

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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### 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

## UN Under-Secretary-General arrives

YANGON, 18 May — At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari arrived at Yangon International Airport via Singapore by Silk Air this morning.

He was welcomed by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department, Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economics Department, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York U Kyaw Tint Swe and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim A Gambari was accompanied by Director Mr Michael C Williams and Deputy Director Ms Beng Yong Chew of the Asia and Pacific Division of the United Nations and Mr Charles Petrie of UNDP.



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung welcome UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Ibrahim A Gambari at the airport. — MNA

MNA



A train crossing over Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) at the opening day of the rail bridge on 17 April 2006. — MNA

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



# ASEAN countries brace for single economic community by 2015

MANILA, 17 May — A single economic community with a regional market but without a single currency by 2015 has been endorsed by trade ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), according to a Press briefing here on their three-day meeting.

The trade ministers have expressed their countries' resolve to speed up the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) which is considered to be at par with the

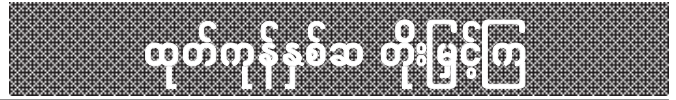
economies of the European Union by the year 2015, the briefing official said.

Ministers from ASEAN countries except those from Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam attended the meeting and discussed the ways to execute operational plans to form a single market in the Southeast Asian region, so as to keep pace with China and India, the huge developing economies of the region, the official said.

Ministers from Thailand, Malaysia and

Vietnam could not attend the meeting due to other commitments, officials said. The three countries were represented by senior officials. It remains immature to establish an agenda to introduce a single currency to the future regional free-trade market, the official added, although related research is being undertaken by some economists of various international institutions such as the Asian Development Bank.

MNA/Xinhua



A man looks at televisions in Singapore, on 17 May, 2006. Singapore's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter, backed by sustained demand for electronics goods and a stronger services sector, leading the government to raise its 2006 growth forecast to 5-7 percent. —INTERNET



American actor Tom Hanks, left, arrives with his wife American actress Rita Wilson for the screening of 'The Da Vinci Code,' at the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET

## Seat belt, bra save woman from gunshot

TAMPA, 16 May — A 44-year-old woman escaped serious injury from a gunshot Sunday thanks to her seat belt and a thick bra strap, authorities said. Robin Key, 44, of Riverview, Fla, was shot through the windshield of the car she was riding in Sunday. She said she felt a searing pain in her shoulder. Hillsborough County sheriff's deputies said a .38-caliber bullet smashed through the windshield then bounced off Key's shoulder — thanks to a seat belt and a thick bra strap. The copper-jacketed slug landed in her lap. "It's a big bullet, but you had all those forces acting against it," Hillsborough sheriff's spokesman JD. Callaway told the *St Petersburg Times*. "It's very rare that something like that occurs. She's very lucky. You know, we're just glad she came out OK." —INTERNET

## Leaders of Venezuela, Libya discuss oil

TRIPOLI, 16 May — Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who is reconnecting his nation to the US and to global energy companies, met for talks about oil on Wednesday with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who is moving his country in a different direction.

Chavez said before going into a meeting with the Libyan leader that the two men planned to discuss maintaining current oil prices.

The two Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members were to talk about "strengthening our commitment inside OPEC to maintain oil prices and avoid that they hit the floor again," Chavez said in comments broadcast on Venezuelan state television. "Today we have a fair price for oil." The Bush administration announced Monday that Libya is being taken off a US list of terrorism sponsors and diplomatic

ties are being restored, a striking success for Gadhafi's push to do business with foreign oil companies — especially American ones.

The administration also said Monday it was banning arms sales to Venezuela because of what Washington called a lack of support for counterterrorism. The move was the latest blow to steadily worsening relations between the US and Venezuela, America's fifth-largest oil supplier.

"We don't need arms

from the United States," Chavez, a harsh and constant critic of the Bush administration, said, adding that Venezuela is looking at the possibility of purchasing Russian fighter planes and expects to soon receive a shipment of 30,000 Russian-made Kalashnikov assault rifles. "And we leave the door open to China," he said.

Chavez called for the world to turn its back on the United States.

"We are against

America, the imperialist," he told reporters after dining with Gadhafi. "We don't accept its hegemony. The whole world should unite against America."

Gadhafi, his face partly covered by a large brown scarf draped over his Arab tribal robe, welcomed Chavez at his house, scarred with bullet holes and still showing some damage from a 1986 US bombing raid.

Internet



In this photo released by Venezuela's Miraflores Press, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, and Libya's leader Moammar Gadhafi, right, meet as an unidentified interpreter sits between them in Tripoli, Libya, on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET



Typhoon Chanchu brings huge waves at Dameisha in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on 17 May, 2006. A powerful typhoon slammed into south China on Thursday killing two children and forcing the evacuation of more than 630,000 people, Xinhua news agency said, while Vietnam was searching for 99 fishermen missing at sea. —INTERNET

## Iraq Sunnis accuse US of "atrocities" over raids

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Iraq's main Sunni religious grouping accused US forces on Monday of killing 25 civilians in raids near Baghdad in the past two days, rejecting the US account that only suspected guerillas had died.

"We hold the Iraqi Government and the occupiers responsible for this brutal atrocity," the Muslim Clerics Association said in a statement.

The US military earlier on Monday said its forces had killed more than 41 guerillas in and around the villages of Latifiya and Yusifiya, south of the capital, on Saturday and Sunday. It also said a US helicopter was shot down, killing two soldiers.

Two separate US statements on the air and ground raids did not mention any civilian deaths, but said several women and children were

wounded.

The US military says al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, uses the area as a staging ground for suicide attacks in Baghdad. It says he aims to incite a sectarian civil war between majority Shiites and minority Sunnis. The Sunni association accused US forces of attacking civilian houses and killing people as they tried to flee.

MNA/Reuters

## Iran mocks European nuclear incentives

TEHRAN, 17 May—Iran's President mocked a package of incentives to suspend uranium enrichment, saying on Wednesday they were like giving up gold for chocolate — defiance that appeared certain to complicate US efforts to curb Teheran's nuclear ambitions.

"Do you think you are dealing with a 4-year-old child to whom you can give some walnuts and chocolates and get gold from him?" President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad asked derisively.

He spoke before a huge crowd in the city of Arak, the site of a heavy-water reactor that is scheduled for completion by early 2009. Such facilities produce plutonium as a byproduct usable in building nuclear weapons.

Signalling the difficulties ahead, a high-level, six-nation meeting on Iran was postponed on Wednesday, reflecting differences between the United States and its allies on one side,

and the Chinese and Russians on the other.

The London meeting of senior officials from the five permanent Security Council members and Germany was to have been held Friday, but was postponed to Tuesday at the earliest, diplomats told *The Associated Press*.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the session was postponed because "we're trying to put together a package that would include incentives on one side and penalties." "I don't think there is a full agreement on exactly what would comprise the package," he said. "This is complex, multilateral diplomacy. It takes a little bit of time."

China and Russia have opposed bringing Iran's case to a vote in the UN Security Council, where the United States, Britain and France have pressed for sanctions. *Internet*



Wu Bangguo (L), chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, shakes hands with the vice-chairman of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies Valer Dorneanu after Wu's arrival at an airport in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET



America's Cup challenger Emirates Team New Zealand (L) and defender Alinghi of Switzerland race downwind with spinnakers on the eleventh flight of their match race during the sixth day of the Valencia Louis Vuitton Act 10 in Valencia, eastern Spain, on 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

## China has 2.6 mln websites

BEIJING, 17 May—The number of websites registered in China reached 2.6 million at the end of last year and 1.1 million of the websites are with ".CN" domain name. The websites increased by 40 per cent in terms of number last year, said a report released by the Informationization Office under the State Council. —MNA/Xinhua

## Survey shows New York subway cars getting dirtier

NEW YORK, 17 May—The number of clean subway cars in New York City decreased for the second year in a row, according to a survey by a riders' advocacy group.

The survey, conducted on 2,200 subway cars on 22 lines between September 2005 and January 2006 by the Straphangers Campaign, rated 47 per cent of the subway cars clean, down from 61 per cent a year earlier.

The Straphangers Campaign survey found cleanliness, rated by levels of grime, not litter, on some subway lines deteriorated significantly, while others improved.

Only 2 per cent of trains on the E line between Brooklyn and lower Manhattan were rated clean, whereas 94 per cent of the cars on the 4 line between Bronx and Brooklyn via Manhattan were found clean.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi, a member of the Jury of the 59th International Cannes Film Festival attends a Press conference in Cannes, southern France, on 17 May, 2006. The 59th Cannes film festival opened officially on Wednesday. —INTERNET

## Reputed cocaine kingpin arrested in Brazil

### 47.5 tons of cocaine, nearly \$70 million in assets seized

BOGOTA, 17 May—One of the world's most hunted drug traffickers — accused of shipping more than 70 tons of cocaine to the United States — has been arrested in Brazil as part of an international crackdown, officials said Wednesday.

Colombian-born Pablo Rayo Montano, who had been on the run for a decade, was captured Tuesday in Sao Paulo as part of an operation coordinated by the US Drug Enforcement Administration and involving anti-drug police in eight other countries.

More than three dozen others were arrested during simultaneous raids in the United States and Latin America, US and Colombian anti-drug officials said. Authorities also seized control of three islands off the coast of Panama, a trove of artwork, real estate holdings, yachts and millions in cash.

"The Rayo-Montano trafficking organization ranked up there with Pablo Escobar and the Cali Cartel in terms of the amount of cocaine it was able to smuggle into the United States" Dave Gaddis, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration in Bogota, Colombia, told *The Associated Press*.

Colombia-based Escobar was among the world's most notorious drug traffickers, ruling the illegal drug trade during the 1980s. He was killed in a shootout with police in 1993.

Called Twin Oceans, the operation targeted a major drug cartel that shipped cocaine from clandestine ports along Colombia's coast to the United States and Europe.

"The Rayo-Montano organization had its own private, rogue navy to run a drug business that was nearly as sophisticated as a small nation," said DEA administrator Karen P Tandy in a press release.

Also arrested were Rayo-Montano's top deputies — Jackson Orozco-Gil, his brother Domingo, and Mars Micolta-Hurtado — who allegedly oversaw operations along Colombia's Caribbean coast. The DEA said nine countries have been involved in the investigation for three years. It said that during that period the countries — Argentina, Brazil,

Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and the United States — have arrested more than 100 people and seized 47.5 tons of cocaine and nearly \$70 million in assets.

"It's estimated the amount of cocaine supplied by this organization was enough to poison 37 million consumers," Colombia's anti-narcotics police said in a statement. —Internet



Pablo Rayo Montano is seen after being captured by Federal Police in Sao Paulo, on Tuesday, 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

## Heatwave kills 137 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 May — At least 20 people died and more than 40 people fainted in the past 24 hours with the mercury rising to 49 degree Celsius which has increased death toll to 137 in central Pakistan's Punjab Province, local newspaper *Daily Times* reported on Wednesday.

Most of them died of extreme heat and unannounced power outages during the past 24 hours, the newspaper said. Temperature levels in the country in May were four to five degrees Celsius higher as compared to average temperatures, according to director-general of the Meteorological Department Qamar Zaman.

MNA/Xinhua



People line up outside a bank on 18 May, 2006, to pick up applications and prospectus to buy share in the Bank of China, whose US\$9.9 billion (7.7 billion) initial public offering next month in Hong Kong is expected to be the world's biggest this year.—INTERNET

### Argentine beauty queen brings protest home

BUENOS AIRES, 17 May—An Argentine beauty queen who disrupted a presidential summit in Vienna with a bikini-clad protest against wood pulp processing plants received an enthusiastic welcome home as she joined a new demonstration on Wednesday.

Evangelina Carrozzo drew attention Friday when she emerged from a crowd of photographers as Latin American and European presidents gathered for a photograph and shucked off her raincoat to reveal a bikini, knee-high boots and a sign against pulp plants in Uruguay.

Carrozzo—fully clothed

—joined 300 demonstrators protesting outside the embassy of Finland, home to an investment consortium building one of the two Uruguayan plants. Carrozzo, the 2006 carnival queen of Gualaguaychu, Argentina, said she was surprised by the hoopla.

"I didn't think there were going to be so many people and that they were going to mob me so much," she said. "But I'm happy to have come to Buenos Aires to be part of this protest."

The protesters claim the two pulp plants being built just across the Uruguay River will pollute north-east Argentine farmlands and damage tourism along the river.

Uruguay insists the project is environmentally sound and has vowed to go ahead.

Internet



Evangelina Carrozzo, an Argentine beauty queen who disrupted a presidential summit in Vienna last week with a bikini-baring protest against Uruguay's pulp mill plants, dances while demonstrators beat drums outside Finland's Embassy in Buenos Aires, on 17 May, 2006.—INTERNET

### British ferry passengers stranded by unexploded bomb

LONDON, 17 May — Around 250 passengers and crew were stranded on ferries in the River Mersey in northern England on Tuesday after a huge unexploded bomb was spotted, British Coast Guard said.

The 500 pound bomb, dating from World War Two, was found by the British Royal Navy near Twelve Quays in Liverpool shortly before midnight on Monday.

Two ferries, the *Mersey Viking* and *Dublin Viking*, bringing passengers from Belfast and Dublin across the Irish Sea, were forced to remain at sea while the explosive was dealt with, the coastguard said.

One of the ferries had

been stuck since before 4 am, a spokesman said.

The device was also only 300 metres from a road tunnel linking Liverpool to Birkenhead under the Mersey. The tunnel was closed by police whilst the bomb was being dealt with.

The Coast Guard spokesman said the Navy were slowly towing the bomb out to deeper water in the Irish Sea where it will be lowered to the sea bed and a diver will prepare it for a safe detonation.

"Our priority is to assist the Navy and dispose of this device in a safe and timely manner so normal operations can resume," Liverpool Coastguard Watch Manager Steve

Cross said in a statement. MNA/Reuters

**Bullfighter Serafin Marin, from Spain, is flipped by a bull during a San Isidro bullfight in 'Las Ventas' arena in Madrid, on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET**



### Sambi wins Comoros' presidential election

MORONI, 17 May — Former parliamentarian Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi was the winner of the Comoran presidential elections, announced the Indian Ocean island nation's National Electoral Commission here Tuesday.

He gained 58.14 per cent of the votes in the nationwide run-off. The rival former prime

minister Abderemane Ibrahim Halidi and National Assembly vice-president Mohamed Djanfari received 28.11 per cent and 13.72 per cent of the votes respectively.

The result needs to be validated by the Constitutional Court to be legally effective. The validation is only a matter of procedure, said local analysts.

A total of 178,500

people voted in the election held on Sunday, accounting for 58 per cent of the registered voters.

The president elected, whose term is four years, is scheduled to be sworn in on 25 May.

This year's election is the first one for the country to see presidency rotate from one island to another.

MNA/Xinhua

### Seven US lawmakers arrested in Sudan protest

WASHINGTON, 17 May—Seven African-American members of the US Congress were arrested on Tuesday at the Embassy of Sudan, where they were protesting atrocities in that country's Darfur region.

The members of the Congressional Black Caucus held a news

conference in front of the embassy property, then moved to block the entrance to deliberately prompt their arrests, said Christopher Johnson, spokesman for North Carolina Democratic Representative Mel Watt.

"It's time for the members of the Congressional Black Caucus

and the world community to raise the ante on Sudan," Watt, the caucus chairman, said in a statement.

Also arrested were Democratic Representative John Lewis of Georgia, Barbara Lee of California, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Al Green of Texas, Gwen Moore of Wisconsin and Washington, DC, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

The lawmakers were led away in plastic handcuffs and paid 50 US dollars fines, Johnson said.

"We must not forget that while we consider what to do, the situation on the ground is worsening for the millions of people affected by the crisis," Lewis said in a statement.

Five other members of Congress were arrested last month at the Embassy of Sudan protesting the Darfur situation after deliberately going on embassy property.

MNA/Reuters

### Trapped miners finally rescued from China's collapsed shaft

DALONGSHAN (Anhui Province), 17 May — Rescuers finally succeeded Tuesday night in pulling an iron miner whose legs had been pinned by rocks from a collapsed shaft in east China's Anhui Province, local authorities said.

The trapped miner, Zheng Yujie, was very weak and sent to a local hospital immediately.

One of his ribs was broken and he had kidney problems, doctors said.

Zheng's legs were stuck at the very beginning when the iron mine collapsed Saturday morning, according to Hu Dexiang, the miner who was the first among the eight trapped to be rescued Monday afternoon.

Zheng had been offered physiological salt solution and milk for survival underground since he was discovered at about 2:00 pm Monday, rescuers said. Too much silt underground had hampered the rescue operation, rescuers said.

To date, five miners, including a female, out of the eight trapped had been pulled out alive from the collapsed shaft and were rushed to a local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

### German detained at border for importing Nazi items

FRANKFURT, 17 May—German authorities have launched an investigation after a man tried to import

Nazi soldiers' helmets and other banned memorabilia in his car from the Czech Republic, police said on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the German border police said the 62-year-old man was stopped at the border on Sunday and Nazi items he had bought at a Czech flea market were found in the boot of his car.

The man, a pensioner, had about 20 steel helmets of the SS, the Nazis' paramilitary force, as well as knives and Army belts bearing the swastika symbol, and about 100 bullets, the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

# Egypt says Iran has right to peaceful atomic energy

**TOKYO, 17 May** — Iran, as a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has the right to peaceful use of atomic energy but should not be allowed to have nuclear arms, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said on Tuesday.

Iran made a rare call to Egypt last month over the nuclear issue. The two nations have not had relations for over 25 years and high-level contacts between the two governments are rare, usually limited to international meetings.

Speaking during a visit to Japan, Aboul Gheit reiterated Egypt's op-

position to nuclear weapons in the Middle East and called for a peaceful solution to the stand-off over Iran's nuclear programme.

"We are opposed to the introduction of nuclear weapons to this part of the world," he told a news conference in Tokyo.

"Iran is a party to the NPT—The right of each

and every member state that is party to the NPT to exploit and have the right of peaceful uses is an inherent right within the NPT agreement," he said.

"The important thing is that no one should introduce a military nuclear programme whether it is Israel or Iran or anybody else," he added. — *MNA/Reuters*

*A South Korean is silhouetted in front of an LG Philips LCD Co Ltd factory complex near the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, about 55 km north of Seoul in this recent file photo.*

INTERNET



## BBC says temporary worker leaked stars salaries

**LONDON, 17 May** — The BBC, Britain's publicly funded broadcaster, said on Tuesday an internal investigation has found that a 23-year-old temporary employee leaked the salaries of star DJs and presenters to tabloid publications.

The employee had access to the British Broadcasting Corp's financial systems and has admitted to receiving more than 1,000 pounds (1,880 US dollars) in cash for passing on the information, according to a report in the broadcaster's in-house newspaper *Ariel*, which was confirmed by a BBC spokesman.

Tabloids including the *Sun* and the *Mirror* ran stories last month on the salaries of BBC presenters and DJs including Chris Moyles, Jonathan Ross and Terry Wogan. British media companies, which have complained about BBC's dominance in radio and TV, seized on the leaked salaries as evidence that the corporation was distorting the talent market by overpaying. — *MNA/Reuters*



*A jet fighter of the type Mikojan MIG-29M OVT of the Russian Aircraft Corporation overflies the exhibition area of the International Aerospace Exhibition (ILA) at Berlin's Schoenefeld airport on the show's opening day on 16 May, 2006.—INTERNET*

## Philippine death toll from tropical storm rises to 37

**MANILA, 17 May** — The casualty toll from tropical storm Chanchu in the Philippines has increased to 37 people killed, 15 injured and 10 missing Monday as the number of people displaced have started to return to their homes, the Office of the Civil Defence (OCD) said.

Latest reports from the OCD said most of the fatalities were from the Bicol region, mostly due to the capsizing of a motorboat Mae-ann 5 off the waters of Masbate City last Friday.

The Bicol region posted 28 deaths, 25 of them were caused by the mishap involving the ill-fated motorboat.

Southern Tagalog posted seven deaths while Western Visayas, and National Capital Region registered one death each, said OCD.

The number of affected families stood at 10,962 families or 53,307 persons but those who remained at the evacuation centres reduced to only about 435 families or 2,144 families from a high over 1,500 families or more than 7,000 persons, according to the OCD.

The OCD said the number of evacuees significantly went down "since the weather has already improved".

The OCD has initially placed the damage to property incurred from the weather disturbance at 40.446 million pesos (784,000 US dollars).

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Rapist dismembering teenager jailed for life in Britain

**LONDON, 17 May** — An "evil" rapist who abducted a teenage girl, strangled her and dumped her dismembered body in bin bags was jailed for life on Tuesday and told he would never be released.

John McGrady, 48, snatched 15-year-old Rochelle Holness from the street last September as she went to a phone box to call her boyfriend. He took her back to his flat on a

rundown estate in Catford, south London, where he murdered her.

McGrady, a former butcher, then cut her body up into five pieces using a hacksaw, the Old Bailey heard.

"He wrapped the dismembered parts in rubbish bags and placed them in a trolley which he wheeled across Milford Towers Estate and left the bags in a stairwell," said

prosecutor Richard Whittam.

The remains were eventually found four days later by ambulance staff called to the estate to treat McGrady, who had slashed his wrists after confessing his crime to his girlfriend.

McGrady, who pleaded guilty to murder in April, was jailed for life with no prospect of release.

*MNA/Reuters*

## Mexico sending technical team to help develop Bolivian gas

**MEXICO CITY, 17 May** — Mexico will dispatch a technical team to Bolivia to discuss the possibility of participating in the energy development plan related to Bolivian gas, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said on Monday.

The decision was made by Mexican President Vicente Fox and his

Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales on the sideline of the fourth EU-Latin American Summit last week in Vienna, Austria.

The two countries must hammer out details of how Mexico can gain access to Bolivian gas while respecting laws and conditions imposed by Bolivia, Derbez told Mexican radio programme *Enfoque* (Focus).

Morales announced the nationalization of his country's oil and gas industry early this month.

Fox and Morales also discussed how to help Bolivia's indigenous people and reached lots of agreements on the issue, Derbez said.

He added that supporting Bolivia's indigenous communities was a "historic issue". Fox had said the two countries still had potential to expand their cooperation on the issue.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Sacred Cambodian oxen predict bountiful harvest

**PHNOM PENH, 17 May** — Cambodia's sacred oxen have forecast a bountiful harvest but thin rains, leading farmers to call on the government to build more irrigation systems and canals.



*Cambodian Royal oxen eat corn during the annual ploughing ceremony in Phnom Penh in this May 26, 2005 file photo. Cambodia's sacred oxen have forecast a bountiful harvest but thin rains, leading farmers to call on the government to build more irrigation systems and canals.—INTERNET*

At the annual royal ploughing ceremony in front of Phnom Penh's golden-spired palace, the cows ate lots of rice, beans and corn, suggesting "there will be plenty of crops", court astrologer Kang Ken told the crowds on Tuesday.

However, the beasts, who were also presented with golden bowls of water and wine, refused to drink any water, meaning the war-scarred Southeast Asian nation could suffer a year of drought.

"If the rains are going to be poor, we are going to have to have irrigation as a back-up," said 31-year-old farmer Bun Nak, who had travelled to the city to witness the ancient ceremony, which was overseen by King Norodom Sihamoni.

Last year, the cows got it spot on with their prediction of an abundant rice harvest. Cambodia produced more than 6 million tonnes of rice for the first time ever.

*Internet*



*A pharmacist holds bottles of the prescription arthritis and pain medication VIOXX at a New York City Pharmacy in this 30 September, 2004 file photo. Merck & Co Inc has provided new data to US regulators showing that all patients who took the arthritis medicine VIOXX were at increased risk of heart attacks, strokes and other complications, National Public Radio reported on Wednesday.—INTERNET*

### HK bans beef imports from Californian ranch

HONG KONG, 18 May — The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Tuesday suspended beef imports from a California processor that violated an imports rule aimed to curb the risk of spreading mad cow disease.

The HKSAR Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced a ban on beef imports from Harris Ranch Beef Company, a processing plant in California, following the discovery of bones in the imports from the plant.

The department said it will contact the relevant authorities for more information concerning the imports in question.

Hong Kong resumed beef imports from the United States on 29 December, 2005, but only boneless beef from cattle of less than 30 months old were allowed to be imported. The imported beef has to be of cattle removed of high-risk materials such as brain and spinal cord during slaughtering.

The agreed protocol also stipulated that the beef can be imported from designated plants approved by the US authorities. — MNA/Xinhua

### Hyundai Motor chairman faces charges of embezzlement, bribery

SEOUL, 18 May — Chung Mong-koo, chairman of South Korea's giant automaker Hyundai Motor Group, will face trial on charges of embezzlement and breach of trust relating to bribery allegations, South Korean prosecutors said on Tuesday.

The announcement was made after the Supreme Prosecutor's Office conducted a month-long probe into the scandal of Hyundai.

Chung, who has been in custody since he was arrested on 28 April, was charged with forcing several Hyundai affiliates to take part in paid-in capital increases for Hyundai Space and Aircraft Co, which bankrupted in late 2001, in August 1999 and April 2000. The increased capital was used to pay debts for the ailing company but incurred a total of 358.4 billion won (379 million US dollars) in losses to the financially

stable affiliates, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors also said the 68-year-old chairman forced an investment company he established in Malaysia to participate in a paid-in capital increase for Hyundai Pipe Co, now Hyundai Hysco, causing losses of 39 million and 11 million US dollars for Hyundai Motor and Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Chung is also charged with misappropriating 120 billion won (127 million US dollars) in company funds and causing about 400 billion won (423 million US dollars) in damages to his company's interests.

MNA/Xinhua

### Annan arrives in Japan for visit

TOKYO, 18 May — The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived in Japan on Tuesday night for his second stop of Asian tour and is scheduled to held talks with Japanese officials, according to Kyodo News on Wednesday.

During his four-day stay, Annan will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Taro Aso respectively.

Annan, whose term expires at the end of this year, visited South Korea from late last week and will travel to China and Vietnam after leaving Japan. — MNA/Xinhua

### S Korean, Japanese FMs to hold fence-mending talks

SEOUL, 18 May — South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said here on Wednesday that he will hold one-on-one talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso in Qatar next week.

It will be highest-level official talks between the two governments since a territorial disputes over the islets of Dokdo, which was called "Takeshima" by Japan, in April that heavily strained their bilateral ties.

South Korea and Japan "have reached an agreement on the date for the talks, but their diplomatic authorities are in consultations to fix the exact time and the venue," Ban told a news conference without giving more details.

Ban and Aso will attend the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) scheduled on 23-24 May

in Qatar. Their talks are expected to be an opportunity for the two sides to mend the strained relations.

Ban said he will also have separate talks with foreign ministers from

more than 10 other countries including China and Russia.

South Korea will host the next annual conference of ACD to be held next year.

MNA/Xinhua

### Strong quake jolts Banda Aceh, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 May — An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale rattled Banda Aceh, capital of Indonesia's Aceh Province, and its suburbs on Tuesday night but did not panic residents, an official said.

The quake which occurred at 10:28 pm local time was mainly felt by people living in the southern coast of Aceh Province, Antara news agency on Wednesday quoted Aceh Besar District meteorology and geophysics agency head Syahnah as saying.

He said the quake's epicentre was located west off Nias Island coast (North Sumatra Province) and 16 kilometres beneath the sea level.

The tremor was traced at 0.10 degrees North Latitude and 97.06 degrees East Longitude, he said.

There is no immediate report of casualty or material loss.

Meanwhile, reports from Aceh Singkil District said most residents living in the coastal areas of Aceh Singkil panicked when they felt the tremor as they were still traumatized by a killer earthquake that jolted the western part of Aceh on 26 December, 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



*A boy runs between two fibreglass cows that are part of the Cow Parade art show on display in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 17 May, 2006. Cow Parade runs from 15 May to 23 July, 2006. Ninety-four brightly coloured bovines will be grazing the Edinburgh's cityscape during the show.—INTERNET*



*A baby flamingo keeps warm under its mother's wing at the Cincinnati Zoo, on Tuesday, 16 May, 2006.—INTERNET*

### WHO confirms five more bird flu fatalities in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 May — The World Health Organization has confirmed that five people died of bird flu in Indonesia, bringing total death toll to 39 thus far, a report said on Wednesday.

Four of the victims were from a family in North Sumatra and another death was from East Java, reported the Jakarta Post online news service.

The alarming rate of bird flu casualties has prompted the government to launch a thorough investigation about the possibility of mutating H5N1 avian flu infection among humans.

The move came after eight people from a family in North Sumatra were admitted to hospital for developing bird flu symptoms, with four died later of the virus.

MNA/Xinhua

### Pakistani nationals still in US' Guantanamo Prison

ISLAMABAD, 18 May — There are still 29 Pakistani prisoners in the US detention centre of Guantanamo and eight of them are likely to be freed soon, Pakistani Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said on Tuesday.

The United States has now told Pakistan that 29 Pakistanis are still in Guantanamo Prison, Sherpao told a news conference here on Tuesday.

There were a total of 67 Pakistani prisoners in Guantanamo and the US authorities have so far freed 38 of them, the minister said.

The Pakistani Government is trying to get the remaining freed as soon as possible, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Regional development as witnessed by an expedition-2

A Reader

(continued from yesterday)

We left Thabyenyunt just before noon. Among the members of the expedition team were 13 correspondents from the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents' Club, four of them were women. There were also members of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and 27 chief editors, editors (news) and reporters of local journals.

In addition, the team also comprised Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez, Charge de' Affaires at German Embassy Mr Dirk Augustin and members, Assistant Resident Representative Si Canka Dhanapala of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and project officer Jean Benoit Manhez of the UNICEF and members. The information group consisted of female staff from the Myanma Radio and Television and Myawady Television.

At that time, all the members seemed to be happy and free from worries and anxieties. The Philippine

Ambassador was not feeling well the previous day, but the following day she was getting well. It could be said that all the media persons and members of the team enjoyed themselves in the regions of local national race people.

Thabyenyunt-Mone Road is a gravel one. Along the road were many villages. The regions are favoured by general conditions. So, we noticed that all the people of the villages were enjoying high standard of living. I thought the villages would be able to enjoy development many times better if peace and stability has been restored fully.

Along the journey, I happened to recall the ceremony held in Thabyenyunt Village. Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan was together with the team. At Thabyenyunt Village, the minister dealt with power struggles and killing and torturing one another among the members of KNU Brigade (7), and various forms of adversities and stresses and strains local people



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan comforts a mine victim who is undergoing treatment at Mone Station Hospital. —MNA

were facing due to atrocities committed by KNU such as torching villages, planting mines and blasting buildings. He also replied to the questions of the journalists.

Indeed, in the jungle of the east Yoma mountain ranges adjacent to the region, KNU Brigade (7) is following the policy of "Dismiss, remove and kill" practised by the Burma Communists Party (BCP) in Bago Yoma mountain range in the past. They are troubling and harming local people of nearby regions through terrorist acts. Kayin ethnic groups

of Kayin national race that live in the region are Paku, Bwe and Gaybar. Present KNU Brigade (2) commander Ar Si is in favour of members of Paku ethnic group, and finds faults with the sons of previous commander of Brigade (2) Baw Ni and their followers. They killed five innocent villagers from Hsidawkho Village without any reasons. Daw Naw Hale Dah, 75, wife of commander Baw Ni, said that Ar Si was treading on her throat. She meant that KNU members are betraying to one another in KNU Brigade (7).

The persons like

Ar Si who are too overbearing and who stick to murdering policy are not in favour of peace. BCP insurgents met with their tragic end in Bago Yoma. Now, Ar Si and members are practising the policy of the BCP. And, KNU's refugee camps and the pretext of refugee camps have existed long. These are, in fact, just invented stories that have come into being since the Tatmadaw attacked and occupied KNU's strong military camps, in which families of KNU members also lived. When the Tatmadaw launched attacks on the camps, they shifted their families and hard-cores to the border of the neighbouring country to receive foreign cash assistance on the pretext of refugee camps. They also exploited the situations politically. The pretext of refugee camps has thus resurfaced.

I thought that the Tatmadaw would have eliminated KNU ten years ago if it wanted to. And there was no need to hold peace negotiation. As the Tatmadaw is wholeheartedly desirous of national reconciliation, peace and

national development, it is paving the way towards peace for KNU. Nevertheless, KNU is regarding the Tatmadaw as its enemy and placing reliance on foreign elements. And it sticks to the armed struggle line and terrorism. It has also failed to emulate the other national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and are on the path towards peace. While I lost myself in the thought of what KNU would plot, we arrived in Mone.

Mone is enjoying fruitful results of development with characteristics of a town such as basic education high school, station hospital and a market of the Town Development Affairs Committee. In the Bagan period, while on a tour with a raft against the current in the Yaw Creek, King Alongsithu broke the trip to pay respect to the Myat Saw Nyinaung Pagoda, and compared the current of Yaw Creek and that of Thaukyaykhat Creek. Then he found that Yaw Creek was a little more transparent, so it was called Moo Tha Creek

(see page 9)



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippines Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez encourages fourth standard student Ma Wah Wah Soe who lost one of her legs in KNU mine explosion.—MNA



# Regional development as witnessed by an expedition-2

A Reader



**Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and members, local and foreign journalists ask after the patients who lost their limbs in mine blasts committed by KNU insurgents.**

MNA

(from page 8)

and later it was well-known as Mone Creek.

There emerged a village that relies on the creek to earn their living. Now, the village has developed to a town with nearly 1,800 homes of five wards and some villages. It is home to various national races such as Bamar, Kayin and Shan. Mone region has been facilitated with two monasteries, a church, 16-bed station hospital, auto exchange, post office, electric power office, fire brigade, veterinary office and agricultural office. The operation theatre of the station hospital has been installed fully with medical equipment to be able to attend to the victims of mines planted by KNU.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed lunch hosted by local authorities. Meanwhile, I remembered a Myanmar saying "Even for a mouthful of food eaten, one owes gratitude to the host". In reality, KNU insurgents survive with the extortion money they have collected from local people. A villager of Thabyenyunt Village said that if local people failed to pay money, KNU insurgents tortured and killed villagers, and so they

had to pay extortion money. Instead of paying gratitude of local people, KNU insurgents are detonating bombs and killing people. How ungrateful they are!

At the ceremony to recount the bitter events encountered by local people due to the acts of KNU held at the hall of Mone town, head of the station hospital Dr Maung Maung Khin clarified the incidents in which many local people lost their limbs owing to the land mines planted by KNU insurgents. A total of 16 local people were wounded in 2004, 14 people in 2005, and 18 people up to 13 May 2006. He said that only that morning he had made arrangements in the hospital to amputate one of the legs of a patient who had accidentally treaded on a mine.

According to the original agenda, the speech of the medical superintendent of the station hospital would be followed by an explanation by a local elder about KNU atrocities including murders, arson, extortion, forced labour and mine planting. But locals at the ceremony were eager to tell all the KNU's atrocities they had faced. Hence, the emcee invited everyone to explain their personal experiences. Local nationalities in turn explained all the KNU's

evil acts to torch villages, kill people, seize cattle and bullock-carts, burn down monasteries, throw hand grenades at collective novitiation ceremonies and intimidate people for forced labour, without providing enough food. The locals said that they were afraid to go out of the village as it was surrounded by KNU mine fields within its one-mile radius.

The experiences they explained in the presence of diplomats, officials of UN agencies and local and foreign journalists gave witness to the KNU atrocities. The world would know those atrocities through the media. Some were almost crying while explaining their personal experiences. It was heart-rending to hear their stories. It seemed that diplomats and UN officials also felt like us as there was an interpreter. As our itinerary was a tight schedule, we had to conclude the ceremony. If we could spare more time, their stories would be longer than the Arabian Nights.

We proceeded to the station hospital to visit the mine victims. It was a neat building with a compound. The minister, diplomats and UN officials visited the patients one by one to give words of

encouragement. The mine victims included people of various ages and nationalities including a 12-year old fifth grader Ma Wha Wha Soe. The patient seemed to be encouraged by the visitors. The Philippine Ambassador greeted the patients individually and recorded her conversations with them. She asked Ma Wha Wha Soe whether she was still feeling pain wound after her left leg was cut off. She sincerely said that she was feeling no more pain. She was an unfortunate one among the siblings who were collecting inphet leaves. The child seemed to be anxious, for, she wished to attend school in time. We felt great sympathy for her.

The Information Minister was the first to donate cash for the mine victims, followed by diplomats, UN officials, journalists and staff of the ministry. A total of K 101,300 was collected.

The sun was already setting when we left Mone. All along the road were the nationalities happily waving at us. They were bidding us farewell with firm belief that we, the journalists, were going to inform the public and the world about their sufferings.

On the return journey, I was asking myself a question "Which is the true wish of the villagers?" At that time, the title of a short story

## Can't afford to hate you, Mone

- \* Twelve-year-old daughter's Tender stage, beginning to blossom Made to fall aground, to lose status The KNU has cut off hands, feet.
- \* The young boy, who looks after Ageing parents in twilight of life They plant land-mines, to stop them Push them into darkness The despicable KNU.
- \* Children's mother, looking for food On way home, at nightfall Unable to return, without hands and feet In pool of blood, unable to stand up Made remorseful, by KNU.
- \* While hundred Buddhist boys Were being novitiated Grenade was thrown Heavy explosion, for bereavement 'Tis the KNU, that spoil the show.
- \* O, KNU, no matter how much You try to spoil beauty, disrupt life. Those who dwell, in Mone area To our citizens, with clean mind They show no pity, no mercy No matter how they may hate, citizens Who dwell in Mone region, we hate not With unceasing love, in our hearts We have but affection, and kindness And caress If we were to dream, and pray May they be punished soon by citizens These terrorists and insurgents May they soon see end to their folly. Mone Creek we can't hate May it flow clearly in peace.

(Reminiscing over visit to Mone Creek area.)  
Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

"Which is the option, little village?" came into my mind. They would surely answer "Peace, prosperity and progress."

Hence, journalists will have to join hands with the government,

the Tatmadaw and the people to end KNU's destructive misdeeds in order to achieve "Peace, prosperity and progress" the people desire.

(Translation: MS+TMT)  
\*\*\*\*\*



**Local people who suffered trouble due to atrocities of KNU insurgents seen at the hall in Mone of Kyaukkyi Township.**

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min sprinkles scented water on Express Train. — MNA

### South Korean training ship arrives Yangon

YANGON, 18 May — A Training Ship of the Republic of Korea, namely Hanbada, from Korea Maritime University carrying its trainees and four cadet trainees of Institute of Marine Technology under the Ministry of Transport of Myanmar arrived at Nanthida Jetty, here, this evening on a journey of training programme travelling to different countries. The trainees and officials from Hanbada were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and departmental heads, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-heum and embassy staff, Principal of IMT U Win Thein, heads of departments, faculty

members and cadets. Deputy Minister U Pe Than extended greetings to the guests. The training ship will stop over in Myanmar till 22 May and then it will continue to other countries. — MNA



## Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw...

(from page 16) and it will arrive at Bagan Station in Bagan-NyaungU at 6 pm. No 108 Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw Express Down-Train will leave Bagan Station in Bagan-NyaungU at 9.15 am and arrive at Pyinmana Station in Nay Pyi Taw at 7.30 pm.

The Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw Express Train will run on time daily. On its route, the train will stop over in

Lewe, Thitpokpin, Minbyan, Hsatthwa, Taungdwingyi, Myothis, Natmauk, Thamyathazi, Kanthaya, Ngaminmay, Zade and Taungzin Stations.

Tickets will be sold one day ahead from 8 am to 4 pm daily, and the remaining tickets can be available at the station at 5 am to 7 pm before departure of the train. The price of the ticket is K 680 for

Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan package.

As a special schedule, those wishing to travel from Yangon to Bagan can travel to Pyinmana Station of Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon by No 7 Yangon-Thazi Up-train. Then, they are to get No 107 Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan Express Up-train from Pyinmana to Bagan. Likewise, those wishing to visit Yangon from Bagan may ride No 108 Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw

Express Down-Train and No 8 Thazi-Yangon Down-Train. Yangon-Bagan and Bagan-Yangon tickets will be sold at Yangon and Bagan Railway Stations.

No 101 Nay Pyi Taw-Kyaukpadaung Express Up-train and No 102 Kyaukpadaung-Nay Pyi Taw Down-Mail-train were running with one coach each recently. From now on, Myanma Railways schedules to run the two trains with two carriages each daily with a view to ensuring smooth transportation for the local people.

Furthermore, Myanma Railways will make arrangements for running of Nay Pyi Taw-Pyay-Nay Pyi Taw Express Trains beginning 25 May to ensure better transport for local people in western region of Yoma and for State service personnel who are discharging duties in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min gives souvenir to a passenger in 107 Express Train. — MNA

### 6th ASEAN Skill Competition to be held

YANGON, 18 May — For enabling the Ministry of Science and Technology to participate in Information Technology and Computer Aided Drawing and Design Competitions of the 6th ASEAN Skill Competition which will be held in Darussalam of Brunei Darussalam from 3 to 12 September, the national technological proficiency tests for the competitions took place at University of Computer Studies (Hline Campus) and Mandalay Government Computer College today. Altogether 73 students from the Universities of Computer Studies, Technological Uni-

versities and Government Computer Colleges and Technological Colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology took part in the tests. — MNA



The National Technological Proficiency Test for 6th ASEAN Skill Competition in progress. — MNA

### UMFCCI graduations to be held

YANGON, 18 May — Accountancy and management courses Level I & II and Koeki Japanese Language Course organized by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI will be held on 20 May afternoon at Hotel Nikko here. Those who passed the courses are invited to attend the concluding ceremony and are to phone 381284, 381285, 370823. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials welcome training ship Hanbada of ROK at Nanthida Jetty.

MNA

### 203 drug-related cases exposed in April

YANGON, 18 May — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department exposed 203 cases of narcotic drugs in April.

They seized 75.159 kilos of opium in 35 cases, 10,4633 kilos of heroin in 74 cases, 10,4633 kilos of opium oil in 6 cases, 4,9846 kilos of low grade opium in 15 cases, 1,9043 kilos of stimulant tablets in 37 cases, 10324 tablets of Ephedrine in 2 cases, 395.0496 kilos of stimulant power in one case, 0.0078 kilo of opium speciosa in 8 cases, 8.06 kilos of chemical liquid in 2 cases, 1528.965 litres of chemical powder, one case in failure to register and other 5 cases.

Action was taken against 320 persons — 267 men and 54 women in drug-related cases.

MNA

# Information Minister attends cash presentation...

(from page 16)

(Yuwadi Khin Sein Hlaing), K 200,000 by U Win Maw of Forever Group, K 100,000 each by U Myint Than (Kids Zone), U Soe Moe Than (Yangon Directory), Myanmar Newsworld journal and Myanmar Printing and Publishers



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attends the ceremony and MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) speaks. — MNA

Association, K 50,000 each by each Phato Tim-

ber Mill family, Khayanpyar journal,

Tharaphu magazine, Wellness magazine, U Chit Maung (Yoatshintaegabyar magazine) and U Aung Myat (Pyimnyashwe-toung Publishing House), 300 books by U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology), 300 books by U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Taik-Thonze), 300 books by U Maung Maung Myint Aye (Latmoeswe), 350 books by U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khaing Khant), K 10,000 each by Mingala Taungnyunt Township WJA and U Soe Win (Tekkatho-Soe Yin) and family.

of MWJA and directors-general accepted cash and kind donations.

Today's donations were K 4.24 million and 1,250 books.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations made by the Printing and Publishing Enterprise. — MNA



Director-General U Chit Naing accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

The Vice-Chairmen

## Shan State (North)'s bio-diesel plan paints rosy picture

As part of the State's special plan for fuel, Shan State (North) set its target to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut plants. In accordance with its plan for cultivation of physic nut plants in the region, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council has assisted private companies and local farmers in cultivation of the plants in a bid to meet the region's target. During my trip to the region in early May 2006, I witnessed

over 21,800 acres of fields have been put under physic nut. Physic nut plantations are mushrooming in Lashio, Kyaukme, Muse, Kunlong and Laukkai districts in Shan State (North) and the fruits of the thriving plants are expected to

forts of local farmers, private companies and local regiments and battalions are beginning to show good results and it is sure they will enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The first batch of fruits will be distributed

### Article & Photos by Thaung Win Bo

mature by June. Hence, the state's plan has come to fruition.

Collaborative ef-

to local farmers, private farming companies and local regiments and units with a view to extended



Shan State (North) produces small-scale milling machines to mill physic nut seeds to extract physic nut oil.



Thriving physic nut saplings being nurtured by Hnin Hnin Khaing Company.

cultivation of physic nut plants in the region.

Apart from the first batch, physic nut seeds from the plantation will be milled to produce bio diesel to be used in farming machinery and generators for power supply in rural areas.

Moreover, in an attempt to assist in producing bio-diesel, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council will provide grinding machines to Township and District Union Soli-

arity and Development Associations and rural areas in the state.

Hnin Hnin Khaing Company, a private farming company, has begun its 1,000-acre-cultivation target in early May on the Highland Cultivation Field No 3 while reclaiming more virgin lands. Now, the company is also farming its 145 acres of mixed and double cropping of physic nut in an effort to reach the target. The efforts of Shan State (North) will finally be

crowned with success in the near future.

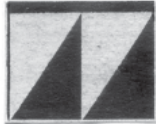
Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council will distribute bio diesel-fuelled stoves, lamps and generators free to local farmers who cultivate over 100 acres of physic nut. This is a great encouragement to local farmers. Shan State (North) will have abundant supplies of the bio-diesel derived from physic nut plants in the near future.

Translation - AMS

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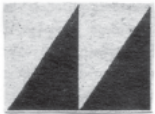
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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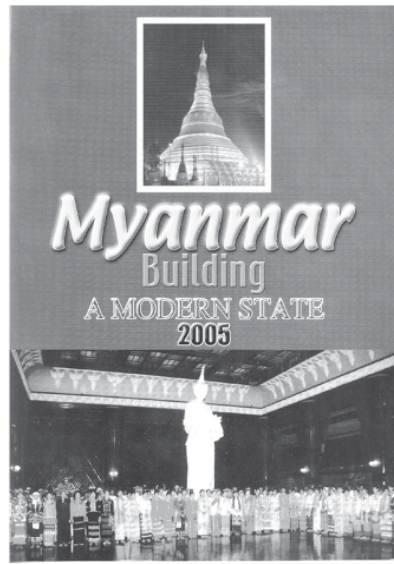
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၁။	Foreign Duplex Board (270 GSM) (31" x 43") (100 Sheets)	၃၆၄၂-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ထောင်ခြောက်ရာလေးဆယ့်နှစ်တိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အကူဖီဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) အလှကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံ ဆပ်ပြာစက်ရုံများ (ဆပ်ပြာစက်ရုံအမှတ်(၁)တွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၇၅၀-ထုပ် ၆၆၅-ထုပ်
၂။	Art Paper (85 GSM) (31" x 43") (250) Sheets	၂၂၃၂-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ထောင်နှစ်ရာသုံးဆယ့်နှစ်တိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အကူဖီဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) အလှကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံ ဆပ်ပြာစက်ရုံများ (ဆပ်ပြာစက်ရုံအမှတ်(၁)တွင် ပေးသွင်းပါရန်)	၄၀၀-ထုပ် ၂၃-ထုပ် ၅၀-ထုပ် ၁၇၅၉-ထုပ်
၃။	Sticker Paper(Japan) (21" x 30") (100-Sheets)	၂၃၄-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာသုံးဆယ့်လေးတိတိ)	အကူဖီဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၂၃၄-ထုပ်
၄။	Woodfree PrintingPaper (60) GSM (31" x 43") (500) Sheets	၂၅၉-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာရှစ်ဆယ့်ကိုးတိတိ)	အကူဖီဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၂၅၉-ထုပ်
၅။	Glaze Transparent paper (30" x 40")	၁၀၀-ထုပ် (အထုပ်တစ်ရာတိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ	၁၀၀-ထုပ်

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်။ ၂၅-၅-၂၀၀၆ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့) မွန်းလွဲ(၁၄:၀၀)နာရီ မှတ်ချက်။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန်တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၆၆၄၄၁၀)

စက်ရုံမှူး  
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

**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) 120-Nos for YDM 4 Diesel Electric Locomotives 1350 HP (Meter Gauge) with Alco/DLW Model 251 D Engine (as per Indian Railways Standards)  
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 51<sup>st</sup> 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

**Russia to convert  
"Airbus" planes  
into cargo  
aircraft**

BERLIN, 17 May— Russian planes manufacturers are set to convert older airbus passenger planes into cargo aircraft beginning from 2011, according to a declaration of intent signed here Tuesday at the International Aerospace Exhibition ILA.

Two Russian aerospace companies, MIG and Irkut, signed the document and talks on a full contract will be followed to convert narrow-body A320 and A321 planes for air cargo freighter.—MNA/Xinhua

**The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.**

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

**ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ်**  
**ဘွဲ့လွန်ဒီပလိုမာသင်တန်းများ ဝင်ခွင့်လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း**  
**ကြေညာချက်**

၁။ ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ်၏ ၂၀၀၆-၂၀၀၇ ခု၊ ပညာသင်နှစ်အတွက် ဖွင့်လှစ်မည့် အောက်ပါဘွဲ့လွန်ဒီပလိုမာသင်တန်းများသို့ ဝင်ခွင့်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(က) စီးပွားရေးပညာဒီပလိုမာ (ဒီအီးအက်စ်)  
(ခ) စာရင်းအင်းပညာဒီပလိုမာ (ဒီအက်စ်)  
(ဂ) စီမံအုပ်ချုပ်မှုဒီပလိုမာ (ဒီအမ်အေ)

၂။ အဆိုပါဘွဲ့လွန်ဒီပလိုမာသင်တန်းများအတွက် အောက်ပါအရည်အချင်းများနှင့် ကိုက်ညီသူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(က) အသိအမှတ်ပြု တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ ဘွဲ့ရပြီးသူဖြစ်ရမည်။  
(ခ) အခြားတက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုတွင် သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်နေသူ မဖြစ်စေရ။  
(ဂ) သက်ဆိုင်ရာ သင်ရိုးနှင့်အညီသတ်မှတ်ထားသော အချိန်အတိုင်းပြည့်စီစဉ် တက်ရောက်နိုင်ရမည်။

(ဃ) စီးပွားရေးပညာ ဒီပလိုမာ၊ စာရင်းအင်းပညာဒီပလိုမာနှင့် စီမံအုပ်ချုပ်မှုဒီပလိုမာ သင်တန်းများသို့ အစိုးရဌာနများမှ ဘွဲ့ရအောင်မြင်သူများအပြင် ပြင်ပပုဂ္ဂလိက စီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ၌ လုပ်ကိုင်နေသော ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များပါ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(င) ၁-၆-၂၀၀၆ ရက်နေ့တွင် အသက်(၂၅)နှစ်ပြည့်ပြီးသူဖြစ် ရမည်။

၃။ သတ်မှတ်လျှောက်လွှာပုံစံနှင့် သင်တန်းဆိုင်ရာ စာရွက်စာတမ်းများကို ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ် (ကမာရွတ်)ရှိ ကျောင်းသားရေးရာဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

၄။ ဝင်ခွင့်စာမေးပွဲအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများကို ၃၀-၅-၂၀၀၆ ရက်(အင်္ဂါနေ့)တွင် နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ အဆိုပါဌာန၌ပင် လာရောက်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

၅။ ဝင်ခွင့်စာမေးပွဲကို ၃-၆-၂၀၀၆ (စနေနေ့)နံနက်(၉:၀၀) နာရီမှ စတင်၍ ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ် (ကမာရွတ်)တွင် ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၆။ သင်တန်းနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ ၅၆-၅၃၆၄၃၃၊ ၅၃၆၄၃၃၅၅၅၀၇၊ ၅၅၅၀၇၅၅၊ ၆၆၄၆၄၄ တို့တွင်ဆွဲစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

လှမြင့်၊ ဌာနမှူး-သင်တန်းရေးရာ  
ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ်

**China to substitute bio-fuel for 10m tons of refined oil in 2020**

**BEIJING, 17 May — China will be able to substitute bio-liquid fuel for 10 million tons of refined oil products in 2020, said a Chinese energy think tank on Tuesday.**

Han Wenke, deputy director of the Energy Research Institute of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said at the ongoing forum on decentralized sustainable energy solutions in China, that by 2020 renewable energy will increase China's energy supply capacity by 400 to 500

million tons of coal equivalent. Then renewable energy will account for 10 per cent of China's annual energy consumption, he said. China's electricity installed capacity by renewable energy will be over 360 million kilowatts, including 300 million kilowatts by

hydro, 30 million kilowatts by wind farm, 150,000 kilowatts by small wind, 30 million kilowatts by biomass and 1.8 million kilowatts by solar. By 2020, China's production capacity of bio-liquid fuel such as fuel ethanol and bio-diesel will reach 12 million tons, which could substitute

some 10 million tons of refined oil products, said Han. Soaring international oil prices have encouraged investment in alternative energies. According to statistics of the Worldwatch Institute, world output of ethanol and bio-diesel is over 30 billion litres in 2004, accounting for 3 per cent of the total gasoline consumption that year.

Han said that China's current fuel ethanol production capacity, with corn as raw material, is 1.02 million tons per year, and the trial production scale of fuel ethanol with sweet sorghum as raw material is 5,000 tons per year.

The annual production capacity of bio-diesel is 20,000 tons. China has been mixing a percentage of ethanol into gasoline in some provinces including northeastern Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces, and Central China's Henan and Anhui provinces.

MNA/Xinhua



A man visits the promotional exhibition of the movie 'The Da Vinci Code' in Hong Kong, on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET

**India's strategic weapons programme based on "tech factors"**

**NEW DELHI, 17 May —** Rebutting reports that test firing of Agni III missile had been halted due to US pressure, India on Tuesday said the country's strategic weapons programme was based on "technical factors" and assessment of the overall security environment. In identical clarification, federal Defence and External Affairs spokesman said though India had a policy of responsibility and restraint in pursuing its strategic programme, decisions concerning testing of different classes of missiles were based on technical factors and overall security environment.—MNA/PTI

**Vow of undying love disrupts wedding night in Malaysia**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 17 May —** A Malaysian man slapped his wife on their wedding night and stormed out of their home after she received a text message from an unknown admirer who professed his undying love for her.

"Though you are married, I still love you," flashed on the screen of the 19-year-old woman's mobile phone just as the

couple were about to enter their room at 2 am on Sunday, official news agency Bernama reported.

Her husband, 25, refused to believe the woman's statement that she did not know who the sender was, hit her, tossed away the phone and walked out of the house, the agency said on Monday, quoting the Borneo Post newspaper.

Police on the rugged eastern island have arrested a man and are investigating after the woman and her family complained about the incident in a case that one official called unique in his 33-year career.

The couple are members of the Iban, a tribe of former headhunters that lives in communal longhouses and makes up about a third of the population of Borneo.

MNA/Reuters



A Royal Bengal tiger moves through a pond inside his enclosure at the zoo in New Delhi on 17 May, 2006. China's help is critical to protect India's tiger population and Beijing needs to curb the market for big cat skins and body parts, a leading Indian conservation official said on 17 May, 2006. —INTERNET

**Heart disease costs Britain \$55b a year**

**LONDON, 17 May —** Heart disease, the most preventable health threat, is costing Britain's economy 29 billion pounds (55 billion US dollars) a year, a study showed on Monday.

In the first study of its kind to calculate the financial burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD), researchers from the Health Economics Research Centre at Oxford University found that Britain is spending more

healthcare money on the condition than any other European country.

Medical treatment accounted for about 60 per cent of the total costs attributed to the condition, while lost productivity consumed 23 per cent and

informal care 17 per cent, according to the research findings published in the journal *Heart*.

The study showed 69 million work days were lost due to cardiovascular disease in 2004.

Cardiovascular disease is a leading killer in Britain.

High blood pressure, raised cholesterol levels, obesity and smoking are leading risk factors. People who survive a heart attack or stroke often need care and long-term medical treatment.

The research is based on all British residents diagnosed with cardiovascular disease in 2004. Costs include medication, emergency care, hospitalization and community and social services.

MNA/Xinhua

**Pacific Tsunami Centre ready for exercise**

**WELLINGTON, 17 May —** Pacific Tsunami Centre in Hawaii is making all preparations ready for a tsunami warning scenario on Wednesday.

According to Radio New Zealand International, Pacific Tsunami Centre said the exercise is to test countries around the Pacific of abilities to respond to a real emergency situation.

The exercise, named Exercise Pacific Wave, will involve 28 countries.

Since the 7.9-magnitude earthquake hit Tonga on 3 May, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre has experienced a spike in replies to invitations about the test that were sent out by a UN agency two months ago.

The organization's geophysicist, Stuart Koyanagi, said on Tuesday earthquakes will be simulated in Chile and on Taiwan's southern coast, and fake tsunami warnings will be issued to all countries participating in the test.—MNA/Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Pamplona erupts after Osasuna grab Champions League spot

MADRID, 18 May — Osasuna have secured a Champions League place for the first time with a 2-1 home win over Valencia that sparked celebrations in Pamplona.

"It's like a dream you never want to wake up from," Osasuna president Patxi Izco told reporters after the club's last game of the season on Tuesday. "We have been in the Champions League places for 32 weeks this season and deserve it. We made it difficult near the end but finally did it in style by beating a great Valencia side."

The Navarrans had to win to guarantee fourth place because Sevilla were level on points with an inferior head-to-head record.

Serbian striker Savo Milosevic headed the opener after 48 minutes and midfielder David Lopez added a second two minutes later.

Former Manchester United goalkeeper Ricardo was in fine form as third-placed Valencia applied the pressure near the end, and remained unbeaten until David Villa scored from a free kick in injury time.

Osasuna coach Javier Aguirre, who is leaving after four years at the club, said: "It is an indescribable emotion."

"This is the reward for a large number of people because behind me there are hundreds of workers who will enjoy this even more, and deservedly so."

The Mexican is being linked with Atletico Madrid. Osasuna will enter the third qualifying round of Europe's elite competition. Valencia ended the season a point behind Real Madrid who finished runners-up to champions Barcelona despite losing 4-3 in Sevilla.

MNA/Reuters

## Steaua beat Bacau to take top spot

BUCHAREST, 18 May — Steaua Bucharest grabbed top spot in Romania on Wednesday after winning 2-0 away to bottom side FCM Bacau.

With three rounds remaining, Steaua have 55 points, two more than Sportul Studentesc and Rapid Bucharest.

Goals in each half from striker Andrei Cristea and midfielder Florin Lovin, both former Bacau players, gave Steaua victory.

MNA/Reuters

## Clijsters recovers to reach last 16 in Rome

ROME, 18 May 18 — Second seed Kim Clijsters reached the last 16 of the Italian Open with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over Japanese qualifier Akiko Morigami on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Belgian, the highest-ranked player in the claycourt tournament after Amelie Mauresmo withdrew with a stomach bug, struggled to find her rhythm at the

start. Clijsters made a series of unforced errors to let slip a one-break advantage and gifted Morigami the first set.

However, she steadied herself to break the Japanese in the first game of the second set after which it was no contest.

"The last time I played on clay was in Warsaw (earlier this month) and

## Barcelona rebound to beat Arsenal in Champions League

PARIS, 18 May — The best defence succumbed to best attack in the European Champions League final as Barcelona scored two late goals to beat 10-man Arsenal 2-1 on Wednesday.

When Arsenal were only 14 minutes away from their first ever European champions, their defence which conceded only two goals on their way to the final this season fell apart to Barcelona's ferocious attacks.

Sol Campbell's thumping header gave Arsenal a 37th minute lead -- after goalkeeper Jens Lehmann had been sent off for a foul on Samuel Eto'o.

Thierry Henry missed a crucial chance to give Arsenal a two-goal lead before Eto'o

fired home with 14 minutes left.

Henrik Larsson then set up fellow substitute Juliano Belletti to win it four minutes later to sink Arsenal.

Henry opened in sensational fashion and could have twice given Arsenal the lead in the first three minutes.

He turned brilliantly in the Barcelona box, only to be denied by the diving Victor Valdes from point-blank range.

And from the resulting short corner, he fired in an angled drive which



Barcelona players pose with the trophy after Barcelona won the Champions League final against Arsenal in the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris, on 17 May, 2006.—INTERNET

was pushed to safety by Valdes.

Lehmann had already shown his quality with two stops from Ludovic Giuly and Deco -- but was shown the red card in a moment of drama after 18 minutes.

Ronaldinho played in Eto'o, who was upended by Lehmann as he rounded the keeper.

Giuly tapped in the loose ball, but Arsenal were at least relieved from going behind because referee Terje Hauge had already blown for the foul.

Lehmann was sent off for his foul on Eto'o with Manuel Almunia coming on for the unlucky Robert Pires, in possibly his last game for the club.

Barcelona were starting to take control when Arsenal stunned the favourites by going ahead after 37 minutes.

Arsenal were fortunate to be given a freekick when Emmanuel Eboué tumbled theatrically under a challenge from Carles Puyol.

MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal's Sol Campbell (L) heads the ball to score during their Champions League final match against Barcelona at the Stade de France in Saint Denis near Paris, on 17 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## World Cup mascot maker files for insolvency

BERLIN, 17 May — The German manufacturer of World Cup mascot "Goleo" has declared itself insolvent.

German media reports

said sluggish demand for the cuddly toy lion was partly responsible for the firm's problems. "We filed for insolvency," a spokesman for the Bavarian toy maker Nici AG said, declining to comment further.

The firm, based in the Bavarian town of Altenkunstadt, cited its inability to make payments as its reason for filing for insolvency, a spokesman for the district court in Coburg said.

The product — a grinning lion with a thick mane — is on sale ahead of the World Cup at 19.95 euros (25.5 US dollars).

He wears a soccer shirt with the number 6 but is trouserless. His sidekick is a talking football called Pille.—MNA/Reuters



Orangutans in jerseys representing the South Korean (L) and the French soccer teams perform at an animal show wishing South Korean national soccer team victory against France in the 2006 World Cup in Germany, in Seoul, on 18 May, 2006. South Korea have been drawn in World Cup Group G along with France, Switzerland and Togo for next month's tournament in Germany.—INTERNET

## Chonbuk battle through to AFC Champions League quarters

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 May 8 — South Korean side Chonbuk Motors recovered from a goal down to beat Chinese champions Dalian Shide 3-1 in Jeonju and advance to the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League on Wednesday. Needing victory to finish top of Group E, Chonbuk fell behind in the

57th minute when visiting striker Zou Jie rounded goalkeeper Kwoun Sun-tae to put his side 1-0 up.

Dalian, who needed only a draw to go through, then made the mistake of sitting back on their one-goal advantage and paid a heavy price.

Midfielder Kim Hyeung-bum equalized in the 66th

minute with a deflected drive and Wang Jung-hyung put Chonbuk ahead nine minutes from the end after controlling the ball on his chest, turning and blasting past goalkeeper Chen Dong. Kim made sure of victory in the 87th minute with a low, angled shot for his second goal.

MNA/Reuters



Switzerland Patty Schnyder returns the ball to Russia's Vera Dushevina during their match at the Rome Masters tennis tournament, in Rome, on 17 May, 2006.—INTERNET

the surface was completely different," said Clijsters, who will regain the world number one ranking from Mauresmo if she wins in Rome this week.

"It took a bit of time to get used to it, but I kept going for my shots and luckily things went better in the second and third sets."

Clijsters next faces 16th seed Dinara Safina, who did just enough to beat Maria Elena Camerin 6-4, 6-4.

"She's a very good player and if I want to win I will have to play good tennis," said Clijsters.

"She's young and hungry and has a good kick serve that puts a lot of pressure on the opponent. It will be important to be playing well from the start."

MNA/Reuters

# Gazprom says Cheney remarks will not affect Shtokman

TASHKENT, 18 May — The deputy head of Russian gas monopoly Gazprom said on Wednesday that recent criticism of Russia by US Vice-President Dick Cheney would not affect its choice of partners for the huge Shtokman project.

Cheney said earlier this month that Moscow was playing power politics with its energy resources and warned against any attempt to turn oil and gas into tools of intimidation or blackmail.

He made the comments shortly before Gazprom was due to unveil its choice of firms to help it develop the Shtokman gas field in the Arctic Barents Sea.

Two US firms, ConocoPhillips and Chevron, are on the shortlist of five possible partners in Shtokman, which is likely to need more than 20 billion US dollars of investment to achieve Gazprom's plan of shipping liquefied natural gas to the United States.

Gazprom deputy chief executive Alexander Ryazanov, asked if Cheney's remarks would

have a negative impact, replied: "Not on us. Because we are looking at the project's economics."

"Those who offer the best economics will be invited into the project," he told a news conference in Tashkent.

"We believe that the involvement of US companies in Shtokman could give access to the markets of such powerful companies as Conoco and Chevron.

"But on the other hand, as of today we are already capable of implementing projects without a very large number of partners. We have the economic, financial and probably even technical potential to implement this project.

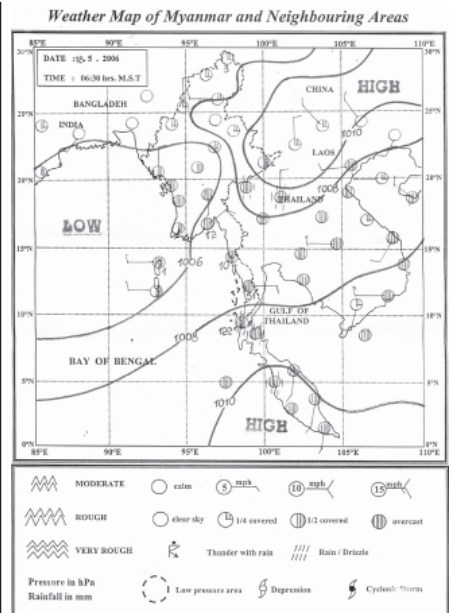
"The important thing is to move the project forward so we can start producing the first gas in 2011."

The other firms shortlisted for Shtokman are France's Total and Norway's Statoil and Hydro.

Gazprom has received final bids from the five companies and is in the process of making its long-awaited and much-delayed decision.

Ryazanov said it was now expected "by the end of May", signalling a likely further delay to an announcement that had been expected this week.

MNA/Reuters



## WEATHER

Thursday, 18 May, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Mon State and Ayeyawady Division, isolated in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States and Bago Division with isolated heavy fall in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Kayah State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa and Minbu (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Kawthong (5.00) inches, Myeik (2.12) inches, Pyapon (1.6) inches and Machanbaw (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-5-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 18-5-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-5-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2006 was (1.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-5-2006 were (0.31) inch at Mingaladon, (0.51) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.48) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (8.74) inches at Mingaladon, (9.25) inches at Kaba-Aye and (9.06) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southeast at (11:30) hours MST on 17-5-2006.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and the South Bay and weather is cloudy in the West Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 19-5-2006:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, isolated in Chin and Shan States and upper Sagaing Division with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, Mon-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:** Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Deltaic areas.


**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2006:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2006:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2006:** Partly cloudy.



A Mainland Chinese performer of the Shaanxi Traditional Opera Research Institute performs 'water sleeves' 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



**Friday, 19 May  
View on today**

**7:00 am**  
1. ဂန္ထဝင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ရုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ

**7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise

**7:30 am**  
3. Morning news

**7:40 am**  
4. Nice and sweet song

**7:50 am**  
5. လှပရာသီပြိုင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

**8:05 am**  
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:10 am**  
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

**8:20 am**  
8. ရေလှောင်တစ် ရဲ့ရွယ်

**8:30 am**  
9. International news

**8:45 am**  
10. English for Everyday Use **4:00 pm**

**4:15 pm**  
1. Martial songs

**4:25 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

**4:30 pm**  
3. Musical programme

**4:45 pm**  
4. အဆောင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒ) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

**4:55 pm**  
5. Song of national races

**5:10 pm**  
6. “ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာ ကမ္ဘာ” (လွင်နိုး၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ စာအုပ်၊ တင်းကောင်း၊ ရိုးမြတ်စုဒ္ဓါ၊ ကြည်လှလှိုင်၊ ဝှမ်းပုံ)

**5:20 pm**  
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာအုပ်

**5:30 pm**  
8. “ဟန်ဆဲ” (စရာနှင့် ယာဉ်ထိန်းရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ဝင်းများ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

**5:35 pm**  
9. Song of yesteryears

**5:45 pm**  
10. တိတားအလှ ပန်းလောင်

**5:50 pm**  
11. “နေဝင်တာအလှစေတီ”

**6:00 pm**  
12. Evening news

**6:30 pm**  
13. Weather report

**6:35 pm**  
14. သုတခုံလင် ရွှေညာထိရင်

**7:00 pm**  
15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ “စန်ပန်းလှလှ” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

**8:00 pm**  
16. News

**8:05 pm**  
17. International news

**8:10 pm**  
18. Weather report

**8:15 pm**  
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ “ရှေ့နေ” (အပိုင်း-၇)

**8:20 pm**  
20. မင်းကုန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစီစီ တွဲသောရာတိုဝ်သ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာများဖြင့်တရားတော်

**8:25 pm**  
21. The next day's programme



**Friday, 19 May  
Tune in today**

**8:30 am** Brief news  
**8:35 am** Music:  
 -Happy song  
**8:40 am** Perspectives  
**8:45 am** Music:  
 -New kid in town  
**8:50 am** National news / Slogan  
**9:00 am** Music:  
 -Cotton field  
**9:05 am** International news  
**9:15 am** Music:  
 Hold on  
**1:30 pm** News / Slogan  
**1:40 pm** Lunch time music  
 -Alone again  
 -Lovelight  
 -For all we know  
**9:00 pm** WOM  
 -Songs from Italy, Scotland, Brazil, Malaysia, North Ireland  
**9:15 pm** Article  
**9:25 pm** Music at your request  
 -Somebody needs you  
 -10,000 promises  
 -Love is love  
**9:45 pm** News / Slogan  
**10:00 pm** PEL

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# Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw train launched



Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min waves at passengers on board Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan Express Train on departure for Bagan. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — A ceremony to launch Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan-Nay Pyi Taw Express Train was held at Pinyinmana Station in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 am today, attended by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

First, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min greeted departmental heads, guests and employees at Pinyinmana Station.

At No 1 Platform in Pinyinmana Station, the minister sprinkled scented water on the locomotive of No 107 Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan RBE Express Up-Train

that would depart for Bagan Station.

Likewise, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thauang Lwin and U Pe Than sprinkled scented water on the locomotive.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and the deputy ministers cordially greeted passengers who would ride the express train, and presented souvenirs to them to mark the launching ceremony.

At 7.15 am, the minister, the deputy ministers and guests waved hands to the passengers riding the Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan Express Train that left Pinyinmana Station.

After the ceremony, the minister inspected sanitation and beautifying tasks at Pinyinmana Station Yard, and entertainment programmes for passengers, and attended to the needs.

At No 1 Platform, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected No 101 Nay Pyi Taw-Kyaukpadaung Express Up-Train. The minister cordially greeted passengers and explained smooth and speedy transport facilities of Myanma Railways.

No 107 Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan Express Up-Train leaves Pinyinmana Station in Nay Pyi Taw at 7.15 am (See page 10)

## INSIDE

On the return journey, I was asking myself a question “Which is the true wish of the villagers?” At that time, the title of a short story “Which is the option, little village?” came into my mind. They would surely answer “Peace, prosperity and progress”.

PAGE 8

A READER

## Information Minister attends cash presentation ceremony to hail Fourth Literary Conference

YANGON, 18 May — A ceremony to present cash donations in honour of the Fourth Literary Conference of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at the meeting

hall of Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, directors-general and officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), CEC members, well-wishers and guests.

During the ceremony, Secretary of MWJA U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) acted as master of ceremonies. First, Chairman of

MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented K 50,000 to Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung).

The cash and kind donations made were K 300,000 each by Myanma Radio and Television, Information and Public Relations Department, Publishing and Printing Enterprise, News and Periodicals Enterprise and Myanma Motion Picture Enter-

prise, K 500,000 by Eleven Media Group, K 300,000 by Chief Editor U Ohn Maung of Naing-ngan Gonyi magazine (Myinmu-Maung Naing Moe), K 250,000 by Dr Tin Tun Oo and wife (Thutasweson Publishing House), K 200,000 each by U Kyaw Nyunt (Kyaw Nyunt Yi) and wife, and U Mya Thein (Moe Htet Myint-Delta), K 12,000 by U Naing Gyi (Future Health journal), K 100,000 by Daw Khin Khin Sein (See page 11)



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations from Mingalar Taungnyunt Township WJA Patron U Kyaw Nyunt (Kyaw Nyunt Yi) and wife. — MNA

## Weather Forecast for (19-5-2006)

### Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Partly cloudy.

### Yangon & neighbouring areas

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

### Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Partly cloudy.