

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 32

7th Waning of Kason 1368 ME

Thursday, 18 May, 2006

True patriotism

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

Commander attends Buddha Pujaniya of Swamkham Pagoda in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — The Buddha Pujaniya of Swamkham Pagoda was held in conjunction with the rice offering ceremony in Ward 4 of Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 12 May morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin, senior military officers, local authorities and departmental officials, Tatmadawmen and family members of regiments and units of Kengtung Station, members of social organizations and local people.

The commander and officials offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks and paid homage to the pagoda.

Next, the commander and those present donated rice and provisions to 376 members of the Sangha from 34 monasteries and 28 nuns.

At the hall of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee, the commander delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the International Nurses Day 2006.

Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Soe of Shan State (East) General Hospital of Kengtung reported on the role of nurses in health care services, and Patron of Shan State (East) Nurses Association (Branch) Deputy Director Daw Than Aye on the purpose of holding the ceremony in commemoration of the International Nurses Day 2006.

Next, the commander, wife and officials presented prizes to winners in the essay contest to mark the International Nurses Day 2006, outstanding nurses and mid-wives.

Trainees of Nurses Training Course demonstrated on wearing of nurse uniforms, and sang the song entitled the Rays of Kindness. — 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



With the length of 2704.2 feet, Minkyaung Creek Bridge in Rakhine State is the longest one among the 13 completed major bridges built on Taungup-Kyaukpyu road section in Rakhine State in the time of the Tatmadaw Government. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 18 May, 2006

Keep on taking part in the anti-drug drive

The Union of Myanmar is striving to eliminate narcotic drugs as a national duty and is carrying out anti-drug drive in every way possible, adopting two strategies, three tactics and three techniques. The three tactics include supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement and the three techniques are to uplift and change the morale and perception of drug users and poppy growers, to secure smooth and easy transportation and communication between the nationals residing in the hills and those living in the plains and to uplift the economic and social life of the national races residing in the border areas.

As the government is speeding up development work for border areas and national races, these regions and the people there are developing socially as well as economically. Determined to root out the danger of narcotic drugs, the national races living in the border areas are actively taking part in the anti-drug drive.

The government has been implementing the 15-year drug eradication plan from 1999 to 2014. The plan has been divided into three 5-year plans and we are now in the third year of the second 5-year plan. Regional authorities, leaders of the national races and the local people are working in concert to execute stipulated programmes of the plan.

The government is encouraging farmers to grow poppy-substitute crops and rendering necessary assistance to them. Moreover, they are provided with rice and other food supplies. The result is that the farmers have given up growing poppy, surrendering poppy seeds and dried poppy bulbs to regional authorities. The poppy seeds and dried poppy bulbs have been torched thirteen times. Between the period from 1988 to March, 2006, there were 77,640 seizures of narcotic drugs and they were worth about 20,432 million US dollars.

We believe that the entire national people will keep on taking part in the anti-drug drive being carried out by the government as a national duty till the danger of narcotic drugs is wiped out from our soil once and for all.

Talks on avian influenza on 20 May

YANGON, 17 May — The Microbiology Society of Myanmar Medical Association will give talks on the scientific and public health perspectives and on pandemic preparedness for avian influenza on 20 May from 9 am to 11.30 am at MMA auditorium on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

All interested persons are cordially invited to attend by MMA.

There is no registration fee for the talks.

MNA

People's Desire

- * 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

Six chapters of ASEAN Folk Literature selected for translation genre

YANGON, 17 May — Sarpay Beikmann (Literary House) chose six chapters of the ASEAN Folk Literature of an Anthology for the translation genre of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest for 2005.

The prescribed manuscript and forms for the contest are available at Sarpay Beikman Bookshop, No 529-531, on Merchant Street, here and can also be purchased for K 180 at the address by the money order.

A copy of translation is to be sent to the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman (Literary House) not later than 15 September 2006.

MNA

One-million-kyat snatcher caught within 15 minutes

YANGON, 17 May — Within 15 minutes after the crime, a one-million-kyat snatcher was arrested at a cafe in Mandalay on 8 May, together with the money he looted and the motorcycle he used.

The looter, 23-year old Win Hlaing of Kyaukpadaung, snatched a bag of money containing K 1 million from Ma Khin Kywe Kywe Mon, 27, who was on her way back to the company she was working after drawing K 2.7 million from the company's account at Myoma Bank at Yadanabon Market.

When the man snatched the bag on 78th street between 32nd and 33rd streets in Chanayethazan Township, she shouted for help. But the thief made off with the loot on a motorcycle.

A duty-conscious person by the name of U Win Kyi who happened to be at the scene, immediately informed Mawragiwa police station about the case.

The authorities were able to catch the snatcher within 15 minutes.

As such crimes have been occurring in Mandalay often, police members are warning people to take care of their valuables and money and be ever alert. — MNA

U Tin Oo Lwin accredited to Maldives

YANGON, 18 May — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Oo Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Maldives.

MNA

Nurturing of physic nut plants inspected in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu together with departmental officials arrived at Hpa-an on 6 May. Col Khin Kyu inspected nurturing of 500,000 physic nut saplings at the nursery in Hpa-an, and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Col Khin Kyu looked into Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe-Shwegun-Myainggyingu Road section and met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders in Kamamoung.

During the meeting, officials reported to Col Khin Kyu on sector-wise measures. Regarding the reports, Col Khin Kyu gave necessary instructions. Next, Col Khin Kyu oversaw nurturing of 50,000 physic nut saplings and gave encouragement to the participants who took part in round-table discussions organized by Kamamoung Town Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Afterwards, Col Khin Kyu inspected reclamation of 25 acres of farmlands for growing physic nut and rubber, and tarmacking of Kamamoung-Papun road section. Upon arrival at Kamamoung Hospital, Col Khin Kyu looked into laboratory, delivery room and patient wards, comforted the patients and presented cash assistance to them.

He proceeded to Shwegun Station Hospital. Col Khin Kyu comforted the patients and provided cash assistance to them. — MNA

Three surfers observe the waves from the safety of the beach before deciding not to enter the water in Big Wave Bay in Hong Kong. Some 620,000 people were evacuated from southern China as Typhoon Chanchu, the strongest storm to hit the region at this time of year, churned towards the coastal province of Guangdong.— INTERNET



Ecuador moves against US oil giant



Ecuador's Energy Minister Ivan Rodriguez speaks at a news conference in Quito on 15 May, 2006.—INTERNET

QUITO, 16 May — Ecuador began on Tuesday to take over operations of US oil giant Occidental Petroleum Corp, the latest move in Latin America against foreign energy producers after nationalization in Bolivia and growing state intervention in Venezuela.

Ecuador revoked Occidental's contract on Monday after accusing it of transferring part of an oil field without authorization. Occidental says it has complied with its obligations and still hopes to settle.

Occidental share prices fell by 2.35

percent on Tuesday as company executives held talks with Ecuadorean energy officials, who were escorted by police into the company's Quito headquarters.

President Alfredo Palacio has been under pressure from Indian groups in the oil rich Amazon to expel Occidental, who accuse the firm of exploiting natural resources with no benefit for Ecuadoreans. Occidental had also become a lightning rod for criticism of US "imperialism."

The surprise contract cancellation came a little more than two weeks after President Evo Morales of Bolivia, the country's first indigenous president nationalized the industry and ordered the military to occupy natural gas fields.

Bolivia's move sparked Wall Street fears that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a self-styled revolutionary famous for his anti-US rhetoric, was pushing his neighbours in a campaign to tighten state control over natural resources.

Ecuador's top trade negotiator said the oil field takeover had prevented free trade talks from the United States from going forward.—INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Guerillas down US helicopter in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 May — Guerillas shot down a US helicopter during clashes south of Baghdad on Sunday, killing two soldiers, the US military said on Monday.

The incident took place near the village of Yusifiya 15 kilometres (nine miles) south of the Iraqi capital. The area is a stronghold of Sunni Arab militants fighting against US and Iraqi forces.

"Two soldiers died — when their helicopter was shot down during fighting in Yusifiya," a US statement said, giving no further details.

Early last month, a US combat helicopter was presumed to have been shot down in the same

area, killing its two pilots.

Guerillas have used Yusifiya as a staging area for suicide attacks in Baghdad, according to US officials.

Late last month, the US military said it and Iraqi forces had killed more than 20 foreign guerillas, several of them wearing

suicide vests, in raids in and around the village in the previous few weeks.

The United States has around 133,000 troops in Iraq, suffering daily casualties. At least 2,443 US soldiers have been killed since the invasion in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein.—MNA/Reuters



A boy arranges eggs for display at a shop in Dhaka on 17 May, 2006. Bangladesh's poultry industry has suffered a 40 per cent cutback in both production and sale as buyers shied away from fears of a bird flu outbreak, industry officials said in April.—INTERNET

Annan calls for urgent action on Iran nuclear plans

SEOUL, 16 May—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday called for urgent action on the Iranian nuclear crisis but said he was encouraged by diplomatic efforts to resolve the simmering dispute between Teheran and the West.

European Union foreign ministers meet on Monday in Brussels to work out technical, trade and political sweeteners for Iran in exchange for allaying Western fears it is seeking to produce an atom bomb, notably by halting uranium enrichment.

Annan met South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and dis-

cussed ways to resolve the Iranian crisis and also the North Korean nuclear standoff, both of which he said have the potential to escalate a spread of nuclear weapons. "Today we also have Iran," Annan told a news conference after meeting Ban, a contender for his top UN job.

"The international community has to take very urgent steps to deal with these issues before we have a cascade of a proliferation of nuclear weapons," he said during a joint Press conference with Ban.

Washington and its European allies have been seeking to pass a UN Security Council resolution

that would oblige Iran to halt all uranium enrichment work or face possible sanctions. Annan last week urged the United States to enter direct talks with Iran to ease a crisis over Teheran's nuclear ambitions, a plan which Washington has rejected.

He has been pushing for a diplomatic solution to avoid resorting to UN sanctions or even military action, a last-resort option Washington has not ruled out.

"I am encouraged by the intensified diplomatic efforts to resolve this issue peacefully and seek a negotiated settlement," Annan said.

Iran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, insists its nuclear plans are purely to make electricity and says it will not give up enrichment, a process which can be used to make fuel for power stations but also materials for nuclear weapons.—MNA/Reuters

Roadside bomb targeting US convoy wounds Iraqi civilian

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A roadside bomb missed a convoy of US civilian trucks in southern Baghdad on Tuesday, but wounded an Iraqi civilian, an Interior Ministry source said. "A makeshift bomb went off near a convoy of civilian sport utility vehicles, which were usually used by US contractors, at about 9:00 am (0500 GMT) in Baghdad's Zaafaraniyah neighbourhood," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.—MNA/Xinhua

Lufthansa jumbo jet collapses on nose at Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, 17 May—A Lufthansa AG jumbo jet collapsed on its nose at Frankfurt Airport when the front landing gear gave way as it was preparing to fly to New Delhi, an airline spokesman said on Monday.

The 242 passengers and 16 crew members on board the Boeing 747-400 had to abandon the plane after the nose sank down onto a waiting tow truck.

"No one was injured. Everyone was able to leave the aircraft via the passenger bridge," the spokesman said.

The passengers were being put up in Frankfurt hotels on Monday night

and were due to take a different flight to New Delhi on Tuesday morning. The original flight — LH760 — had been due for takeoff at 1150 GMT Monday.

"The cause of the fall is not yet known. It's very unusual," said the spokesman. The plane was relatively new and had been delivered to Lufthansa in December 2001. The spokesman added that the incident had been reported to German air accident investigators. Boeing spokes people in Berlin and Brussels were not immediately reachable for comment.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan, India to hold talks on cultural exchanges

ISLAMABAD, 16 May — The India-Pakistan secretary level talks will be held in the Indian capital New Delhi in June to discuss cultural exchanges between the two countries, a Pakistani minister said on Monday.

"The issue of screening Pakistani movies in India will figure high on the agenda of the meeting," said Pakistani Minister for Culture Ghazi Gulab Jamal at the office of Pakistan Film Producers Association, quoted by Pakistan's state-run APP news agency.

The frequency of visits of Pakistani cultural delegations abroad needed to be increased, Jamal said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman inspects the damage outside a shop selling alcohol after a bomb attack in Baghdad on 16 May, 2006. Bombs damaged three shops known for selling alcohol in a commercial district of downtown Baghdad early on Tuesday in what may have been the latest attack by militants seeking to impose Islamic customs in Iraq.—INTERNET

Climbing Everest with a worldwide audience

KATHMANDU, 16 May—Until a few years ago, triumphant messages from mountaineers who conquered Everest would usually take a week to make it to the outside world.

But in an age of websites, podcasts and satellite phones, news from the roof of the world now comes in real time and can be followed or watched all over the world.

When New Zealand mountaineer Mark Inglis, who lost his legs in a climbing accident 24 years ago, became the first double amputee to reach the summit of the world's

highest mountain on Tuesday he spoke to media by phone.

At least 45 such teams are attempting the 8,848-metre-high (29,028-foot) summit this spring season from the Nepali and Tibetan side of the mountain, and like Inglis, nearly all the expeditions have websites.

Some are climbing to raise money for charity and others are paying clients seeking the ultimate adventure holiday.

Some teams are doing it for national pride, while a British army team has an interactive website, which is being used as a recruiting tool for the armed forces.

On many of the sites, armchair mountaineers can click over interactive route maps, read climbers thoughts, listen to their podcasts check the weather live and even watch video footage.

Not everyone in the mountaineering community, however, thinks that this wave of new technology is a good thing.

Veteran mountaineering writer, Elizabeth Hawley, has been chronicling Himalayan expeditions for more than four decades. At 83-year old, she has been interviewing the elite of the world's mountaineering community since the early 1960s.

Internet



Workers at Everest base camp in Nepal. In an age of websites, podcasts and satellite phones, news from Mount Everest comes in real time and can be followed or watched all over the world.—INTERNET

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်များအား ခေတ်တော်ပြည့်စုံစွာ

ASEAN countries to sign memo for integrated power network

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 May— ASEAN countries are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to form an integrated power grid in July this year, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The memo was expected to be signed at the ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting in July in Vientiane, Laos, to set the framework for power exchange among countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), *The Star* reported.

The memo was an important step towards optimizing resource development in the region, particularly at a time of rising fuel prices, said Che Khalib Mohamad Noh, chief executive officer of Malaysia's national electricity utility company Tenaga Nasional Bhd(TNB).

The document will set the parameters and framework to move ASEAN countries towards the realization of the grid, he said after the 22nd heads of ASEAN Power Utility and Authority meeting in eastern Malaysia on Monday. He said that ASEAN members could establish power network interconnections through bilateral arrangements, citing Malaysia's existing power sharing programmes with Singapore and Thailand as examples.

The idea for the establishment of such a power grid was mooted many years ago and it was vital to hasten its development as the demand for energy was growing in the region, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



An auction house worker holds a 1707 Antonio Stradivari violin, known as the 'Hammer,' at Christies in central London in this 24 Feb, 2006 file photo. The rare instrument, made in Cremona, Italy, at the height of Stradivari's golden period, sold for a record \$3.54 million at auction in New York, on 16 May, 2006, breaking a record set last year for a 'Lady Tennant' violin, also made by Stradivari.

INTERNET

Heat death toll rises to 117 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 May— At least 21 people, including seven women, have died from heat stroke, with more than 100 losing their consciousness in the last 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 117 in Pakistan's central province Punjab, local newspaper *Daily Times* reported on Tuesday.

"We have received reports of 21 casualties in Southern Punjab during the last 24 hours and the number is increasing as temperatures have shot up to 49 degrees Celsius," said Laiq Hussain Siddiqui, the Nishtar Medical College principal.

Most of those, who have died from heat stroke, were working outside.

Due to severe heat, bazaars and streets remained deserted from noon to around 6:00 pm local time and the attendance of students at educational institutions also remained very thin. —MNA/Xinhua

Rescuers say trapped miners in East China still alive

HEFEI, 16 May — Rescuers said Monday they saw hope for some miners to survive Saturday's iron mine collapse in Anqing, a city in East China's Anhui Province as they still heard human voices more than 50 hours after the tragedy.

Vague voices were heard from a platform some 130 metres underground, where eight miners, including a woman, have been trapped since Saturday morning. "We're certain there's someone alive," said a fireman in the rescue team who went 103 metres down the shaft Monday morning.

Waist-deep siltage at the bottom of the shaft kept the team from moving further, though rescuers have been cleaning siltage since Saturday night.

Sources with the emergency rescue headquarters said a scaffold has been set up in the shaft and medical workers are standing by to provide first-aid.

Following the collapse at the Dalongshan Iron Mine in Dalongshan Township at 4:50 am Saturday, rocks, dust and water capped the ventilation hole and the exit, making it impossible for the miners to escape.

A geological team is drilling a new ventilation hole through which rescuers will provide the miners with water.

It is still unknown how many miners are alive.

MNA/Xinhua

Pacific countries on risk of bird flu

JAKARTA, 16 May — Some small countries in the Pacific region may get infected with bird flu, as the disease had contaminated poultry in Indonesia's Papua Province, which was

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a woman watches waves surged by winds on the coast in Zhuhai, a city in south China's Guangdong Province, on Wednesday, 16 May, 2006. Typhoon Chanchu roared toward Hong Kong and China's southern coast on Wednesday, just days after killing nearly 40 people and leaving thousands homeless in the Philippines.

INTERNET

bordered with Papua New Guinea, an UN official said here on Monday.

Papua New Guinea was currently on threat of being contracted by the virus, said Laurence J Gleesen, Regional Manager of Emergency Centre for Transboundary Disease Control of the UN

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

"If they arrived into Papua New Guinea and I think other nations in the South Pacific would also be at risk. I don't mean Australia. I mean some of the small nations, because there are rapid

movement of people and other products," Gleesen told reporters on the sideline of the 28th Regional Conference of FAO for Asia and the Pacific Region which kicked off here on Monday morning.

MNA/Xinhua



Venezuela weighs selling US jets to Iran

CARACAS, 15 May—Venezuela's defence minister said on Tuesday that there are no immediate plans to sell US-made fighter jets despite a dispute over replacement parts — backing away from one general's statement that the planes could go to Iran.

Defence Minister Adm Orlando Maniglia said a sale of the 21 F-16s wasn't in the works and President Hugo Chavez "has not given any order" as to what to do with the aircraft.

Gen Alberto Muller, an adviser to Chavez, said earlier he had recommended to the defence ministry that Venezuela consider selling its F-16s after the US announced a ban on arms sales to the South American country.

Muller said he thought it worthwhile to consider "the feasibility of a negotiation with Iran for the sale of those planes."

But Maniglia said that was Muller's personal opinion only and that he "is not a spokesman of the armed forces."

The Iranian Embassy in Caracas

said no deal involving warplanes had been proposed. The defence minister also said the United States has violated a contract by refusing to sell Venezuela replacement parts for its jets, even after Venezuela paid for those parts.

"I've honestly grown tired of asking for replacement parts for the F-16s," Maniglia said at a news conference. "I've got my list. We've paid. We have money deposited in the United States."

He claimed that Washington has kept US, Israeli and South Korean firms from shipping parts.

US officials did not immediately respond to the new accusation that the parts were already paid for, but they have previously said they are complying with the F-16 sale contract.—*Internet*



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez prepares to deliver his address to business leaders, academics and diplomats at Banqueting House in London, on 15 May, 2006.

INTERNET

Two US Marines killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 May —Two US Marines were killed in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq, a US military statement said on Monday.

The two Marines, were killed in "enemy action" on Sunday, said the statement, without giving further details. Their identities were withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed in bomb attack in S Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A US soldier on foot patrol was killed in a roadside bomb blast in southern Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said in a statement.

A soldier, assigned to the Multinational Division-Baghdad, was killed at about 7:30 am (0330 GMT) when the blast took place, the statement said.

The latest death brought the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to at least 2,442 since the US invasion of the oil-rich Arab country in March 2003, according to media tally. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Five dead, one injured in Vancouver house fire

OTTAWA, 16 May— Five people were killed, including 4 children, and another person was injured in a blaze that happened early Monday at a townhouse in Canada's Pacific coast city of Vancouver, fire department officials said.

Authorities said they were called to the scene of the blaze in the three-storey wooden-frame building located in eastern Vancouver at about 3:50 am (1150 GMT) local time.

The victims are believed to be a mother and her kids. The youngest of the victims is believed to be eight years old, Vancouver fire official Rob Jones-Cook told reporters.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Death toll from Baghdad shooting, car bomb attack rises to 23

BAGHDAD, 17 May — The death toll from a shooting attack and a subsequent car bombing near a market in northern Baghdad on Tuesday rose to 23 with over 33 others wounded, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*.

Earlier reports said 19 were killed. "Unidentified gunmen attacked guards of a parking lot near the al-Shaab supermarket in Hay al-Tujjar District and killed five guards," the source said on condition of anonymity. Shortly afterward, a car bomb went off among a crowd of people who gathered at the shooting attack scene, killing 18 people and wounding more than 33 others, the source added.

Meanwhile, a bomb planted in a car which was speeding on a highway went off south of Baghdad around Tuesday noon, killing four people on board.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia mulls rewarding good drivers, fining bad drivers

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 May— The Malaysian Government is now considering rewarding good drivers in financial terms and fining bad drivers, local newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Transport Ministry is drawing up a system of incentives and punishments to recognize those who have been free of accidents or have not breached the traffic laws, the *New Straits Times* (NST) reported.

Motorists who do not accumulate demerit points under the system will enjoy a discount when renewing their vehicle's insurance policy, Road Safety Department Director-General Suret

Singh was quoted as saying, adding the quantum of discount has yet to be finalized.

Drivers who commit offenses and accumulate demerit points will pay dearly in higher premiums. Suret said his department is working with the Road Transport Department, the central bank and insurance companies in implementing the system.

"We want motorists who are reckless on the road to feel the heat. If it hurts their pocket, they will surely become law-abiding drivers," said Suret. The move is part of the government's efforts to reduce road accident rate and enhance the public awareness on road safety. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Actress Nicolle Sheridan, arrives at the ABC Television Network Upfront at Lincoln Center, on 16 May, 2006 in New York.

INTERNET

Vietnamese detained for engagement in int'l gambling ring

HANOI, 16 May— Vietnamese police have detained a 41-year-old man for his involvement in an international soccer betting ring run by an overseas Vietnamese, local media reported on Monday.

The man from northern Thai Binh Province, Ta Quang Lich, has made bets totalling 200 million Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 12,600 US dollars) via the ring run by the overseas Vietnamese man named Ngo Tien Dung, who is allegedly one of the leaders of a crime gang named Long Haul engaging in trafficking

drugs and laundering money in Europe and Asia, *Pioneer* newspaper said.

Lich is suspected to act as the ring's intermediary between local book-makers and bettors after making bets via the ring for some time.

Before Lich's arrest, local police detained Dung, who was doing business in different fields in capital Hanoi, and two of his Vietnamese underlings.

While serving an imprisonment sentence for the charge of fraud and asset appropriation in northern Thai Nguyen Province in late 1980s,

Dung killed an inmate. After that, the man, born in 1959, escaped from prison.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese workers assemble a Honda car at the Honda plant in the southern city of Guangzhou on 23 April, 2005. Honda Motor Co said on 16 May, 2006 that it will build new plants in Japan, the United States and Canada.

INTERNET



Castro denies "Forbes" story

HAVANA, 16 May— Cuban President Fidel Castro furiously denied on Monday a story in Forbes magazine that he was worth 900 million US dollars and said he would step down if the magazine could prove the assertion.

The financial magazine ranked Castro as the seventh wealthiest ruler in the world in its annual tally of the "Fortunes of Kings, Queens and Dictators."

Castro went on television brandishing a copy of the US based magazine to tell Cubans the story was a "repugnant slander" by a capitalist publication.

With Communist Cuba's Central Bank

governor at his side, Castro challenged Forbes to prove the allegation.

"If they can prove that I have a bank account abroad, with 900 million US dollars, with 1 million US dollars, 500,000 US dollars, 100,000 US dollars or one US dollar in it, I will resign," he said at the end of a four-hour broadcast.

"It is so ridiculous to say I have a fortune of 900 million US dollars, a

fortune with no heirs. What would I need all that money for, if I will soon be 80 years old?"

Castro, in power since a leftist revolution in 1959, says his net worth is nil and that he earns only 900 Cuban pesos (40 US dollars) a month.

Kings and sheiks of the oil-rich Gulf Arab states still top the Forbes list, published in its 22 May edition.

MNA/Reuters



Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) meets with Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 16 May, 2006. The foreign ministers of Russia and China met in Beijing on Tuesday where how to resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear programme is likely to be high on the agenda.—INTERNET

Indonesia eyes nuclear power plants by 2015

JAKARTA, 16 May — Indonesia is considering the construction of nuclear power plants with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts (megawatts) by 2015 as part of a plan to avoid future electricity shortages, the energy minister said on Monday.

Indonesia, the Asia Pacific's only OPEC member country, is tapping alternative sources of energy such as nuclear, coal

and natural gas for power generation to cut its crude oil consumption amid soaring prices and dwindling reserves.

"According to our plan, we should have 1,000 megawatts by 2015 as part of 4,000 megawatts (of nuclear power plants) that we plan to build," Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro told reporters.

"We believe nuclear energy will be cheaper compared with coal-fired power generators," Purnomo said.

"We are now preparing which technology we will use, whether from France, South Korea, Japan or the US". An official of Indonesia's state own electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara said Indonesia domestic electricity demand growth is around 10 per cent annually.—MNA/Reuters

Mortar attack on British base in Iraq wounds four

BASRA (Iraq), 16 May — Suspected guerrillas fired about 30 to 40 mortar bombs at a British base in southern Iraq on Monday, wounding four soldiers, the British military said.

Captain Kelly Goodall said the attack on the Abu Naji base near the city of Amara, 230 miles southeast of Baghdad, occurred before dawn.

The attack caused no

damage to the base, Goodall told Reuters. No other information was immediately available.

On Saturday, two British soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Britain has about 8,000 soldiers in Iraq, mostly deployed in the Shiite Muslim south. A total of 111 members of the British forces have been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

Guerrillas draw support from the country's Sunni Arab minority, once dominant under Saddam.

MNA/Reuters



A rescuer hanging from a helicopter winch tries to reach crew members of an oil tanker which ran aground, on Wednesday, on 17 May, 2006, in Kaoshiung, 350 kilometres (217 miles) southwest of Taipei, Taiwan. The tanker ran aground in stormy seas swollen by typhoon Chanhu. The typhoon, the strongest ever reported in the South China Sea in May, was expected to pass between Hong Kong and Taiwan on Wednesday and slam into China's Guangdong Province on Thursday morning, the Hong Kong observatory said.—INTERNET

Five drown in minibus taxi in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 16 May — Five people have drowned when the minibus taxi they were in plunged into a river near Rustenburg, about 100 kilometres west of Pretoria, police said on Monday.

Police spokesman Constable Ofentse Mokgadi said that the taxi driver apparently lost control of the vehicle after going over a speed bump at around 2 pm on Sunday. It plunged into the Hex River with 15 passengers. The driver was among those killed. They were on their way to the Paardekraal shaft of the Anglo Platinum mine. Ten people were admitted to the Rustenburg Provincial Hospital and treated for minor injuries. They were later discharged. Police were investigating a case of culpable homicide.—MNA/Xinhua

Police round up 10,000 vagrants in Zimbabwe's capital

HARARE, 16 May — More than 10,000 squatters, vagrants and street youths were picked up in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, in the past week under Operation Round-Up and will shortly be sent to their rural areas after screening, local police said on Monday.

Police said they had started interviewing the 10,224 people rounded up to establish their living status and origin, especially rural homes, where they would be sent back later.

The Operation Round-Up was launched on 12 April and police are targeting vagrants, street kids, touts and other disorderly elements roaming and loitering in the streets.

Police said they had ascertained that street kids and vagrants were responsible for a significant proportion of crimes committed in the city, in particular robbery, theft and rape.—MNA/Xinhua

China's aluminium production capacity to reach 30 mln tons in 2010

BEIJING, 16 May — China's aluminium production capacity is expected to hit 30 million tons in 2010, Vice Chairman Pan Jiazhu of the China Non-ferrous Metals Industry Association was quoted as saying by the China Securities Journal on Monday. At a conference on China's aluminium industry, Pan said aluminium production capacity in the country has been growing rapidly since the beginning of this year.

By the end of 2005, the aluminium production capacity of the Aluminum Corporation of China, the leading aluminium producer in the country, reached 8.86 million tons, and this figure would reach 9.31 million tons by the end of 2006, he said.

By 2010, the aluminium production capacity of the corporation would hit about 15 million tons, accounting for 50 per cent of the total output capacity in China, he said.

Meanwhile, the production capacity of other aluminium corporations in China has also been on the rise in recent years. In 2004,

the production capacity of these companies only stood at 420,000 tons, while the figure jumped to 1.5 million tons in 2005, according to Pan.

MNA/Xinhua



A man walks through the flood waters on a street in Peabody, Massachusetts, on 16 May, 2006. Rain soaked New England for a fifth straight day on Tuesday after the worst flooding in 70 years forced thousands from their homes overnight, but authorities said the worst of the floods appeared to be over.—INTERNET

New Zealand's double amputee conquers Mt Everest

WELLINGTON, 17 May — A New Zealand mountain climber who lost both his legs to frostbite has become the first double amputee to conquer Mount Everest, despite breaking one of his artificial limbs during the ascent. Mark Inglis, 47, called his wife, Anne, on Monday night to tell her he was standing on the summit of the 8,850 metre (29,035 foot) peak, the world's highest mountain, the *New Zealand Herald* reported.

"He's dreamed of this all his life, probably. He's over the moon," newspaper quoted Inglis's wife as saying. Media reports said one of Inglis's carbon-

fibre legs snapped while climbing at around 6,400 metres and was forced to repair it with spare parts.

In 1982, Inglis lost both his legs from below the knees due to severe frostbite suffered after a blizzard trapped him and a fellow party member in a cave in New Zealand's Mount Cook for 14 days. — MNA/Reuters
New Zealand Prime

A Russian MIG-29M OVT fighter lands at the exhibition ground of the International Aerospace Exhibition (ILA) in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 16 May, 2006. The biennial, six-day ILA 2006 Berlin air show, opened on 16 May, attracted 1,014 exhibitors from 42 countries and regions.

INTERNET



A vendor rests next to watermelons at a fruit market in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on 16 May, 2006. As local temperatures continue to decline, the average price of watermelons has dropped to 0.3 yuan (US \$ 0.04) per kilogramme. — INTERNET



ASEAN, except Thailand, signs free-trade agreement with S Korea

MANILA, 17 May — Economic ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday signed a free-trade agreement on merchandise tariff cuts with South Korea here as their three-day meeting came to an end, according to a press briefing by officials.

However, the agreement specifies that South Korea and each ASEAN country may choose up to 40 items that could be excluded from tariff cuts, which was based upon their previous deal of initiatives signed in December 2005, the briefing official told reporters.

Meanwhile, Thailand was not included in the agreement for its objection to South Korea's move to put rice on the protective list of import items, the official said.

As a major rice

exporter in the region, Thailand has been asking for sufficient time on the rice issue that the government need to address before it came into the accord, Peter Favilla, the Philippine Trade Secretary told reporters.

"You can call it 10 minus one," Favilla said, adding that the absence of Thailand in the agreement would not affect implementation of the accord between South Korea and the rest of ASEAN countries.

The ASEAN economic ministers were optimistic that the liberalization of merchandise trade with South Korea under the agreement will boost the progress of another free-trade zone in the region by 2012, according to the briefing.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says Thaksin ready to return to lead government

BANGKOK, 17 May — A senior Thai official said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is now ready to return from his political break to lead the caretaker government.

Suranand Vejjajiva, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, said Thaksin's main mission would be organizing the celebration of the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

He said the second priority was to tackle the economic crisis.

After the 2 April election, Thaksin announced his "indefinite leave" from duty and assigned his deputy Chidchai Vanasatidya to carry out the Prime Minister's duty on his behalf. — MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts around NZ

WELLINGTON, 17 May — A magnitude 7.6 earthquake striking under the South Pacific Ocean Tuesday night was widely felt in New Zealand's North Island and as far south as Christchurch.

The quake occurred at 10:39 pm local time (1039 GMT), centred 290 kilometres southwest of Raoul Island of New Zealand and at a depth of 150 kilometres.

Reports from Whakatane, a north town, said the quake rolled for 30 seconds. A Whakatane policeman said he was sitting on a roller chair talking to the police communications centre in Auckland when it struck.

The quake was also felt by many residents in Wellington, the capital.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning centre said no tsunami threat existed based on historical earthquake and tsunami data.

Professor of Geophysics at Victoria University Euan Smith told National Radio the size of the earthquake could have generated a tsunami if it had been shallower.

"It was located in old Pacific sea floor, which is sinking back into the earth."

"An earthquake like this one, if it was shallower, would move the earth's surface and would displace water and produce a tsunami,"

said Smith.

He said this quake was "about a sixth of the size" of the recent Tong quake, which triggered tsunami warnings for New Zealand and the South Pacific.

MNA/Xinhua

British lawmakers start probe in party funding row

LONDON, 17 May — British lawmakers started a probe on Tuesday into allegations that Tony Blair's Labour Party offered state awards to businessmen in return for funding, one of a string of scandals that has damaged his image.

The "cash-for-peerages" row, along with the release of more than 1,000 foreign prisoners without proper checks and news that Blair's deputy had an affair, helped contribute to a drubbing for Labour in 4 May local elections.

The accusation is that Blair's office nominated millionaires for seats in the House of Lords — Parliament's unelected upper chamber — in return for loans to Labour, or funding for new schools. A 1925 law made selling seats in the chamber illegal. The probe is running parallel to

a police inquiry. Blair and Labour will be watching the timing of the police probe closely, aware a damning verdict in the run-up to Labour's annual party conference in September could undermine the Prime Minister's already precarious position as party leader.

The funding row blew up in March when Labour said it had received nearly 14 million pounds (26 million US dollars) in loans from 12 businessmen to help bankroll its third straight election win. Some of them were later nominated for seats in the

House of Lords, which for decades has been an outlet of patronage and favour. Some of the donors also gave financial backing to Blair's flagship schools programme, known as city academies.

Labour has denied "selling" House of Lords seats, known as peerages, but the scandal is embarrassing for Blair, who pledged to eradicate sleaze when elected in 1997. On Monday, police at London's Scotland Yard said the inquiry was just getting under way and was a "major and ongoing task". — MNA/Reuters



A Mainland Chinese performer of the Shaanxi Traditional Opera Research Institute spins a handkerchief during the rehearsal for her upcoming performance in Hong Kong on Tuesday, 16 May, 2006. The performance will be held from 16 to 18 May. — INTERNET

Regional development as witnessed by an expedition-1

A Reader

We, the local journalists, have been attending the government-sponsored press conferences since 2005. We have become witnesses of the nation's objective conditions beginning 2006 as the press conferences have been held in the states and divisions where incidents clarified in the press conferences occurred. We went to Lashio in Shan State (North), where a press conference was held, and then toured the region till reaching Muse. While in Kengtung in eastern Shan State to attend a press conference, we were able to see with our own eyes the regional developments. On 12 and 13 May we were in the Southern Command area and in Bago Division, and we were on an expedition of the areas during the two days.

What we witnessed during the tour was the atrocities of the KNU insurgents. Like all other people of Myanmar, the journalists are also happy to see the prevalence of peace and stability in the whole country except very few border areas after 1988. The return to the legal fold of 17 major armed groups and other small groups, their cooperation in strengthening peace and regional development

undertakings are all auspicious news for the people.

It was in 2002 that we began to hear the news about KNU's efforts to restore peace, and every development-minded citizen wished peace a success. There was a question in almost every press conference about the progress in trying to make peace between the government and the KNU. And every time the question was raised, the answer given by Chairman of the Information Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan was "The door to peace is always open".

At those press conferences, we, the journalists, noticed the restraint officials always exercised in answering questions concerning KNU's terrorist acts. But KNU's double-standard policy has become obvious only after officials at the press conference No 3/2006 explained with firm evidence its plots to plant mines in Bago and Toungoo regions, and to blow up high explosives on roads and railroads to kill large number of passengers.

Those plots were similar to KNU's frequent blowing up of mines on Yangon-Mandalay and Yangon-Mawlamyine

railroads, killing national races in large numbers in the past. Had not the security personnel and duty-conscious people exposed and removed in time the KNU-planted bombs north of Toungoo railway station, and on the railroads between Kanyutkwin and Tawkyweinn railway stations on 7 February, Yedashe and Kyungon railway stations on 16 February, and at milepost 176/22 near Kyungon on 19 March, passengers would surely have met with a dreadful fate.

"Why is KNU committing atrocities

similar to those in the past? If KNU blindly continues to commit such acts, the Tatmadaw has no other way, but to safeguard public lives and property", I was thinking. At the same time, I heard some foreign radio stations working in collusion with KNU, airing that about 10,000 local nationalities in Toungoo and Nyaung-lebin districts in Bago Division, had to flee their homes because of the Tatmadaw's attacks; and that about 1,800 arrived in the refugee camps at the border. Thinking about the matter I strongly wished to see in person the situation in the

said districts in Bago Division.

Not only the local and foreign journalists, but also diplomats and UN officials witnessed the objective conditions there during the tour of the area on 12 and 13 May. The media had already informed the international community about the true situation of the area. On both sides of the Yangon-Mandalay road along the way to Toungoo, were vast stretches of thriving summer paddy fields. We studied the Yenwe and the Khaboung multi-purpose dam projects during the tour.

Clear as crystal in my view is the government's agriculture policy towards providing more than enough food for the growing population of 100 million in the future. We foresaw the higher production and social standard of the future state, when we came to know the brighter prospects of 15 hydel power projects being implemented and another 15 in planning stage.

Swa farm showed encouraging signs of paddy cultivation in Bago Division, that put over three million acres under paddy at present,



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, diplomats and journalists view regional developments during the study tour of Bago Division. — MNA



Khaboung dam which can generate 120 million kilowatt hours. —MNA

During the 17-year period there have emerged 185 new dams and 293 river water pumping stations to irrigate more land. The 30 new hydel power projects and nine other power projects and Yenwe and Khaboung multipurpose dams help paint the rosy picture of the nation's future. Thanks to the dams and river water pumping stations, we can now produce over one billion baskets of rice annually, obviously exceeding the domestic consumption. The hydel power stations are fulfilling the growing electricity demand of the improving living standards and increasing number of industries.

up from two million in 1988. It's food production exceeded the local consumption. It means 237 per cent sufficient. Ayeyawady Division stands as lower Myanmar's rice bowl, while Sagaing Division serves as the rice granary of upper Myanmar. As for Bago Division, it is a reserve rice silo of the nation. Myanmar now has nothing to worry about food. We were as happy as a local farmer who told us all about the extended use of farm machinery, rising income, increasing crop production and improving social standard.

(See page 9)

Regional development as witnessed by an expedition-1

A Reader



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Yenwe Dam on the study tour with foreign and local journalists.

(from page 8)

On our way to Toungoo, we witnessed a scene of bomb explosion on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Khingyi Village in Penwagon that left a local resident dead. Later we learnt that KNU hard-cores offered an attractive amount of money to Nga Zaw of Tawkywe-in Village, who lived from hand to mouth, to carry a time bomb to a place. The bomb exploded while he was carrying it on a bicycle. So, local and foreign journalists witnessed an incident that showed one of the schemes conspired by KNU to commit terrorist act.

I had to admit that I was worried about what we would experience when we left Toungoo. However, it was my conviction that whatever incidents I would experience, I would be able to present the event as I witnessed. Along the route between Toungoo and Htantabin Townships via the Sittoung River, we witnessed large villages that were enjoying development like urban areas, and that eased my worries and anxieties. Local residents were doing

things as usual. It was Saturday and our visit coincided with three wedding ceremonies in three villages. So, we experienced auspicious scenes that many well-dressed villagers were on their way to the ceremonial sites.

Along the trip, I noticed villages of Pa-O and Kayin national races near mountain ranges. And I witnessed the rural development with fine houses, motorcycles, small farm trucks, TV antennas and electric wire lines. When I saw cattle grazing in recently-harvested paddy fields, fowls and pigs bred on a small scale, crops grown in the compounds of the houses, self-reliant libraries, and groceries, I realized that the stories fabricated by the KNU and cohorts were groundless that local people in Toungoo and Nyaung-lebin districts had fled their regions.

Entering Thabyenyunt Village situated on the border between Htantabin Township in Bago Division and Thandaung Township in Kayin State, I witnessed the site of the 12 low-cost houses the KNU torched in October last year. It is a



large village that is about 30 miles from Toungoo and is home to national races such as Kayin, Pa-O and Bamar. It has a population of 2,698 people, 258 houses, a monastic education school and three churches. About 600 students are pursuing education under 26 teachers at its basic education high school (branch).

It is learnt that a small village was set up at a site where King Mani Si Thu pitched a camp for a short stay in the Bagan Period. The village was shifted to many places and in the end it reached the place of present Thabyenyunt

Village in 1972. Residents from Mezanphyu, Mekhwa, Hsupokaing, Ingyintha and Thabyenyunt villages were resettled at the village.

Just after the government allocated lands at Thabyenyunt Village and provided necessary assistance for those who had returned to the legal fold due to the bullying acts among KNU members and torturing and killing of local people, KNU terrorists at unguarded moments torched and attacked the village two times. From Thabyenyunt Village, we enjoyed a beautiful

free from the dangers of KNU as well as a place in which those who escaped from the oppression of KNU were taking shelter.

In an interview by the local and foreign journalists, local people of national races said that there were no villages in the mountains except KNU insurgents and their families and some KNU's hard-cores; that whenever local people did farming on the mountains, they were bullied and threatened by KNU; KNU members were active in nearby villages to collect extortion money, kill local people and torch villages; that the members also

and Nyaung-lebin were called as districts by KNU members; that there was no Nyaunglebin District in Bago Division; and they designated the areas as they liked. The interview reminded me about a novel "Who painted black on white?" Now, KNU insurgents are resorting to various evil means to turn peaceful and developing areas of local people to black ones. Therefore, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are duty-bound to make collaborative efforts to safeguard the region from the dangers posed by

scenery of mountain ranges of eastern Yoma. In the past, that region was a white area totally

planted land mines so that villagers dared not go surrounding areas and do business; that Toungoo

KNU insurgents.
(To be continued)
(Translation: TMT+ MS)
Kyemon: 17-5-2006



Farmers winnowing paddy at Swa farm near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Hmansi Village, Swaminlan Village-tract, Yedashe Township, Bago Division.

Seminar on Copyrights & Related Rights in Creative Industries concludes



Members of the Panel of Chairmen seen at National Seminar on Copyrights and Related Rights in the Creative Industries. — MNA

YANGON, 17 May — The National Seminar on Copyrights and Related Rights in the Creative Industries concluded today here and the proposal for the intellectual property rights was approved at the seminar.

The second-day session of the two-day seminar focused on copyright and related rights in the publishing industry and the music and film industry.

Experts participating in the seminar read out papers on “The Role of Reproduction Rights Organizations, Important Is-

...sues Relating to the Collection and Distribution of Royalties”, “The Role of Reproduction Rights Or-



Participants seen at National Seminar on Copyrights and Related Rights in the Creative Industries. — MNA

ganizations, Important Issues Relating to the Collection and Distribution of Royalties”, “The Structure and Dynamics of the Music Industry”, “Copyright and Related Rights in the Film, Music, Theatrical and Photographic Works Industry” and “The Role of Collective Management Organization in the Field of Music and Film.”

The seminar was jointly organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, and commenced yesterday.

MNA

K 3 million burglary exposed, burglar arrested in Kyauktan

YANGON, 17 May — A burglary in which over K 3 million were stolen in Kyauktan town, Yangon Division, on 4 May was exposed and the burglar arrested within over 43 hours.

The burglar, Min Thu (a) Akyee Lay, who committed the crime at 3 am on 4 May was arrested while trying to sell and pawn the stolen gold in the town market at 10.30 pm the following day.

According to Min Thu (a) Akyee Lay, he entered Ma San San Win’s house, using an adjustable spanner to break open the wooden cupboard, where gold was kept.

When Ma San San Win rose up from the bed at about 5.30 am, she found her cupboard open, and 27 kinds of gold valued at about K 3,275,000 missing. She reported the matter to Kyauktan Police Station that opened a burglary case. The burglar was caught together with stolen property the next day.

Min Thu (a) Akyee Lay was able to pawn some gold to a female pawn-broker, Daw Than Htay, with the help of other two women, Ma San Lwin (a) Ma Kala Ma and Ma Wa Wa.

Police had already handed over the gold back to the owner on 9 May.

Severe action will be taken against Min Thu (a) Akyee Lay, Daw Than Htay, Ma San Lwin (a) Ma Kala Ma and Ma Wa Wa. — MNA

The Commerce Journal Vol 6 No 9 in circulation

YANGON, 17 May — The Commerce Journal Vol 6 No 9 is in circulation all parts of the country from No-38, 30th Street, Pabedan Township today.

The journal carries topics about water melon and cucumber that are in demand in China, Myanma traditional herb and plum, marketable Myanma pulse and bean in India market, ASEAN efforts to challenge Chinese ceramic, boost of India-Myanmar trade, export of Myanma mat made of grass to Bangladesh, awareness of nutrition, 60-year-long Japan’s economy, 100 methods for success and wealth, prevention against organic breast cancer, market of Myanma coconut, new concept for GDP, salesgirls busy with stickers at department store, as well as the articles written by writers Maung Sue San, Aung Thin, Maung Hsu Shin, Kyi Min, Maung Tai Pin, Kyi Shwin, Han Tha Tun, Maung Pasoe Kyan, Kyuntha Nga Man, export and import at border areas, prophecy of Saya San Zar Ni Bo and movies news.

MNA

BCS, BCC courses open at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 17 May — A ceremony to open Pre-Basic Civil Service Course No 2 and Basic Clerical Course No 19 was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township on 9 May morning. Rector of the Institute U Aung Hsan Win delivered an opening address. Also present on the occasion were faculty members and trainees.

Altogether 84 trainees are attending the Pre-Basic Civil Service Course No 2 and 137 at the Basic Clerical Course No 19. Both training courses will last 14 weeks. — MNA

Donate blood

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR DISTRICT NEWS

Polices, duty-conscious residents honoured in Nawngkhio

Officials present gifts and certificates of honour to police members and dutiful local residents.

NAWNGHKIO, 7 May — Under the arrangements of Nawngkhio Township Peace and Development Council, Shan State (North), a ceremony to honour members of Nawngkhio Township Police Force and dutiful local residents who had participated in efforts to expose and arrest four burglars and recovered K 897,000 and a motorcycle within five hours was held at the office of Nawngkhio Township PDC on 20 April. At the ceremony, Chairman of Nawngkhio Township PDC U Ko Ko Lwin and Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Maung Maung made addresses and presented gifts and certificates of honour to them. — Kyemon

Sanitation to mark 60th Anniversary Fire Services Day carried out in Yamethin



Members of Yamethin Township Fire Services Department carrying out sanitation tasks.

YAMETHIN, 5 May — To mark the 60th Anniversary Fire Services Day which falls on 5 May, Head of Yamethin Township Fire Services Department U Thein Zaw Win and members of FSD and Auxiliary Fire Brigade undertook sanitation tasks and dredging of drains for proper flow of water in front of Yamethin District People’s Hospital on 4 May. Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and Sister Daw Myaing of Yamethin District Health Department, Head of Township FSD U Thein Zaw Win and Platoon Commander U Nay Myo Lwin supervised the tasks. — Kyemon

Land reclaimed to cultivate monsoon paddy in Pyu

PYU, 2 May — In a bid to meet the target for cultivating 3 million acres of monsoon paddy in Bago Division, Toungoo District PDC Secretary Major Thein Htay together with Pyu Township Agricultural Coordination Committee members made an inspection tour on reclamation of 290 acres virgin land in Amekhaung and Thitchaukkin Villages, Pyu Township, on 26 April and attended the needs. The 290-acre vacant land will be put under monsoon paddy in the rainy season in time. — Kyemon

Over K 6m donated to funds of PhaungdawU Pagoda in Meiktila

YANGON, 17 May — The first cash donation ceremony for construction of Karaweik designed barge prayer hall at PhaungdawU Pagoda was held at the pagoda in Min Ward, Meiktila, yesterday morning.

Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Lu Tin and Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Khin Nyo explained matters related to construction of the prayer hall and construction process.

Commander of Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin Commander of Ground Training Base Col Thura Khin Maung Win, Tactical Operations Commander of No 99 LID Col Myint Maung, Chairman of the District PDC Lt-Col Lu Tin and officials accepted K 6,603,500 donated by 92 wellwishers.

Member of the pagoda board of trustees U Than Daing expressed gratitude.

MNA

7th Nonstop Pathana recitation concludes

YANGON, 17 May — The ceremony to conclude the 7th Nonstop Pathana recitation took place at KanOo Monastery in Gyogon East Ward, Insein Township on 12 May.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Hayma Ganaing Monastery Presiding Sayadaw U Nandavumsa. Afterwards, the members of Sangha recited paritta and U Tin Aung and Daw Hla Hla Nwe of Win Yadana Travel Service donated provisions to the members of the Sangha. — MNA

Sitagu Sayadaw presents hospital equipment to eight station hospitals

YANGON, 17 May — Sitagu Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dr Nani-sara (D Lit) presented 25 pieces of hospital equipment worth K 50 million to eight station hospitals in Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and Mon State at a ceremony held at Western Park Royal Restaurant yesterday.

Present were 18 members of the Sangha of

Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Nyunt, Head of Ayeyawady Division Health Department Dr Swe Win, Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Htut, doctors, officials and guests.

Sitagu Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. Chairman of Sitagu Mis-

sionary Committee Professor Dr Hla Myint presented the lists of donations.

Professor Dr Hla Myint explained four major tasks of the Sayadaw who delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Proprietors of Western Park Royal Restaurant presented alms to the members of the Sangha.

MNA

UMFCCI General Secretary receives Malaysian guests

YANGON, 15 May — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and Myanmar Oil Dealers and Oil Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Thein

Han received Executive Chairman Mr Amir Alias, Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd CEO and Executive Director Mr Wan Mohd Zain Ismail and Marketing Executive Mr Mohammad Zubir Razak of Mirra Sdn Bhd of Malaysia at

UMFCCI Office on 12 May.

They cordially discussed the matters on cultivation of crops for oil, production of edible oil and investment opportunities.

MNA

Chinese delegation returns home

YANGON, 17 May — Chinese delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China left for home by air this afternoon at the invitation of Attorney-General U Aye Maung.

The Chinese delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Chinese embassy staff, Deputy Director-General's of the Attorney-General Office U Tin Myint, the Yangon Division Law Officer, officials of the Attorney-General's Office.

The Chinese delegation members together with Deputy Director-General of the Attorney-



Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin sees off Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang of Henan Province of PRC at the airport. — MNA

General's Office U Tin Myint paid pilgrimage to Shwemawdaw Pagoda, Bago and observed Kanbawzathadi Palace. Next, Bago Division Law Officer U Khin Maung Tint

hosted a lunch in honour of the Chinese delegation members at Shwewahtun Hotel. Afterwards, the Chinese delegation members went on study tour of Thanlyin Bridge. — MNA

Authorities rescue two national race women trafficked in Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — The Tachilek Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad rescued two national race women trafficked at Tachilek on 8 April.

Nan Phaung, aged 30, daughter of U Khin Laung of Naungbo Village, Hsihseng Township, persuaded Nan Khaing, aged 29, daughter of U Hsam Ywet of Weinlon Village of Hsihseng Township and Nan Kyar Pwe, aged 29, daughter of U Pan Ti of Nansamyet Village of the same township to work in the other

country. Nan Phaung told them that as her brother Sai Tun was residing in the other country, she could seek job easily; the high salary of the job will be paid; K 50,000 each as service fee must be given; K 30,000 each must be paid in advance, and K 20,000 each were to be paid after taking jobs. Moreover, Nan Phaung recounted her experiences of work in other country.

On 6 April, she took the two national race women by flight for Tachilek. While passing through No 1 Friendship

Bridge, authorities checked the suspicious three women and rescued two human trafficking victims.

Nan Phaung was filed to face deterrent action.

Local authorities, officials of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Social Welfare Department warmly welcomed the two human trafficking victims. At present, arrangements are being made for handing over the two national race women to their parents and relatives. — MNA



UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials hold discussions with Malaysian guests. — UMFCCI

Coord meeting of Myanmar Medicine Dealers Association held

YANGON, 17 May — The Myanmar Medicine Dealers Association held a coordination meeting at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of the association Dr Maung Maung Lay, and Secretary Dr Saw Hla Tun explained tasks of the association.

The chairman and the secretary replied to

the queries raised by staff of pharmaceutical companies and entrepreneurs.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks given by the chairman.

MNA

Myanmar's first-ever participation in international Futsal...

(from page 16)
Futsal Championship 2006 are different to an extent if compared with those practised in Myanmar. He said he would cooperate as far as he could with MFF for the national players to be familiar with the latest international Futsal laws and techniques. It was required to stimulate the in-

terest of the people in Futsal and more Futsal games were to be held in the national level as well as in States and Divisions. In conclusion, he said only when there emerged a large number of skilled new generation Futsal players would the nation raise its standard of Futsal in future.

In the AFF Futsal

Championship 2006, Myanmar team achieved success more than expected. The MFF is taking necessary measures to win greater victory in international Futsal tournaments, to make the sport more popular among the people and to produce skilled players.

Translation: MS

ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET

Sawmill, Hlaing Thayar Industrial Zone. Two Bandsaws 60"/40". MEPE+ Generator+Woodworking machines. Land 400x200 ft. Bldg 200x150ft. (in Kyats).

Enq:537433/527397.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
YAMAHA CORPORATION, of 10-1, Nakazawa-cho, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

YAMAHA

Reg. No. 1335/1966 in respect of "Musical instruments and apparatus; motor-cycle and parts and accessories thereof; motor-boats and parts and accessories thereof outboard-engines; electronic and electrical instruments and apparatus including wirelesses; particularly electric gramophones, speakers, record players, audio amplifiers, tuners, tape recording and reproducing apparatus, recording tape, radio sets, television sets, microphones, earphones, headphones, and cabinets for speakers, electric gramophones, radio sets, television sets, and the like; gymnastic and sporting articles; snow mobiles".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for YAMAHA
CORPORATION
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 18 May 2006

Turkish security forces seize over 54 kilos of heroin

ANKARA, 16 May — Turkish security forces seized 54.6 kilos of heroin in Susehri Town in the central province of Sivas on Monday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, security forces searched a passenger bus, which was on its way from the eastern province of Erzurum to Istanbul, and found 54.6 kilos of heroin hidden in the vehicle, according to the report.

One person was also detained during the operation, the report said.

Turkey is lying on an important route for drugs smuggling from Asia and the Middle East to markets in Western Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka's central bank raises economic growth forecast

COLOMBO, 16 May — Sri Lanka's central bank on Monday raised its 2006 economic growth forecast to 6.9 per cent from 6 per cent in April despite escalating violence threatens a truce between the government and the Tamil Tigers.

The central bank announced here Monday that the island country's key policy interest rates have been retained for a further month, the fifth straight month without a change.

The repurchase interest rate and the reverse repurchase rates was kept at 8.75 and 10.25 per cent respectively, the bank said. During the past months this year, although the trade deficit had widened, the growth in remittances from expatriate Sri Lankans had helped containing the

current account deficit, said the bank.

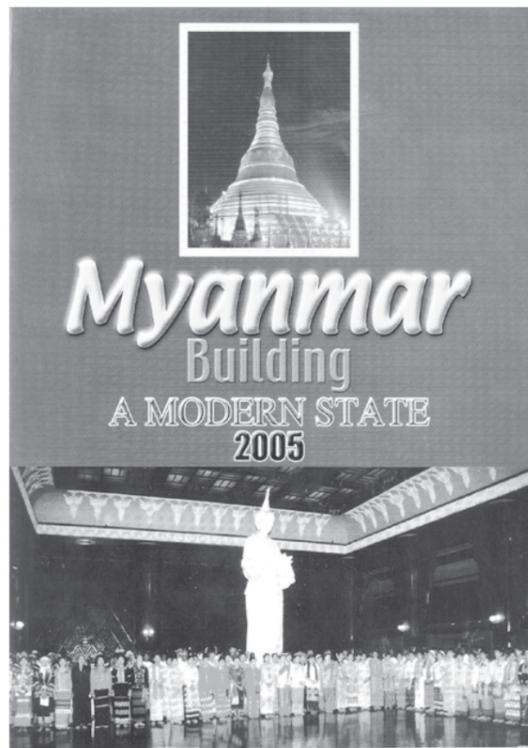
On the inflation, the bank said that annual inflation rate based on the 12 month moving average had decreased marginally from 9.6 per cent in March to 9.2 per cent in April.

However, analysts say the island's economy could be badly hit if hostilities were to resume between the two sides in the north and east of the country.

An upsurge of violence since December last year has heightened fears of war returning for the first time since 2001.

The rebels and the government who met in February to discuss ways to strengthen the Norwegian backed truce failed to meet in Geneva for the second round scheduled for 24-25 April.

MNA/Xinhua



MYANMAR Building A Modern State 2005

This facts studded book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading. Illustrated with colourful photographs. Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters: The Beautiful Land, Economy, Infrastructure, Social Setting, International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at
Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 249031
News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon ☎: 294306
Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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

Vietnam's mobile phone subscriptions to triple in 2010

HANOI, 16 May — Vietnam is expected to have some 36 million mobile phone subscribers in 2010, up from over 11 million currently, local media quoted a minister as reporting on Monday.

"With the growth of six licensed mobile phone operators, namely Vinaphone, MobiFone, Viettel, S-Fone, EVN Telecom and Hanoi Telecom, we will witness the spectacular develop-

ment of our mobile communications market in the coming time," *Vietnam Economic Times* quoted Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Do Trung Ta as saying.

From late 2006, new mobile phone services based on advanced information and communication technologies like provision of downloadable music clips, video streaming (which allows users to watch online video

clips on their phones), and information search will develop in Vietnam with its current population of 83.1 million, officials of the operators predicted. Under Vietnam's strategy on developing information technology and telecommunications, every 100 residents will have 32-42 phones, over 10 personal computers, and 8-12 Internet subscribers by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil, metals fall on economic worries

NEW YORK/LONDON, 16 May — Oil fell under 70 US dollars a barrel, gold dropped almost 4 per cent and copper plunged on Monday as investors feared a rally that has taken many commodities to or near record highs may slow economic growth.

Weakness in gold also pressured wheat and soybeans in cross-markets play, while corn prices rose on news of more demand for exports and the biofuel ethanol.

"Everybody has got a bit jumpy," said Mark Mathias, managing director of Dawnay Day Quantum hedge fund. "We've seen very sharp rises over the last couple of months on equities and commodities, so it's no surprise it's being marked down a bit."

The *Reuters/Jefferies CRB Index*, which tracks 19 commodity futures from livestock to metals, cotton, grains, softs, frozen orange juice and energy, unofficially ended down 2.68 per cent at 352.06 points.

Oil dropped more than 3 per cent after reports signalled last week that energy costs were hitting global fuel demand and consumer confidence. Greece's finance minister said on Monday that oil is a downside risk to "strong" global growth.

US light crude closed down 2.63 US dollars at 69.41 US dollars a barrel, extending Friday's loss of more than a dollar. London Brent crude fell 2.65 to 69.67 US dollars.

MNA/Reuters



Giant panda "Ba Si" receives a physical examination at a hospital in Fuzhou, capital city of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 16 May, 2006.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Toyota to recall 210,000 Prado SUVs

TOKYO- 16 May— Toyota Motor Corp will recall about 210,000 Land Cruiser Prados worldwide due to an axle problem, Japan's largest automaker said Tuesday.

About 100,000 vehicles will be recalled in Japan in addition to nearly 110,000 others, mainly in Australia, Europe and China, according to company spokesman Paul Nolasco.

The Prado is not sold in North America, nor

any Land Cruisers based on the Prado model, he said.

The vehicles were produced between April 1996 and January 1999, the company said in a statement.

The company said that a crack may occur in the Prado's rear axle shaft if

it is repeatedly driven on winding roads in the mountains at a high speed, it said, warning that a wheel may come off in the worst case.

There have been three reported cases of troubles but no one has been injured, Nolasco said.—Internet



A labourer works on the roof of a residential building near the new central business area in Shanghai, China, on May, 2006. China's retail sales in April grew 13.6 percent from a year earlier, providing further evidence to economists that Beijing is having some success in shifting growth away from an over-reliance on investment and exports.—INTERNET

Floods displace over 19,000 in Tanzania

NAIROBI, 16 May — Floods in northern Tanzania have displaced more than 19,000 people, submerged close to 1,000 homes and destroyed crops, a local government official said on Monday.

The floods in Moshi, near Mount Kilimanjaro, mostly affected residents who had previously been hit by drought, which had threatened up to 11 million people with starvation.

"I think we have more

than 19,000 displaced. Up to now there are 998 houses that are underwater," James ole Millya, Moshi Rural district commissioner, told Reuters by telephone.

He said more than 1,495 hectares (3,695 acres) of land was under water and

84 families had been moved to government institutions.

The floods, which ravaged the area last week, also destroyed crops in the fields as well as harvested produce, including maize, rice, millet and beans.

MNA/Reuters

EU to offer Iran best civil nuclear technology

BRUSSELS, 16 May — The European Union is ready to share the most sophisticated civilian nuclear technology with Iran if it agrees to halt uranium enrichment on its soil, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Monday.

But the initiative seemed likely to be rejected by Iran, and drew a reserved response from Washington.

The EU plans to offer Teheran enhanced incentives to halt sensitive nuclear activities that the West suspects are aimed at producing a bomb, coupled

with a UN resolution threatening possible sanctions if it refuses.

"We could help you (Iran) with the best and most sophisticated technology," Solana told a news conference after EU foreign ministers met to discuss the package.

Without giving details,

he said the European offer — which it hopes to present to Iran at the end of the month — would go beyond the comprehensive package of technological, economic and political sweeteners rejected by Teheran last August.

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh is success story in population control

DHAKA, 16 May — The visiting Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Thoraya A Obaid said that Bangladesh is a success story in population control and we use Bangladesh as the reference in international fora.

The UNFPA Executive Director made the comment while paying a courtesy call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan here Monday.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister appreciated the active support of the UNFPA for Bangladesh in achieving the success in this sector.

He said, Bangladesh achieved a lot in health sector especially in population development, reproductive health and other preventive diseases.— MNA/Xinhua



A Delta aircraft is given a water cannon salute after making a ceremonial landing with dignitaries on the new fifth runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, on 16 May, 2006. The fifth runway which will open for commercial flights on 27 May, is to help cut airport delays and will increase the airport capacity by 300,000 passengers a year.—INTERNET

Singapore not affected by volcano eruption in Indonesia

SINGAPORE, 16 May — Singapore is not likely to be affected by the eruption of Mount Merapi volcano in Indonesia's Java Island, Channel NewsAsia report quoted local experts as saying Monday.

Experts said that Singapore is some 1,300 kilometres away from Mount Merapi, but ash produced by the volcano's previous eruptions never travelled such a long distance to affect the air quality here.

The light and variable winds in the region and the "relatively small" scale of the eruption on Monday morning also help disperse the ash before it reaches Singapore, they added.

The city state's Meteorological Services is monitoring the situation closely, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

China may not release "Mission Impossible 3"

BEIJING, 16 May — Chinese media have speculated that flashes of underwear and other "inappropriate" images in the China scenes of "Mission Impossible 3" (MI3) might jeopardize the Mainland release of Tom Cruise's latest Hollywood blockbuster.

Despite hitting American screens over a week ago, China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), is yet to approve MI3's Mainland distribution, the Beijing News newspaper said on Monday. Underwear hanging out to dry and other images "harmful to China" might be responsible, local papers have suggested.

"In the Shanghai

scenes, all the roofs and alleys have raggedy clothes hanging from bamboo sticks everywhere," said the Beijing Times.

The paper also said that many movie-goers found the scenes shot in Shanghai and the village of Xitang "inappropriate", given both locations "became places for the storage of terrorists' chemical weapons".

"Chinese viewers will have trouble accepting this plot of foreign criminal

elements fighting publicly in Shanghai," the paper quoted one viewer as saying.

SARFT's final verdict on releasing MI3 is due this week, the Beijing News said, adding that an official had expressed that its distribution chances were "high"—but some editing would need to be carried out. The official declined to provide further details, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters



Workers walk in front of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in Yichang in central China's Hubei Province, on 17 May, 2006 as the construction on the dam is set to finish next week.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Israel's Anna Smashnova returns the ball to Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Rome Masters tennis tournament, in Rome, on 16 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Real lose 4-3 but finish second as Osasuna win

MADRID, 17 May— Real Madrid lost 4-3 at Sevilla but still finished second in the Primera Liga as Osasuna beat Valencia 2-1 to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in their last games of the season on Tuesday.

Goals from David Beckham put Real two up inside 26 minutes but UEFA Cup winners Sevilla stunned the visitors by scoring four times before the break to take control of the game.

Zinedine Zidane, in his last match as a Real player before retiring, pulled a goal back in the second half.

Real finished behind champions Barcelona with 70 points to earn a place in next season's Champions League group stage.

Valencia were third with 69 after Savo Milosevic and David Lopez scored for Osasuna, who came fourth with 68.

Valencia and Osasuna go into the third qualifying round of Europe's top club competition while Sevilla, who also had 68 points but an inferior head-to-head record, had to settle for defending the UEFA Cup next season after finishing fifth.

Barca, who face Arsenal in the Champions League final on Wednesday, have 82 points before

the last game of the Primera Liga season sees them visit Athletic Bilbao on Friday.

Real's game started at breakneck speed with Sevilla's Luis Fabiano hitting the post after a minute and Zidane crashing a spectacular volley against the bar soon after.

But the visitors showed greater urgency and took the lead in the 15th minute when Beckham's free kick drifted in as Julio Baptista went for a header and put off keeper Andres Palop.

The England midfielder doubled Real's advantage in the 26th minute, latching on to Roberto Carlos's long cross-field pass and

slipping the ball under Palop.

The home side cut the deficit two minutes later when winger Jesus Navas let fly with a fierce 25-metre drive that flew into the top corner.

Navas was given room to cross from the right in the 30th minute and when Iker Casillas fumbled the ball Javier Saviola was on hand to thump the rebound high into the net.

Real's defence was ragged and three minutes later Fabiano controlled the ball in the area and picked out Saviola's near-post run, the Argentine scoring with a sharp shot.—MNA/Reuters

Defender Lahm injured in Germany friendly win

MANNHEIM (Germany), 17 May— World Cup hosts Germany suffered a potentially crippling blow to their defence on Tuesday when Philipp Lahm injured his elbow in a practice game against amateur club Luckenwalde.

The Bayern Munich defender was taken to hospital after falling hard on his arm.

Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann spent much of the second half of the game, which Germany won 7-0, with Lahm in the dressing room.

"We are taking Philipp Lahm to hospital to make sure his elbow is not bro-

ken," Klinsmann said. "We don't know how serious it is yet but hope that he will be able to fly with us tonight to our training camp in Sardinia."

Lahm was racing towards the Luckenwalde goal when he tripped over a defender and landed hard on his left arm.

Germany were not at full throttle in the one-sided 60-minute game. Bastian Schweinsteiger scored twice, once from the penalty spot, and Gerald Asamoah, Thomas Hitzlsperger, Oliver Neuville, Miroslav Klose and Mike Hanke were also on target.

Borussia Dortmund midfielder David Odonkor, a surprise late World Cup choice by Klinsmann, looked impressive down the right wing.—MNA/Reuters



Germany's Jens Nowotny, right, challenges for the ball with Luckenwalde's Tilo Lindner in a test match between the national soccer team of Germany and the FSV Luckenwalde at the Carl Benz Stadium in Mannheim, Germany, on 16 May, 2006. In the first round of the World Cup Germany will play in group A with Costa Rica, Ecuador and Poland.

INTERNET

Linesman in Barca shirt replaced for final

PARIS, 17 May— Norway's Ole Hermann Borgan, who posed for newspaper pictures in a Barcelona shirt on Tuesday, has been replaced as linesman for the Champions League final.

Borgan had earlier admitted he was stupid to pose in the shirt the day before officiating in Wednesday's final between Spanish champions Barca and Arsenal at the Stade de France.

European soccer's governing body UEFA said on its website that it had replaced Borgan with his compatriot Arild Sundet, who will fly to Paris from Norway on Wednesday morning. Borgan, 41, posed in Barca's red and blue striped shirt for Tuesday's edition of Norwegian newspaper *Drammens Tidende*.

"It was both thoughtless and stupid of me," he said afterwards on the paper's website. "I didn't think the situation and consequences through when I was asked to put on the shirt."

Before UEFA acted swiftly to replace Borgan

on Tuesday night Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and Barca coach Frank Rijkaard had both played down the issue.

"I do not go into games looking at referees, I just have positive feelings about them," said Frenchman Wenger.

MNA/Reuters

Poland says new measures against violent soccer fans

WARSAW, 16 May— Polish Justice Minister Ziobro spoke about new measures against soccer hooligans on Monday.

He told Radio Zet that a close cooperation of the administration of justice, police and sports clubs was necessary to effectively eliminate soccer hooligans from Polish stadiums.

Soccer hooligans clashed with police after Legia Warszawa won the National League on Saturday. Police detained 231 so-called soccer fans for assault and property destruction. 49 of them were officially arrested.

"Such incidents can be solved if numerous measures are applied. And all these measures must mean that there is no tolerance (for such behaviour)," Ziobro stressed.—MNA/Xinhua

Argentina leave out Zanetti, gamble on Heinze

BUENOS AIRES, 16 May— Former captain Javier Zanetti was left out of Argentina's World Cup squad on Monday while Manchester United defender Gabriel Heinze, who has been out all season with a knee injury, was included.

Coach Jose Pekerman also selected Valencia playmaker Pablo Aimar, who recently suffered an ankle sprain followed by a bout of viral meningitis, and forward Javier Saviola, who has refound his best form with Sevilla this season after two years of uncertainty.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Roberto Abbondanzieri (Boca Juniors), Leonardo Franco (Atletico Madrid, Spain), Oscar Ustari (Independiente)

Defenders: Roberto Ayala (Valencia, Spain), Gabriel Heinze (Manchester United, England), Juan Pablo Sorin (Villareal, Spain), Fabricio Coloccini (Deportivo Coruna, Spain), Gabriel Milito (Zaragona, Spain), Nicolas Burdisso (Inter Milan, Italy) Leandro Cufre (AS Roma, Italy), Lionel Scaloni (West Ham United, England)

Midfielders: Javier Mascherano (Corinthians, Brazil), Esteban Cambiasso (Inter Milan, Italy), Luis Gonzalez (Porto, Portugal), Juan Roman Riquelme (Villareal, Spain), Maxi Rodriguez (Atletico Madrid, Spain), Pablo Aimar (Valencia, Spain)

Forwards: Hernan Crespo (Chelsea, England), Carlos Tevez (Corinthians, Brazil), Lionel Messi (Barcelona, Spain), Javier Saviola (Sevilla, Spain), Julio Cruz (Inter Milan, Italy), Rodrigo Palacio (Boca Juniors, Argentina).—MNA/Reuters



Zhou Jiawei of Guangdong Province clocks 23.86 seconds to break the Asian record of 23.91 seconds at the 50m butterfly final of the 2006 national swimming champion tournament and Asian Game qualifying match in Luoyang, central China's Henan Province, on 16 May, 2006.—INTERNET

UN official says probes into CIA flights “stonewalled”

BRUSSELS, 17 May — Inquiries into allegations that CIA flights through Europe carried people to countries where they faced possible torture are encountering a stonewall by officials, a UN official said on Tuesday.

Martin Scheinin, the UN special rapporteur on human rights issues related to the fight against terrorism, said it could be decades before the full truth about the allegations emerged.

“There is a stonewall,” he said of the lack of firm evidence turned up by European investigators to support allegations that the CIA ran secret prisons in Europe and

flew suspects to states where they would have been tortured.

“There is a huge degree of ambiguity and secrecy and I seriously believe it will take several years or even decades before we have enough to make an assessment of the magnitude of the phenomenon,” Scheinin told a news briefing.

A European Parliament probe concluded

last month that more than 1,000 CIA flights had transited the EU and that the CIA had been responsible for kidnapping several people and illegally detaining them on EU soil.

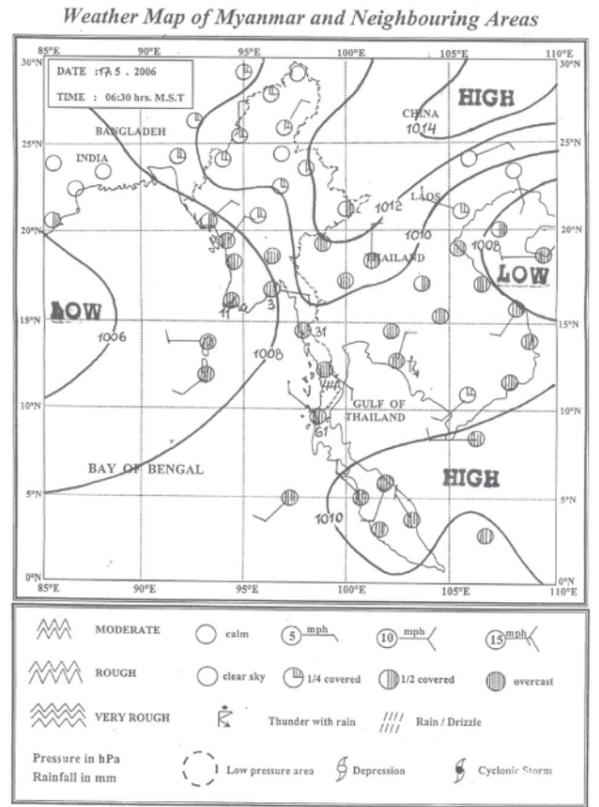
However the inquiry, launched in January with no legal powers, has attracted little testimony from top-level officials. Lawmakers have accused national EU governments

and institutions of wanting to sweep the affair under the carpet.

European rights watchdog the Council of Europe has said at least one European state admitted to its investigators that it had handed over terrorism suspects to foreign agents, but the body has so far been given no further details.

Washington denies any wrongdoing. US State Department lawyer John Bellinger said this month there had been “very few” cases of what he called extraordinary renditions — the transfer of terrorism suspects from one country to another.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Wednesday, 17 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, the Southwest monsoon had advanced Southern Myanmar areas, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Yangon Division, scattered in Kayin and Mon States, Bago Division, isolated in Rakhine and Kayah States, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Shan and Kayah States and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Kyauktaw, Ann and Taungoo (36°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Kawthoung (2.40) inches, Myeik (1.73) inches, Bago (1.46) inches, Dawei (1.22) inches and Yangon (Mingaladon) (0.95) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-5-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 17-5-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-5-2006 was (83%). Total sunshine hours on 16-5-2006 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-5-2006 were (0.95) inch at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.47) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (8.43) inches at Mingaladon, (8.74) inches at Kaba-Aye and (8.58) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southeast at (14:20) hours MST on 16-5-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and the South Bay, weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-5-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attimes Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon and Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General increase of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Cash donated: On behalf of 700 wellwishers, MR Liu Wei Chun, on 17 May, donated K 14.1 million for the third time to be spent on the functions of the Association for Providing Assistance to Funerals through Vice-President of the association U Kyaw Thu at (16/2) Ward in Thingangyun Township. Photo shows U Kyaw Thu presents a certificate of honour to the wellwisher.

NLM

Earthquake report (issued at 23:30 hours MST today)

A strong earthquake of intensity (6.9) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (NIAS REGION-INDONESIA) about (1000) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (22) hrs (02) min (07) sec MST on 16 May, 2006.



Thursday, 18 May
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရာဇဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. Dance of national races</p>	<p>8:00 am</p> <p>6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>7. Dance variety</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>9. ပစ္စဝတီ တံတား (မြင်းကဆိပ်)</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>11. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Musical programme</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>6. Cute little dancers</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး</p>	<p>5:35 pm</p> <p>8. “မျှော်သူမမောစေချင်” (စိုးသီဟ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>9. Musical programme</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>6:45 pm</p> <p>13. Musical programme</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဖန်ပန်းလှလှ” (အပိုင်း-၉)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>15. News</p> <p>8:15 pm</p> <p>16. International news</p> <p>8:30 pm</p> <p>17. Weather report</p> <p>8:45 pm</p> <p>18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရေနေ” (အပိုင်း-၆)</p> <p>9:00 pm</p> <p>19. The next day’s programme</p>
--	---	--



Thursday, 18 May
Tune in today

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -When you're looking like that</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Let's this love again</p> <p>8:50 am National news / Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -Final heart break</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music:</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40pm Lunch time music -Music music</p> <p>9:00pm Aspects of Myanmar</p> <p>9:10 pm Article</p> <p>9:20 pm Pouri</p> <p>9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers -Larger than life ...BSB</p> <p>9:45 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>
--

Building of Sagaing Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye with his presence graced the occasion of the opening of a new office of Sagaing Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee in Monywa on 11 May morning.

Secretary of the committee Head of the Division's Department of Health Dr Kyaw Shein gave an account

of construction of the building, and presented gifts to the commander, and a certificate of honour to Asia Hi-Tech Co that undertook the project.

Chairperson of the committee Daw Wai Wai Khaing formally opened the building. The commander unveiled the signboard of the facility and inspected it.

Nineteen wellwishers presented K 30.67 million to Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association through the commander and his wife and officials.

The commander and wife presented 1,000 sets of uniforms to Division MCWA and 1,000 sets of uniforms to Division Women's Affairs Organization through chairpersons of the associations. The commander's wife delivered a speech.

The reinforced concrete building, 94 feet long, 36 feet wide and 24 feet high, was constructed at a cost of K 48.9 million. — MNA

Myanmar's first-ever participation in international Futsal tournament



Myanmar Futsal team that won bronze medal in AFF Futsal Championship 2006.

The AFF Futsal Championship 2006 was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2 to 7 May. Myanmar Futsal team took part in the tournament for the first time and won bronze medal. Myanmar's overcoming experienced teams to win bronze is a first step towards the development of Myanmar Futsal.

Now, the Myanmar Football Federation is making increased efforts to make Futsal popular among the people, to produce skilled Futsal players, and to win victory in international tournament.

Futsal originated in Europe and is played in two 20-minute periods by two 5-player teams in 20 meters x 40 meters field. A Futsal team is made up of 12 players and during the match, first line-up players can be substituted with seven substitutes as many times as required. The size of the football is No 4 and its bouncing rate is 30 per cent less than a normal one.

The first-ever Myanmar Futsal tournament was Mayor's trophy

tourney in which more than 270 teams contended for the championship. The Myanmar Futsal team was

the AFF Futsal Championship 2006 and Group (A) consisted of host Thailand, Myanmar,

ARTICLE BY NYI NYI SOE NYUNT &
PHOTOS BY MFF

formed with the skilled players who emerged in the tournament and some former selected Myanmar footballers.

Eight teams got registered to take part in

Brunei and Timor Leste, and Group (B) of Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam. In the first match, Myanmar trounced Brunei 7-0, while Thailand thrashed Brunei 8-0.

In the semifinal match, Group (B) leader Indonesia beat Myanmar 5-3. In the final match, the host secured championship hammering Indonesia 10-3. Myanmar beat Cambodia 10-2 to stand third.

In an interview, manager of the team U Kyi Min Thein (Executive, MFF) said that to win medal Myanmar team had to overcome some teams that had much more experience in international Futsal than Myanmar. Thailand was better in technique, international experience and higher than any other teams.

He said Thai team is being trained by a Brazilian coach and is participating in world Futsal tournaments. In the semifinal match, Myanmar lost to Indonesia due to lack of experience. Myanmar still needed to work a lot to win due success in ASEAN Futsal tournaments. The laws and rules practised for the AFF (See page 11)

Weather Forecast for (18-5-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

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

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

INSIDE

* **Entering Thabyenyunt Village situated on the border between Htantabin Township in Bago Division and Thandaung Township in Kayin State, I witnessed the site of the 12 low-cost houses the KNU torched in October last year.**

* **It is a large village that is about 30 miles from Toungoo and is home to national races such as Kayin, PaO and Bamar. It has a population of 2,698 people, 258 houses, a monastic education school and three churches.**

PAGE 8

A READER



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