

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 35

10th Waning of Kason 1368 ME

Sunday, 21 May, 2006

## Senior-General Than Shwe receives UN Under-Secretary-General



*Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the

State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Win Mra of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York U Kyaw Tint Swe and officials. — MNA



*Senior General Than Shwe shakes hands with Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari. — MNA*

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 21 May, 2006

**Prevent diabetes, hypertension and cardiac disease through walking**

Health is wealth. Everybody wants to be free from diseases and enjoy longevity. Only when one is healthy and free from diseases will one be able to work. Only then, will he be able to fulfil food, clothing and shelter needs.

At present, diabetes is posing a grave threat to the entire people of the world. Lack of exercise, excessive intake of carbohydrates and obesity can increase the risk of diabetes.

Diabetes, hypertension and cardiac disease are closely interrelated. Lack of walking is one of the causes that inflict those diseases. When one is diabetic, one can develop heart disease and lose one's eyesight. In the meantime, due to chronic diabetes, he would suffer to such an extent that he has to have his limbs amputated.

Taking wholesome or healthy food and regular exercises without smoking can reduce the risk of diabetes.

A large number of people from different countries are now suffering from hypertension. Approximately, 1.5 billion (one fourth of the adults) of the world's population are hypertensive.

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

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

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

As walking is a good exercise, one is to go walking regularly to be fit and healthy. Walking which suits people of all ages is cost-effective and promises much benefit. Hence, walking is the best medicine.

This being so, all are urged to prevent hypertension, diabetes and cardiac disease through walking.

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**Aggathas Dharma**

- \* 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

**Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaw honoured**

YANGON, 20 May — Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Presiding Nayaka of Kaigon Pali Tekkatho Kyaungtaik in Kayan Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhita was honoured at Dhammayon in the Kyaungtaik on 14 March.

Shwephonepawint Shwebontha Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicitta administered the Five Precepts and members of the Sangha recited the Parittas.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Than Oo, Vice-Chairman of Kayan Township Association U Ngwe Soe and the guests presented offertories to the members of the Sangha. Chairman U Than Oo and officials supplicated on religious matters.

Next, Presiding Nayaka of Nyaungbintha Pariyatti Sathintaik member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vissu delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits.

Kayan Township Association presented certificate and offertories to Shin Khemananda of Kaigon Pali Tekkatho Kyaungtaik who passed Dhammacariya and Ph.D Examination on Myanmar.

MNA

**Artists at professional level invited for painting contest**

YANGON, 20 May — Organized by Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Noma Concours Painting Contest of Children Literature for 2006 will be held and those wishing to participate are invited. The painting works must be original with illustrations of the story and the paintings with photos are not allowed. It is not for the contest of children and only for those at professional level. Five paintings and above for a story may be included and the weight for the paintings must not exceed 5 kilograms.

The works that have not been published may also take part in the contest and the summary of the story must be expressed with 300 English words. The selected works will be announced at the end of March, 2007. US\$ 3,000 will be awarded for the prize for the excellence, US\$ 1,000 each for two second prizes, US\$ 300 each for consolation prizes and medals for 20 other consolation prizes. The painting works that will not be selected can be taken back in person and the works for the contest are to be sent to U Maung Hlaing, Chief-Editor, Joint Secretary of 2006 Noma Concours for Book Illustrations, Sarpay Beikman on Merchants Street not later than 30 August, together with the biography of the participants. The detailed information can be inquired through Tel: 240048 during business hours. — MNA

**Mayor inspects water supply tasks**

YANGON, 20 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected the project (second phase) of water supply tasks being implemented near Ahtayu village in Hmawby Township, Yangon North District. The project is aimed at supplying 45 million gallons of clean drinking water to the city daily.



During his inspection tour, the mayor heard reports by member of YCDC U Kyaw Soe and officials on water supply tasks being carried out and future work. The mayor stressed the need for completion of the project

before the rainy season and inspected the dredging of silt near the water purifying plant.

MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects dredging tasks near Ahtayu village in Hmawby Township. — YCDC

**CSSTB holds work co-ord meeting**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — A work co-ordi-

nation meeting of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board took place at the CSSTB in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than Nyun delivered a speech.

Members of the CSSTB U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo also spoke on the occasion. Rectors and directors-general reported on work being done and plans to be made. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman. — MNA



Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun addresses work coordination meeting. — MNA

## Iran President says nuclear foes “mentally-ill”

TEHERAN, 19 May — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad poked fun at opponents of his country’s nuclear programme on Thursday, saying they were suffering from mental problems, Iran’s student news agency ISNA said.

“Those who get sad at the progress and happiness of others are suffering from mental and psychological problems, so they should

find a way to cure themselves,”

Ahmadinejad said in a speech in the town of Zaranjeh in central Iran. The United States and its European Union allies want Iran to end uranium enrichment activities as a guarantee that it will not make atomic weapons.

Iran says it has right to nuclear technology and wants the fuel only for producing electricity.

“We do not have a fight with anyone, but we will not step back on our absolute rights,” Ahmadinejad said.

Iran says it has enriched uranium to 4.8 per cent, at the top end of the 3 to 5 per cent range for fuel used in nuclear power plants, but far below the 80 per cent level needed for weapons.

Ahmadinejad said billions of people in the world support Iran’s right to nuclear technology.

“More than two billion people were happy and celebrated when they heard the news about Iran’s nuclear achievement,” Ahmadinejad said on Thursday. Britain, France and Germany plan to offer Iran a package of incentives to induce Teheran to freeze a uranium enrichment programme that the West suspects has military dimensions.—MNA/Reuters



A man examines a dead Indian Ocean bottlenose dolphin on the shore of Kendwa and Mkokotoni beaches, in the northwest of Tanzania’s Zanzibar island, recently. —INTERNET

## New Yorkers get poor rating for road behaviour

NEW YORK, 19 May — New York ranks third in the nation for road rage, according to a new poll by automobile membership club AutoVantage.

The survey, released Wednesday, finds New Yorkers frequently speed, tailgate, and cut off other drivers. But Miami drivers were the worst offenders, with Phoenix in second place. New York, Los Angeles and Boston rounded out the top five worst cities for road rage. The survey found the most courteous drivers were in

Minneapolis, Nashville, St Louis, Seattle and Atlanta.

Roger Sinclair, spokesman of American Automobile Association, attributed New Yorkers’ bad behaviour on the road to habitual traffic jam and the daily long journeys they have to take to and from work.

“New York City has one of the longest

commutes in the nation and when you are spending so much time in the vehicle, doing something that you don’t want to do, nerves get frayed and people get upset,” he said.

The survey questioned 2,000 drivers who regularly commute in 20 major US cities. It has a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor views the model of a train in the Shanghai Railway Museum in Shanghai, east China, on 18 May, 2006, the International Museum Day.

Sixty-five museums and memorial halls in Shanghai were opened for free to visitors on Thursday.

INTERNET

## Japan primary school accepts boy as girl

TOKYO, 20 May — A Japanese primary school is allowing a 7-year-old boy with a gender identity disorder to take part in school life as a girl, an unprecedented move in this nation, local media said on Thursday.

The decision marks a growing awareness in Japan of gender identity disorder, in which patients feel they are trapped in the wrong gender’s body, although transgendered people and transsexuals still face widespread discrimination.

According to media reports, the boy in Hyogo, western Japan, was diagnosed with gender identity disorder before starting primary school after complaining that he felt uncomfortable with being a boy.

Based on the diagnosis and consultations with the boy’s parents, the school is allowing him to participate as a girl, including using girls’ bathrooms and attending swimming class in a girl’s bathing suit.—MNA/Reuters

## GM to scale back British plant, 900 jobs to go

ELLESMERE PORT (England), 19 May — General Motors will cut 900 jobs at its Ellesmere Port plant in Britain to boost manufacturing productivity for the Astra compact model, the world’s biggest carmaker by volume said on Wednesday.

GM Europe said in a statement it would reduce shifts at the plant in northwest England from three to two, affecting about one-third of the workforce.

MNA/Reuters

## Britney Spears stumbles, nearly drops baby

NEW YORK, 19 May — Britney Spears stumbled outside a Manhattan hotel, nearly dropping her 8-month-old son and further fueling the ever-growing media scrutiny of her parenting skills.



Britney Spears arrives for a post Grammy party at a private residence on 8 Feb, 2006, in Beverly Hills, Calif. INTERNET

In photos splashed across the front page and inside the New York Post on Friday, the 24-year-old pop star is shown exiting The Ritz-Carlton hotel with Sean Preston in one hand and a glass in the other.

As her bodyguards walked Spears to her car, she stumbled—her long pants apparently getting tangled in her open-toed shoes—and bent low as Sean Preston’s head flung backward, knocking off his orange hat.

Spears, though, was able to keep her balance and hold on to her son, with help from a bodyguard, who reacted quickly. A call to Spears’ publicist Friday seeking comment was not immediately returned.

The baby bobble was the latest public incident involving the safety of Spears’ child. Earlier this week, she was photographed driving with Sean Preston in a car seat facing forward rather than facing backward, which some safety regulations say is best.—Internet

French actress Virginie Ledoyen arrives at the screening for Spanish director Pedro Almodovar’s in-competition film ‘Volver’ at the 59th Cannes Film Festival, on 19 May, 2006. INTERNET



# Venezuela stages mock foreign invasion

**PUNTO FLIJO, 19 May** — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has for years predicted that a foreign army would attack the South American nation to snatch its vast oil reserves. A simulation conducted this week showed how it might happen.



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez  
INTERNET

A naval landing craft made landfall on the shores of Western Falcon state carrying troops and over a dozen camouflaged tanks. The "invading" army then took over the massive Paraguana Refining Complex, a key asset of the world's No. 5 crude exporter.

The "occupation" is part of a military exercise to train troops and communities to repel a foreign invader.

The Chavez government said it is preparing citizens to fight a guerrilla war to repel a possible Iraq-style invasion by U.S. troops. The Bush administration insists the invasion paranoia is nothing more than

leftist saber-rattling, but for Chavez supporters the threat is real.

"They've already invaded us, now the invading forces are controlling certain strategic objectives," said Rear Admiral Zahin Quintana, a squadron commander, after disembarking from a warship as part of the exercise. "Now begins the resistance by our troops together with our people."

The tanks began circulating through the streets, and units of mock invading soldiers launched smoke bombs to clear the way. But local residents, organized and trained by military authorities, resisted the assault by blocking roads with rusting cars and burning tires.

"We're willing to go anywhere to defend our homeland," said Rosmery Trujillo, a participant in the operation, told state television. "This country will never again be put under the boot of the North, thanks to our President Chavez." The simulated attack is part of a military operation called "Operation Patriot 2006" being carried out this week.—*Internet*

# ဝတ်မှုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



A Chinese construction worker pushes a cart past a poster of a new property building in Beijing, on 19 May, 2006. China's central bank will soon take targeted measures to curb credit to the real estate sector, the *China Securities Journal* said on Friday. The newspaper said the steps would flesh out a directive from the State Council, China's cabinet, earlier this week to relevant government agencies to take appropriate steps to rein in overheated sectors of the real estate market.—*INTERNET*



A sand sculptor works on his creation on the beach at La Croisette in Cannes, France, on 19 May, 2006. Numerous sand sculptures have popped up along the French beach to please the crowds at the 59th Cannes Film Festival.—*INTERNET*

# China faces rising temperatures, shrinking crops

**BELJING, 19 May** — China's average temperature may rise by 2.8 degrees Celsius by 2030 and its crop production could tumble by 10 per cent as global warming throws the climate into disarray, a senior Chinese climate official said on Thursday.

The leading China Meteorological Administration official told a government meeting in Beijing that global warming is likely to lift China's average temperature — compared to annual averages for 1961-1990 — by 1.3 to 2.1 degrees Celsius by 2020, and by 1.5 to 2.8 degrees by 2030, the *Xinhua* news agency reported.

And these rises threaten to overturn patterns of rainfall and slash crop output, said the official, whom *Xinhua* did not name.

"Our country's precipitation distribution over time and space will become even more unbalanced," *Xinhua* said, citing the official, who said the changes would lead to less rain and the accelerated spread of arid land in northern China and around the Yangtze River, the country's largest river.

But in other areas, climate changes may lead to more severe and frequent rainstorms that "will present a massive threat to our country's disaster prevention system", the report said.

As globalization takes place, *Bernama* had to go global or be left behind, he noted. China's Ambassador to Malaysia Wang Chungui congratulated on *Bernama's* opening of its office in Beijing, saying that *Bernama's* reporting from China would help further promote bilateral relations between China and Malaysia.—*MNA/Xinhua*

MNA/Reuters

# Study finds many US women abused by men

**WASHINGTON, 19 May** — More than 40 per cent of women surveyed in the Seattle area reported they had been physically or psychologically abused by their husbands, dates or boyfriends, researchers said on Wednesday.

And a second study showed that women who have been slapped, kicked or otherwise abused were four times more likely to report severe depressive symptoms and three times more likely to report fair or poor health.

The researchers, who say their study is a snapshot but suggests a national trend, were surprised at the numbers.

"This is an epidemic," said Dr. Robert Thompson of the Seattle-based Group Health Centre for Health Studies, who led one study.

"But it flies under the radar, because of the stigma and shame associated with it — as well as the fear that many health care providers have of opening what some call a 'Pandora's Box' of difficult problems that they are unsure how to address," Thompson added in a statement.

For their study, Thompson and colleagues interviewed a random sample of more than 3,400 women members of a Seattle health maintenance organization. They found 44 per cent of the women, aged 18 to 64, had suffered some form of what they call "intimate partner violence".

Most reported more than one type — for example, physical violence and verbal threats. Intimate partner violence "harms women's physical and mental health even more than do other common conditions, such as back pain and even several forms of cancer", said Amy Bonomi of the Group Health Centre for Health Studies, who wrote the second study.

Her team found that women who were recently abused were four times as likely as other women to report symptoms of severe depression and nearly three times as likely to report poor or fair health.

MNA/Reuters

# Malaysian national news agency opens office in Beijing

**KUALA LUMPUR, 19 May** — Malaysia's national news agency *Bernama* announced here on Thursday that it has opened a bureau in Beijing, capital of China, a major step towards its international expansion.

*Bernama* General Manager Syed Jamil Jaafar said here that *Bernama* eyed the importance of China as it opened its office in Beijing under a news coverage expansion programme.

With the opening of the office, *Bernama* hopes to provide better news services on news and information about China and the huge market that it offers. Syed Jamil said *Bernama* was strengthening its domestic operations, while expanding overseas slowly to provide a more comprehensive coverage on regional and world news.

As globalization takes place, *Bernama* had to go global or be left behind, he noted. China's Ambassador to Malaysia Wang Chungui congratulated on *Bernama's* opening of its office in Beijing, saying that *Bernama's* reporting from China would help further promote bilateral relations between China and Malaysia.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A British Short Hair cat named Rocky (C) is judged during an international cat show in Tel Aviv, on 19 May, 2006.—*INTERNET*

## Mexico to promote cooperation with China

MEXICO CITY, 19 May— Mexico would continue to maintain the friendly relations with China and be ready to work with Beijing to expand the cooperation in various sectors, Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Wednesday.

Fox made the comments while meeting visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Mexico City. Fox said Mexico and China were not competitors but important partners.

Both of the economies were in good shape and had developed rapidly. To strengthen bilateral cooperation would help

the two countries achieve common development and better deal with various challenges, he added.

The President believed the second meeting of the China-Mexico Permanent Bi-national Commission on Thursday and Friday would further improve the existing good relations between the two nations.

Li said Sino-Mexican relations had developed rapidly since the establishment of the bilateral strategic partnership in 2003 and the setup of the permanent commission in 2004.

China was ready to formulate and implement a joint action plan with Mexico and boost bilateral cooperation in a sustained and healthy way, Li said.

MNA/Xinhua



A brass Nandi head, from south India is seen, part of the upcoming auction called 'The Indian Sale', during a presentation at a central London's auction house, on 19 May, 2006. This dedicated Indian Sale at Sotheby's London on May 23 will include a strong group of Modern Indian Paintings and other artifacts.—INTERNET



Models wear dresses designed by graduating students of Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology (NIIFT) in Chandigarh, on 19 May, 2006. Picture taken on 19 May.—INTERNET

## Mexico condemns US decision to build border fences

MEXICO CITY, 19 May— Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Thursday that the US plan to build fences along the Mexican border would not guarantee the security Washington hopes for.

Fox was responding to a US Senate decision a day earlier to approve the building of a three-layer border fence.

According to the plan, the fence would be built along 600 kilometres of the US border covering the urban areas where most of

the illegal migrants cross into the US territory.

"This is not an proper response to (a problem) between friends, neighbours and partners," Fox said in the northern city of Mexicali. Earlier in the day, the president's spokesman, Ruben Aguilar, said the

US Senate's decision "goes against the trend of international relations, which aims to build bridges, not walls... to tear down trade and cultural barriers".

Aguilar said that mutual trust was the main pillar for international colla-

boration, especially in the complex relations with the United States.

He also refuted the opposition parties' accusation that the construction of the fence meant a failure of the Mexican government's foreign policy.

MNA/Xinhua

## Top USAF brass said to be under FBI probe

WASHINGTON, 19 May— The US Air Force's highest-ranking officer and his predecessor are the subjects of an FBI investigation into the handling of a 49.9-million-US-dollar contract for the Thunderbirds, an air demonstration squadron, ABC News reported on Thursday.

The network quoted law enforcement officials as saying the Federal Bureau of Investigation was

investigating allegations that General Michael Moseley and General John Jumper helped to steer a Thunderbird contract to a friend, retired Air Force General Hal Hornburg.

The Air Force, responding to the report, said Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne had referred a protest involving the contract to the Defence Department's chief internal inspector.

"Unfortunately, because of the ongoing litigation and investigation it is inappropriate to address specifics concerning the issue," an Air Force statement said.

Spokesmen for Moseley did not return phone calls seeking comment and ABC said the three generals concerned denied

any wrongdoing. As a matter of policy, the Defence Department would not confirm or deny whether such an investigation was under way, said Army Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Maka, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Air Force's reputation has been tarnished by a scandal that sent Darleen Druyun, its former second-ranking weapons buyer, to federal prison for nine months for breaching conflict-of-interest rules.

Air Force Secretary James Roche and acquisition chief Marvin Sambur resigned in fallout from the scandal, which led lawmakers to kill a 23.5-billion-US-dollar plan to acquire Boeing Co

tankers in 2004.

ABC said Hornburg, whose command included the Thunderbirds, became a partner in the company that won the contract six months after he retired from the military.

The FBI investigation began after complaints from Air Force insiders and a rival company whose bid was for half the amount, the network said.

The contract was cancelled earlier this year when the Air Force General Counsel questioned the "integrity of the process" and the involvement of four-star generals, ABC said. The case was referred to the Inspector-General for the Department of Defence, and the FBI later joined the investigation, it said.—MNA/Reuters

## Toyota looks to overtake GM in China

SHANGHAI, 19 May— China-Toyota, on course to overtake General Motors as the world's biggest automaker, is well behind in the world's fastest-growing market — and one where GM is thriving: China.

But on Tuesday, Toyota hopes to take a key step toward catching up when it rolls out its first made-in-China Camry, the best-selling model in the United States.

The launch, from Toyota's new 3.8 billion yuan (\$475 million) factory in Nansha, near the southern city of Guangzhou, symbolizes the automaker's newfound ambitions for China, which is about to surpass Japan as the world's second-largest auto market.

Virtually unscathed by political friction that erupted into anti-Japanese riots last year, Toyota and fellow Japanese automakers Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co, are pushing ahead with

billions of dollars in new investments.

Toyota Motor Corp, a relative latecomer to China, has a paltry 3.5 percent of the market, with 179,000 vehicles sold last year. That puts it well behind top foreign automaker General Motors Corp, which captured 11 percent of the market last year with 665,390 units sold, and Volkswagen AG of Germany, the No 2 foreign

maker.

Until recently, Toyota's cars were viewed as pricey imports. But the company's reputation for reliable, fuel-efficient cars is boosting its appeal among economy-conscious families, who are more sensitive to fuel prices than the government and corporate buyers who once dominated the market. The company's sales surged 55 percent last year.

Internet



Wang Fachang, executive vice president of FAW Toyota Motor Sales Co unveils new Toyota's REIZ at a Press day event of Toyota exhibition section of Auto Shanghai 2005 exhibition in Shanghai, China.—INTERNET

## US sailor killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 May— A US sailor was killed on Wednesday in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq as a result of "enemy action", the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The name of the killed sailor was being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement said.

The latest death brought the number of US military members killed in Iraq to at least 2,445 since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to media tally.

Iraq's vast Anbar Province, including guerilla cities of Ramadi, Fallujah and Qaim, has long been a bastion of insurgency against foreign forces in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.—MNA/Xinhua

## Report says Pakistan to be poppy free next year

ISLAMABAD, 19 May— Pakistani Minister for Narcotics Control Ghaus Bux Maher on Thursday said that poppy cultivation had been almost eliminated in Pakistan and the country would become poppy free next year, local media reported.

In 2006, Pakistani authorities had destroyed poppy grown on some 3,000 acres in different areas in North West Frontier Province and southwestern Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, said the minister, quoted by the Associated Press of Pakistan.

The Pakistani Government has taken concrete steps to persuade

poppy growers to switch over to alternative crops and those efforts have produced positive results, the minister was quoted as saying. Some 247 heroin labs had been destroyed since last year and there was no such clandestine unit functioning now in Pakistan, according to the APP report.

The Pakistan Government had also installed modern special

equipment on borders for more effective crackdown on drug proliferation, the report said.

At present there were around four million drug addicts in Pakistan, including 0.5 million heroin consumers, and 78 rehabilitation and treatment centres for drug addicts were functioning in the country, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



The space shuttle Discovery is rolled to launch pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on 19 May, 2006. Discovery is scheduled for launch in July on Mission STS-121 to the International Space Station.—INTERNET

## Twenty-seven people scales Mt Everest in two days

KATHMANDU, 19 May — As many as 27 people scaled Mt Everest, the world's highest peak on 14-15 May according to the information given by Nepal's Mountain Experience Pvt Ltd on Thursday.

Among of the climbers, 12 people conquered the world's highest peak on 14 May Mountain Experience Pvt. Ltd further informed that 15 people summited Mt Everest on 15 May.

There have been several world records in climbing the Mt Everest this season.

Setting a world record, a 70-year-old Japanese climber Takao Arayama scaled Mt. Everest on Wednesday, making him the

oldest person in the world to achieve the feat.

The second Nepali woman to climb Mt. Everest, Lakpa Sherpa, made another world record by ascending the peak for the sixth time.

New Zealand's mountaineer Mark Inglis, who lost his legs in a climbing accident 24 years ago, has become the first double amputee to reach the summit of Mt Everest this season. —MNA/Xinhua

## Bush fire put out near Pakistani nuclear facility

ISLAMABAD, 19 May— Firefighters put out a bush fire near a Pakistani nuclear facility in central Punjab Province without any loss of life or damage to property, officials at the facility told Reuters on Wednesday.

The fire, which started on late Monday night, was brought under control after 20 hours, raising a scare over safety at the uranium extraction plant in Dera Ghazi Khan District, some 350 kilometres (218 miles) southwest of Islamabad.

"The fire was at a distance of approximately 2.5 kilometres from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission facility," an official said, adding that the blaze was confined to a forested area in the hills outside the PAEC grounds.

"The fire may have been sparked by excessively hot weather as temperatures rose over 40 degree Celsius (104 F)," he told Reuters.

comment on the identity of the victims of the explosion but said, "There is no ISAF people."

MNA/Reuters



A fisherman paddles his small boat on Glencorse reservoir, which is owned by Scottish Water, near the Pentland Hills in Scotland, on 19 May, 2006. Nearly all of the reservoirs in Scotland are enjoying almost full levels of water capacity unlike ones in southeast England which are already running low and increasing the possibility of water restrictions in those areas.—INTERNET

## Explosion kills US soldier, wounds five in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 May — An apparently suicide bomb attack left one American trooper dead and injured five others in western Afghanistan Thursday morning, said officials.

"At 9 o'clock this morning, an explosion suspected to be a suicide attack occurred in Herat," 630 kilometres west of Kabul, leaving one person dead and five others wounded, Major Toby Jackman, a spokesman of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), told Xinhua.

All the victims, he added, belonged to the Combined Forces Command (CFC).

He declined to

comment on the identity of the victims of the explosion but said, "There is no ISAF people."

Police chief of Herat Mohammad Ayub Salangi told Xinhua that the deceased soldier is an American.

MNA/Xinhua

combined Forces Command, which is mainly involved in war against the Taleban militants and associated groups, has been running by the American forces.

MNA/Reuters

## Temperatures hit record high in May in central Spain

MADRID, 19 May — Temperatures in parts of central Spain set record highs for May this week, the National Meteorological Institute said on Thursday.

All-time records were logged in nine places on Wednesday, including Toledo, west of Madrid, which reached 38.4 Celsius (101 Fahrenheit)

and Cordoba further south at 39.5. Many other places were close to their previous record highs for the month, which the meteorological office noted were set on

the last day of May in 2001.

Madrid's Barajas Airport had its highest May temperature since 1953 at 36.2 Celsius.

MNA/Reuters

## S'pore lays down biosafety guidelines for GMO research

SINGAPORE, 19 May— Singapore on Thursday released a set of Biosafety Guidelines for Research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), aiming to ensure public safety while allowing local companies and institutions to conduct GMO-related research.

The guidelines divide G M O - r e l a t e d experiments into three categories for purposes of

risk assessments and notification to relevant authorities, such as the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) and institutional biosafety committees (IBCs), for approvals. The first category includes experiments which may pose high risks to laboratory workers, the community or the environment. IBC assessment and approval, as

well as GMAC notification, are required before such research work begins.

The second category involves experiments with low-level risks to the public and the environment, which need to be assessed by IBCs. Experiments which fall into the third category are considered safe and exempted from the guidelines.—MNA/Xinhua



A polar bear nestles into a hole it dug in the 15 tons of snow covering the Polar Bear Plunge habitat at the San Diego Zoo, on 19 May, 2006. Snow was one of many enrichment items zookeepers offered the Zoo's bears, during Bear Awareness Week as a way to entice visitors to visit each of the five bear species found on grounds to educate the public about natural bear behaviours, what threatens their survival in the wild and the conservation work the San Diego Zoo is doing for bears.—INTERNET

# The rain of knowledge that showers in Shan State

*Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)*

Shan State (North) celebrated the successful completion of establishment of a self-reliant library in each village in it along with the presenting of cash donations, TV sets, radios and publications to the libraries on 2 May 2006 at City Hall in Lashio.

Present on the occasion were the Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command and officials, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and officials, service personnel at Shan State (North), district and township levels, wellwishers, townsenders, leaders of national races, and officials of Shan State (North), district and township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, Women's Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations.

The donations amounted to more than K 41.8 million including over K 6.1 million to set up trust funds, 42,083 publications of various kinds worth more than K 28.7 million, 33 TV sets worth more than K 5.4 million, and 101 radios.

The North-East Command Commander in his speech said "Intellectuals and intelligentsia play a major role in implementing the nation's goal — building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In this regard, people from all walks of life in the nation including rural folks should have a wide range of knowledge with correct views. In order to achieve the target, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe with farsightedness gave guidance on opening of a self-reliant library in every village without fail. Respective states and divisions are now making efforts under the patronage of the Ministry of Information to translate the guidance into reality.

"A library can be called a knowledge bank because it is a building where collections of books, papers, journals and magazines are kept for people to read, study or borrow. In addition, it can also be called a centre that serves as a bridge between publications and the people, a life-long reading room, or the brain of a State. And it is a centre that enhances the knowledge of the people most effectively".

A salient point of the ceremony was that all the 2,589 villages in Shan State (North) had been facilitated

with a self-reliant rural library each.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe laid down the five rural development tasks: ensuring smooth transport in rural areas, supply of clean water, raising the education standard, promotion of health care, and raising the economic standard.

Respective commanders as well as local authorities, and ministers concerned are implementing the tasks harmoniously. In a bid to put the third task into practice, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Information are trying unremittingly to serve all the villages with a library each.

Wellwishers donated cash and kind to the libraries in Shan State (East) at a ceremony held in Kengtung on 25 April 2006, with speeches delivered by the Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

At the ceremony, wellwishers donated cash and kind valued at more than K 8.8 million to the libraries of 1,985 villages in Shan State (East) including K 2.7 million in cash, 51 TV sets, 11 cassette players and 35 radios worth more than K 5.3 million and 4,646 publications of different kinds worth more than K 700,000.

At the ceremony, the Commander of Triangle Region Command said, "Thanks to the self-reliant libraries that are being set up according to the Head of State's guidance, the rural people, young and old are now enjoying benefits — easy access to books, increase in knowledge, intellectual power to differentiate between good and bad, beneficial use of time, moral development, and emergence of good sons and daughters to serve the state."

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in his speech said, "As knowledge steers and dominates every sector in this age, Myanmar is in the process of standing shoulder to shoulder with the international community.

"In accord with the Head of State's guidance, self-reliant village libraries have been set up in the whole nation for enhancing knowledge in rural areas, key to progress of agriculture, education and health sectors.

"The project which started in 2004-2005 has set up self-reliant libraries in 53,554 villages out of a total of 61,949 in the entire nation. We can say that we have opened libraries in almost every village. We can take pride in our nation as the first to establish libraries in every village."

In the minister's address there included the three strengths and five future work programmes that were so noticeable.

The three strengths were: the nation, the local people and the wellwishers. The five future work programmes for long-term existence of the libraries were — to organize rural people to keep on reading books, the setting up of village-wise rent systems and trust funds to increase the number of books, the establishment of libraries, the provision of library furniture and other facilities, and the training of good librarians.

As a man of letters, I have been keeping books on general knowledge and periodicals and dailies at my monastery in addition to Pitakat treatises. I have been guiding my disciples to cultivate the habit of reading books and newspapers. I have made my novices read aloud the editorials of the dailies every day, and practise handwriting. I have also encouraged my disciples to enhance their reading power and lent them books free of charge.

But for quite some time, I was facing some problems as some of my disciples never returned the books they borrowed from me, and some were bad book keepers that the books they returned were partly torn or they cut out some pages. In some cases, books were lost due to absence of proper registration. Fortunately, I found a monk with great interest in literature and I permitted him to run a library. The monk, Ashin Inkonrananda, is now serving as the librarian of Thukhamein library, keeping records systematically to prevent loss of books.

In my view, of the five future work programmes, the task of producing qualified librarians is very important. The other four can be materialized under the sponsorship of village head monks, elders and wealthy villagers.

Before the advent of the Tatmadaw government, southern Shan State, where I resided, had only three libraries. It had no village libraries then. It now has 27 libraries run by Information and Public Relations Department and 1,878 rural libraries.

Like the rain that gives life to the earth, the goodwill, zeal and efforts of the people of Shan State are contributing to the task of opening rural libraries covered by the national drive the whole country has been launching with extra momentum and harmony.

According to the Pitakat, it is said that the first rains created the planet Earth. Hence, goodwill, zeal and efforts of the people of Shan State could be likened to the rain that disseminates knowledge to the people.

(Translation: MS+TMT)

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## UN Under-Secretary-General for Political...

(from page 16)  
U Kyaw Kyaw, Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department U Win Mra and officials.

Mr Ibrahim A Gambari was accompanied by Director Mr Michael C Williams and Deputy Director Ms Beng Yong Chew of Asia and Pacific Division of the UN.

During his stay in Myanmar, Mr Ibrahim A Gambari paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe. He held discussions with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thauang.

He also met the chairman of National Convention Work Committee and members, delegates of the Union Solidarity and Development Association

and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, personnel of political parties, and ambassadors Charges d' Affairs of foreign missions in Yangon and resident representatives of the UN Agencies.—MNA

**Secretary-1  
Lt-Gen Thein Sein bids farewell to UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Ibrahim A Gambari. — MNA**



## Training courses of MPT conclude

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May — The Server Operation Training Course and Database Management System Course, conducted by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs concluded at the Ministry here yesterday with an

address by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Vice Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and officials. After giving his

speech, the minister presented completion certificates to the trainees. The courses last two weeks and were attended by 73 trainees. MNA

**Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses concluding ceremony of Server Operation Training Course and Database Management System Course. — MNA**



## Basic Course No 1 on Tilapia Fish Breeding concludes

YANGON, 20 May — A conclusion ceremony of the Basic Course No 1 on Tilapia Fish Breeding, jointly conducted by Myanmar Fisheries Federation under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and Myanmar Fisheries Association, took place at MFF in Insein Township this morning, attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Also present at the ceremony were heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry, the president and members of MFF and others.

The minister and President U Htay Myint of MFF made speeches. Later, Chairman of MFEA U Thein Lwin reported on the purpose of conducting the course.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Deputy Director-General U Khin Ko Lay of Fisheries Department and President U Htay Myint of MFF presented gifts to the course instructors.

After that, U Htay Myint accepted a Microscope donated by Top Partner Trading Co Ltd of KND Group, China. The minister and party

viewed documentary photos of the 12-day course. Altogether 93 trainees of departments and companies attended it. MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein gives a speech at conclusion ceremony of the Basic Course No 1 on Tilapia Fish Breeding. — MNA**



## Factories in Pakokku inspected

YANGON, 20 May — Minister for Industry-1 U

Aung Thauang visited Win Thu Zar Shop in Taungtha, Mandalay Division, yesterday. He inspected production process at the dyeing and printing factory of the Myanmar Textiles Industries in Pakokku, Magway Division. Managing Director of MTI U Oo Thein Maung conducted him round the factory.

Next, he inspected Pakokku Textile Factory and instructed officials to make efforts to exceed the targets. Factory Manager U Myint Thein Oo gave an account of functions of the factory. The managing director gave a supplementary report.

The minister instructed the officials to constantly come up with strengths and weaknesses of the factory, and to take necessary measures in advance so as to exceed the targets, and presented a basket of fruits to Chinese technical professionals.

On arrival at Pakokku Garment Factory Project, four miles two furlongs east of Pakokku-Myaing Road, the minister looked into the

physic nut saplings. Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung reported on the project, civil engineering work, requirement of major raw materials, and investment; General Manager U Ye Win, on progress of implementing the project; Managing Director of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries U Aye Mauk, on progress of construction of the main building and related buildings and civil engineering tasks. The minister called for systematic implementation of the project and inspected the work site.

He met with staff of No 2 Cigarette Factory of the Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in Pakokku. Factory Manager U Khin Maung Yin reported on facts about the factory, and Managing Director U Soe Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

In response, the minister attended to the needs, calling for exceeding the targets and nurturing the staff for better work capacity. — MNA



## UN Under-Secretary-General has tight schedule in Yangon

YANGON, 20 May— Visiting Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari and party, accompanied by Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug and

officials, paid a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 9.30 pm on 18 May.

Mr Ibrahim A Gambari signed the visitors' book and went round the pagoda clockwise.

Yesterday noon, Mr Ibrahim A Gambari and

party visited the Drugs Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw and Hanthawady streets in Kamayut Township. Secretary of the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force



**Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari meets members of the management board of trustees of Bengali Sunni Jameh Mosque. — MNA**



**Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari visits the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA**

Brig-Gen Khin Yee, Joint-Secretary Police Col Kham Aung, in charge of museum Police Lt-Col Htay Aung and officials briefed the guests on the exhibits. The guests observed the pavilions and signed the visitors' book.

Brig-Gen Khin Yee presented a gift to Mr Ibrahim A Gambari.

At 5 pm the same day, Mr Ibrahim A Gambari visited Bengali Sunni Jameh Mosque on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township and said prayers and

signed the visitors' book. He extended greetings to members of the management board of trustees of the mosque and those present. The chairman of the management board presented gifts to the guest. **MNA**



**Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim A Gambari visits Drugs Elimination Museum. — MNA**



### F & R Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a coordination meeting at its meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 May, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, directors-general, managing directors, directors and general managers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, State and Division level officials and managers of the

Internal Revenue Department and the Myanma Economic Bank. In his address, the minister called for review of strengths and weaknesses in the work done in 2005-2006 fiscal year to lay down future tasks and plans. He urged those present to seek ways and means and to implement the projects in concert to exceed the targets that contribute towards the State's objectives. He stressed the need of all the staff to carry out finance and revenue tasks with a sense of duty in accordance with procedures, laws and bylaws for national

development. Officials reported on work progress and future tasks. The minister gave necessary instructions to the officials. The second day session of the coordination meeting was held yesterday. In response to the reports by the officials on the future plans and progress of work, the minister instructed them to place emphasis on levying and collecting taxes fully and correctly. Deputy Minister gave a supplementary report. The minister gave concluding remarks. **MNA**

### Cash presented for all-round renovation of Sule Pagoda

YANGON, 20 May—A ceremony to donate cash for the 310th time for all-round renovation of Sule Pagoda was held at the pagoda this afternoon. It was attended by Chairman of the Central Executive Committee for All-round Renovation member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Ohn Maung and CEC members, the members of PBT, guests and well-wishers. The CEC members accepted over K 68.3 million including 60 gold plates donated by 65 well-wishers and presented certificates of honour to the latter.

Afterwards, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Ovadacariya of Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees the Presiding Sayadaw of Maha

Theindawgyi Monastery, followed by sharing of merits gained. The ceremony came to an end with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu three times.—**MNA**

### Talks on film script to be held

YANGON, 20 May—Talks on film script sponsored by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon are held monthly. Similar talks will be held for the third time at the association on Winkaba Road in Bahan Township here on 27 May. The talks will focus on Casablanca, the best film of the world. Participants of the talks will be U Myint Thein Pe (Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise), Academy U Tun Hlaing (Film Director-cum-Photographer), U Moe Thu (Script Writer-cum-Film Director), and U Pho Thauk Kya (Script Writer-cum-Film Critic). Those interested may attend the talks free of charge.—**MNA**



**A boy crosses over a fountain in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, on 19 May, 2006. After several rainy days, a warm front brought sunny weather with temperatures hovering around 20 degrees Celsius (70 Fahrenheit).**  
INTERNET

## Cambodia, UN to improve strained relations

PHNOM PENH, 20 May — Visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour on Thursday met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, aimed at improving recent strained relations between Cambodia and her office in the country.

“Relations between Cambodia and the UN human rights office in Cambodia will be better through this meeting,” Eang Sophalleth, Prime Minister Hun Sen’s spokesman, told reporters after the meeting.

He said that the Premier also dismissed the recent media report that the government was considering to close the UN human rights office here.

“The Royal Government wants to have good cooperation with Human Right Organizations for the country’s development. Whether or not to close the office of UN Human Rights is depending on the UN itself,” he quoted Hun Sen as saying.

Arbour also said that she is not coming here to act as an expert in Cambo-

dia, but to support the government’s activities in a move that Cambodia moves toward democracy and respect of human rights.

In March, Hun Sen expressed his dissatisfaction with the UN human rights office and appeal the UN to remove Yash Ghai, its special envoy in Cambodia, after Ghai accuse

him of using iron fist to violate the independence of the courts. Hun Sen also criticized the UN officials just like a “long-term tourists”.

This is the first visit to Cambodia by a High Commissioner since 2002. Arbour, arrived in the country on Monday, will pay a week-long visit to the country. — MNA/Xinhua

## Thaksin pledges to step up drug crackdown

BANGKOK, 20 May — Thailand’s caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra Friday pledged to step up the government’s crackdown on drugs following complaints about the prevalence of drugs in city communities.

Thaksin, who has been on leave for over a month, spoke with a group of Bangkok residents from Don Muang District who appeared at Government House Friday morning to give him morale support that he would ask police and authorities concerned

to give him all information about the drug situation. He said that drug problems still exist and an urgent and continued crackdown on their abuse is needed.

Chanting “Thaksin come back, Yaba (methamphetamines) go away”, the supporters voiced their concern regarding the flow of methamphetamines, which, they said, is undermining the quality of life in their communities and taking away the future of many young people.

The supporters asked

Thaksin to return to work on solving Thailand’s drug problems which, they said, are now re-emerging and plaguing not only their own communities, but also many others as well.

Many have praised the government for its success in combating drugs, while others have questioned the implementation of the policy, which resulted in the death of some 2,500 people who were said to be involved in drug dealing, many of whom died from the extra-judicial executions.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore to better management of chronic diseases

SINGAPORE, 20 May — Singapore is making efforts to include more patients in structured chronic disease management programmes, Minister for Health Khaw Boon Wan said Friday at the third National Disease Management Conference.

“That chronic diseases are major causes of death and human suffering remains a fact as in the past,” Khaw noted, adding that healthy living, early detection, prompt treatment and patient compliance have proved to be

effective tools for managing such diseases.

In order to help patients with chronic diseases to seek early treatment and delay or even avoid serious complications, Singapore has decided to allow them to withdraw from their Medisave accounts to co-pay chronic disease management programmes.

The main reasons, Khaw said, are to lower the barrier to treatment, urge patients to comply with the structured programmes and take owner-

ship of their own health and ensure a good standard of disease management by the participating doctors.

A Disease Management Advisory Committee of Experts will help develop and monitor the city state’s chronic disease management strategy, while local hospitals, doctors and family physicians will be updated on the best chronic disease management practices, the minister added.

MNA/Xinhua

## Malaysian PM to attend World Eco Forum in Egypt

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 May — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will attend the World Economic Forum to be held in Egypt, according to the Malaysian

Foreign Ministry here on Friday.

The Malaysian leader is scheduled to deliver a speech on the importance of international cooperation on issues such as se-

curity, terrorism, aid and trade at the event, the ministry said in a Press release.

Badawi will also participate in a West-Islamic World dialogue to explore the challenges and opportunities present in the area of teaching about religions in schools and colleges, it added.

The World Economic Forum on the Middle East is scheduled to be held on 20-22 May in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The forum will focus on a range of issues concerning the region, including information and communication technology, media, logistics and transport and tourism.

The participants will also exchange view on issues such as rule of law, peace, security and international relations, culture and identity.

MNA/Xinhua



**Tower of students : Military school students build a human tower during the Youth and Sport Festival celebrations at Inonu Stadium in downtown Istanbul on 19 May.**—INTERNET

## CIA nominee defends domestic spying at Senate hearing

WASHINGTON, 20 May — Michael Hayden, nominee for director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), defended a controversial domestic spying programme on Thursday at his Senate confirmation hearing.

Testifying in open session before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Hayden sought to ease the concerns of some senators, who questioned the legality of the programme which he launched during his tenure at the Na-

tional Security Agency (NSA) from 1999 to 2005.

The programme monitors phone calls between people in the United States and suspected terrorists overseas, bypassing a special federal court.

Hayden said the programme’s activities are closely supervised and reviewed.

“They are targeted at al-Qaeda, there is a probable cause standard, and every targeting is documented,” he said.

“There is a literal target folder that explains the rationale, and the answers to questions on a very long checklist, as to why this particular number we believe to be associated with the enemy.”

Hayden noted that the surveillance programme is a necessary tool in the war on terror.

Republican Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, chairman of the Intelligence Committee, agreed with him. — MNA/Xinhua



**Black Abstract : Gallery employee Vanessa Gerrans inspects a painting by Aboriginal sisters Ada Bird and Gloria Petyarre at an exhibition entitled “Black Abstract” showing at the RMIT Gallery in Melbourne on 18 May.** — INTERNET

## UNSG to present award to Thai monarch

**BANGKOK, 20 May** — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will present an international award to Thailand's revered monarch Bhumibol Adulyadej during his visit to the kingdom next week.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Lifetime Achievement award, is to be granted to the King at Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin on 26 May for his dedication and lifelong works to human development. The King of Thailand will be the first recipient of the newly-created distinction.

"This milestone is a

source of joy to millions of people over several generations who have been inspired by your exceptional dedication, dignity and sense of duty," Annan said in a letter to the King.

The prize was given by UNDP, which promotes human development through its development work on the ground and through the publication of annual human development reports.

The human development puts people and well being of the people at the centre of development process. It is a very important award and part of the alternative to promote human development in terms of eliminating poverty and reach common goals of development. UNDP Resident Representative Mrs Joana Maria Soares said here on Friday.



*A woman looks at the damage after strong winds from Typhoon Chanchu tore the roof of a storage area in Hong Kong. Almost 300 Vietnamese fishermen remain missing and 28 have been reported dead, three days after Typhoon Chanchu sank at least 11 ships in the South China Sea. — INTERNET*

## Chinese Premier orders thorough probe of fake drug incident

**BELING, 20 May** — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has ordered government departments to launch a thorough probe into a fake drug incident, which claimed five lives, and intensify rectification of the pharmaceutical market.

"Those directly responsible for the incident and those who fail to fulfil their supervision duties will be punished," Wen said, who also ordered tracking down and sealing up fake drugs that have reached various regions to ensure safety of people's lives.

In response to his instruction, a joint investigation work group will head for northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Saturday to investigate the case.

The investigation team consists of officials from the Ministry of Supervision, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Health and the State Food and Drug Administration.

"The team will work with the provincial government to find out the cause of incident as fast as possible, penalize criminals in accordance with law and severely punish relevant people," said a member of the investigation work group.

He said results of the investigation will be made public in due time. China has introduced official responsibility system in its drive to build a clean and efficient government.

Quite a number of government officials have been removed from office for negligence of duty in various fields, including environmental protection, public health and production safety.

MNA/Xinhua

## "Chanchu" death toll rises to 11 in Vietnam

**HANOI, 20 May**—Typhoon Chanchu has killed four more Vietnamese fishermen, raising the typhoon-related death toll in the country to 11, *Vietnam News Agency* reported on Friday.

The typhoon, the strongest on record in the South China Sea in May, also left 27 others missing, when it hit five Vietnamese fishing ships sheltering at an island of China, the agency quoted sources from the Border Headquarters in Vietnam's central Quang Ngai Province.

Two of the ships from the province with 17 fishermen on board sank, but all of them were rescued. Rescuers found five Vietnamese people, but four of them died. They are still searching for the 27 other missing people on three ships.

The typhoon has also killed seven Vietnamese fishermen and left many others missing when it made 11 local fishing ships with hundreds of people on board sink or go missing. All of the ships are from Vietnam's central Da Nang City.

MNA/Xinhua



*A small marsh bird, in an undated photo. The Sora follows the king rail, American bittern, gray-cheeked thrush, Swainson's thrush and veery on a list of species seen or heard in this year's World Series of Birding. The grueling 24-hour event began in 1984 and many birders around the world see it as the top challenge in competitive birding. — INTERNET*

## Cambodian police seize smuggled diesel

**PHNOM PENH, 20 May**—Cambodia Police and Customs officials raided seven warehouses in Kompong Cham Province on Wednesday, seizing 685 barrels containing 20,550 litres of diesel fuel smuggled from Vietnam, local media reported on Friday.

The fuel was illegally imported by traders through a border passage in the Smach area in Kompong Cham Province, according to a mobile Customs officer, *The Cambodian Press Review* reported.

Local villagers were hired to transport the fuel by bicycle or motorcycle to the warehouses. At the current price on the Cambodian market, the seized diesel fuel is worth around 15,000 US dollars.

It will be kept by authorities until the owners pay fines and taxes on the fuel.

Mobile Customs officials cooperated with military police and the Trapeang Phlong Customs office to launch the raid on the seven fuel depots in Trapeang Phlong Village, Ponhea Krek District.

MNA/Xinhua

## UN body urges US to shut "secret prisons", Guantanamo

**GENEVA, 20 May** — The United Nations committee against torture told the United States on Friday it should close any secret prisons abroad and the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba, saying they violated international law.

The 10 independent experts, who examined the US record at home and abroad, also urged President George W Bush's Administration to "rescind any interrogation technique" that constituted torture or cruel treatment,

citing use of dogs to terrify detainees.

The United States "should ensure that no one is detained in any secret detention facility under its de facto effective control" and "investigate and disclose the existence of any

such facilities", said the committee, which has moral authority but no legal power to enforce its recommendations.

"Detaining persons in such conditions constitutes, per se, a violation of the Convention," said the committee which examines compliance with the UN Convention against Torture, or other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The United States is holding hundreds of terrorism suspects, most arrested since al-Qaeda's 11 September attacks in 2001, at its prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay. It refuses to comment on allegations of secret jails.

MNA/Reuters

## Annan calls for int'l attention to Iranian N-issue

**TOKYO, 20 May**—Visiting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on Thursday in Tokyo for international attention to find solutions for the Iranian nuclear issue.

The Iranian nuclear issue "is a crisis in the sense we need to work very actively", Annan told reporters at the Japan National Press Club. He urged the international community to find solutions and said that discussions are still going on.

Earlier in the day, Annan said in a speech at Tokyo University that he hoped that "the current discussions in the Security Council will give new momentum to the quest for a negotiated solution" for the issue.

"There is also a need to lower the temperature, and refrain from actions and rhetoric that could further inflame the situation," Annan said.

Annan also called for a negotiated solution to solve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

MNA/Xinhua



*A TV cameraman films a man on a giant chair and table constructed in a rapeseed field in Brunstorf near Hamburg on 18 May, 2006. The event advertises Germany's rape-oil marketing and production. — INTERNET*

## Vietnam drastically combats FMD disease

HANOI, 19 May— Vietnam, in an effort to control the widespread of foot-and-mouth disease, is intensifying slaughter of infected animals, beefing up surveillance and propaganda on the disease, according to a local animal health agency on Thursday.

Under a regulation recently issued by the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, all pigs, goats, sheep or deer in a cage in which a single animal shows foot-and-mouth symptoms will have to be culled, even before the results of the disease's tests come out, said the ministry's Department of Animal Health.

Infected bulls and buffaloes in outbreaks occurring for the first time in a commune, or contracting viruses of new types or viruses that have not appeared in a province or city for a long time will also be slaughtered.

MNA/Xinhua

## Chilean bus accident kills at least 27, injures 20

SANTIAGO, 19 May— At least 27 people died, two of them minors, and other 20 were injured, on Wednesday morning when a bus fell into the Tinguirica River at 1.45 am local time, 143 kilometres south of the capital city, Santiago, police told Chilean radio.

The bus, from the Tur Bus company, was heading for the port of Talchuan, 531 kilometres south of Santiago, and travelling at 120 kilometres per hour when it hit a barrier on a bridge on Ruta 5 and fell onto the riverbed, in San Fernando Municipality in Chile's sixth region.

Police said they believed that either the driver, who died in the accident, had fallen asleep at the wheel or a tyre burst unexpectedly. Rual Retamal, head of the region's police, said that there was no fog in the area at the time, and the bus was brand new, so it is unlikely that mechanical errors were to blame.

Some 150 police officers and volunteer firefighters rushed to the scene to try to rescue the victims. Rescuers took the

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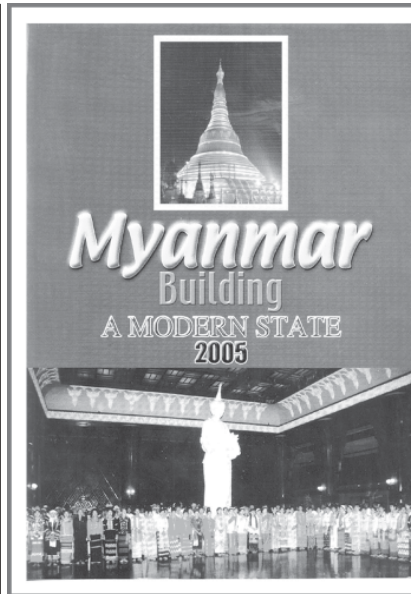
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## "Chanchu" kills 11 in China, 35 fishermen missing in Vietnam

SHANGHAI, 19 May— A typhoon slammed into south China on Thursday, killing 11 people and forcing the evacuation of more than one million, Xinhua news agency said, while Vietnam was still searching for 35 fishermen missing at sea.

Typhoon Chanchu, which brought heavy rain and winds up to 170 kilometres per hour (106 miles per hour), made landfall between the cities of Shantou and Xiamen in the early morning, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

China's coastal

provinces of Guangdong and Fujian took the full brunt of the storm.

Eleven Chinese had died by Thursday afternoon and another four had gone missing, Xinhua said, quoting the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

It had said earlier that eight people, including two children, were killed in Guangdong's Shantou City, where Chanchu — the strongest typhoon on record to enter the South China Sea in the month of May — triggered house collapses and landslides.

Almost all roads in Shantou were flooded and there were several blackouts, Xinhua said, adding that downpours in Fujian had led to flooding in a number of rivers.

Air links, closed on Wednesday, were resumed and life was returning to normal in Shantou later on Thursday as the government officials started to tote

up economic losses, it said.

State television news said Chanchu had been downgraded to a tropical depression and was heading northeast at a speed of 35 kilometres (22 miles) per hour, but it would still bring strong rainfall to China's eastern provinces, including its financial hub, Shanghai.

In Vietnam, authorities re-established radio contact with six of 11 ships carrying more than 90 people that went missing on Wednesday some 160 nautical miles (300 kilometres) south of China's Hainan Island, then in Chanchu's path.

MNA/Reuters

## Spanish police detain 500 illegal African migrants

MADRID, 19 May — Spanish police on Thursday detained more than 500 Africans trying to illegally reach Spain's Canary Islands, the largest ever in one single day, as the Spanish Government launched a diplomatic offensive aimed at stemming the flow of illegal migrants from the continent, Spanish emergency services said.

Authorities said among a group of 179 who arrived on La Gomera, the smallest island of the archipelago off northwest Africa, at least 29 were children. Most of the arrivals were carried on stretchers from their small boats, exhausted after a risky sea journey from the African continent.

In Madrid, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel

Angel Moratinos announced that a special ambassador would lead a team to visit Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Senegal — the main reported countries of the migrants' origin.

The team, to leave on Sunday, will call on African governments to prevent the outflow of illegal migrants.

Nearly 7,000 Africans have arrived in the Spanish-owned Canary Islands so far this year, which face the coasts of the African nations Senegal and Mauritania. The number was around 4,750 last year and just over 8,500 in 2004. As many as 1,000 people are believed to have died in their maritime bid for a new life this year.

MNA/Xinhua

## Philippine Govt dismisses German criticism over airport project

MANILA, 19 May— The Philippine Government on Wednesday rebuked the German Ambassador for saying that there would

be no German investments in the country's infrastructure without the government paying a German company for building the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (NAIA 3).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government would have to work on the general economic environment of the country to promote foreign direct investments rather than focus on one issue such as NAIA 3, saying it is not the Philippines' business to please a foreign country over one company alone.

Teves was reacting to reports that quoted

German Ambassador Axel Raimund Weishaupt as saying that German companies would not invest in the infrastructure sector if the Philippines would not be able to resolve the NAIA 3 case.

However, the ambassador said other German companies were still interested in putting their money in other sectors.

Teves said the government would continue to come up with sound economic policies and take away concerns impeding the flow of direct investments to the Philippines.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian actress Aishwarya Rai arrives at the Festival Palace to attend the opening ceremony of the 59th edition of the International Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, Southern France, on 17 May.

INTERNET

ဝညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



US grandmaster Gata Kamsky, left, plays against Viswanathan Anand of India during MTEL Masters international chess tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 19 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Studies show some apes, birds can think ahead

WASHINGTON, 19 May — Apes that remember to carry the right tools to retrieve treats and scrub jays that hide food a second time when they think a rival is watching prove animals can think ahead — a trait once believed to be uniquely human, scientists have found.

Two carefully planned sets of experiments to be published on Friday in the journal Science show intelligent birds and great apes can plan into the future in a way that transcends simple food caching, as squirrels, foxes and other animals do.

“Planning for future needs is not uniquely human,” Thomas Suddendorf of the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, wrote in a commentary. “Apes and jays can also anticipate future needs by remembering past events, contradicting the notion that such cognitive behaviour only emerged in hominids”.

In one experiment, Nicholas Mulcahy and Joseph Call of the Max

Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, tested bonobos, close relatives of chimpanzees, and orangutans at the local zoo.

They set up several experiments that required the apes to remember a complex way to retrieve a treat and offered them the opportunity to use tools to do so. So far, observations of tool use and planning have involved only immediate hunger on the part of the animals, which does not involve long-term thinking, Mulcahy and Call argued. “Thus, when chimpanzees transport stones to use them to crack open nuts, or New Caledonian crows make hook-shaped tools to fish for insects, they do so in an attempt to satisfy their

current hunger state, not some future one,” they wrote. In one experiment, they rigged up a metal cylinder with a piece of uncooked spaghetti holding two bunches of grapes. “To obtain the reward subjects had to break the spaghetti by inserting a plastic tube through the top hole over the cylinder. That caused the grapes to fall down and hang in front of the bottom holes thus allowing subjects access to them,” the researchers wrote.

MNA/Reuters



A bonobo chews on a piece of stick at a sanctuary, outside the Democratic Republic of Congo’s capital of Kinshasa, on 5 September, 2005. Apes that remember to carry the right tools to retrieve treats and scrub jays that hide food a second time when they think a rival is watching prove animals can think ahead — a trait once believed to be uniquely human, scientists have found.—INTERNET

Chilean telescope discovers three planets

SANTIAGO (Chile), 19 May — Scientists using a Chilean telescope have discovered a unique planetary system made up of three planets similar to Neptune orbiting a star a little more massive than our sun, the European Southern Observatory said on Wednesday.

“The planet closest to the star is probably rocky and the farthest is the first exoplanet of that mass that is in the habitable zone of its star, meaning, where water could be found in liquid form,” the observatory said in a news release. An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star other than the sun.

“It’s the first discovery of a planetary system made up of various planets of a Neptune-type

mass,” said Christophe Lovis, astronomer with Switzerland’s Observatory of Geneva, said in the news release.

Lovis is the lead author of an article about the find to be published on Thursday in Nature magazine.

Teams of scientists from the Observatory of Geneva and the University of Bern Physics Institute, both in Switzerland, have been observing the star for

more than two years. It is 41 light years away in the Puppis constellation.

The scientists used the High Accuracy Radial Velocity Planet Searcher, or HARPS spectrograph instrument, at the 12-foot (3.6-metre) telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile’s fourth region, which is famous for its clear skies and is home to several important telescopes.

MNA/Reuters



Performers at the Miss Tiffany’s cabaret wait backstage during a rehearsal, on 19 May, 2006, in Pattaya, Thailand. Miss Tiffany’s Universe transvestite contest held on Saturday aims to promote a positive transvestite image internationally.—INTERNET

Probiotic restores immune response in athletes

NEW YORK, 19 May — Production of the natural virus-fighter, interferon, is decreased in fatigued athletes, but it can be restored to normal levels with a “probiotic” pill containing the beneficial microbe Lactobacillus acidophilus, findings from a new study indicate.

The drop in interferon levels may play a role in the defective immune response against Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), previously described in fatigued athletes, lead author Dr R L Clancy, from the University of Newcastle in Australia, and colleagues note.

Most people have been infected with EBV; it can cause a number of diseases, including mononucleosis, and it has been implicated in chronic fatigue syndrome. However, the virus is usually kept in check by interferon.

As reported in the British Journal of Sports Medicine for April, the researchers tested for EBV in 24 saliva samples taken from eight fatigued athletes

before and after receiving a 1-month course of the probiotic capsules. In addition, interferon levels were measured in blood samples. Prior to treatment, five of the subjects had EBV in their saliva — that is, they were shedding the virus because it was not being reigned in; after probiotic treatment, just

one showed signs of virus shedding. As noted, interferon-gamma secretion was decreased initially, but returned to normal levels after treatment.

“This study shows for the first time reduced interferon-gamma secretion in fatigued athletes, a defect that was

reversed after treatment with L. acidophilus,” the researchers state.

“The relation of these findings to other groups with chronic fatigue illnesses requires further study to clarify mechanisms and define therapeutic guidelines,” they add.

MNA/Reuters

Tests show Sumatra pigs carry bird flu virus

JAKARTA, 19 May — Pigs have tested positive for bird flu in the same village on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island where five people have been confirmed infected with the H5N1 avian influenza virus, a minister said on Thursday. The case involving up to seven family members, six of whom have died, has raised alarm around the world because authorities cannot rule out human-to-human transmission. But the World Health Organization and Indonesian health officials had been frustrated by the lack of evidence pointing to a source of the virus, usually infected poultry.

The WHO confirmed on Wednesday that five members of the family had contracted H5N1 and tests on a sixth were pending. Agriculture Minister Anton Apriyantono told reporters on Thursday the pig samples from the village had been brought to a leading animal research centre on Java Island, and scientists there found a positive result for bird flu.—MNA/Reuters

# SPORTS

## Germany sells all 640 World Cup tickets for blind fans

BERLIN, 20 May— All 640 tickets for blind soccer fans at World Cup matches have been sold, Germany's organizing committee said on Friday.

For the first time at a World Cup, 10 tickets for each of the 64 matches have been reserved for blind fans, who will each be allowed to take an escort into the stadiums for free. There will also be two commentators accompanying the groups at each match.

Headphones will be made available so that the fans can hear the commentary in one ear and the stadium sounds in the other. The organizing committee said English commentators would be available for all the English team's matches. Several Bundesliga teams have had groups of blind fans regularly in their stadiums, such as at Dortmund, Cologne and Hamburg, and said the practice had been successful, the organizing committee said.—MNA/Reuters



Italy's Romina Oprandi plays a shot against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia during their women's quarter-final match at the Rome Masters tennis tournament in Rome, on 19 May, 2006. —INTERNET

## Zidane says France must recover team spirit to succeed

MADRID, 20 May— Zinedine Zidane says France need to recover the team spirit of previous years if they are to be successful at the World Cup finals in Germany. "We have good players but we lack the virtues of previous sides when we were a united group, all pulling in the same direc-

## Mourinho says Drogha will not be released by Chelsea

LONDON, 20 May— Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho says striker Didier Drogha is not leaving Stamford Bridge while Andriy Shevchenko, a Chelsea target, is unlikely to leave AC Milan.

Ivorian Drogha was quoted in British media on Friday as saying he wanted to leave the English champions. "The situation is that he (Drogha) has two more years of a contract with Chelsea and he is one of the players we consider not negotiable, so he has no chance to leave," Mourinho told a news conference.

"He has to play for Chelsea and, if he plays with happiness, then fantastic because we get the best of him. If he doesn't play with happiness, he doesn't play. It's his problem."

Mourinho has taken the same hard line with France defender William Gallas who says he wants to leave for a European club.

Shevchenko said last week he was considering leaving Milan after seven years and Mourinho said he would like to buy him.

"We would like to bring him but he is a Milan

player. He has a long-term contract with Milan so Milan has the power in their hands like we have the power with Drogha.

"My feeling is that they don't want to sell him and they will keep him. They are a big, big club so can say, 'We don't sell, we want to keep.'—MNA/Reuters



The Champions League trophy is placed on display after its arrival at Barcelona's Museum. Barcelona won the Champions League finals against Arsenal 2-1 at the Stade de France in Saint Denis near Paris.

INTERNET

## Australia's Pamplung roars into Colonial lead

HOUSTON, 20 May — Australian Rod Pamplung posted eight birdies as he fired a 7-under-par 63 on Friday to vault into the lead at 10-under after two rounds of the 6 million US dollars Colonial Championship in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pamplung, tied for 15th place after his

opening-round 67, held a one-shot lead over Canadian Stephen Ames, US PGA Tour rookie Charley Hoffman and first-round leader Stewart Cink.

Tied for fifth, two strokes off the lead was Australian Peter Lonard and Americans Tim Herron and Dean Wilson.

Another shot back at 7-under-par 133 were Americans Jim Furyk and Arron Oberholser, Swedes Richard Johnson and Fredrik Jacobson, and Henrik Bjornstad of Norway. Pamplung started his day on the back nine and began with three birdies in a row on his way to his best round of the year, going two strokes lower than the 65 he shot in the second round at Bay Hill, where he won earlier this season.

"Three in a row is a good start," Pamplung, 36, told reporters. "It just allows you not to be so aggressive on some of the holes. You can play a little more safer, and sometimes I played a little bit too safe."

The Australian made up for his only bogey of the day, at the par-four No. 3, with back-to-back birdies on the fifth.

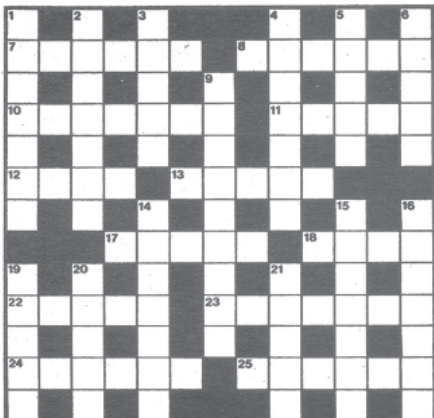
"I was always in the right side to get a chance to get up and down," he said. "I didn't make too many mistakes. When we missed the green we chipped and putted and kept the momentum going."

MNA/Reuters



Dallas Mavericks Dirk Nowitzki (41), of Germany, takes a shot in the third quarter as San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, defends in Game 6 of the NBA Western Conference semi-final basketball game in Dallas, on 19 May, 2006. —INTERNET

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

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

### DOWN

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



San Marino's 250cc motorcycle rider Alex de Angelis (front) gestures on his Aprilia ahead of Hector Barbera of Spain on Aprilia during the second free practice for the 250cc motorcycle French Grand Prix at the Le Mans circuit in central France, on 19 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## Ancic, Robredo into semis at Hamburg Masters

HAMBURG, 20 May— Croat Mario Ancic fought back from a set down against Russian fourth seed Nikolay Davydenko at the Hamburg Masters on Friday, coming through 5-7, 7-6, 6-3 to set up a semifinal clash with Spain's Tommy Robredo.

In chilly conditions on the slow red clay at the Am Rothenbaum, Ancic overturned a service break to take the second set to a tiebreak and then broke the world number six twice in a thrilling decider to reach his first Series semi.

Czech Radek Stepanek and Argentina's Jose Acasuso also made it through to the last four. Stepanek, the 15th seed, beat Max Mirnyi of Belarus 7-6, 6-1 and Acasuso battled past Spain's Fernando Verdasco 6-1, 6-7, 6-3. Ancic had come back from a set down in his previous two matches this week and said the effort had taken its toll.

"In the beginning today the legs were really heavy and in the first set I was late on a lot of balls."

"The most important thing

now, the only focus, is to prepare for the next match physically. I've been hitting a lot of balls this week so the most important thing is that the legs feel good, the body feels good. These kinds of games take a lot of energy from you."

With the umbrella-like roof of centre court closed to keep off the frequent rain showers, Robredo won a gritty clash of the Spaniards, beating David Ferrer 7-6, 6-4 in their first meeting.

Stepanek said the first-set tiebreak had been decisive against the big-serving Belarussian Mirnyi.

"I showed him that I'm the one who's going to go for it and I think that also made his confidence drop after that first set," the Czech said.

MNA/Reuters

# Italian new PM promises to withdraw troops from Iraq

ROME, 20 May — Italy's new Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, said on Thursday that he would propose to Parliament the withdrawal of the remaining Italian troops from Iraq.

In his first address to the Senate as prime minister, Prodi described the war in Iraq as "a grave error", saying, "It has not resolved, but (has) complicated the situation of security".

He expressed an intention to stick to an election pledge to propose to Parliament "the return of

our troops from Iraq". Currently Italy has about 2,600 soldiers in Iraq who are helping with the reconstruction of the country, a reduction from the initial 3,000 troops dispatched by former conservative Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

Prodi did not give a specific date for a withdrawal, saying a "technical timeframe" would have to be agreed with all sides involved.

The Prime Minister also pledged to help Europe become "a strong and united presence on the in-

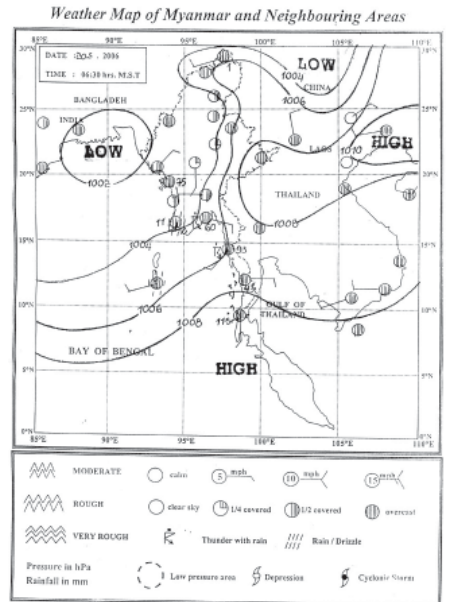
ternational stage", yet he also stressed that he would work to "consolidate and

enrich the historic alliance with the United States".

MNA/Xinhua



Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos, left, gives a Brazilian soccer team jersey to Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, during a meeting at the official presidential residence, Alvorada Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, on 20 May, 2006. —INTERNET



## WEATHER

Saturday, 20 May, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, the Southwest monsoon has advancing into Myanmar Deltaic areas. Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division, isolated in Kachin State and Mandalay Division with locally heavyfall in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were NyaungU and Minbu (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Kawthoung (4.80) inches, Dawei (4.9) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye). Thayawady and Kayan (2.56) inches each, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.40) inches, Hmawbi (2.32) inches, Myeik (1.97) inches and Ye (1.14) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-5-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 20-5-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 20-5-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 19-5-2006 was (5.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-5-2006 were (2.40) inches at Mingaladon, (2.56) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.86) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (11.22) inches at Mingaladon, (11.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (10.35) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (20) mph from Southeast at (01:20) hours MST on 20-5-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 21-5-2006:** Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon, Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along 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 increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-5-2006:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-5-2006:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-5-2006:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

## Asleep in Jesus Mrs. R.E. Lonsdale Age 81 years

Beloved husband of Dorothy Lonsdale and loving father of David Lonsdale (deceased) of No. 65 122<sup>nd</sup> Street, Maugone, fell asleep in Jesus peacefully at 8:05 pm on 19-5-2006. May his soul rest in peace.

In loving memory:

His bereaved family and friends.



Sunday, 21 May  
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. မိုးလွန်းကြီး ရေထိန်းတံခါး

8:20 am

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial songs

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"

12:00 noon

5. တိုးတက်သာယာ ထိန်တော့စံပြုကျော့ရာ

12:10 pm

6. Myanmar video feature "သစ္စာမှန်လျှင် ကံမလွဲပါ" (ခေတ္တကျော်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ချိုမြိန်)

12:20 pm

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မိုးကျော်ဆန်း)

1:40 pm

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

1:50 pm

8. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား

2:05 pm

9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:20 pm

10. "သုဇာတ်ရင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပမာ" (မင်းခေ၊ ခင်စာမြည်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်)

2:30 pm

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်ယဉ်ကျော်)

2:45 pm

11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:45 pm

12. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial songs

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:40 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်ရပ်စဲခြင်းကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတ်ယူနစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

5. Song of national races

5:10 pm

6. Musical programme

5:25 pm

7. Sing and Enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. Discovery

6:45 pm

11. Agricultural source of Myanmar Development

6:55 pm

12. Musical programme

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကံကောင်းခြင်းအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

8:00 pm

14. News

8:15 pm

15. International news

8:30 pm

16. Weather report

8:45 pm

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၄၆)

8:55 pm

18. The next day's programme



Sunday, 21 May  
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Rock 'N' Roll music

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -New pollution

8:50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music: -I remember you

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar

9:20 am Music: -I still carry on

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40pm Children's delight

-Story for children

"The 4 young men"

-Songs for children

9:00 pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Music

-I write the song

-Joy to the world

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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



Senior General Than Shwe, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Ibrahim A Gambari and party posing for documentary photo. — MNA

## UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs concludes visit to Myanmar



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Ibrahim A Gambari at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 20 May — UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Ibrahim A Gambari left here this evening after visiting Myanmar at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

Mr Ibrahim A Gambari and party were seen off at the airport by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the UN in New York U Kyaw Tint Swe, Director-General of Protocol Department

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**INSIDE**

Like the rain that gives life to the earth, the goodwill, zeal and efforts of the people of Shan State are contributing to the task of opening rural libraries covered by the national drive the whole country has been launching with extra momentum and harmony.