the pipelines that are ubiquitous across Nigeria's south because the allure of free fuel outweighs the well-known danger.

Internet



A South Korean woman in a traditional scholar costume uses a laptop at the digital version of a state examination, which were carried out to employ government officers during the Chosun Dynasty, at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, on 14 May, 2006.—INTERNET



Police officers stand behind fuel containers belonging to victims on 13 May, 2006 after a gas pipeline exploded on Friday, at Ilado, Nigeria.—INTERNET



Thai villagers wheel a serpent-shaped rocket past the stand of spectators during a rocket decoration contest at the rocket festival in Yasothorn Province, northeastern Thailand, on 13 May, 2006. The festival held annually to worship god of the rains before the rice planting season.—INTERNET

China, Russia sign largest publishing deal

CHANGSHA, 13 May— China and Russia signed the largest deal in Sino-Russian publishing trade history on Friday to boost cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The Copyright Agency of China and Phoenix Publishing of Russia signed a deal at the Conference on International Copyright Cooperation in Changsha, Hunan Province, that Russia will import 75 varieties of Chinese books.

The deal was part of the Year of Russia in China, said Lu Wei, director of the Information Office of the State Council.

The 75 books included

volumes on Confucius, Taoism and Buddhism and other aspects of traditional Chinese culture.

Valdman Leonid, head of Phoenix Publishing, said the publishing house would complete publication of the books in two years.

He said the company had imported more than 100 Chinese books and hoped to enhance exchanges and cooperation in copyright trade with China.

Europe and the United States are the main sources of imported books in Russia, but Valdman believed more Chinese books would be published because "Russian readers are more interested in Chinese culture".

MNA/Xinhua

World's largest floating dock starts operation in Dalian

DALIAN, 13 May— A 300,000-ton floating dock, the largest of its kind in the world, went into production on Wednesday in northeast China's coastal city of Dalian.

The dock, which is 340 metres long, 76 metres wide and 27 metres deep, is capable of repairing 300,000-ton crude oil carriers, bulk freighters, and container ships, and rebuilding or converting other large watercraft.

The dock was developed and built by the COSCO Shipyard Group Co Ltd, a leading company for ship repair and conversion in China. It began trial production in October 2005.

Managed by the COSCO (Dalian) Shipyard Co Ltd in Dalian, a subsidiary company of the COSCO Shipyard Group, the floating dock has undertaken the repair of more than 30 vessels from Canada, Russia, Greece and Iran since its trial operation, according to the company.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian Navy seizes nearly three tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 13 May— Colombia's Navy seized around 2.94 tons of cocaine in a hiding place near the Pacific port of Tumaco in the southeastern province of Narino, Navy sources said on Thursday.

The drug, hidden in the jungle close to the shore, was ready for shipment overseas, most likely to the United States via Mexico or Central America, the sources said.

No people were arrested when the drug was seized.

Naval forces found another 800 kilos of cocaine on Sunday on the banks of the Guiza River. In addition, Marines and Coast Guard seized 700 kilos of cocaine in Tumaco Bay on three motorboats last week.

So far, the Colombian Army has seized 23.5 tons of cocaine. In 2005, Colombian forces seized

more than 186 tons of cocaine in a series of operations.

Colombia is the world's largest cocaine exporter, where 550 tons of the drug flow to other parts of the world annually, mostly to the United States or Europe.

MNA/Xinhua



Models display creations by Indian designer Ana Singh at the Idea Zee Fashion Awards in Mumbai, India, on 13 May, 2006.—INTERNET

White House's defence of eavesdropping programme not convincing

LOS ANGELES, 14 May— The Bush Administration's defence of its controversial domestic eavesdropping programme, which indiscriminately targets both

the innocent and the (possibly) guilty, is not convincing, the *Los Angeles Times* said in an editorial. "The practice to eavesdrop on its citizens may be a vast dragnet that ensnares the innocent as well as the (possibly) guilty", and "the Administration's explanations are no longer operative, to use a phrase its agents will understand," the editorial said.

Even under the Patriot Act, there are judicially supervised rules on how investigators may use technology — known as "pen registers" and "trap and trace" — that monitor telephone traffic without actually listening in on conversations, it said.

"So the legality of this programme is debatable at best. Congress, which has shown no backbone for challenging the previously revealed NSA programme, must press the administration to explain and try to justify this much more pervasive operation," it said.

USA Today reported that after 9/11, the NSA asked telecommunications companies to turn over the "call-detail" records of millions of customers. The records — essentially a list of phone numbers — reportedly have been used by the agency to identify patterns that would help identify

terrorists.

The newspaper said that the data turned over by telephone companies like AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth did not include customers' names or personal information. But it would not be hard for the agency to connect those dots. MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia hopes for safe, stable Iran

PRAGUE, 13 May— Saudi Arabia paid close attention to the stability in Iran and Iraq, hoping a safe and stable Iran would emerge, visiting Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said here on Thursday.

Al-Faisal made the call at a meeting here with his Czech counterpart Cyril

Svoboda.

Saudi Arabia favoured that Iran, a country with a long history and playing an important role in the Middle East, should be handled cautiously, al-Faisal said, adding that wielding nuclear weapons does not surely amount to a safety guarantee.

MNA/Xinhua

Storm kills 10, hurts dozens in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 May— At least 10 Bangladeshis were killed and dozens of others injured in lightning strikes during a violent rainstorm, weather officials said on Saturday.

They said the country experienced this year's heaviest rainfall on Friday, including about two inches recorded in the capital Dhaka.

The deaths were reported from outside Dhaka — in Gopalganj, Patuakhali and Jessore towns — and were mostly caused by lightning during the 50 miles per hour storm.— MNA/Reuters



South Korean protesters participate in a rally to protest a plan to relocate American military bases in Seoul, on 13 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Britain narrows gap between rich and poor

LONDON, 14 May— Britain is closing the gap between its richest and poorest citizens, but the average income of the most affluent is still 16 times that of the least well-off, official data showed on Friday.

The Office for National Statistics said that before tax and benefits, the average income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of Britons was 66,300 pounds in 2004/05, while that of the poorest 20 per cent was just 4,300 pounds. That is an improvement from 1987, when comparable records began, when the average income of the wealthiest Britons was 21 times that of the poorest. The disparity reached a peak of 24 in 1988 that was

matched in 1991.

That ratio decreases dramatically once taxes are deducted and state benefits are added on, with the incomes of the wealthiest worth just four times that of the poorest.

However, that figure has been broadly steady since 1987.

The ONS said that cash benefits such as income support, child benefit, incapacity benefit and state pension payments accounted for 60 per cent of gross income of the poorest Britons and just 2 per cent of the incomes of the nation's richest.

And while the wealthiest Britons paid a quarter of their gross incomes in direct taxes, the poorest paid just 10

per cent.

However, the poorest were hardest hit by indirect taxes — which include those tax on cigarettes, alcohol and betting as well as Value Added Tax.

These levies took a 27-per-cent chunk out of the incomes of the poorest Britons, compared with just 11 per cent from the richest. —MNA/Reuters



Fishing boats berth in an inlet to shelter from the wind in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 14 May, 2006, ahead of the coming of Chanchu. Chanchu, which means 'pearl', the first tropical storm of the year that intensified into a typhoon and roared over the South China Sea on Saturday, will bring high winds and heavy rain to many parts of south China in the coming three days, including Hainan Province, meteorologists said on Sunday.—INTERNET

Senegal demands apology from Canada

OTTAWA, 14 May — Senegal's Foreign Minister on Saturday demanded apologies from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the treatment of the Senegalese head of the International Franco-phone Organization at Toronto's airport.

During the opening session of the Francophonie's conference on preventing conflict, Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio demanded "sincere and public apologies" from Harper. Abdou Diouf,

secretary-general of Francophonie and former Senegalese president, was reportedly body-searched earlier this week upon his arrival at Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

According to a text of Gadio's remarks handed by Senegal's delegation, Gadio asked the Canadian Government to investigate the incident and offer "an apology rather than merely express regret". The incident was "extremely serious" for Senegal, Gadio told the Press after the session.

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon toll rises to 24 in Philippines

MANILA, 14 May— A typhoon whipped through the northwestern Philippines on Saturday, killing at least 23 people in stormy seas and leaving more than 10,000 people stranded as air and ferry services were suspended. Most of those killed were from a boat that capsized off Masbate Island in the south of the Luzon region, the Coast Guard said.

At least 21 people on the vessel, named the *Mae Ann 5*, were killed and 18 were rescued, Coast

Guard spokesman Joseph Coyme told reporters in Manila. A fisherman drowned while four others were rescued when their boat sank in rough seas off the coast of Negros Occidental Province in the central Philippines, Coyme said.

In Batangas Province, near Manila, a 36-year-old woman was killed when a fence swept by floods crashed into her hut, officials told local radio.

MNA/Reuters

11 Indonesian diggers trapped after landslide

JAKARTA, 14 May — Eleven workers were trapped under a pile of sand following a landslide at an unauthorized sand-digging location in western Indonesia, police said on Saturday.

The workers were digging a hill on the outskirts of the West Java capital of Bandung when an avalanche of sand and gravel came down on them, Wowon Haryono, a local police chief, told Reuters. "The search is still going on. None of the victims have been evacuated due to the sheer size of the sand pile," Haryono said.

MNA/Reuters



A resident shows an eight-kilogramme fish caught in the Yellow River in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 12 May, 2006. In recent years, it is not rare for local residents to catch such a big fish in the Yellow River due to the improvement of ecological environment.—INTERNET

US governor indicted on misdemeanor charges

WASHINGTON, 14 May— Ernie Fletcher, governor of the east-central US state of Kentucky, has been indicted on misdemeanor charges that he illegally awarded state jobs to political supporters, news reports said on Friday.

Fletcher was indicted on Thursday by a special state grand jury after a year-long investigation on three counts of criminal conspiracy, official misconduct and political discrimination.

If convicted, he would have to step down, and face up to 12 months in jail and a 500-US-dollar fine, *The New York Times* reported.

The indictment

alleged Fletcher "ordered, directed and otherwise approved the development and implementation... of the 'Governor's Personnel Initiative,'" which was designed to place political appointees beholden to the governor in merit-based state jobs.

Thirteen former administration officials and Fletcher associates had previously been indicted in connection with the investigation, and the Republican governor issued blanket pardons in August last year to those caught up in the probe but excluded himself.

Fletcher, 53, who became the state's first

Republican governor since 1967 when he took office in 2003, has reportedly vowed to complete his first four-year term and seek reelection next year.

In an unrelated development, the US Justice Department has begun investigating the activities of Representative Jerry Lewis, a Republican from California and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The probe partially focuses on Lewis' dealings with a lobbying firm that hired some of his former staff members, *The Washington Post* reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran warns Europe to avoid the "August experience"

TEHERAN, 14 May— Iran's foreign minister told European states not to repeat the mistake of forcing an end to talks on Teheran's nuclear programme by demanding it stop uranium enrichment, official news agency IRNA

reported on Saturday. Iran accuses the three main European negotiators — Britain, Germany and France — of unilaterally cancelling a round of talks on Iran's nuclear row in August 2005 shortly after Iran resumed its nuclear research and development activities.

"The European countries should not repeat the 'August experience'," IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as saying at a meeting in Indonesia.

Mottaki did not elaborate further, but said Iran would cooperate fully with European states if they accepted Iran's right to have peaceful nuclear technology and enter a dialogue based on that.

On Friday, a draft EU report indicated that the European Union would insist on Monday that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment despite Teheran's demand that some be allowed for research goals.

MNA/Reuters



Protesters from different groups march during an anti-war rally on the Mall, on 13 May, 2006, in Washington. The march was one of a series of anti-war protests scheduled in Washington for the Mother's Day weekend.—INTERNET



The heaviest rains in a decade pounded Massachusetts and New Hampshire on Sunday, forcing hundreds of people from their homes and prompting governors to declare states of emergency. No injuries or power outages were reported as of late 24 May, partly because no strong winds accompanied the storm. Picture taken on 13 May.

INTERNET

Indonesia's Merapi Volcano spews steam, hot ash

YOGYAKARTA (Indonesia), 15 May — Indonesia's Mount Merapi Volcano spewed hot clouds and ash rain early on Monday, a volcanologist said, but there was no

confirmation of reports of fresh lava flows.

Yogyakarta Administration Secretary Bambang Susanto had earlier told Elshinta news radio that, according to infor-

mation he had received, the mountain "exploded" in the pre-dawn hours with lava and hot ash.

However, Ratmono Purbo, the head of the volcanology centre in Yogyakarta near the volcano, told reporters that he had confirmation only of clouds and hot ash rains.

MNA/Reuters



Estonian Baruto, foreground, keeps his balance on the edge of the ring as he sidesteps Kasugao to win their bout at the Ryogoku Kokugikan sumo arena in Tokyo on Monday, 15 May, 2006, the ninth day of the Summer Grand Sumo Tournament. Baruto stands at 7-2.—INTERNET

S Korea hopes to hold inter-Korean summit this year

SEOUL, 15 May — South Korean Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok said Sunday that South Korea is desirable for a new round of inter-Korean summit this year.

"President Roh is more determined than ever to hold an inter-Korean summit," Lee Jong-seok said on a radio programme.

Lee's remarks came just one day before a government delegation leaves

for North Korea. The delegation, headed by former unification minister Jeong Se-hyun, is expected to meet with North Korea officials and North Korea's top leader Kim.

Jong-il was to discuss details about the upcoming visit of Kim Dae-jung, former president who held the first-ever inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang six years ago, to North Korea.

Kim Dae-jung's trip is widely regarded as an opportunity to promote the

second round of inter-Korean summit.

South Korean President Roh said earlier this week during his trip to Mongolia that he is willing to have talks with Kim Jong-il regardless of subject and venue, adding South Korean Government plans to provide unconditional support to Pyongyang without undermining the fundamental validity of South Korea's ideology and system.

The two Koreas agreed this week to conduct test runs of two

cross-border railways on 25 May.

Kim Dae-jung has expressed that he would like to travel to North Korea by train with one of the cross-border railways.

In June 2000, Kim Dae-jung visited Pyongyang and held the first inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong-il, which was regarded as a milestone in inter-Korean history and paved the way for economic cooperation and exchanges in various fields between the two Koreas.—MNA/Xinhua

Report says US sends mentally unfit soldiers to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 May — The US military has been dispatching mentally unfit soldiers to Iraq, even as authorities are aware of their illness, the *Hartford Courant* reported Sunday.

The Connecticut-based newspaper said there are numerous cases in which the military failed to follow its own regulations in screening, treating and evacuating mentally unfit troops from Iraq.

Twenty-two US

troops committed suicide in Iraq last year, accounting for nearly one in five of all non-combat deaths, and it is the highest suicide rate since the war started, according to the report.

Some soldiers who committed suicide in 2004 and 2005 were kept on duty despite clear signs of mental distress, sometimes after being prescribed antidepressants with little or no mental health counselling or monitoring, it said.

Those findings conflict with regulations adopted last year by the US Army that caution against the use of antidepressants for "extended deployments".

The US Army's top mental health expert, Elspeth Ritchie, admitted that some deployment practices, such as sending service members diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome back into combat, have been driven in part by a troop shortage. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexico concerned with proposed "militarization" of US border

MEXICO CITY, 15 May — Mexico's President Vicente Fox on Sunday called his US counterpart George W Bush to express concern over what he feared the "militarization" of the US border.

Fox called Bush before Washington was set to announce on Monday night the deployment of thousands of the National

Guard to the southern border with Mexico and before the US Senate was to debate an anti-immigrant legislation, according to a statement from Fox's office.

Bush assured Fox that the US is not contemplating a militarization of the border, said the statement.

"National Guard logistical and administrative support, not Army

support, of border zone policy is under consideration," said the statement quoted Bush as saying.

The United States recognized Mexico as "a partner and a friendly nation", Bush told Fox, reiterating his conviction that "migration can only be solved in the framework of complete and comprehensive reform."

MNA/Xinhua

Report says British troops suffer mental health problem in Iraq

LONDON, 15 May — Thousands of British troops have experienced serious mental health problems following service in Iraq, British newspapers reported on Sunday.

A major government study will reveal this week how depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder among service personnel in Iraq has increased dramatically since the war was declared in March 2003, said *The Observer*, according to the most authoritative study ever undertaken into the

psychological impact of war on British soldiers.

The research was carried out by a specialist unit at King's College London, and was funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Iraq has exerted an unforeseen level of psychological illness among British Armed Forces, the research shows.

The study will criticize the MoD for not doing enough to support soldiers and their families. In particular, it says the 8,000 Territorial Army recruits who have served in Iraq

are most at risk from suffering stress disorders because they receive even less support than regular soldiers following a tour of duty.

According to the report, the King's College research detected that an incidence of mental health problems was far higher than official MoD statistics indicate and above rates recorded from the 1991 Iraq war when thousands of British troops claimed they suffered so-called Gulf Wars syndrome.

MNA/Xinhua



New Airbus A380 seen in flight at Schoenefeld Airport in Berlin on Monday, 15 May, 2006, as it arrives in Germany. The plane is one of the attractions of the International Air Show (ILA) from 16 May until 21 in Berlin.—INTERNET



Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and local and foreign journalists view the main dam of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project in Bago Division. — MNA

Diplomats, journalists view regional...

(from page 16)
consumption reached 600 million baskets. After, 1988, the Tatmadaw Government set the target of 1,200 million baskets of paddy in a year and implemented extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Hence, paddy is in surplus in Myanmar. In an effort to supply irrigation water sufficiently, 185 dams and 293 river water pumping projects have been constructed in one and a half decades and some are under construction. Therefore, food will also be in surplus while the country's population reaches 100 million.

Regarding the electricity consumption, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said Myanmar consumed over 5,000 million megawatts in 2006 compared to 1,500 million units in 1988. A total of 30 hydro-electric power projects and nine other electricity projects were implemented in a period of 18

years. In Bago Division, there are 15 projects including electric power projects, at present he said. Yenwe Multi-pur-

pose Dam is 1,050 feet long and 250 feet high and can store 931,800 acre feet of water. The earthen type dam is expected to irri-

gate 118,500 acres of farm land. The dam has been completed and hydro power station is under construction. Afterwards,

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Command of the Southern Command Col Win Myint, diplomats and journalists, proceeded to Khabaung Multi-pur-

pose Dam Project in Ottwin Township. Officials of the Irrigation Department and Hydel-power Department briefed (See page 9)



Yenwe hydel power station which can generate 125 million kilowatts hours per year. —MNA



Khabaung multi-purpose dam which can produce 120 million kilowatt hours per year and benefit 100,000 acres of farmlands. —MNA



Director U Myint Than of the Irrigation Department briefs on Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kyaukdaga Township. — MNA

Diplomats, journalists view regional...

(from page 8)
on construction tasks of the project.

In an effort to supply electricity produced by the Khabaung project to regions throughout the country, to prevent flooding in Sittaung Valley and to supply irrigation water to farmland in Sittaung Valley, Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is implemented, and on completion, the project is expected to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland and to generate 120 million kilo-

watt hours yearly. According to the Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Lwin, despite its target of 290,000 acres of summer paddy, Bago Division cultivated over 300,000 acres. It is expected that per-acre yield can reach over 82 baskets. At present, 300,000 acres of summer paddy and over 3 million acres of monsoon paddy were put under cultivation in the region.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan replied to queries of journalists saying



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan replies to queries of journalists at the briefing hall of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project. — MNA

swamps. He continued to say that using of modern farming methods and natural and chemical fertilizer resulted in an increase in paddy cultivation.

Lt-Col Thein Lwin and officials also explained that thanks to the assistance of the Government and paddy production and the region's electricity consumption

has increased while living standard of local people has improved. After visiting the summer paddy fields, they went back to Toungoo. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with journalists. — MNA

watt hours yearly.

After visiting the project, they proceeded to summer paddy fields in Yedashe Township. Ac-

cording to the Secretary of Bago Division is making efforts to meet its target of 600,000 acres of paddy within three years and so far, 400,000 acres

of paddy were put under cultivation. As part of an effort for extended cultivation in the region, farmlands were reclaimed from

Bago Division is making efforts to meet its target of 600,000 acres of paddy within three years and so far, 400,000 acres of paddy were put under cultivation. As part of an effort for extended cultivation in the region, farmlands were reclaimed from swamps. Use of modern farming methods and natural and chemical fertilizer resulted in an increase in paddy cultivation.



A local farmer replies to queries of journalists. — MNA



Secretary of Bago Division PDC Lt-Col Thein Lwin clarifies extended cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy in Bago Division. — MNA

Minister inspects construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall in Ingapu Township

YANGON, 15 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall in Mezali Village, Ingapu Township, on 13 May.

The CEC member and party inspected destruction of Yekyaw Bridge due to erosion in the township and the site for new building of Yekyaw Village Basic Education Primary School. The CEC member presented cash for school enrollment. They went to the site of Ingapu Township People's Hospital and Ingapu Myoma BEPS.

On 14 May, the minister inspected No 105 Saw

Mill in Kyangin. Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun and Factory Manager U Htay Lwin reported on operation of the mill. The minister inspected sawn timber.

The minister provided

K 5 million, 300 dresses and 1,000 viss of edible oil for flood victims in Kyangin Township. He inspected land preparation for plantation of teak and model teak plantation in the township and No 31 Saw Mill. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents cash and kind to a flood victims. —FORESTRY

Chinese delegation members call on Attorney-General



Attorney-General U Aye Maung receives Chinese delegation members at his office. —MNA

YANGON, 15 May — With a view to exchanging views concerning legal affairs and enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries, visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China called on Attorney-General U Aye Maung at his office this morning.

Present at the call

were Deputy Attorney-Generals Dr Tun Shin and U Myint Naing, Deputy Director-General of the Attorney-General's Office U Tin Myint and directors.

The Chinese delegation earlier visited Shwedagon Pagoda and made cash donations for all-round renovation.

At the meeting hall of the Attorney-General's Office, Attorney-General U Aye Maung clarified the functions of law affairs

and Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang, set-up of Attorney-General's Office of Henan Province and its functions. Both sides held frank discussions on law functions. In the evening, the Chinese delegation visited National Races Village.

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin hosted dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation members at Karaweik Palace. — MNA

Young woman loses left leg in landmine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May — A 25-year old woman was wounded by a terrorist-planted mine while she was picking fruits together with her three companions in a forest in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, on 9 May at 10.10 am.

The blast ripped off

the left leg of Ma Nwe, daughter of U Ngwe Hlaing, of Shankye ward in Shwegyin, from the ankle. Officials rushed Ma Nwe to Shwegyin Township People's Hospital, where she is receiving intensive care and medical treatment.

The authorities in

cooperation with the people are trying to expose and crush the terrorist insurgents who are committing various kinds of destructive acts to jeopardize State stability, community peace and the rule of law and cause public death, injury and alarm.

MNA

Minister visits oil-gas field in Magway Division



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects well No 33 in Letpanto, Myaing, Magway Division. —ENERGY

YANGON, 15 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected No 2 Fertilizer Factory of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise in Pakokku Township, Magway Division, on 13 May.

At the briefing hall of the factory, the minister heard a report on the operations and production. The minister laid down plans to meet the produc-

tion target and to operate at full capacity and future production programmes. During the inspection of the production process, the minister arranged constant supervision programmes and gas production for power.

In Myaing Township in the division, he visited Kyaukkhwet/Letpanto oil and gas field where he gave instructions on the

production of oil and gas, drilling new wells at places where prospects are high and conservation of environment.

He then observed drilling of No 67 well at the field with advanced machinery and production of No 33 well. The field is producing about 830 barrels of oil and eight million cubic feet of gas per day. — MNA

Vietnamese broadcasting delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 May — Under the cooperation programme between Voice of Vietnam and Myanmar Radio and Television, a three-member Vietnamese delegation led by Mr Tran Son Ngoc, Chief of VOV's Bureau in Central Vietnam from the Voice of Vietnam-VOV arrived here by air this evening.

The Vietnamese delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by



Vietnamese broadcasting delegation members seen with officials at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

Director (Broadcast) U Ko Ko Htwe of MRTV

and officials.

MNA

Fires break out in three townships

YANGON, 15 May — A saloon car caught fire due to gas leak at No 2 Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha Township, at about 5 pm on 13 May.

The fire that started during ignition burnt down some engine parts, the battery and seats causing about K 200,000 in damages to the owner U Tin Sein.

The incident occurred in front of U Tin Sein's bean warehouse on U Shain Street in the industrial zone.

In another incident, a fire razed 22 homes at Aingsauk village, Natmauk Township, at 3 pm on 13 May.

The fire started from the house of Daw Mya Kyi, while she was boiling clothes to wash them. Although the village is seven miles from Natmauk, fire-fighters got to the place to extinguish the fire.

In Kamayut, Yangon, a fire broke out at a monastery at 4.30 am today, destroying some property

and the monastery itself.

The cause of the fire was due to the candle light offered to the Buddha Image at the building in Ward 5, where U Pināsami, the abbot monk resided.

Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaug and the director-general of the Fire Services Department gave close supervision to the firemen trying to put out the blaze. — MNA

CIA leak case court filing focuses on Cheney

WASHINGTON, 15 May — The US prosecutor in the CIA leak case has told a court he plans to use as evidence a newspaper article with notes that he says were hand-written by Vice-President Dick Cheney referring to Valerie Plame shortly before she was exposed as a CIA operative.

The notes show Cheney and his former chief of staff, Lewis “Scooter” Libby, were “acutely focused” on the 6 July, 2003, article written by Plame’s husband, Bush Administration critic and former US ambassador Joseph Wilson, said Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald in the pre-trial filing made on Friday.

Fitzgerald said the notes show that Cheney and Libby were focused on Wilson and “on the assertions made in his arti-

cle, and on responding to those assertions.”

The article asked whether the Administration manipulated intelligence in the run-up to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. In the article, Fitzgerald wrote he went to Niger in 2002 at the CIA’s request to check out reports that the African nation had sold uranium yellowcake to Iraq in the late 1990s. The processed ore can be used to make a nuclear weapon.

Wilson said he con-

cluded on his tip that it was unlikely such a transaction ever took place. Later, the alleged African uranium connection was cited by the war’s backers as evidence that Iraq had developed or had tried to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Shortly after Wilson’s article appeared, the identity of Plame, his wife, as a covert CIA operative was leaked to journalists. Fitzgerald is probing who blew Plame’s cover.

MNA/Reuters



An undated photo of Bausch & Lomb’s ReNu contact lens solution. The company on Monday said it has extended a recall of its ReNu with MoistureLoc to all markets worldwide, effective immediately. —INTERNET

Resolving Iran row would brake oil price

NUSA DUA (Indonesia), 15 May—A peaceful solution to the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme would help stabilize oil prices, Indonesian Energy Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said on Saturday.

Iran is locked in a dispute with some countries led by the United States over whether its nuclear projects are peaceful or have military aims. The other countries want Iran to curb its programme and have talked about possible sanctions.

Asked about the effect of that situation on oil prices, Yusgiantoro told reporters: “If we can find a peaceful solution, I think we can put a brake on the oil price.”

He was speaking on the sidelines of the Developing Eight (D-8) summit on the resort island of Bali. Iran is one of the

members of the group.

“We want the price to drop but we know precisely that the price is mostly influenced by geopolitical factors,” Yusgiantoro said.

Asked what the oil exporters cartel OPEC might do at its coming meeting in June, he said: “If the quotas can be maintained, that will be quite

enough.” Oil prices have been hovering around 70 US dollars a barrel in recent weeks. International Energy Agency (IEA) director Claude Mandil has said he expects them to remain high for at least two to three years because of high global demand and tight supply.

MNA/Reuters



World Health Organization officials examine the home of a suspected Marburg virus victim in the northern Angolan town of Uige in this 19 April, 2005 file photo. Disease spread by global warming could kill an extra 185 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by the end of the century and turn millions more into refugees unless rich nations take action now, a report said on Monday. — INTERNET

NZ Women’s Refuge call for law review

WELLINGTON, 15 May — About 400 mail-order brides and women married for dowry money are seeking refuge each year in New Zealand after being abused and dumped by their husbands, said Women’s Refuge on Sunday.

It calls for reviews and changes to immigration laws after being overrun with the cases.

According to law, the women have no legal status in New Zealand because their husbands withdraw sponsorship for residency and their temporary permits expire.

They do not qualify for Work and Income as-

sistance. Most cannot return home where they are unwanted and face further violence.

The women come from countries including China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Fiji, said Women’s Refuge.

Women’s Refuge national manager Heather Henare estimates about 400 such women stayed in the country’s 47 refuges each year.

Many families lived in their safehouses for over a year while waiting on immigration applications, putting the already cash-strapped service under increased stress, said Henare.

The refuges are funded for less than 20 per cent of their estimated 26 million NZ dollars (19 million US dollars) running costs. Some cannot afford to feed families in their care.

MNA/Xinhua

Power failure hits southern Metro Manila in tropical storm

MANILA, 15 May — Power failure hit most parts of southern Metro Manila on Saturday, due to strong winds brought about by the tropical storm Chanchu, the local authority said.

Fallen trees and bill-

boards toppled by winds damaged several power lines, Lennie Nazario, spokesman of Meralco, the largest power company here said.

Gusty winds brought down billboards in the east and west service roads of

the South Luzon Expressway, in the western service road of Muntinlupa and east service road of Taguig near a manufacturing power firm, he added.

In Magallanes Village in Makati, where is the central business district, tree branches would

be cut to clear power lines, he said. In Quezon City, several power lines has yet to be restored.

In the Intramuros, Tondo and Binondo districts of Manila, Meralco needs to clear tree branches entangled in Meralco power lines, the spokesman said.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s local tests show 5 positive on bird flu

JAKARTA, 15 May — Five Indonesian people from a family related by blood were positively infected by avian influenza virus after tested by the country’s laboratory, Health Ministry official said here Saturday.

Director-General of Disease Control of the ministry, I Nyoman Kandun said that the five from Indonesia’s North Sumatra Province had had contacts with fowls and pigs. He said that their blood samples had been

sent to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong. They have been tested, the results were positive, Kandun told Xinhua.

The five are 29-year-old woman, two men of 19 years old and 35, whom have died since at the end of last month, and two others men of 25 years old and 35 years old man, whom survive, according to the director. They are from one family tree, he said. —MNA/Xinhua



A petroleum terminal and storage facility is seen in Linden, New Jersey, recently. Developing nations will urge rich countries to show more leadership in combating global warming at talks of almost 190 states in Bonn from Monday that will underscore deep rifts on climate policies.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

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MV GATI SUVIDHA VOYNO (74006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOYNO (74006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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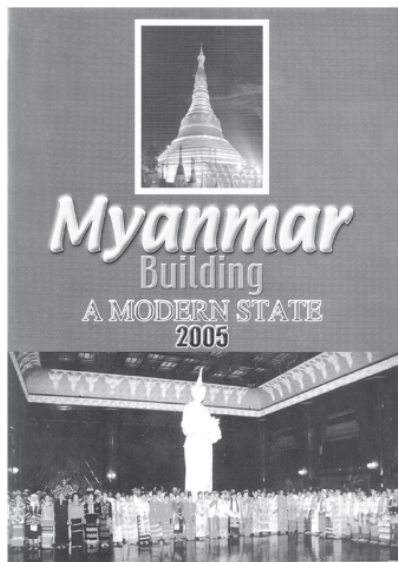
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**Malaysia offers to host
 ICO anti-corruption
 forum**

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 May— Malaysia, the current chair of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), will be organizing a forum on anti-corruption for ICO countries in August this year, reports said on Saturday. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the Fifth Summit of the Developing Eight (D-8) in Bali, Indonesia, that the forum would be Malaysia's contribution to the campaign against corruption.—MNA/Xinhua



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Ugandans reportedly face abuse under US forces in Iraq

KAMPALA, 14 May— A senior US officer has been working to restore the morale of some 600 Ugandan guards, most of them serving abroad for the first time, following the allegations that they were sexually abused while working with the US forces in Iraq.

Some of the Ugandan recruits at Alasat Airbase, northwest of Iraq, one of the biggest US fortresses, were allegedly sodomized by foreign soldiers and admitted at the Gettysburg health facility inside the

fortress, according to a report of *Daily Monitor* on Thursday.

Sources said two Ugandans, Enock Bashaija and Geoffrey Kawuka, slipped into a kamade to brutal assaults at the hands of foreign officers at Alasat Airbase after they queried terms of the contract.

Ugandans would have gone on strike to protest the beatings of Bashaija and Kawuka, if it has not been intervened by Fred Lynch, the retired Commanding Officer of

the US Army at the airbase and Paul Hegue, the executive officer of SOCSMG, a private security management firm that manages the airbase, according to the report.

But the United States Embassy in Kampala could not confirm or deny the allegations emerging out of Iraq involving Ugandans. "We cannot comment; only the Defence Department (in Washington) can answer those questions," Alyson Grunder, the US Embassy

spokesperson told the paper.

Documents obtained from sources in Iraq and Kampala said all is not rosy between Ugandans and the private firms contracted by the US Government to recruit them. Ugandans are unhappy that after leaving Uganda they are forced to change from one contractor to another, some reported to be middlemen.

MNA/Xinhua

**180 kilos
of marijuana
seized
in Thailand**

BANGKOK, 14 May— Thai Police on Saturday seized 180 kilos of marijuana in the central Pathum Thani Province and foiled an attempt to smuggle the drug out of the country.

After receiving tip-off, police arrested Pithakchai Thonkaew, an alleged courier, at a fuel station in Pathum Thani's Klong Luang District at 1:30 pm.

They netted 180 kilos of marijuana hidden in his pick-up truck, reported *The Nation* newspaper's website.

Police Lieutenant-Colonel Kittissak Thiangkamol of the Provincial Police Bureau 1 said Pithakchai was allegedly paid to take the drug to Bangkok and the drug would be transported to the South and then smuggled to Switzerland.

MNA/Xinhua

**Part-time British policewoman
murdered outside her home**

LONDON, 14 May— A part-time policewoman has been stabbed to death outside her home in northwest London.

Police named her on Friday as special police constable Nisha Patel-Nasri, 29, who was off duty when she was killed

late on Thursday night.

Neighbours called police after they heard her scream and a male wearing a hooded top was seen running away from the scene.

Police said Patel-Nasri, a hairdresser, had been alone in the

Wembley house she shared with her husband Fadi and had gone outside in her night clothes following a disturbance.

A neighbour administered first aid but Patel-Nasri died later in hospital from stab wounds to her leg.

Police said that as one line of inquiry, they were looking into an attempted burglary at the special constable's home on 6 May in which three men tried to get into the house through the front door. The men were challenged by Patel-Nasri and fled.

Appealing for witnesses at the murder scene, Detective Superintendent Julian Worker said: "What we believe has happened is that she had come out of her house in her nightdress and dealt with something in the street."

MNA/Reuters

**Anti-gambling programme launched
in Singapore schools**

SINGAPORE, 14 May — A programme called "Handling Underaged Gambling" has been launched in nine schools in Singapore, *Channel News Asia* report said Saturday.

The anti-gambling initiative aims to bring home to students the causes, warning signs, damages and cures of this dangerous hobby, so that they can influence their

peers and family members to stay away from it.

About 50 teacher-facilitators are expected to engage some 10,000 students from these schools in this programme in August, according to the report.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced in April last year that two integrated resorts with casinos would be built by 2009 to give a

boost to the country's tourism industry.

It was for the first time that the Singapore Government gave green light to opening casinos in the island state since its independence from Malaysia in 1965.

The government has taken comprehensive measures to minimize the social consequences of casino gambling, which include charging a high

entrance fee to restrict the admission of locals and setting up fund for education and prevention programmes against gambling problems.

The city state is also working on a Casino Control Act.

MNA/Xinhua

**DONATE
BLOOD**

ဝညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Royal Mint issues coins warning as copper price rockets

LONDON, 14 May — The Royal Mint issued a warning on Friday to any speculators who might be tempted to cash in on the rocketing value of copper by melting down 1 pence and 2 pence coins.

Newspapers have been quick to point out that as demand from the booming economies of China and India pushes copper steadily towards 9,000 US dollars a ton, the metal in the humble coins is now worth almost double their face value.

Since September 1992, Britain's 1 pence and 2 pence coins have been made of copper-plated

steel.

But before that date they were made of 97 per cent copper, which as the best conductor of electricity is the metal that traditionally benefits most from building booms.

The Royal Mint, which makes and distributes Britain's coins, said in a statement there were 6.33 billion 2p coins in circulation — although it

did not break down the number into pre and post 1992 — and warned that it was an offence to "deface" the coinage.

"Even if it were legal, the practicalities involved in melting down such huge quantities of coins would seem to us to make it a highly improbable task for the average consumer," it added.

MNA/Reuters

Russia's Mikhail Koklyayev lifts a 192 kg (423 pounds) stone onto a pedestal during the Telekanal Sport Strongman competition in Moscow, on 13 May, 2006. Koklayev won the international competition in which strongmen from eight countries took part. INTERNET



Chinese art show opens in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 14 May — A Chinese art show opened on Friday in the Argentine resort Mar del Plata, featuring films, video works and photos.

The show, part of the programme "building a long bridge between Argentina and China," also features an exhibition called The Chinese Environment, which displays photographs and pins made by students from two local public schools.

school after the show.

MNA/Xinhua



A publisher consults latest information on a computer during the 1st International Copyright Cooperation Fair of China in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province on 12 May, 2006. Sponsored by the Copyright Society of China and other organizations, the fair, aiming to promote international copyright cooperation and trade, opened here on Friday.—INTERNET

Daniel Katz, the mayor of General Pueyrredon, a Buenos Aires Municipality, will hold a formal ceremony later to thank the Chinese Embassy here for providing films, photos and texts for the show.

The exhibits will be donated to the National University of Mar del Plata and a local primary

Survey shows old computers make for unhappy workers

LONDON, 14 May — Dealing with the frustrations of ageing and unreliable office computers contributes to workers' unhappiness and more sick-leave, a survey showed.

A poll conducted by Tickbox.net of over 2,700 European office workers from the Britain, France and Germany found that workplace dissatisfaction

increased significantly with the age of computer equipment.

British and French respondents said working on outdated computers was the

most irritating aspect of office life. Almost 40 per cent of workers surveyed in the three countries were using computers at least three years old, with clerical and administrative workers among those using the oldest equipment.

About a third of Britons polled said they work on office equipment that was three years old or more.

Just under a quarter of those using outdated computers in Britain — defined in most cases as five years or more — said they were "quite" or "very dissatisfied" with their everyday job compared to 16 per cent of those benefiting

from up-to-date technology. Overall, 75 per cent of those working with old equipment agreed that an upgrade would lead to more productivity, the independent survey commissioned by computer screen maker ViewSonic found.

The survey also said that among workers dealing with outdated equipment, there was a 35-per-cent greater likelihood they would take six or more days of sick-leave per year compared with the average worker. In France, where more workers use older computers, the likelihood jumped to 55-per-cent.

MNA/Reuters

Work conditions raise risk of having a small baby

NEW YOEK, 14 May — A variety of occupational conditions experienced by pregnant women can increase the likelihood of having a small infant, according to a report in the American Journal of Public Health. One of the main risk factors is having an irregular or shift-work schedule.

The good news is that eliminating these factors before the 24th week of pregnancy can bring the odds down to those of unexposed women, the report indicates.

A so-called "small-for-gestational" or SGA, infant is one that is smaller than normal in relation to the stage of pregnancy.

Typically, their birth weights fall below the 10th percentile. SGA infants are at increased risk for a number of problems, including low levels of oxygen and blood sugar at birth. The present study is one of several in recent years to

examine the link between work conditions and the effect on pregnancy outcomes. While many have reported findings supporting an association, others have not.

In the current study, Dr. Agathe Croteau, from Universite Laval in Quebec, Canada, and colleagues assessed the impact of occupational conditions on the risk of having an SGA infant by analyzing data from 1,536 mothers with SGA babies and 4,441 mothers with normal babies. All of the subjects were interviewed by telephone following delivery.— MNA/Reuters

Britons floss their teeth with screwdrivers

LONDON, 14 May — More than 60 per cent of Britons use items such as screwdrivers, scissors and earrings to remove food from between their teeth, according to a survey.

The National Dental Survey found that when it comes to oral hygiene, people use whatever is close to hand to pick their teeth.

More than 60 per cent questioned by the British Dental Health Foundation said they used makeshift items, which included knives, keys, needles and forks.

The survey also found that 23 per cent of people choose to leave food stuck between their teeth, increasing the risk of gum disease and bad breath, the foundation, which promotes oral health, said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



A storekeeper holds a gold bar in Singapore, on 15 May, 2006. Gold firmed on Monday after the dollar sank to its lowest level in a year against the euro, while platinum fell ahead of the release of an industry report by Johnson Matthey, the world's top platinum distributor. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Shakhtar edge Dynamo 2-1 to clinch Ukraine title

KIEV, 15 May — Shakhtar Donetsk beat Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in a one-off "golden game" on Sunday to clinch their second successive Ukrainian league title.

Nigerian striker Julius Aghahowa headed the winner 10 minutes into extra time after the teams battled it out 1-1 in regulation.

Shakhtar's Romanian striker Ciprian Marika opened the scoring with a powerful header in the 59th minute before Brazilian substitute Rodolfo levelled 20 minutes later by beating two defenders in the box.

Dynamo threw themselves forward in desperate attacks in the final minutes after Aghahowa's goal but to no avail.

It was the second tight game between the two teams after they drew 2-2 in Wednesday's last round of matches to finish the 30-game season on 75 points each, setting up the decider.

FIFA's Slovakian referee Lubos Michel was in charge of the encounter, played on the neutral venue in the central city of Kriviy Rih, after the league decided to replace an English team of officials led by Steve Bennett, on the eve of the match.

The Ukrainian Soccer Federation said that Shakhtar had requested the change.

The two sides have dominated Ukrainian soccer since it gained independence following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, with Dynamo winning the league in 2003 and 2004 and every year from 1993 to 2001. Shakhtar also won in 2002 and 2005 and were runners up for the two years in between.

MNA/Reuters

Rasiak shines as Poland beat Faroe Islands 4-0

WRONKS (Poland), 15 May — Two goals by Southampton's Grzegorz Rasiak sealed victory for an understrength Poland over the Faroe Islands in their last friendly before coach Pawel Janas picks his World Cup squad. The striker crashed home a 25-yard volley just three minutes after coming on at half-time and headed an immaculate second in the 84th minute from a Kamil Kosowski cross to cap an easy 4-0 win.

Austria Vienna midfielder Sebastian Mila opened the scoring after a flowing move early in the first half. Vitoria Guimares striker Marek Saganowski boosted his case for inclusion by squeezing home the rebound from a free kick in the 73rd minute. "The first quarter was weak but the second half we put it all together tactically," left back Tomasz Rzasatold public television after the game. Poland play hosts Germany, Ecuador and Costa Rica in Group A at the World Cup finals.

MNA/Reuters

Victorious Panathinaikos miss out on champions league

ATHENS, 15 May — Panathinaikos beat Larissa 3-0 on the last day of the Greek Championship on Sunday but were still pipped to a place in the Champions League qualifiers by AEK Athens.

With Olympiakos Piraeus having won the title last month, all eyes were on whether Panathinaikos, in Italian coach Alberto Malesani's last game in charge, could bridge the gap on second-placed AEK.

Despite the victory over Larissa, AEK's 0-0 draw with Xanthi left them level on 67 points with Panathinaikos — three behind Olympiakos — but ahead of Panathinaikos on head-to-head encounters.

AEK beat Panathinaikos 3-0 at home and lost only 1-0 away. Panathinaikos, who will now play in the UEFA Cup, survived a torrid first half at Larissa before scoring three times after the break.

Yiannis Goumas headed them in front on 61 minutes and Fanis Gekas put in Vangelis Mantzius

for the second just two minutes later. Srđan Andrić fired in the third from long range in the 80th minute.

The final whistle marked an emotional moment for Malesani who, after 15 months in charge, is being replaced as coach

by a Swede, Hans Backe.

AEK coach Fernando Santos, whose side lost to Olympiakos in last week's Greek Cup final, is also leaving.

The final defeat was followed by riots on a ferry which led to one of the

club's fans being indicted on a charge of attempted murder. Olympiakos could only manage a 0-0 draw with Ionikos on Sunday, but with the club completing back to back doubles, their fans were not disappointed. — MNA/Reuters

Russia's soccer players celebrate victory against Czech Republic at the final soccer match of the UEFA Under-17 Championship at the Josy Barthel Stadium in Luxembourg, on 14 May, 2006.

INTERNET



Juventus defender Robert Kovac, left, of Germany, and Reggina midfielder Francesco Cozza challenges for the ball during their Italian first division soccer match at the San Nicola Stadium in Bari, Italy, on Sunday, 14 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Argentine soccer champion Boca adds 2-0 victory

BUENOS AIRES, 15 May — Boca Juniors beat Argentine rival Olimpo Bahia Blanca 2-0 adding a final victory on Sunday, its seventh consecutive win, to the

Argentine Opening championship, which it had already won on points last week.

Scoring opened for the match, in Boca's home stadium La Bombonera (The Box of Sweets), in minute 14 with a header by Matias Silvestre. Rodrigo Palacio scored again in minute 59.

Boca has now won four cups in less than a year: the South American Recopa, the Copa Sudamericana and the Closing championship. Boca had 43 points at the end of the championship, Lanus ended with 35. River Plate could win third place if it beats Quilmes. The results mean that Boca, Gimnasia La Plata, Rive, Banfield and Velez have qualified for the 2007 Copa Libertadores and that two teams — Instituto and Tiro Federal — have been relegated to the Second Division. — MNA/Xinhua

Galatasaray clinch title as Fenerbahce stumble

ISTANBUL, 15 May — Galatasaray became Turkish league champions for the 16th time on Sunday, snatching the title away from their major Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce after lagging behind them for much of the season.

On the final day, the UEFA Cup champions beat Kayserispor 3-0 and advanced to 83 points thanks to two goals from midfielder Sabri Sarioglu and one from Serbian Sasa Ilic.

Galatasaray's players and fans in their Ali Sami Yen Stadium had to wait 15 minutes after the final whistle to celebrate as Fenerbahce played out an extended period of injury time.

Fenerbahce had needed to win to secure their third successive title but the match ended in a 1-1 draw, leaving them second on 81 points and their players distraught.

Fans dressed in Galatasaray's red and yellow then streamed into the streets of a city where foot-

ball passions are deeply divided between its main three teams. The third of them, Besiktas, ended the season third, far behind on 54 points.

After the game Galatasaray's veteran forward Hakan Sukur burst into tears and hugged his children.

"We worked so hard for this and I congratulate everyone at the club. I prayed so much and I'm very happy now," the renowned Turkey international striker said.

Galatasaray's Belgian coach Eric Gerets, who took over from Romanian Gheorghe Hagi at the end of last season, led the team to the title with just three defeats — two against Fenerbahce.

MNA/Reuters

Al Ahli win derby, take Egyptian title

CAIRO, 15 May — Two goals in the first 10 minutes set Al Ahli up for a 2-0 win over arch rivals Zamalek in the Cairo derby and a 31st Egyptian league title.

Al Ahli needed only a draw to retain the championship but were goals from international Emad Moteab and Mohamed Aboutrika settled the affair.

With two matches left, Al Ahli cannot be caught after winning 21 of their 24 matches with three draws. They are 11 clear of Zamalek, who are guaranteed to finish in second place.

Al Ahli, coached by the Portuguese Manuel Jose, are seeking to end the season unbeaten for a second successive year.

The defending African champions have not lost a match in Egypt since June, 2004. — MNA/Reuters



Juventus players celebrate after clinching the Serie A soccer title at the end of their match against Reggina, at the San Nicola Stadium in Bari, Italy, on 14 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Chavez sees oil at \$100 per barrel if US hits Iran

LONDON, 15 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday that if the United States attacked Iran in its dispute with Teheran over nuclear technology, the price of oil could soar to triple figures.

Visiting London following an EU-Latin American summit in Vienna at the weekend, Chavez, leader of the world's fifth largest oil exporter, said the Iranians would have no choice but to respond to a US assault by cutting oil production.

Ken Livingstone. "The English middle classes would have to stop using their cars."

"If they attack Iran, the Iranians will cut off their supply of oil. We would do the same if we were attacked. We would cut off our oil," Chavez told around 1,000 British leftists and trade unionists. "Moreover, Iran has said it would attack Israel, and I know they have the wherewithal to do so."

The United States and European Union is putting pressure on Iran to halt uranium enrichment, which Teheran says it wants for peaceful nuclear power. The White House has refused to rule out military action although it is pursuing a diplomatic settlement.

The oil price has rocketed in recent years to around 70 US dollars a barrel, pouring billions of dollars into Venezuela's economy and fuelling Chavez' self-styled socialist Bolivarian revolution.

"If they attack Iran I think it will be far worse than the situation is in Iraq," Chavez said, describing the Iraq as "the Vietnam of the 21st Century".

Chavez was welcomed to London by Livingstone, who opened the meeting by accusing US President George W Bush of running "a gangster regime".

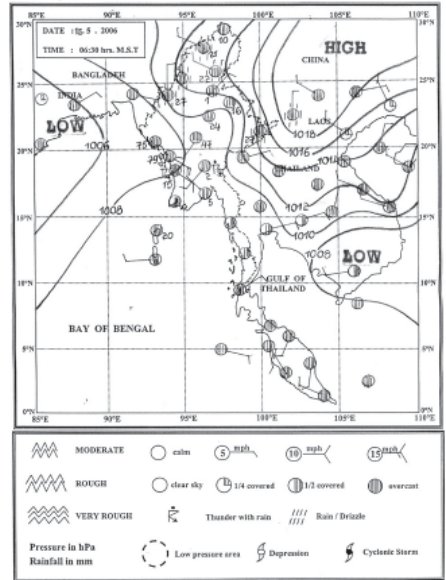
"We salute you Mr President," Livingstone told Chavez. "Londoners stand with you, not with the oil companies and the oligarchs."

Chavez is in London for two days to meet various figures from the British left. He will not meet Prime Minister Tony Blair, who he criticized for his close alliance with Washington.

The ex-soldier was greeted by jubilant supporters as he took the platform in a stuccoed ballroom. Hundreds more gathered outside in a futile bid to hear him speak.

The atmosphere inside was more like a rock concert than a political meeting. — MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 15 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin, Kayah States and Ayeyawady Division, scattered in Mon State, Magway and Bago Divisions, widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mandalay Division and isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions. Day temperatures were (4°C) to (5°C) above normal in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kachin and Shan States, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Hpa-ay and Magway (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Kyaukpyu (3.11) inches, Sittway (2.95) inches Gwa (2.80) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (2.33) inches, Kyaukse (2.20) inches, Namhsan (1.96) inches, Meiktila (1.85) inches, Myinmu and Mawlaik (1.81) inches each, Magway (1.62) inches and Sagaing (1.46) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 15-5-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 15-5-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 14-5-2006 was (4.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 15-5-2006 were (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.19) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.98) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (7.17) inches at Mingaladon, (8.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (8.11) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Northwest at (15:00) hours MST on 14-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing Division, scattered in Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 10:00 hours M.S.T, Today)
A slight earthquake of intensity (4.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about (110) miles Southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory, was recorded at (04) hrs (45) min (52) sec MST on 15th May 2006.



Houston Comets' Kayte Christensen, left, and Washington Mystics' Chasity Melvin fight for control of the ball during the first quarter of a pre-season WNBA basketball game, on 13 May, 2006, in Washington.—INTERNET

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 16 May
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ ဗဟုသုတအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟာဠ ၇၇၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟာသဒ္ဒမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

- တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာ အိဝံသ (ဗောဓိရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- Song of yesteryears

8:20 am

- ဒေသန္တရ ဖြိုးတိုးတက်စေမည် ခုဋ္ဌဝတီ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- အသေသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Dance of national races

5:10 pm

- ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

5:20 pm

- "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ် အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (ဝါးမယ်မရိမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလှနီ၊ မြတ်ကောင်းအောင်၊ ရတနာအောင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဝေ၊ ငြိမ်းစုခိုင်၊ နီနီအောင်၊ ပြည့်စုံ၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုတ်စိုင်း) (အပိုင်း-၂)

5:30 pm

- Sing and Enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- "စ" ဝေါး တို့အားထား ပဲခူးတိုင်းရဲ့ ဓမ္မဝေါး

6:45 pm

- The mirror images of the musical oldies

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မဇာနည်" (အပိုင်း-၁၂) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အိမ်မက်ကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄) (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

9:00 pm

- The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 16 May
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music:
-Do you want my love

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music:
-Kiss...Vengaboys

8.50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music:

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:
-My favourite game:Cardigans

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40pm Lunch time music
-The best thing in my life
-Wish for thinking

9.00pm English Speaking Course Level (1) Unit(7)

9.10 pm Article

9.20 pm Weekly sport reel

9.30 pm Music for you listening pleasure
-Love shot... Mandy Moore
-I wanna love you

9.45 pm News / Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

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

Diplomats, journalists view regional development in Southern Command Region



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, diplomats and journalists view Khabaung Multi-Purpose Dam.—MNA

YANGON, 15 May — Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez, diplomats, officials and resident representatives of the UN agencies and journalists on 12 May visited Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project site in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Division, Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Ottwin Township and summer paddy plantations in Swa, Yedashe Township in Bago Division.

First, they went to Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam project located in Kyaukdaga Township. According to the officials of the projects, the project equipped with

two 12.5-Magawatt-generators is expected to produce 123 kilowatt hours yearly. Out of 15 hydro power projects, 12 will be completed in 2006-2007 fiscal year, then total production of power will reach over 10,000 Magawatts. Director of the Dam Construction Project-Iunder Irrigation Department U Myint Than said thanks to 185 dams and 293 river water pumping stations constructed after 1988, supply of irrigation water has increased in parallel with an increase in production of hydro-electric power.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also said that in 1988, Myanmar produced only 654 million baskets of paddy while the country's domestic (See page 8)

INSIDE

No matter what the insurgents and terrorists within and without the Union are doing to harm the interests of the nation and the people, we believe that the government and the people, always in oneness and in unity, will be able to crush destructive elements inside and outside the nation.

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PERSPECTIVES

Weather Forecast for 16-5-2006

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

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

Yangon & neighbouring areas

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

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

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



Yenwe Multi-Purpose Dam in Bago Division.—MNA