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Wednesday, 17 May, 2006

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King of Norway

YANGON, 17 May— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, on the occasion of the National Day of Norway, which falls on 17 May, 2006. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw watering a physic nut plant.—MNA

Commander attends growing of physic nut plants in Madaya

YANGON, 16 May— A ceremony to grow physic nut plants on 200 acres was held at a farm of Central Command headquarters in Okkan Village, Madaya Township, on 10 May.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, senior military officers, officers

and other ranks numbering over 2500.

First, the commander grew physic nut plants and those present joined the activity on 200 acres. Next, the commander inspected utilization of farmlands. At the briefing hall, plantation In-charge Lt-Col Tin Oo reported on cultivation of crops and physic nut plants on reclaimed farmlands. Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win gave supplementary reports. In

connection with the reports, the commander fulfilled the needs.

The Central Command has targeted to grow 883 acres of physic nut plants and so far 600 acres of physic nut plants were put under cultivation.

Next, the commander looked into cultivation of physic nut plants on 3 acres, thriving physic nut plants and summer paddy in Madaya. The commander gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

INSIDE

- * Myanmar was able to close all the remaining opium dens in Shan State on 1 October 1965 and totally prohibited opium trafficking.
- * But after 1970, the practice of abusing heroin, that entered Myanmar from the other country, was spreading among youths in major towns and cities.
- * The nation enacted a law in 1974 to combat the danger of narcotic drugs on national scale.

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DR AUNG THAW

Weather Forecast for (17-5-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Isolated 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

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 17 May, 2006

Try to complete dam projects in time and meet the set standard

As Myanmar has favourable geographical and climatic conditions, it is a land suitable for agriculture. Therefore, agriculture is the main industry for rural people who constitute the majority of the nation's population. Moreover, it is the main pillar of the national economy. This being the case, all-out efforts are being made on all fronts for the development of the agriculture sector.

Water is one of the essentials for agricultural industry and therefore a large number of dams are being built the length and breadth of the nation. The number of dams that have already been completed stands at 185 and many are under construction. Some of those under construction are designed not only to irrigate farmland but also to generate electricity.

It hardly need be emphasized electricity plays a pivotal role in our efforts for the development of the industrial, economic and social sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to produce more electricity to meet the demand of growing population and emerging industries. To be able to supply more electricity, major and minor projects for hydroelectric power are being implemented. Some of the multi-purpose dam projects, namely, the Paunglaung dam project in Pinyin Township, the Yenwe dam project in Kyaukdaga Township and the Khabaung dam project in Ottwin Township, are not only for irrigation of farmland but also for generation of hydroelectric power.

The Paunglaung dam will be capable of irrigating about 35,000 acres of farmland and at present is producing 280 megawatts. On their completion, the Yenwe dam will be capable of irrigating over 100,000 acres of farmland and generating 125 million kilowatt hours per year and the Khabaung dam 100,000 acres of farmland and 120 kilowatt hours per year.

The sooner the multi-purpose dam projects are completed, the more acres of farmland can be put under paddy and other major crops and the more electricity generated. Therefore, we would like to call on all those concerned to try to the best of their abilities to complete the projects in time and meet the set standard.

Vets can apply for Veterinary Medicine Council members

YANGON, 16 May—Seven new members will be elected under Sub-section (C) of Section (4) of Veterinary Medicine Council and Sub-bylaw (B) and (C) of Bylaw (5) of the Veterinary Medicine Council to form the Third Veterinary Medicine Council.

Those veterinary surgeons wishing to be elected as members of the council may, if they meet the provisions of Bylaw (6), get application form (2) at the Myanmar Veterinary Medicine Council in Yangon and State/Division Veterinary Medicine Supervisory Organization from 7 to 12 June 2006 and are to send the completed forms to MVMC (Ph: 644308) on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, Yangon not later than 30 June. —MNA

Oppose those Destroying

- * 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

Vice-Chairman of Upathaka Association of Kyangin U Hla Maung recently donated K 100,000 for offering 'soon' to members of the Sangha at State Pariyatti Sasana University through Director Daw Aye Kyi of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana. —H



Publications donated to Sabaimyaing Library

YANGON, 15 May—A variety of publications were donated to Sabaimyaing Library in Sabaichung Village, Thongwa Township yesterday, and the ceremony was attended by Head of Yangon South District Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Maung Aye, Secretary of the Township PDC U Tin Nwe, Secretary of the Township USDA Dr Myint Thein, local people and others.

Secretary of the Township PDC U Tin Nwe made a speech on the occasion and Head of Yangon South District Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Maung Aye also spoke.

This was followed by the book donation ceremony which included 486 publications donated by U Sein Hla Aung-Daw San Yin, 115 publications by U Tin Shwe-Daw Khin Yi, 112 publications by U Thein-Daw Daw Khin Nwe, 51 publications by U Myint Han-Daw Khin Win, 52 books by U Myint Swe-Daw Thein Nwe, 80 books by U Aung Kyaw Myint-Daw Daw Ni Ni Swe, 250 books by U Zaw Win Han-

Dokyeywa Journal comes out

YANGON, 15 May—With the aim of widening the scope of knowledge of rural people, Volume-3, No 10 of Dokyeywa Journal has been in circulation today.

It carries a wide array of story, article, comic, poem and news. And the salient points in the journal are choosing of paddy strains, growing of Kilo guava, breeding fish in paddy field, plague in pigs, quality orchids, pet cats, Korean actor loved by Myanmar and others.

The journal is available at the offices of Information and Public Relations Departments in various townships.

Contact is to be made to No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon (Tel 371340, 371342) for manuscripts and advertisements.—MNA

Daw Tin Tin Myo Myint and others, Secretary of the Township PDC U Tin Nwe accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

MNA

Donations for World Vipassana Pagoda

YANGON, 15 May — Wellwishers presented cash donations for World Vipassana Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, under construction in Mumbai, India, today.

At the ceremony held at Dhammajoti Vipassana Centre in Yangon, Supreme Court Judge U Myint Thein and family presented K 800,000, U Hla Min Oo—Daw Mya Mya Win and family of Mayangon Township, K 800,000, and U Ramase—



Daw Nita and family of Botataung Township, K 111,111. —MNA

A wellwisher donates cash for building World Vipassana Pagoda through Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Okgha. —MNA

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. 22 MAY 2006 PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS



ACHIEVING THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET!

Seven GIs killed over the weekend in Iraq

Helicopter shot down, two killed

BAGHDAD, 15 May— Iraqi guerillas shot down a US helicopter during a raid against al-Qaida militants south of Baghdad and killed two soldiers, bringing the weekend death toll of American service members to seven, the US military said on Monday.

The military also said American forces killed more than 40 militants, including an al-Qaida operative, in five raids south of Baghdad in an area commonly known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the large number of guerilla attacks. The US hopes a national unity government that includes Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds will sap the insurgency's strength, but Iraqi politicians struggled against a deadline to form such a government. And with at least 20 Iraqis killed in roadside bombings and

drive-by shootings Monday, sectarian violence showed no signs of letting up. The helicopter was downed after a US operation in Youssifiyah, about 12 miles south of Baghdad. The Mujahedeen Shura Council, a coalition of guerilla groups that includes al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility in a statement posted on the Internet.

Other Americans killed over the weekend included two US Marines who died Sunday during unspecified "enemy action" in Anbar province, the area of western Iraq that is the heart of the Sunni-led insurgency. Two soldiers died Sunday in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad, and another died in a roadside bomb in the capital Saturday. The deaths raised to at least 2,445 the number of US military personnel who have died

since the war began in 2003, according to a count by the Associated Press.

Also Monday, guerillas fired more than 30 mortar rounds at a British military camp in southern Iraq, wounding four soldiers. Six British soldiers have been killed and five wounded over the past nine days — all in southern Iraq, an area that has traditionally been far more peaceful than central and northern Iraq where US forces are based.

Internet



Athena Dogias takes a nap in a sleep pod in a central business district office building in Sydney, on 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Afghan Govt to substitute poppy with legal crops

KABUL, 15 May— Afghanistan Government as part of its effort to eradicate poppy has allocated 30 million US dollars to provide alternative livelihood to farmers, spokesman of Counter Narcotics Ministry said on Saturday.

"Some 30 million US dollars have been earmarked to provide alternative livelihood to farmers and encourage them stop poppy cultivation," Zalmay Afzali told journalists.

He made this comment while poppy plantation is in rampant and the farmers are going

to harvest their illegal crops within month.

However, the spokesman was of the view that the above sum was not enough and Afghanistan needs more international support to tackle the problem effectively. "We want international community to extend more support and enable the ministry to seek permanent solution of our farmers and narcotics issue in coordination with other ministries," Afzali noted.

He also said that the government was firm to eradicate poppy and that was why the destruction of poppy fields is continuing. "We have destroyed 8,450 hectares of poppy cultivated lands so far this year.

The process of poppy destruction is going on and we hope to drastically reduce poppy cultivation," he pointed out.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq Foreign Minister's guards killed in bombing

BAGHDAD, 15 May — At least two bodyguards working for Iraq's Foreign Minister were killed and three were wounded when their convoy of vehicles was hit by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad on Sunday, police and military officers said.

Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told Reuters he had not been in the motorcade himself but was aware of the attack.

MNA/Reuters



A Filipino worker puts up a Tsunami warning sign translated as 'Tsunami, This way to safe area' at the far-flung coastal village of Buhatan in Santo Domingo town in Albay Province, 340 kilometres (210 miles) southeast of Manila on 16 May, 2006.

INTERNET

UN says children in east Africa risk death from drought

GENEVA, 15 May— Rainfall has come too late to reverse the devastation from a six-month drought in East Africa, where thousands of weakened children could die without immediate assistance, the United Nations said on Monday.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said eight million people in the Horn of Africa, a region spanning Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti, were in urgent need after the drought that killed livestock and crops.

They include 1.6 million children under the age of 5, UNICEF said in an appeal for money, water, sanitation, vaccines, protection, education and feeding programs for drought-affected children.

Keith McKenzie, UNICEF's special advisor for the Horn of Africa, said about 40,000 children in the region were already acutely malnourished.

"These children are at great risk if we do not get at them with adequate programmes to meet their needs," he told a

news conference at Geneva's UN headquarters.

UNICEF is short of about \$54 million of the \$81 million it asked for in 2006 for programmes across the Horn of Africa, which is reeling from its most severe drought in five years.

Internet



Children in the drought-stricken Borena zone of Oromia region, Ethiopia, on 25 March, 2006.

Rainfall has come too late to reverse the devastation from a six-month drought in East Africa. —INTERNET

Tour bus accident kills Chinese tourist, injures six in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 May — One Chinese tourist was killed and another six people, including five Chinese tourists and a Thai guide, were injured in a bus accident in Thailand on Sunday.

The tour bus, with twenty Chinese tourists and a Thai guide on board, was heading from Bangkok to Thai beach resort of Pattaya when the accident happened. The tour bus slid and turned over because of the heavy storm rain Sunday afternoon on motorway about 17 kilometres from Bangkok. One Chinese passenger, Guo Liang, from China's Hainan Province, died on the spot. Another six people, including a Thai guide and five Chinese tourists, were injured. —MNA/Xinhua



Paris Hilton, pictured, spent 10,000 dollars to deck out her mom in Christian Dior for Mother's Day, only to have the gifts snatched from her doorstep. —INTERNET



A young macaque plays with two adult macaques in the Monkey Gorge at southwest Yellow Mountain, east China's Anhui Province on 14 May, 2006. There are about 300 wild macaques in the Monkey Gorge, including five cubs born in February 2006. Picture taken on 14 May, 2006. —INTERNET

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Health tip: Prevent an asthma attack

UNITED STATES, 13 May—Asthma is a disease of the lungs that can cause wheezing, coughing, tightness in the chest and difficult breathing. Asthma medications include pills and inhalers, and can be long-term or fast-acting.

Taking your asthma medication regularly as prescribed is one of the most effective ways to avoid an asthma attack.

If an allergy tends to trigger your asthma, try to avoid things that make you sneeze or wheeze.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, here are some common triggers of asthma:

Secondhand smoke. Dust mites. Air pollution. Cockroach droppings.

Pets. Mold. Strenuous exercise. Extreme cold, extreme heat, or humid weather.

Internet

Ten killed by Baghdad bombings on Sunday

BAGHDAD, 15 May—A roadside bomb went off in a crowded market in southeastern Baghdad on Sunday, killing five people and injuring 15, an Interior Ministry source said.

The blast took place at about 11:00 am (0700 GMT) in a vegetable market in Jesr Diyala neighbourhood, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, two car bombs rocked central Baghdad's Palestine Street, killing one and wounding 11, according to Interior Ministry source.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol went off at about 9:30 am (0530 GMT) on Palestine Street.

The blast also hit a passing-by minibus, killing four civilians and injuring seven others, including two policemen.

MNA/Xinhua

“Chanchu” passes central Philippines, kills 32

MANILA, 15 May—The first tropical storm this year Chanchu on Sunday left the Philippines for the South China Sea, after killing 32 and leaving 8 missing, in addition to large parts of land flooded and thousands forced away from homes.

According to reports reaching here by the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council (NDCC), 8,473 families or 42,123 people were displaced by the storm in central Philippines, namely, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas.

In Bicol, a small-sized ferry capsized off the Masbate Island on Friday morning, drowning 21 people, the report confirmed, saying that the dead bodies were retrieved and fifteen of them were identified.

The NDCC said other fatalities in the storm were due to various accidents brought about by the strong winds. There were

13 people suffered injuries in Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Central Visayas after they were hit by flying debris and objects.

Power supply had been cut off in many areas including Metro Manila since Saturday, but authorities said teams of power companies were still clearing fallen trees and billboards from the streets and residential areas, so the electricity facilities such as poles and wires are slowly being restored. —MNA/Xinhua



Labourers work on the roof of a residential building near the new central business area in Shanghai, China, on 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Forest fire damages Yucatan ruins in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 15 May—Forest fire in Mexico has charred 5,800 hectares in the state of Yucatan on Mexico's Caribbean coast, damaging the ancient cities of Chichen Itza and Oxtankah, the country's National History and Anthropology Institute (INAH) said on Sunday.

The INAH chief, Federica Sodi Miranda, said that the agency had already begun

work to establish the fire's impact on the ancient buildings. She said that in Chichen Itza, which is 180 kilometres west of tourist resort Cancun, fires had damaged a fourth century building which had not been completely excavated, where INAH anthropologists and archaeologists had been working.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to four in Turkey's garage bombing

ANKARA, 15 May — The fourth child died of his wound sustained in a bomb blast in the central Turkish province of Erzincan on Sunday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Umut Turkmen, who was severely injured on Saturday when a time bomb planted in a garage in Beldeler Town went off, died at the Erzurum Aziziye Research Hospital, increasing the death toll to four, all of them children, the report said. “This bomb incident shows that terrorists have no respect for the life of neither the children nor the elderly,” Erzincan Governor Ali Gungor was quoted as saying. —MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



Damage by typhoon Chanchu is seen from a Philippine Air Force helicopter near Calapan town, Mindoro Province, south of Manila, on 15 May, 2006. Thousands of evacuees started to return home in the central Philippines on Monday as typhoon Chanchu headed towards southern China after killing 37 people and ripping up villages in the southeast Asian country. —INTERNET

Traffic accident kills 13 in southeast India

NEW DELHI, 15 May— At least 13 passengers were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident in southeast India's Andhra Pradesh on Saturday, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

A bus with about 50 people on board had a head-on collision with a truck on the Rajiv Rahdari highway near Prajnapur in Medak District, about 70 kilometres from the state capital Hyderabad, according to the local police.

Six people died on the spot while seven others succumbed to their injuries in hospital, the police said. Of the 20 injured, six was in serious condition.

In Andhra Pradesh, an average of 30 people are killed every day by road accidents. Last year traffic accidents claimed 11,076 lives and in the first four months this year, more than 3,000 people have died.

MNA/Xinhua

24 cholera patients found in eastern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 May— Twenty-four people have been found suffering from cholera in Malaysia's eastern state of Sabah and the situation there seemed to be worsening, a local newspaper said here on Saturday.

The cholera patients came from 18 villages near Kota Belud, a town 60

kilometres northeast of Kota Kinabalu, capital of the Sabah State, *The Star* said. These patients were hospitalized in a hospital at Kota Belud, which also accommodated another 76 people suspected of being infected by the epidemic, the English-language daily said.

Local health and hospital authorities were

sending more medical workers to reinforce the hospital in Kota Belud and taking preventive measures to contain the spread of the disease. Meanwhile, the authorities urged villagers around Kota Belud not to be panic as measures taken by the authorities were under way.

MNA/Xinhua



Central Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano emits plumes of water vapour, volcanic gases and ash during an eruption near Banos 125 km (77.7 miles) south of Quito, on 15 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Watts joins UN fight against AIDS

UNITED NATIONS, 15 May—Oscar-nominee Naomi Watts on Monday joined the UN fight against AIDS, saying she could no longer stand by and watch people die.



Actress Naomi Watts speaks about her new role as UNAIDS Special Representative at the United Nations in New York, on 15 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Watts, 37, who starred in "King Kong" and "Muholland Drive," was appointed special representative for UNAIDS, the umbrella UN coordinating body for HIV-AIDS, which recently named conductor and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich as its goodwill ambassador.

Born in Britain and raised in Australia, Watts just returned from five days in Zambia, where only one in five people stricken with the disease receive treatment.

"Given these stark realities, I could no longer stand on the sidelines," Watts told a news conference at UN headquarters in New York.

Asked about the Bush administration's emphasis on abstinence rather than contraceptives in foreign aid, she said, "While it (abstinence) is probably the safest way to avoid it, it is impossible for certain people to practice it."

"So I am a big believer in the use of contraception," Watts said.

About 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and some 25 million people have died from the pandemic, most of them in Africa.

Watts was highlighting the new UNAIDS campaign called "4 for Everyone" referring to prevention, treatment, care and support.

Watts, whose screen credits also include "The Ring" and "21 Grams," is the latest in a string of celebrities to sign up for UN duties.—Internet

Cardiovascular disease costs Britain 29.1b pounds per year

LONDON, 15 May— Treating cardiovascular disease costs Britain 17.4 billion pounds a year, 18 per cent of total healthcare and a higher proportion of health spending than in any other EU country, researchers said on Monday.

When lost productivity and informal care by family members are included, the bill rises to 29.1 billion pounds annually.

"Our study is the first to systematically estimate the economic burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in Britain," said Jose Leal, a health economist at Oxford University.

"We estimated the healthcare cost to total 17.4 billion pounds, which is around 18 per cent of Britain health expendi-

ture," he told *Reuters*.

Healthcare accounted for about 60 per cent of the total costs while lost productivity was around 23 per cent and informal care 17 per cent,

according to the research published in the journal *Heart*.

Cardiovascular disease is a leading killer in Britain. High blood pressure, raised cholesterol levels, obesity

and smoking are leading risk factors. People who survive a heart attack or stroke often need care and long-term medical treatment.

MNA/Reuters



Fu Wei (R), a fireman who had rescued the first trapped miner, leaves a well in the Dalongshan Iron Mine at Liaoyuan Village in Anqing, east China's Anhui Province on 15 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 May — Two US soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in east Baghdad on Sunday night, the US military said. "Two Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb at approximately 8 pm (1600 GMT) on Sunday in east Baghdad," the statement said.

The latest deaths have brought the fatalities of US military personnel to at least 2,439 since the Iraq war began in March, 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Two British soldiers killed in southern Iraq

BASRA (Iraq), 15 May — Two British soldiers were killed and another was seriously wounded in a roadside bomb attack in southern Iraq, military officials said on Sunday.

The bomb exploded late on Saturday night as a convoy of four armoured land rovers was on patrol just north of the city of Basra, British military spokesman Squadron Leader Al Green said.

"There is one quite severely wounded and a number of walking wounded," Green said.

MNA/Reuters

Depot blast kills two in Romania

BUCHAREST, 15 May — Two people were killed in a blast that hit an explosive depot in northeastern Romania Saturday night, the Romanian news agency *Rompres* reported on Sunday.

The two, both keepers of the warehouse in the Botosani County, had got permission to make fireworks for sale in the warehouse after their shifts were over. Fire fighters rushed to the scene soon after the explosion. The two keepers were immediately taken to the hospital, but they soon died from having inhaled too much carbon monoxide.

The cause for the accident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

Two suspected bird flu patients die in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 May — Two suspected bird flu patients have died recently at th Adam Malik Hospital in the Indonesian town of Medan, bringing the number of suspected bird flu deaths to six in the hospital, reports said Monday.

Raphael, 8, died at midnight on Saturday, while Brenita Karo-karo, 18 months, died on Sunday evening, hospital spokesman Dr Alwingsyah Abidin was quoted by the national *Antara* news agency as saying. — MNA/Xinhua



A model presents Sony Corp's new handheld personal computer Vaio 'Type U' in Tokyo on 16 May, 2006. Sony said the new palm-top computer that works on Microsoft's Windows XP operating system and is equipped with both a touch screen and small built-in key board.—INTERNET

South China prepares for first tropical storm of the year

BEIJING, 16 May— The southern Chinese provinces of Hainan, Guangdong and Fujian are preparing for Chanchu, the first tropical storm of the year and probably the strongest ever to hit south China in May, local meteorologists say.

The storm intensified into a typhoon on Saturday and its centre was located at 14 degrees north Latitude and 115.4 degrees east Longitude at 2:00 am Monday, 870 kilometres from the southern island province of Hainan, the provincial meteorological bureau in Hainan said.

It said the outer rim of the typhoon has cooled down the island province, lowering its maximum daytime temperature to between 27 and 29 degrees

Celsius Monday from 36 degrees last week.

The typhoon is moving northwestward at 10 to 15 kilometres per hour and will be landing in the central eastern parts of Guangdong Province on Wednesday. Affected by the typhoon, most parts of Hainan, Guangdong and Fujian provinces will be overcast or rainy in the coming three days, and some counties in Fujian Province are in for rainstorm.

Nearly 1,000 fishing boats have been called back as high wind is predicted on South China Sea starting on Monday afternoon.

MNA/Xinhua

13 mln suffer from hepatitis B and C in Pakistan

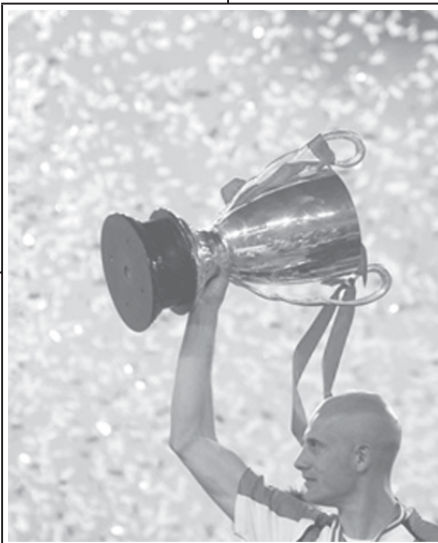
ISLAMABAD, 16 May— About 13 million people in Pakistan are victims of hepatitis B and C, local newspaper *Daily Times* quoted Huma Qureshi of the Pakistan Medical Research Council as reporting on Monday.

Hepatitis B has so far infected 4 to 5 million people and hepatitis C 6 to 7 million of the total population of Pakistan. They both constitute about 4 or 5 per cent of the total population. Last year a new programme was launched for prevention and control of hepatitis-related diseases which would be completed in five years period at a cost of 2.5 billion rupees (about 41.67 million US dollars), according to Qureshi.

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus which attacks the liver and can cause lifelong infections, cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure and ultimately death.

The disease spreads by contact with an infected person's blood, semen or

other body fluids, unsafe sex with an infected individual, sharing drug needles, living with someone having the disease. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Olympiakos' Predrag Djordjevic raises the trophy as he celebrates his team's victories for both the Greek Cup and the League at Piraeus' Karaiskaki Stadium near Athens on 14 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Alligators blamed for 2 more deaths in Florida

ST PETERSBURG (Florida), 16 May— Florida wildlife officials on Monday hunted for alligators that may have killed two people over the weekend, possibly bringing to three the number of alligator-related deaths in the southern US state in a single week.

A woman's body with both arms missing was found in a lake north of St. Petersburg on Sunday morning, officials said.

The Pinellas County Medical Examiner's office said an alligator played some part in the 43-year-old woman's death but the official cause of death would not be determined for several weeks.

The people who found the body said they saw something floating in the lake on Friday but did not check on it until Sunday. The *St Petersburg Times* newspaper said drugs were found at the scene.

MNA/Reuters

FAO opens regional meeting to review agriculture, food security

JAKARTA, 16 May— The 28th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations kicked off here on Monday to review the state of agriculture and food security, which were crucial themes for both farmers and consumers in the region.

Agricultural ministers and senior officials from 46 Asia-Pacific countries attended the meeting from Monday to Friday to address topics such as food security, poverty alleviation, bird flu prevention, natural disaster containment, pesticide manage-

ment, transboundary animal disease prevention and bioenergy development. The delegates will also elect the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons and appoint Rapporteur on Monday afternoon.

Indonesian Agricultural Minister Anton

Apriyantono inaugurated the meeting, saying that with two-thirds of the world's 850 million severely undernourished people, the region deserved to be a main focus of global plans of action for reducing hunger and poverty by half by 2015.—*MNA/Xinhua*

WHO alarms rising injury-related deaths in Western Pacific

MANILA, 16 May— The World Health Organization (WHO) raised on Monday the alarm over deaths caused by injury in the Western Pacific Region and warned that road traffic injuries and suicides could rank among the top 15 causes of deaths worldwide by 2020.

An estimated five million people die every year worldwide from injury-related deaths, and in the Western Pacific Region which covers 48 countries, injuries cause over 1.2 million deaths a year, or nearly 3,300

deaths every day, WHO said in a statement.

The major injury-related causes of deaths in the region are suicide, which claims 343,000 lives yearly, road traffic accidents, which kill 302,000, and drowning, with 171,000 deaths,

according to the statement.

Over 90 per cent of injuries occur in low-and-medium-income countries, affecting in particular, young and productive age groups, WHO said.

MNA/Xinhua

New England hit by floods, worst rain in a decade

BOSTON, 16 May— New England's heaviest rains in a decade flooded parts of Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire on Monday, swelling rivers, threatening communities and forcing thousands of people from their homes.

Residents waded through waist-high water on washed out roads, some paddling to swamped homes in canoes, and meteorologists predicted more rain on Tuesday in all three New England states, which have declared states of emergency.

"I've never seen flooding like this before," said Faustino Melo, 40, a resident in the hard-hit Massachusetts city of

Peabody, a suburb north of Boston whose downtown streets were submerged under the highest flooding in 70 years.

Emergency crews steered boats along streets to help evacuate people, while National Guard soldiers set up checkpoints to block off roads. About 200,000 sand bags were used to hold back overflowing rivers across Massachusetts.

MNA/Reuters



In this 6 March, 2006 file photo, an alligator basks in the sun near a pond along the Bee Line Expressway, in Orlando, Fla. The bodies of two women, both apparently killed by alligators, were found on Sunday less than a week after a similar death in Florida, where there have been just 17 confirmed fatal attacks by the animals in the previous 58 years.—INTERNET

Danger of opium, heroin and stimulants

Dr Aung Thaw

The problem of opium started in Myanmar when the colonialists legally permitted poppy cultivation in the regions on east bank of Thanlwin River, and on hill regions in Kachin State, and the transport and selling of opium in the nation after 1885. Nowadays, Myanmar is eradicating opium and heroin, while combating the new problem of stimulant drugs. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have become menace to the world nations.

Since regaining independence, Myanmar has been trying to root out the opium dens the colonialist government had permitted. In 1948, the nation drew a five-year plan to end opium addiction. It issued a law in 1955 requiring compulsory registration of all opium addicts, and rehabilitation centres for the addicts to end their bad habit.

Myanmar was able to close all the remaining opium dens in Shan State on 1 October 1965 and totally prohibited opium trafficking. But after 1970, the practice of abusing heroin, that entered Myanmar from the other country, was spreading among youths in major towns and cities. The nation enacted a law in 1974 to combat the danger of narcotic drugs on national scale. On 27 January 1993, it enacted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law to effectively curb the menace.

On 9 October 1989, Myanmar reformed the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, followed by setting up of drug abuse control bodies at different levels in states and divisions, districts, townships and wards and villages. Of the two strategies — supply reduction and demand reduction — the Ministry of Health has been participating in the latter. The ministry has been running rehabilitation centres and launching educative campaigns alongside the related research projects in addition to treatment of drug addicts.

As the task to end the problem of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances needs long-term programmes and much zeal and efforts, the government laid down the 15-year narcotics elimination plan in 1999. We are now going to successfully complete the second five-year period of the 15-year plan.

The ministry's task to reduce demand involves organization, treatment and rehabilitation to simultaneously decrease the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and drug production. The ministry has opened 26 major treatment centres and 40 minor treatment centres in the nation. It in cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Social Welfare Department is running three rehabilitation centres, one in Shwepyitha, another in Shwepiyiye and the other in Shwepyithit.

In 2002-2003, the government launched the New Destiny Project to add momentum to the anti-narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances drive. Under the project is the all-round assistance including financial aid, food, alternative farms and crops and techniques to run the farms and grow the crops provided for former opium farmers.

The result is the annual decrease in poppy cultivation, achieved through determination and leadership of the government, active work of the local authorities and ardent participation of the national race leaders and locals themselves.

In addition, the Myanmar government has been cooperating with the neighbouring, regional and global countries in combating the problem of narcotics.

Even at a time when the whole nation is fighting against opium and heroin, the terrible menace, the danger of stimulants appeared on another front. Stimulants are extremely harmful. Applying various effective means, Myanmar has been combating the new

danger entering her territory from the common borders she shares with the neighbours. Heroin or opium gives addicts the fake pleasure of physical calmness. On the other hand, stimulants give extreme physical energy to the user to the degree of harming himself and the people in his surroundings. Influence of the drugs can give the abuser wrong vision of heights and lengths, make him hurt or even kill himself, or unable to differentiate between friend and foe, or thoughtless that he may even commit acts against the law. He can also become a lunatic.

As stimulants like opium and heroin are drugs prohibited by the law, trafficking them will face severe legal action.

Ephedrine, a kind of stimulant, is not produced in Myanmar, but it comes from the neighbouring countries. Stimulants can be swallowed or inhaled. Innocent youths if abuse under the deception will first feel like getting joy, endurance and refreshment, but in reality, mental instability, intolerance, doubts and extreme anxiety are among many other ill effects the drugs will give them. Addicts are inclined to committing crimes and vulnerable to ill health including sudden death due to extreme body temperatures, high heart beat rate, hypertension, strokes and cardiac disorders. The addicts will also suffer from depression, over sleep and mental instability that eventually will lead them to committing suicide.

Opium, heroin or stimulants never give any benefit to the user, but are certain to bring health disorders, and education, economic and social failures. Hence, the drugs are dreadful for the nation and the people. The government has been controlling and wiping out trafficking and production of the drugs in accord with the law. It is also using various means including the information technology to launch the education campaigns all over the nation and running treatment as well as rehabilitation centres for opium, heroin or stimulant addicts.

Any addict who registers himself at one of the treatment centres will find the opportunity to rejoin the society as a normal person. But it is certain for the ones who fail to do so will face legal punishment one day.

Hence, youths should not even try the drugs that will give them nothing but ill consequences. Those illegal drugs are dangerously addictive.

As everyone has the duty to wipe out the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, all should join hands with the government in implementing the national task in order that Myanmar is free from all kinds of illegal drugs.

(Translation: TMT)

(Kyemon:16-5-2006)

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Experts seek ways to develop intellectual property rights in Myanmar



Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay delivers an opening address at Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights in the Creative Industries. — MNA

YANGON, 16 May — National Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights in the Creative Industries jointly organized by World Intellectual Property Organization - WIPO and

rights in the creative industries in the interest of the State under the directive of the Ministry of Information.

At the seminar, resource persons read out papers on "Basic Nations

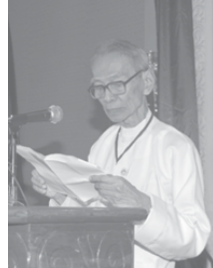
of Copyright and Related Rights including its International Framework of Protection", "Copyright and Related Rights Protection in Myanmar", "Taking Art as a Profession Between Lifetime Passion and Practical Difficulties", "Economic, Social and Cultural Importance of Copyright and Related Rights", "Economic, Social and Cultural Benefits of Protecting Copyright and Related Rights", "Exceptions and Limitations to Rights and other Flexibility in the Copyright System", "Copyright and Related

Rights in the Publishing Industry", "The Structure and Dynamics of the Publishing Industry: Value Chain and Pricing Strategies" and "Copyright and Related Rights in the Publishing Industry". Officials of Information and Public Relations Department, MWJA, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Photographic Society and Myanmar Publishing Association and invited guests participated in the seminar.

MNA



Mr Jorgen Blomquist of WIPO, Geneva.
MNA



U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Chairman of MWJA. — MNA

Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association commenced here today.

On behalf of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay and Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivered opening addresses.

The two-day seminar focuses on dissemination of knowledge of an awareness of copyrights and related rights in Myanmar. In his address, U Khin Maung Htay stressed the need to reserve the rights in the creative industries including literary, movie, music, traditional arts and photography fields.

U Hla Myaing stressed that individuals and organizations are to understand the rules and regulations for intellectual property rights and to carry out the tasks related to the



Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights in the Creative Industries in progress. — MNA

Free medical treatment given to 4,145 patients in Yaksawk

YANGON, 15 May — Free medical treatment was given to local people at Shwepazun mango farm of Shwepazun Co in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South) from 5 to 7 May.

Chairman of Border Areas Development Association U Maung Maung Soe Tint explained the Cetena Free Medical Services. Retired

Rector Dr Hla Myint presented contact lenses and spectacles to Managing Director Dr Tint Soe Lin of Shwepazun Co and Pwint Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co Ltd. Specialist Dr Aung Khin presented 1,080 exercise books and 1,000 pencils for TatU Basic Education Middle School, Dr Sein Myint 586 magazines for rural

libraries and Dr Aung Htut 300 dresses for township Red Cross Brigade.

A talk on health education was held and doctors and specialists gave lectures on health. The treatment was given to 4,145 patients by 27 retired specialists from Yangon and Taunggyi, 18 nurses and 64 skilled staff. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador of UK agreed

YANGON, 17 May — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Mark Canning as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Ms Vicky Bowman.

Mr Mark Canning joined the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1974 and served in various capacities at different departments of the FCO and at British Consulate General Offices and Her Britannic Majesty's Embassies in Freetown, Georgetown, Chicago and Jakarta. He is currently serving as the Deputy High Commissioner at Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy in Malaysia.

Mr Mark Canning speaks French, Indonesian and Spanish. He is married. — MNA

Vice-Mayor inspects road upgrading tasks

YANGON, 16 May — Vice-Mayor of Yangon City Development Committee Col Maung Pa together with Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) U Bo Htay inspected upgrading tasks of roads for the convenience of transport this morning.

During the inspection tour, they looked into tarmacking of 3600-foot long Mindama Road and Pyay Road. Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) U Bo Htay reported salient points to the Vice-Mayor.

Upon arrival at the worksite of earth road in Htantabin, In-charge engineer U Kan Nyunt reported to the Vice-Mayor on upgrading tasks of road and stockpiling of materials. In connection with the reports, the vice-mayor gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks meeting the set standards. — MNA

UMFCCI to attend meetings in Malaysia

YANGON, 16 May — General-Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry saw off Joint Secretary-2 U Tun Aung of UMFCCI who left here for Malaysia yesterday to attend ASEAN+3 Convention 2006 and SMIDEX 2006 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 16 to 18 May.

The meetings were organized by Small and Medium Industries Development Corporation of Malaysia. — MNA



UMFCCI's General-Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing sees off Joint Secretary U Tun Aung who leaves for Malaysia. — MNA

Relief supplies provided to storm victims

YANGON, 15 May—CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by officials concerned, on 12 May met with storm victims of Betye village, Shwepandaw village, Aleywa village and Shaikon village in Kyangin Township and storm victims of No 1 Ward, Myanaung at the office of USDA in Myanaung and provided them with relief supplies.

Next, the CEC member attended the concluding ceremony of Management Course No 17 for USDA Executives held at the office of Bago Division (West) USDA and made a speech.

Later, the CEC member presented K 1.4 million

and kind donated by well-wishers for the association to an official.

At the office of Shwedaung USDA, he met with the secretary and executives of USDA and gave instructions on regional development tasks.

On arrival at Myanaung Oil Field, he met staff members of the oil field at the integrated hall and called for boosting production and minimizing loss and wastage.

On 13 May, he inspected land preparation at No 4 Fertilizer Factory (Myaungtaga) Construction site and gave instructions on timely completion and meeting the set standard.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay meeting with storm victims in Kyangin Township. — MNA

MRTV D-G meets Chief Correspondent of NHK News Agency

YANGON, 16 May—Director-General of the Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay received Chief Correspondent of Bangkok Bureau of NHK News Agency Ms Kiki Ebara who had completed her tour of duties in Myanmar and her successor Mr Ichiro Kabasawa at the MRTV on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Also present on the call were MRTV Director (TV) U Myint Oo and officials. — MNA



In-coming and out-going chief correspondents of NHK call on MRTV Director-General U Khin Maung Htay. — MNA

A total of 63 armed group members, 16 families ...

(from page 16)

with the corporal, signals in charge Maung Maung Than, party organizer U Tha Zan and private Maung Than bringing in with them 700 assorted rounds of ammunition and one walkie-talkie, Naing Che with the rank of captain and Khin Maung Yi with the rank of Second Lieutenant and private Aung Naing Win of ALP armed group;

In the North-West Command area, privates Htan Kyan and Taran Khohtan of CNA armed group; in the Coastal Region Command area, private U Tun of Battalion-1 of KNU's Brigade-4

bringing in with him one M-22 automatic rifle, one magazine and 40 rounds of ammunition, Thaug Tin with the rank of sergeant and private Win Hlaing of Battalion-11 with one M-1, one magazine and 22 rounds of ammunition and two family members, U Ba Sein with one hand-made gun, two rounds of ammunition and five family members, private Tha Tin (a) Mya Si with one hand grenade, privates Saw Kyaw Kyaw, Saw Tapolo and Saw Tha Wah of DO Battalion-7, private Tin Soe of Battalion-203 with one AK-47 automatic rifle, one magazine and 20

rounds of ammunition and privates Kyaw Lwin Wai (a) Tha Lo and Aye Min of Ba-bha-sa armed group; in the South-East Command area, private Saw Tha Say of Battalion-10 of KNU's Brigade-6, CD (a) Than Win with the rank of lieutenant of Battalion-16 with one revolver and six rounds of ammunition, security in charge Phado Pan Sein, privates Shwe Tun, Aung Myaing and Pho Say of Battalion-1 of KNU's Brigade-1 with one AK-47 automatic rifle, one carbine, two magazines, ten rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade, one detonator

and nine family members, Khin Maung Nyunt (a) Lu Lay with the rank of sergeant and privates Myo Aung, Pan Aung and Myint Naing of PDS armed group with two pistols, two magazines and six rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace.

A total of 63 persons and 16 family members who exchanged arms for peace were warmly welcomed by officials of the respective regiments and units and provided with necessary requirements. It is learnt that more armed group members will follow suit.

MNA

Stationery donated to Mary Chapman School for the Deaf



Headmaster Daw Margret Kyaw Mya (L) accepts nitting machine and stationery donated by MMCWA. — MNA

YANGON, 16 May — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) today donated a nitting machine, parts of sewing machine and stationery to Mary Chapman School for the Deaf.

Principal Daw Magret Kyaw Mya accepted the donations and expressed thanks to CEC member of MMCWA Daw Khin Nwe Nwe.

MNA

First intensive one-year correspondence course (No 11) for JATs ends

YANGON, 16 May — The first intensive one-year correspondence course (No 11) for junior assistant teachers for the 2005-2006 academic year concluded this morning at Yankin Education College. Director General of No 1 Basic Education Department Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu addressed the concluding ceremony and Principal of the college U Me Aung presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The first one-year intensive course was attended by 689 JATs from No Basic Education Department (Bago Division and Rakhine State) and 482 from No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City) totalling 1171.

MNA

Bookmakers of three-digit numbers game arrested

YANGON, 16 May—Members of Tachilek District and Township Police Forces in Shan State (East), acting on information, searched the home of U Nyi Nyi of No 2/30 on Ponloe Street, Hsanhksai Ward (A), Tachilek, and arrested nine bookmakers from the neighbouring country and six local bookmakers of three-digit numbers game together with the materials related to the gambling, K 12.2 million and 95,000 bhats at 1.30 pm on 2 May.

The six local culprits are Ko Nyi Nyi, son of U Ne Tun, Ma Thein Thein Htwe, daughter of U Mya Aye of 6/40 in Makahokham Ward, Ma Nan Phu, daughter of U Sai Kham of 100 at Tawkawt (Inner) Ward, Haungleik Village-tract, Maung Zaw Paik, son of U Hla Than of Thittawin, Mahahokham Ward, Ma Nan Shan, daughter U Sail Kyut of 3/13 in Hsanhksai (A) Ward, and Ma Nan Hun, daughter U Aik Hsam of Mekhaung Ward.

The police station concerned is taking action against the gamblers.

MNA

China, Russia, Central Asians say Iran talks a must

SHANGHAI, 16 May — China, Russia and four Central Asian states on Monday warned that attempts to end the stand-off over Iran's nuclear programme other than through talks would lead to unwanted results.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) groups the formerly Soviet-controlled states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with regional giants China and Russia.

"Iran is an independent country and we think this matter only can be solved through negotiations," Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, who was speaking on behalf of

the SCO, told a Press briefing in Shanghai.

"If other measures are used to solve the Iran nuclear issue, this will not give the intended results," he said, without elaborating.

Founded in 2001 from a looser association set up in 1996, the group is seen by some — in Moscow at least — as a balance to US influence in the region.

Britain, France and Germany, backed by the

United States, Russia and China, are to unveil a package of inducements and penalties for Iran depending on whether it cooperates or resists Western calls that it halt uranium enrichment.

Iran says its nuclear programme is merely for peaceful power generation.—MNA/Reuters



New Yorkers take cover from the rain on Monday, 15 May, 2006. Northeast of New York, a four-day deluge has hit New England.—INTERNET

S Korea to indict Hyundai Motor head

SEOUL, 16 May — South Korea will indict on Tuesday the chairman of the Hyundai Motor group over a cash-for-favours scandal, a spokesman for the Supreme Prosecutors' Office said on Monday.

Analysts are concerned the probe could create a leadership vacuum at the country's top car maker and derail its ambitions to become the world autos industry number five by 2010, since the chairman is said to take a strong role in day-to-day management of the group.

Along with its affiliate Kia Motors Cor, it is now the seventh-biggest auto maker in the world.

"Chung Mong-koo will only be indicted tomorrow," Kang Chan-woo told Reuters by telephone, declining to elaborate.

The chairman was arrested on 28 April over allegations of misusing company funds linked to a bribery scandal, involving suspected slush funds used to offer cash for political favours via a lobbyist.

MNA/Reuters

High fuel price affects Thai military operations

NAKON NAYOK (Thailand), 16 May — The current high price of fuel has affected the operations of Thailand's military — including the annual joint exercise code named "Cobra Gold" which was launched on Monday, the Thai Supreme Commander said here Monday.

General Ruengroj Mahasaranond said he was worried over the continued rise in oil prices and that ranking commanders met regularly to assess the situation and review the best solution to save budget.

"We are trying to utilize our financial allocation," he said, "meanwhile, operations must be carried out smoothly and successfully".

General Ruengroj admitted that the high price

of fuel would inevitably affect the "Cobra Gold" exercise but that the Thai Armed Forces would try their best to minimize the impact of the current energy crunch.

Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, and the United States are participating in the "Cobra Gold" exercise in Thailand 15-26 May. As an observer, China also sent its representatives into the operation.

"Cobra Gold" is a regularly scheduled multinational exercise hosted annually by Thailand. This year's event is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security.

The exercise marks the 25th anniversary of this regionally significant training event which first began in 1981.

MNA/Xinhua



The ribs of an elk clearly show through its coat as it glances up while grazing in the Mount St Helens State Wildlife Area, which hugs the valley along the north fork of the Toutle River, east of the volcano, on Wednesday, 10 May, 2006. More than 25 years after its eruption turned this river valley into moonscape, elk living in the shadow of Mount St Helens are starving to death at a rate that has alarmed many observers. This winter's elk die-off was the highest recorded by state wildlife managers in seven years, and some critics say the survivors are so undernourished and the forage so poor that another major winter kill could be on the way.

INTERNET

Vanuatu volcano eruption to be measured

WELLINGTON, 16 May — Vanuatu's National Disaster office said Monday a volcanic eruption on Lopevi in Malampa Province has caused heavy ashfall on nearby islands.

According to Vanuatu Post, the local newspaper, the office's director Job Esau said they are yet to grade the magnitude of the eruption because scientists are still to arrive at the site of volcano.

Esau said that without a monitoring station on the island they have been relying on on-site observations. He said the nearby islands of Ambrym and Paama have been feeling the effects of the eruption.

There was a volcano eruption in December last year on the remote Ambae Island of Vanuatu. Villagers around have been evacuated for about one month from the path of a possible lahar, or mud flow.

The South Pacific Vanuatu groups a string of more than 80 islands, most of the islands being inhabited. Some have active volcanoes. — MNA/Xinhua

Asia Pacific not on right track to decrease undernourished

JAKARTA, 16 May — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations here on Monday said that countries in the Asia-Pacific Region were not on track to reduce the number of undernourished people and called for the concerned sides to accelerate progress to reach the target set by the UN.

FAO spokesman for Asia and the Pacific region Dideric de Vleeschauwer said that the number of undernourished people in the region had increased to 850 million from 800 million in 1999, when the first World Food Summit was held in Rome and declared the target of halving the figure by 2015.

"Seven years after it was targeted, the figure does not decrease but increase," Dideric told Xinhua, adding that a meeting would be held in September in Rome to review the target.

Meanwhile, FAO As-

sistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific region He Changchui said that the countries in the region must speed up their efforts to achieve the target.

"Despite the rapid economic growth, we are not on track to meet the

World Food Summit target of halving the number of the undernourished people by 2015," he said during his welcome speech for the 28th FAO's Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific Region kicked off here on Monday morning.

MNA/Xinhua



Close-up of a tuna fish. A tuna fish caught in the Indian Ocean this week.

INTERNET

Bausch extends lens solution recall worldwide

CHICAGO, 16 May — Bausch & Lomb Inc on Monday permanently recalled its ReNu with MoistureLoc contact lens solution in all global markets, saying the product may increase the risk of a potentially blinding eye infection.

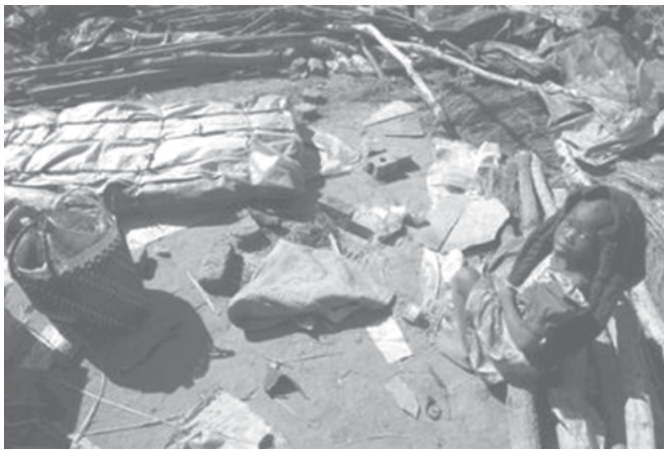
Expanding an earlier recall, Bausch said some aspect of the MoistureLoc formula may be increasing the relative risk of the eye infection in unusual circumstances.

The global recall marks a shift in the search for a cause of an outbreak of Fusarium keratitis that has infected 122 people in the United States alone.

MNA/Reuters

A young Zimbabwe girl sits amidst the rubble of her family's destroyed home in Porta Farm squatter camp near the town of Norton, 25 km (15 miles) west of Harare in this file photo.

INTERNET



HK checks reports of 30,000 China chicken deaths

HONG KONG, 16 May — Hong Kong is checking media reports of the deaths of 30,000 chickens on a farm in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, a government spokesman said on Monday.

The farm, operated by the Dalian Hanwei Chicken Farm Co, kept two million hens and was a major supplier of eggs to Beijing and southern China, including Hong Kong and Macao, the South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

"We are trying to clarify with Chinese authorities about the reports. All food that's exported to Hong Kong from China must be approved by authorities in the Mainland," the spokesman said.

"We haven't had any reply yet," he said.

In an interview with Hong Kong's TVB station on Sunday night, a manager of the company's subsidiary in Beijing said she was told 20,000 to 30,000 chickens died on the farm around 4 May.

The manager, Zhang

Yan, said the chickens died after being injected with vaccines to protect them against H5N1 bird flu.

Instead of giving protection, bad vaccines

can cause illness, or worse, mask diseases. In the latter case, the animal or person appears well but would carry the virus and infect others.

MNA/Reuters

Survey shows malnutrition among Iraqi children alarming

BAGHDAD, 16 May — Malnutrition among Iraqi children has reached alarming levels, according to a UN-backed government survey showing people are struggling to cope three years after US-forces overthrow Saddam Hussein.

Nine per cent — almost one in 10 — of children aged between six months and five years, suffered acute malnourishment, said the report on food security and vulnerability in Iraq.

"Children are...major victims of food insecurity," it said, describing the situation as "alarming".

A total of four million Iraqis, roughly 15 per cent of the population, were in dire need of

humanitarian aid including food, up from 11 per cent in a 2003 report, the survey of more than 20,000 Iraqi households found.

Saddam's 35-year rule was marked by ruinous wars — first against Iran in 1980-88 and then against US-led forces in 1991 and again in 2003 — as well as crippling economic sanctions in the 1990s.

The aftermath of the US-led invasion has seen

the country's State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) as saying.

A chemical produced by a manufacturer in China's eastern province of Jiangsu and used in the manufacture of the drug, propylene glycol, was found to be bogus, said SFDA official Cao Yongwen.

Police detained an employee of Taixing Chemical Plant, the Jiangsu chemical maker, in connection with the incident, the Shanghai Daily said.—MNA/Reuters

Bogus drugs kill 4 in southern China

BEIJING, 16 May — Bogus drugs made by a Chinese company have killed four people and led to severe kidney failure in at least six, Chinese newspapers reported on Monday.

Injections of Armillarisin A, produced by Qiqihar No 2 Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, based in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, killed four people at a hospital in the southern city of Guangzhou, the Beijing Times said.

Six remained in hospital in serious condition, it said.

The drug, which is used to treat gall bladder, liver and gastric disorders, had "serious flaws in the manufacturing process", the China Daily quoted



A blue tube of neutron beam lines connected with the Japan Research Reactor No 3 lies in a facility near the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC), the world's highest level of neutron experiment facility, in Tokai village, northeast of Tokyo, on Tuesday, 16 May, 2006. — INTERNET

Mobile phone stolen every 12 seconds in Britain

LONDON, 16 May — Thieves steal a mobile phone every 12 seconds in Britain, with the northwest city of Lancaster the worst hotspot, according to insurance company figures released on Tuesday.

More than two million phones worth 390 million pounds (738.5 million US dollars) were stolen in 2005, said Halifax Home Insurance, which collated the figures.

Halifax said the figures were based on its data combined with government statistics. Previous official estimates have suggested about 700,000 phones are stolen each year.

After Lancaster, the highest number of insurance claims came from the northwest area which includes Chester and the Wirral, and from Coventry, West Midlands.

Ipswich in Suffolk had the fewest claims, followed by High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, and the university city of Oxford. The most expensive phones were stolen in Ilford and Romford, Essex, where the average claim was for 300 pounds.

Vicky Emmott, senior underwriting manager at Halifax Home Insurance, said there had been a rise in "phone-jacking", where thieves target people for their mobiles.

"Phones are constantly getting lighter and more compact which makes them easier for opportunistic thieves to swipe," she said in a statement. "Phone users should avoid 'walking and talking' and keep their mobiles out of sight."

The growth in mobile phone use in recent years has fuelled a rise in the number of handsets stolen.

Half of all street crime in Britain involves the theft of a mobile, according to statistics published in 2003.

London's police chief Sir Ian Blair said last month that tackling the theft of mobile phones from schoolchildren was one of his top priorities.

MNA/Reuters



Members of the Massachusetts National Guard patrol the flooded streets in Peabody, Massachusetts, on 15 May, 2006. — INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

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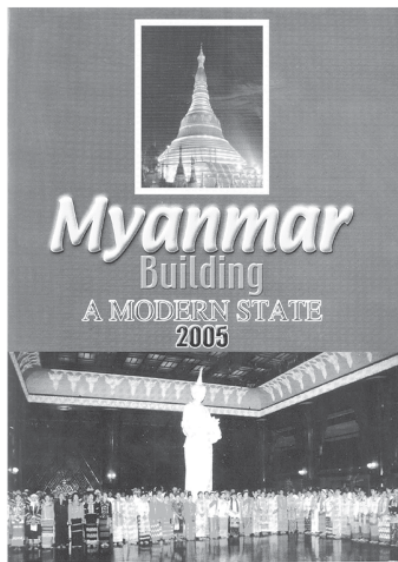
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(က) ကျောက်ချဉ် (၅၀၀)တန်

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ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့



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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for LION CORPORATION,
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 17 May 2006

Indonesia discusses possibility of importing oil from Nigeria
NUSA DUA (Indonesia), 15 May—Indonesia was currently discussing the possibility of importing crude oil from Nigeria in an effort to enhance economic and trade relations among D-8 member nations, official news agency Antara reported on Saturday. "The possibility of oil imports from Nigeria is now being discussed. However, no decision has been made to the effect," Trade Minister Mari Pangestu was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

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1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Foreign Exchange(US\$,Euro,JP¥):-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)8/MR(ML) 2006-2007	Wheel Monobloc Rolled (Rough Machined) for YDM 4 Diesel Electric Locomotives 1350 HP (Meter Guage) with Alco/DLW Model 251 D Engine (as per Indian Railways Standards)	120-Nos

Closing Date. -16.6.2006 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 17.5.2006 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 201555(Ext-602,605,612)
Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon

Macao to launch China-South Korea charity concert
MACAO, 15 May—Macao will stage a charity concert on 27 May with a dozen of entertainment celebrities from China and South Korea being present, organizers said Friday.

A Press release issued by the hosting International Vaccine Institute (IVI) said all donations for the concert are to be used for the development and delivery of new vaccines among the world developing nations.
Park Eun-hye, starring in the recent Hong Kong-made movie hit *Shinhwa* (Myth), Jang Nara, another South Korean diva, Zhang Hanyun, a fresh face of the movie industry in the Chinese Mainland, and Lee Hacken, a Hong Kong pop star, will be on stage of the concert, said the release.
The IVI is an international centre of researching, training and technical assistance for vaccines needed in developing countries.
The group, under the charge of the United Nations, is sponsoring programmes in 21 nations and regions across Asia, Africa and Latin America, which could hopefully help save five million children's lives from infectious diseases in a single year. MNA/Xinhua

Afghanistan says bin Laden is in Pakistan
BERLIN, 15 May—Osama bin Laden is living in Pakistan close to the Afghan border, but Pakistani authorities are only making "half-hearted" efforts to catch him, Afghanistan's Foreign Minister was quoted as saying on Saturday.
Germany's *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper asked Afghan Foreign Minister Rangeen Dadfar Spanta in an interview whether recent reports that the al-Qaeda leader was living in Pakistan were true.
"According to everything we know, he really is living in Pakistan, near to the Afghan border," Spanta said.

Tax-free trade centre to open at China-Kazakhstan border
BEIJING, 15 May — A zero-tax trade centre is expected to open soon on the border between China and Kazakhstan, reported Saturday's *China Daily*.
Dai Gongxing, deputy chairman of Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, was quoted as saying that the centre will come into operation soon in the region's border town of Korgas.
Covering about 4.63 square kilometres, the China-Kazakhstan Korgas International Border Cooperation Centre will help promote economic and trade ties between the two countries and benefit others in the region, said Dai.
China and Kazakhstan are two of six members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which will see the six members' foreign ministers meet in Shanghai on Monday.
"All the deals done in the centre will be free of tax," said Dai, who did not give the exact date of the centre's opening.
The centre takes up 1.2 square kilometres in China and 3.43 square kilometres in Kazakhstan.
Near the centre, China has constructed an industrial zone to produce products for trade.
Citizens of China, Kazakhstan and other countries, and commodities and vehicles are free to cross the border within the zone.
The free trade zone was arranged by Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Kazakhstan counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev in a joint declaration last July.
MNA/Xinhua

3rd body found after NZ vessel sinking
WELLINGTON, 15 May—New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre said Sunday a third body was recovered in the morning, following the sinking of a fishing vessel off Stewart Island, near South Island of the country.
The vessel, *Kotuku*, capsized and broke apart about Saturday afternoon, tipping nine people into the icy waters of Foveaux Strait.
Three men were rescued after swimming to a nearby island and using a fire to raise the alarm. But three others are still missing, the Rescue Coordination Centre said, adding that it is understood six of the people involved in the tragedy are members of the same family.
A massive rescue effort is underway and search and rescue officer, Keith Allen, said searchers still hold out hopes of finding the missing people alive.
MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

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Seven Palestinians killed in Israeli West Bank operations

RAMALLAH, 15 May — Seven Palestinians were shot dead during separate Israeli military operations in the West Bank on Sunday, Palestinian witnesses and medics said.

The first Palestinian, a security intelligence officer named Ali Omar Jabarin, 20, was killed by an elite special Israeli force near the security intelligence headquarters in the West Bank town of Jenin, said the witnesses.

Israeli forces stormed the village of Qabatya near Jenin and surrounded a building full of members of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), where fierce gunbattle took place.

Two brothers were killed and then another

four were killed during the exchange of fire in the village.

All the six were members of the militant group which has been responsible for rocket attacks against Israel and has the Gaza Strip as its stronghold.

MNA/Xinhua

Street vendor Jarbas sells souvenirs of the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 May, 2006. Brazil's national soccer coach Carlos Alberto Parreira named his 23-man squad for the World Cup 2006. The World Cup begins on 9 June, and Brazil is scheduled to play on 13 June against Croatia in Berlin. It will then play Australia on 18 June in Munich, and Japan on 22 June in Dortmund.—INTERNET



China reports trade surplus of \$10.46b in April

BEIJING, 15 May — China's trade surplus in April stood at 10.46 billion US dollars, said sources with the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

A report from the Customs office said China's exports grew by 25.8 per cent year on year to 274.2 billion US dollars in the first four months, while imports were worth 240.5 billion US dollars, up 22.1 per cent from a year ago.

The recorded trade volume in April was 143.4 billion US dollars, an increase of 19.8 per cent.

Exports in April reached 76.95 billion US dollars, growing by 23.9 per cent, while imports reached 66.49 billion US dollars, up 15.3 per cent.

The European Union remains China's top trading partner with bilateral trade growing by 20.5 per cent year on year to 78.62 billion US dollars.

The United States is China's second largest trading partner and Japan, the third, with the trade volume reaching 77.29 billion US dollars and 64.12 billion dollars respectively.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) remains China's fourth largest trading partner with bilateral trade growing by 22 per cent year on year to 47.06 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Climate change may kill millions in Africa

LONDON, 15 May—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.

Christian Aid said rich developed countries had to end their dependence on fossil fuels and set aside large sums of aid to help poorer nations ride out the worst impacts of global warming and switch to energy sources like wind, solar and waves.

"Rich countries must take responsibility for having largely created this problem — and cut CO2 emissions radically," the non-governmental organization said in a report "The Climate of Poverty: facts, fears and hopes".

"Climate change is taking place and will

inevitably continue. Poor people will take the brunt, so we are calling on rich countries to help them adjust as the seas rise, the deserts expand, and floods and hurricanes become more frequent and intense."

Most scientists agree that global warming is due

to burning fossil fuels for transport and power, and new calculations suggest that having risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius in the 20th Century, global temperatures could surge three degrees by 2100.

Christian Aid said it based its estimate of 185 million deaths due to disease on figures from the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Global warming should allow carriers like mosquitoes to expand their ranges.

MNA/Reuters

China's Senior General embarks on Europe tour

BEIJING, 15 May—Liang Guanglie, Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), left Beijing Sunday to visit Denmark, Norway and Russia.

Liang, a member of the 11-strong Central Military Commission, China's top military authority, would be a guest of the Armed Forces of the three countries, according to the Chinese Defence Ministry.

His entourage includes Gu Wengen, deputy commander of the PLA Guangzhou Military Area Command and commander of the South China Sea Fleet; Zhao Zhongxin, Chief of Staff of the PLA Air Force; and Meng Jinxi, deputy commander of the PLA Chengdu Military Area Command.—MNA/Xinhua



A worker works on a part of a 330 metres proton linear accelerator at a Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex 'J-PARC' facility in Tokai village, about 130 km (81 miles) northeast of Tokyo on 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Putin says Russia not to seek cold war against West

Moscow, 15 May — Russia will not seek a new cold war against the West, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Asked whether the foreign policy part of his annual address to Parliament on Wednesday meant Russia-West relations were getting strained, Putin said, "we don't need this. We need a normal, acceptable environment for our foreign policy development. We need nothing else."

"We will be building our relations with our Western partners in a patient and calm manner. I have already said in my address that we will not return to the cold war period. I specially added in my address: either in our policy or in our defence strategy," Putin was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

"If we don't poke our nose into somebody else's business and don't

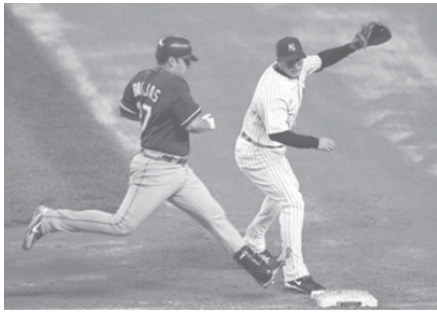
declare the whole world a zone of our influence, our available resources are quite sufficient for us to ensure our own security, to build absolutely reliable guarantees for our security despite any long-term projects they may be talking about," Putin said.

Putin said in his annual address to the Parliament on Wednesday that "we must always be ready to repel potential aggression from outside and to counter international terrorist attack. We must be able to respond to attempts from any quarters to put foreign policy pressure on Russia, including with the aim of strengthening one's own position at our expense". — MNA/Xinhua



Brazilian firefighters extinguish the flames on public bus that was torched by gangsters, as the unprecedented wave of violence went into its third day, in the eastern district of Sao Paulo on 15 May, 2006.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Texas Rangers' Rod Barajas reaches on a throwing error by New York Yankees' Derek Jeter as Yankees first baseman Andy Phillips looks off the field for the ball in the Rangers 4-2 win over the Yankees, on 15 May, 2006, in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York.—INTERNET

Brazil name squad, not contemplating defeat

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 May— Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he was not contemplating anything other than another World Cup victory as the defending champions named their 23-man squad for the finals on Monday.

Parreira, who sprang no surprises, said Brazil would be wary of pitfalls but that his mind was set on an unprecedented sixth world title.

"We just think about winning," he said after announcing his choices. "We don't allow negative thoughts anywhere near us, they take a long by-pass. Nobody is prepared for a defeat, we are prepared to win."

"We have a lot of quality," he added. "If you stop Ronaldinho, there are three or four others who can win a match. If you stop Ronaldo, another one pops up."

However, Parreira promised that Brazil, who face Croatia, Australia and Japan in their first-round group, would not take any of their opponents lightly.

"We know the World Cup is a treacherous competition," he said. "There are just seven games, it's knockout from the fourth game onwards and the technically weaker teams can spring surprises."

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Dida (AC Milan), Julio Cesar (Inter Milan), Rogerio Ceni (Sao Paulo)

Defenders: Cafu (AC Milan), Cicinho (Real Madrid), Lucio (Bayern Munich), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Gilberto (Hertha Berlin), Cris (Olympique Lyon), Luisao (Benfica)

Midfielders: Edmilson (Barcelona), Juninho Pernambucano (Olympique Lyon), Emerson (Juventus), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Kaka (AC Milan), Ricardinho (Corinthians)

Forwards: Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Robinho (Real Madrid), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Adriano (Inter Milan), Fred (Olympique Lyon). —MNA/Reuters

Italy coach Lippi denies pressure from Moggi

ROME, 16 May— Italy coach Marcello Lippi has denied that he has ever come under pressure from former Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi — the man at the centre of the match-fixing investigations that have rocked Italian football.

Lippi held a news conference on Monday to announce his squad for next month's World Cup finals but was peppered with questions about reports that Moggi, who Lippi worked with for eight years while Juventus coach, had tried to influence his selections for the national side.

Some of the published telephone intercepts that led to the series of investigations into

match-fixing featured Moggi claiming he had told Lippi which players to pick. "After eight years working together could you imagine that after I left Juventus he wouldn't call me?" said Lippi.

"If they had intercepted all the calls I got you would see that it was not only Juventus directors who call me. I get calls from all the clubs, from their sports directors and coaches.—MNA/Reuters



94-year-old Yukie Uchida from Japan in action during her match against 95-year-old Dorothy De Low from Sydney, Australia, at the World Veteran Table Tennis Championships in Bremen, northern Germany, on 15 May, 2006. 3,700 players over 40-years-old from 60 nations are taking part in this tournament.—INTERNET



Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry (31) drives the ball around San Antonio Spurs' Bruce Bowen (12) in the fourth quarter in Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference semifinal basketball game in Dallas, on 15 May, 2006. Terry scored 32 points in the Mavericks 123-118 overtime win.—INTERNET

Scolari leaves out Quaresma from Portugal squad

LISBON, 16 May— Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari left winger Ricardo Quaresma out of the squad of 23 players he announced on Monday for next month's World Cup in Germany.

Scolari ignored Quaresma, who helped Porto win the league and the Portuguese Cup, but retained players who are recovering from injury or are not playing regularly for their teams.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Ricardo Pereira (Sporting), Quim Silva (Benfica), Bruno Vale (Estrela Amadora)

Defenders: Paulo Ferreira (Chelsea), Miguel Monteiro (Valencia), Ricardo Carvalho (Chelsea), Fernando Meira (VfB Stuttgart), Marco Caneira (Sporting), Ricardo Costa (Porto), Nuno Valente (Everton)

Midfielders: Armando Petit (Benfica), Costinha (Dynamo Moscow), Tiago Mendes (Olympique Lyon), Maniche Ribeiro (Chelsea), Hugo Viana (Valencia), Luis Figo (Inter Milan), Deco (Barcelona), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United), Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)

Forwards: Luis Boa Morte (Fulham), Pauleta (Paris ST Germain) Nuno Gomes (Benfica), Helder Postiga (Saint Etienne).

MNA/Reuters

Juve shares dive as official faces prosecutors

ROME, 16 May— Prosecutors questioned the Juventus official at the centre of Italy's match-fixing scandal on Monday while the freshly-crowned Italian champions had trading in their shares suspended after they slumped for the fourth straight day.

Luciano Moggi, who resigned as a general manager of Juventus on Sunday, spent some seven hours facing questions from prosecutors investigating the telephone taps that have rocked Italian football.

A legal and a judicial source told Reuters Moggi had denied he was part of a Mafia-like structure of

officials and referees working together to fix matches.

In football "everyone looks after himself and there are no real alliances," Moggi said, according to the sources present. Moggi also stressed he was not the cause of Italian soccer's ills because it was "already a sick world", when he joined it many

years ago, the sources said.

"It was calm and without bitterness," Moggi's lawyer Fulvio Gianaria said after the hearing. "There was a general discussion for half of the time and then we examined individual incidents."

Prosecutor Filippo Beatrice told Reuters the questioning had been "quite satisfactory", but

there was "much more to do".

Moggi features heavily in the published telephone intercepts that prompted prosecutors in Naples to place 41 people under investigation, including referees as well as club and federation officials.

In the taps Moggi discussed refereeing appointments with top football federation officials and in one case bragged of locking a referee in his changing room after a game.

The scandal, which overshadowed Juve's title win on Sunday, has wiped about 62 million euros, or 23 per cent, off of Juve's market worth in the last week, putting the company's value today at around 209 million euros.

Milan's bourse stepped in with measures to limit declines in shares of Juventus after continuing headlines over the club prompted a slump that triggered their suspension.

MNA/Reuters

Italy pick Inzaghi, Buffon in World Cup squad

ROME, 16 May— AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi has been named in Italy coach Marcello Lippi's 23-man squad for next month's World Cup along with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

The 32-year-old Inzaghi has not played for the national team since October 2003 due to a series of injuries but his recent club form has earned him a spot in the squad.

Juventus goalkeeper Buffon was included despite his link to an ongoing investigation into gambling. He was questioned on Saturday over alleged betting improprieties after he voluntarily presented himself to Turin magistrates.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Angelo Peruzzi (Lazio), Marco Amelia (Livorno)

Defenders: Cristian Zaccardo (Palermo), Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan), Fabio Cannavaro (Juventus), Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus),

Marco Materazzi (Inter Milan), Fabio Grosso (Palermo), Massimo Oddo (Lazio), Andrea Barzagli (Palermo).

Midfielders: Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan), Gennaro Gattuso (AC Milan), Daniele De Rossi (AS Roma), Mauro Camoranesi (Juventus), Simone Perrotta (AS Roma), Simone Barone (Palermo).

Forwards: Luca Toni (Fiorentina), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Alberto Gilardino (AC Milan), Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan), Vincenzo Iaquinta (Udinese).

Reserves: Morgan De Sanctis, goalkeeper (Udinese), Daniele Bonera, defender, (Parma), Franco Semioli (Chievo Verona), Marco Marchionni (Parma).—MNA/Reuters



Czech Republic's Petr Trapp, left, is tackled by China's Zhou Haibin during their match in the Under-21 Toulon Soccer Tournament, in Toulon, southern France, on 15 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Iran's FM rejects any offer of enrichment suspension

TEHERAN, 16 May — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Monday Iran will reject any offer of enrichment suspension proposed by the European countries, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Mottaki's statement came after a meeting with the envoys of Britain, France and Germany to Tehran here on Monday, said the IRNA report.

Referring to Europe's new plans proposed to Iran on its nuclear programme, Mottaki was quoted as saying that "any call for suspension or interruption of Iran's nuclear programme will be irrational and unacceptable".

"It is certain to be re-

jected," the Foreign Minister said.

Meanwhile, he also expressed that Iran will welcome any constructive proposal which will guarantee its legitimate and inalienable right and help solve the nuclear issue and will be ready to talk about it.

Mottaki urged that any new proposal by Europe should be based on realities and be within logic.

"If Europeans' proposals disregard the two fundamental conditions, including official recognition of Iran's inalienable rights to access nuclear technology and upholding this right, it will end up facing a situation similar to their plan proposed in August 2005," said the Iranian top diplomat.

The three European countries have been engaged in talks with Iran over its disputed nuclear

programme in the past few years.

Iran repeatedly reiterates that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes, denying a US accusation that it is trying to make nuclear weapons.

MNA/Xinhua

China urges localities to strengthen control of cholera

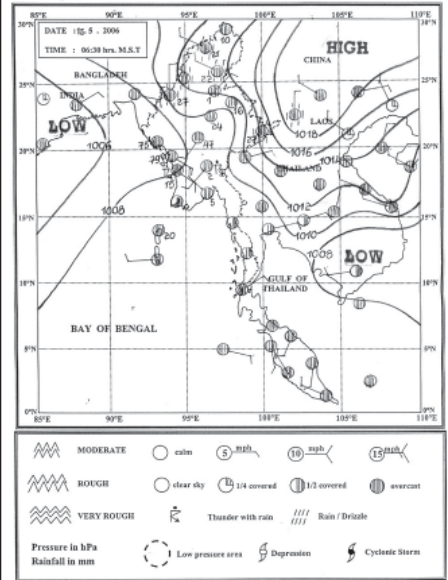
BEIJING, 16 May — The Chinese Ministry of Health on Monday urged localities to strengthen prevention and control of cholera, warning the incidence of the infectious disease might rise this year.

The incidence of cholera in 2005 increased 298 per cent over 2004 after dropping in the previous three consecutive years, said the ministry in a notice released on its website.

Most of the cases contracted by dining in inland rural areas, unsanitary coastal food stalls and eating raw seafood, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 16 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Bago Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (4°C) below normal in Rakhine and Kayah States, (5°C) below normal in lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Kachin, Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures was Aungmyan (37°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Pyaw (4.25) inches, Hpa-an (1.34) inches, Bago (1.30) inches and Kawthoung (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 16-5-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 16-5-2006 was (81%). Total sunshine hours on 15-5-2006 was (5.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 16-5-2006 were (0.31) inch at Mingaladon, (0.4) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (7.48) inches at Mingaladon, (8.62) inches at Kaba-Aye and (8.11) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (13:15) hours MST on 15-5-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Adman Sea and the North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine State, scattered in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. 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: Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).




UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (R) shakes hands with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun at the presidential Blue House in Seoul on 16 May, 2006. — INTERNET



Wednesday, 17 May
View on today

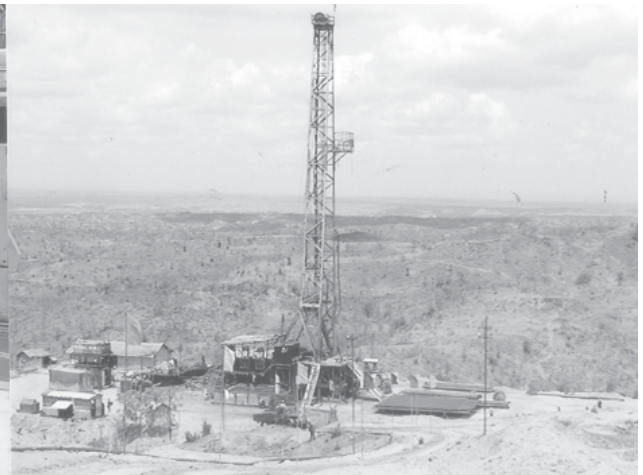
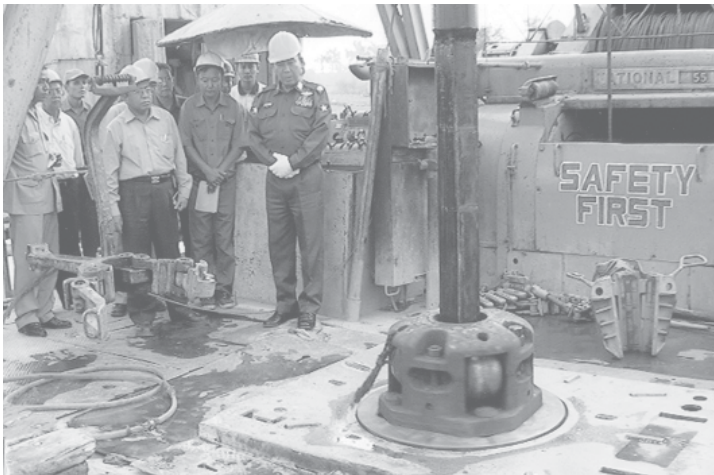
<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဌာန ဝုဇ္ဇ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဌာနဝုဇ္ဇ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတာဂါရိက၊ အပ္ပမဟာဗုဒ္ဓိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တီပါဠိတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>6. အတိတ်ပြန်</p>	<p>8:00 am</p> <p>7. ဗြဟ္မစူကြွေ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p> <p>8:10 am</p> <p>8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>9. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း မဟာရာဇေလှောင်တံခံ</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>11. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. Demonstration Exercise for Correct Pronunciation</p> <p>4:40 pm</p> <p>4. အဝေသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရှုကွဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရှုကွဗေဒ)</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>5. Song of national races</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>6. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. Classical songs</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>8. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:40 pm</p> <p>9. "အလျော်အစား" (စင်စိုင်း၊ ငွေစင်သွန်း)</p>	<p>ခင်သန်းဖွယ် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ဇောလင်း)</p> <p>5:50 pm</p> <p>10. ရွှေယံနုလင်းအာဆီယံအစဉ်</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>11. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>13. သုတစုံလင်ဆွေညောင်ရှင်</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>14. "လက်တွေ့ပြချင်လို့" (ဖြိုးဆွေစိုး၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)</p> <p>7:15 pm</p> <p>15. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:25 pm</p> <p>16. Musical programme</p> <p>7:35 pm</p> <p>17. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:45 pm</p> <p>18. ကြားမြင်သူတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>19. News</p> <p>20. International news</p> <p>21. Weather report</p> <p>22. ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်တေရသမအကြိမ် (၁၃)ကြိမ်၊ မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေးအတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲ စိစစ်ချက်တော်ကြီး (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း)(ဒုတိယပိုင်း)</p> <p>23. The next day's programme</p>
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Wednesday, 17 May
Tune in today

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -The lover after me</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -The one</p> <p>8:50 am National news / Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -Do something</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -My love</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40pm Lunch time music -Bright eyes</p> <p>9:00pm Variation on a tune Seasons in the sun</p> <p>9:15 pm Article</p> <p>9:25 pm Music at your request -So real</p> <p>9:45 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>
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Energy Minister inspects oil and gas fields in Pauk Township



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects drilling of oil well No 44 in Pauk Township, Magway Division. — MNA

YANGON, 16 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited Thagyitaung oil and gas field of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Pauk Township, Magway Division on 14 May.

At the briefing hall, oil field General Manager U Mya Sein reported to the minister on production of oil and arrangements being made for boosting production of oil and gas. MOGE Managing Director U San Lwin gave a supplementary report. Next the minister stressed the need for seeking ways and

means for exploration of oil and natural gas to meet domestic consumption, timely completion of drilling of more new wells and repair of old ones and feasible study to be carried out for exploration of oil and gas in the central regions of Myanmar. Afterwards, the minister inspected well No 44, greeted workers and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Sabai oil field in Pauk Township, the minister heard reports on targets and boosting production of oil and gas by General Manager U Mya

Sein and the managing director. The minister called for increased production of oil and gas in Thagyitaung and Sabai regions, greening tasks and growing of physic nut in all oil fields. He then laid down plans for long-term exploration of natural gas from inland and offshore regions.

Thagyitaung / Sabai oil and gas field can produce 360 barrels of crude oil and 19 million cubic feet of gas per day.

MNA

NLD top leaders and those at different levels working for gaining power only, did not lead local people to serve latter's interest

There is disagreement and no unity among top leaders

NLD urges foreign nations to impose various sanctions that cause hardships for people

YANGON, 16 May — U Than Myint (Citizenship Scrutiny Card No 13/Takana (Naing) 142521), member of Township Organizing Committee of Taunggyi Township National League for Democracy, sent his resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities on 7 May.

In his resignation letter sent to Taunggyi Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commission, he said that he joined Taunggyi Township NLD in 1990 with the aim of serving the interest of local people effectively and carried

out the duties of the party sincerely. However, top leaders of the NLD and those at different levels worked for gaining power only and did not lead the local people to serve the latter's interest. The attitude of the party was that those who joined it were regarded as permanent party members and as its slaves.

He added that there was disagreement and no unity among the top leaders of the NLD Headquarters. Although the NLD had a chance to participate in the discussions at the National Convention on behalf of the people, it walked out of the National Convention without tak-

ing into consideration the interest of the nation and the people. The party has taken collision course against the government and urged foreign nations to impose various sanctions that cause hardships for the people. The party could not serve the interest of the local people and the latter thought lowly of it and its members as political opportunists.

Therefore, he no longer wished to be a member of NLD and resigned of his own volition as a member of Township Organizing Committee of Taunggyi Township NLD.

MNA

A total of 63 armed group members, 16 families exchange arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes has initiated national reconsolidation and has been striving for bringing about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. The armed groups realizing their misdeeds and the endeavours of the government have been returning to the legal fold individually or in groups.

During the period of November and December in 2005 and January, February, March and April in 2006, in the North-East Command area, Khine Win with the rank of corporal of SSA (Ywet Sit)'s Brigade-241 bringing in with him one 79 Launcher, five grenades and one communication set, Pho Zaw, Tun Kyaw and Win Aung with the rank of sergeant, Kyaw Tint, Maung We and Sai Maung with the rank of corporal, Mu Lein with the rank of lance-corporal and privates Sein Aung, Kyaw Aung and Kyaw Htoo

bringing with four pistols, eight M-22 automatic rifles, one light machine gun, one RPG, two 79 Launchers, 25 grenades, 19 hand grenades, one mine and three walkie-talkies;

In the Triangle Region Command area, private Maw Na of SSA (Ywet Sit)'s Battalion-360 bringing in with him one AK-47, four magazines, 51 rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and three mines; private Aik Hkam of Battalion-453 with one M-22 automatic rifle, four magazines and 100 rounds of ammunition, privates Ya Kyo, Mar Htoo, Kya Hti, Kya The and Kya Nu of Battalion-815 with one pistol, one M-16 automatic rifle, three M-22 automatic rifles, five assorted magazines and 50 assorted rounds of ammunition, privates Ya Ku and Kya Shaw with one M-22 automatic rifle, one shotgun, one magazine and 13 rounds of ammunition, privates Aik Kyaing of Battalion (under investi-

gation), private Kya Har of Lahu armed group with one rifle, one magazine and 25 rounds of ammunition;

In the Eastern Command area, private Hlaing Ho Min of Battalion (under investigation) of SSA (Ywet Sit)'s 758 Brigade bringing with one BA-63 automatic rifle, three magazines and 50 rounds of ammunition, private Sai Wunna, private Aik Tun of Battalion-242 with one M-79 Launcher and 13 grenades, medic Kay Rei of KNPP armed group with one M-16 automatic rifle, one magazine and ten rounds of ammunition, privates Soe Rei and Htay Rei together with one M-16 automatic rifle, one carbine, three magazines, 30 assorted rounds of ammunition and two hand grenades;

In the Western Command area, military operations in charge Naing Zaw, Tun Maung and Ko Naing with the rank of tactical operations commander, Kyaw Thein Maung with the rank of (See page 9)