

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 22 May, 2006

## True patriotism

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

## Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 21 May— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 19 May inspected the Winthuza Shop in Salingyi, Sagaing Division and gave necessary instructions.

At the shop, the minister looked into sale of products of the Ministry of Industry-1, physics nut oil used stoves, sewing machines, bicycles and storage of items.

In the evening, the minister inspected weaving machines and various kinds of textiles at Salingyi Textiles Factory and attended to the needs. At the briefing hall,

Factory Manager U Khin Maung reported to the minister on production, distribution and storage of raw materials.

The minister stressed the need to practise thrifty, to follow instructions of the ministry and to be loyal to own departments and industries.

Accompanied by Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and local authorities, the minister proceeded to Spirulina Medicine Production centre (Twintaing).

At the briefing

hall, the minister heard a report presented by an official on matters related to production of the factory.

Next, Factory Manager Dr Min Thein reported on production process of the factory, target to produce 145 tons of Spirulina in 2006-2007 and other salient points.

The minister gave instructions on meeting the GMP standard, giving proper supervision and exceeding the target.

At the Dyeing Factory in Monywa, the minister viewed round designed garments and the maintenance of the factory, and inspected Winthuza Shop.

Next, they went on to Chindwin Yadana Hall of Monywa Industrial Zone where they met with the industrialists.

At the meeting, Factory Manager U Maung Maung of the Iron Foundry reported on production of the factory and

Secretary of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint gave a supplementary report.

After fulfilling the requirements, the minister emphasized the need to serve the interest of the State with goodwill, to make relentless efforts to produce more spare parts and to try to get more share holders.

At the Machine Shop, the minister and party inspected production of spare parts and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the Forging Shop, they looked into machines, mini-tractors and spare parts.

At the Foundry Shop, they viewed round spare parts and gave instructions.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected demonstration of fire engines assembled by CDS Automobile Factory.

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### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

- \* **Serve the interest of the State with goodwill.**
- \* **Make relentless efforts to produce more spare parts.**
- \* **Try to get more share holders.**



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects products of factories in Monywa Industrial Zone. — INDUSTRY-1

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 May, 2006

## Rural development through better transport

In Myanmar, the majority of the population live in rural areas. The government is taking all necessary steps for the well-being of rural people. The measures include sufficient supply of irrigation water and clean water. Now, 30 townships in the arid zone of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions have an easy access to potable water.

At the same time, the government has been accelerating the establishment of infrastructures in the education, health and economic spheres in rural areas. And it has been building village-to-village roads and river and creek spanning bridges to ensure better transport that plays a major role in the drive for rural development.

The inauguration of Mu River spanning bridge (Thaphanseik) in Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, and Kyunhla-Thaphanseik gravel road took place on 7 May. In the past, the old bridge was in poor condition caused by wear and tear and local people had to rely on the Mu River to transport motor vehicles on a raft to reach the other bank.

Thanks to the newly-reconstructed facility, 352 feet long and 18 feet wide one, automobiles can cross the river easily. It was built with the contribution of K 20.5 million including K 11 million by a wellwisher entrepreneur and K 9.5 million by local entrepreneurs.

The old Kyunhla-Thaphanseik road was just a laterite one linking old Kyunhla and Thityabin Village. Now, the over-nine-mile section of the road has been upgraded to a gravel one with the contribution of an entrepreneur and local residents.

So, the people along the road inclusive of those living in Ywathi and Shansu Villages-tracts in Kyunhla Township now have easy access to urban areas.

It is believed that wellwishers, local people and social organizations will continue to join hands with the government in the building of roads and bridges, the fundamental requirement for the development of rural areas.

## People's Desire

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



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung oversees progress in construction of Textile Factory (Project) in Pakokku. (News reported) — INDUSTRY-1

## New building of Basic Education Post-Primary School handed over in Htantabin

YANGON, 21 May — A new building of Basic Education Post-Primary School donated by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and Shonan Association for Building School House of Japan was handed over to the Ministry of Education at Katwe Village in Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

CEC member of USDA (Yangon Division In-charge) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu and Chairman of Shonan Association for Build-

ing School House of Japan Mr Yamada Sakai formally opened the building.

The vice-mayor and Mr Yamada Sakai gave speeches on the occasion.

Afterwards, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 BED handed over related documents to Township Education Officer Daw San Yin Win. The TEO spoke words of thanks.

The USA CEC member and party inspected the building and distributed textbooks to schoolchildren and grew physic nut plants in Katwe Village.

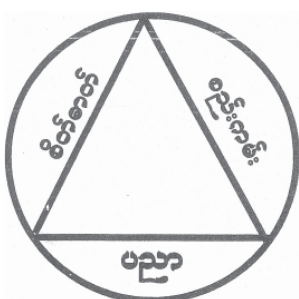
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Executives of Aungmyethazan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association present cash assistance to an older person in Dawnabwa Ward on 31 March.

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## Respects paying ceremony held at Yankin Education College

YANGON, 20 May — The fifth respects paying ceremony of Yankin Education College of the Education Planning and Training Department took place at the college this morning, attended by 118 retired teachers.

The old students paid respects to the teachers with cash and kind and Myanmar traditional medicines. Next, Principal of the college U Me Aung explained the purpose of holding the respects paying ceremony and Principal U Khin Maung Yin (Rtd) and Head of Department Daw Khin Khin Htwe (Rtd) gave speeches. — MNA

## D-G of Department of Cultural Institute leaves for Bhutan

YANGON, 21 May — Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute under the Ministry of Culture left here by air yesterday for Paro in the Kingdom of Bhutan to attend the 1st Culture Ministers' Meeting and the Senior Officers' Meeting of BIMSTEC to be held in Bhutan from 22 to 25 May.

He was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the department. — MNA

## Vietnamese delegation leaves for home

YANGON, 21 May — The Vietnamese delegation led by Chief of VOV's Bureau in Central Vietnam Mr Tran Son Ngoe of the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) and party left here by air this morning. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of MRTV. — MNA

## Chavez reportedly wants to visit Russia

Moscow, 20 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez wants to visit Russia this summer, *Interfax* news agency quoted Venezuela's ambassador to Moscow as saying on Friday.

The trip would bring together two major oil producers who share strained relations with Washington and a growing trade in arms that has annoyed US officials.

"President Chavez has approached the Russian leadership with a request

to visit Moscow at the end of August or the start of September," *Interfax* quoted Ambassador Alexis Rafael Navarro Rojas as saying.

"At the moment we are waiting for an answer from the Russians," he said. He added negotiations were due to start soon on

ordering Russian *Sukhoi* fighter jets.

A spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry said he had no information about a request from Chavez to visit. The ambassador was not immediately available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

## China, S Korea sign agreement on culture, copyright cooperation

SHENZHEN, 20 May — China and the Republic of South Korea on Thursday signed an agreement to enhance the exchanges and cooperation on culture and copyright issues.

The agreement was signed between National Copyright Administration of China and South Korea Culture and Tourism Ministry on the sidelines of a four-day international cultural expo in Shenzhen, a booming city in southern China's Guangdong Province.

As the two Asian

nations share similar cultural and historical background, it is in their interests to step up the exchanges and cooperation on culture and copyright issues, said Chinese and South Korea officials at the signing ceremony.

The agreement signified the more extensive and in-depth

cooperation on culture and copyright issues between the two countries, the officials said.

According to the agreement, the two sides will help with each other and seek common benefits within the World Trade Organization and other international institutions.—MNA/Xinhua



Replicas of caravels which Cristobal Colon (Christopher Columbus) used in his discovery of America are berthed in La Rabida on 20 May, 2006, during the 500th anniversary of the death of Colon in Palos de la Frontera.—INTERNET

## Report blames human error for Cypriot plane crash

ATHENS, 20 May— Human error led to a Cypriot airliner crashing near Athens last August, killing all 121 people aboard, according to an official report leaked to the

Greek media on Friday.

The report indicates technicians in Cyprus, checking the decompression system following problems on an earlier flight, forgot to switch on its automatic activation.

Once airborne, pilots forgot to check whether the system was switched on automatic or manual, according to the draft report by the Greek accidents investigation committee.

As a consequence, the higher the plane flew the less oxygen was in the cabin, causing everyone aboard, except for a steward, to fall unconscious. The report

said even if the steward, using portable oxygen bottles, had managed to land the plane all the passengers would have been dead because of a lack of oxygen.

There was no comment from Cypriot authorities on the report. The committee was investigating why the Helios Airways Boeing 737-300 had crashed on a flight from Cyprus to Prague. The committee delivered the dossier to Cypriot authorities on Thursday. The Cypriots have 60 days to include their own findings before a final report is published.

MNA/Reuters

## Turkish trucks crash, 39 killed

ISTANBUL, 20 May — Thirty-nine people died when a truck carrying Afghan citizens and another truck crashed on a highway in Turkey on Friday, NTV television reported.

The accident, which also left six injured, was on a motorway running from Osmaniye to Gaziantep, in southeastern Turkey, the broadcaster said on its website, quoting Osmaniye Governor Zubeyir Kemelek.

Kemelek said smuggled Afghan and Bangladeshi immigrants may have been in one of the trucks.

Turkey is a major transit route into Europe for illegal immigrants.

The Turkey Drivers and Motorists Federation said in February that 134,343 people had died and 2.2 million people injured in traffic accidents in Turkey in the last 26 years.

In 2004, 3,082 people were killed in 494,851 accidents, but in 2005, the number of deaths went up to 3,215 people in 570,419 accidents.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi boy throws a rock at a British armoured vehicle at the scene of a roadside bomb attack which destroyed a British vehicle in Basra, 550 km, (341 miles) south of Baghdad on 20 May, 2006. Two British soldiers were injured and their military vehicle was destroyed after a bombing attack in Basra, according to the Iraqi police.—INTERNET

## APR calls for strengthening cooperation to face common challenges

JAKARTA, 20 May — Ministers from Asia and the Pacific countries here on Friday called for strengthening regional cooperation to face common challenges to achieve food and livelihood security and rural development.

Anton Apriantono, Chairman of the 28th Regional Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for Asia and the Pacific Region, told a joint Press conference that the challenges could be countered by addressing issues such as food vulnerability, trans-boundary animal diseases and regional vulnerability towards natural disaster.

Anton, who is also

Indonesian Minister of Agriculture, said the delegates issued a ministerial joint statement called "The Jakarta Ministerial Statement on Regional Partnership".

In the statement, the ministers agreed to strengthen efforts on economic reconstruction in Asia and on food security and poverty alleviation, to reduce vulnerability towards natural disasters and to promote a livelihood

approach towards post-natural disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction. At the Press conference, Assistant Director of FAO for Asia and the Pacific Region He Changchui said that the ministers were strongly committed to achieving the target of World Food Summit on the Millennium Development Goals to reduce by a half the undernourished and poor people by 2015.

MNA/Xinhua



New Zealand mountaineer Mark Inglis, who lost both his legs in a climbing accident 24 years ago, takes a rest on his way to becoming the first double amputee to reach the summit of Everest recently.—INTERNET



Some 18,000 women clad in coloured robes form a Portuguese flag on 20 May, 2006 at the National Stadium in Oeiras, outside Lisbon, in a show of support for Portugal's national soccer team that will be participating in the World Cup in Germany. The organizers hope what they called 'The World's Most Beautiful Flag' will make it into the Guinness Book as a new world record for the largest human flag.—INTERNET

### Russia wants changes to US uranium pact

Moscow, 20 May — Russia wants major changes to agreements with the United States to boost sales of its nuclear materials, a source in the Russian nuclear industry said on Friday.

Russian officials want changes to agreements that give US uranium supplier USEC the right to buy uranium recovered from dismantled nuclear weapons and an end to US anti-dumping duties on other uranium sales, the source said.

The source, who has knowledge of Russian discussions about nuclear sales, told Reuters Russia would like to sell some fuel directly to US customers, without having to go through USEC.

"Russia wants to be there on the American

market but it doesn't have any trouble in finding alternative markets," the source said. "Russia wants serious changes and, believe me, we are very serious about all of this."

Sergei Kiriyenko, the head of Russia's Atomic Energy Agency, began a visit to the United States on Friday. He will hold talks with US companies and senior officials, his spokesman said. He declined to comment on the nuclear agreements.

A spokeswoman for USEC, based in Bethesda, Maryland, could not be

immediately reached for comment.

Relations between Moscow and Washington are now close to the coolest they have been since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with differences over how to deal with Iran, the war in Iraq and views on Russian domestic policy.— MNA/Reuters

### "Chanchu" kills 23 in China

BEIJING, 20 May — A typhoon that battered south and east China killed 23 people and left four missing, state media said on Friday.

Typhoon Chanchu, the strongest typhoon on record to enter the South China Sea in May, the start of the typhoon season, left a trail of destruction through several countries, killing at least 37 people in the Philippines last weekend.

The typhoon, which brought heavy rain and winds up to 170 kilometres per hour (106 miles per hour), made landfall between the Chinese cities of Shantou and Xiamen and worked its way up the coast early on Thursday.

Eight people died in Guangdong Province and 15 in Fujian, which lies opposite Taiwan, the official Xinhua news agency said.

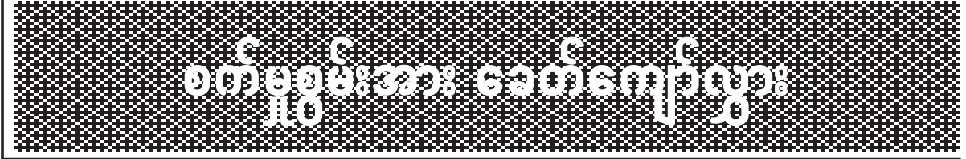
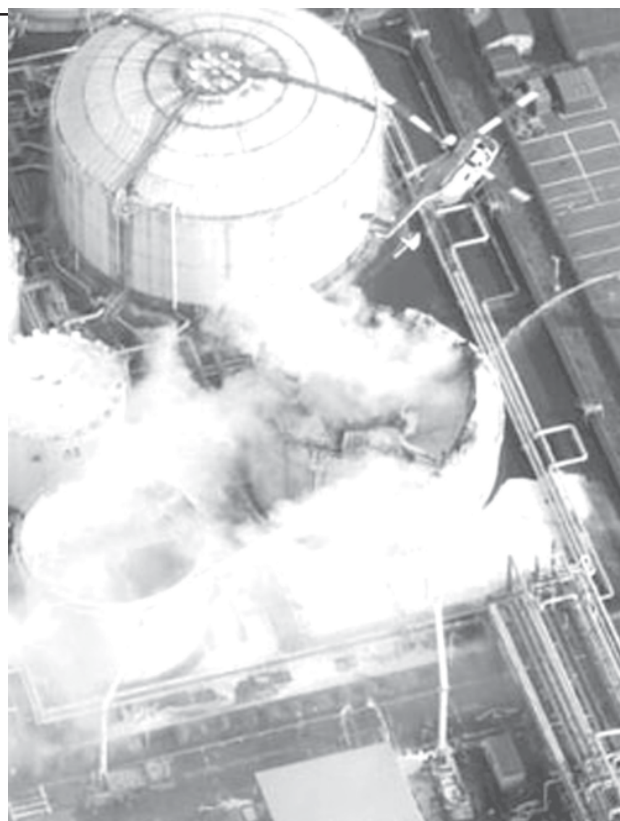
The storm triggered

house collapses and landslides in Shantou in Guangdong.

In Fujian, most of the dead were killed in landslides, including at least four children, Xinhua said.— MNA/Xinhua

White smoke is seen from an exploded oil tank at a Toa Oil refinery in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, on 21 May, 2006, but just over two hours later the fire was nearly out, police and fire officials said. There were no injuries.

INTERNET



### Chinese Vice-Premier calls for continued efforts in bird flu prevention

BEIJING, 20 May — China should not relax its efforts in bird flu prevention and control, Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu warned this week.

No poultry bird flu outbreaks have been reported in China for more than 80 consecutive days, said Hui, who also heads the nation's bird flu prevention and control team, at a national meeting.

However, he called for continued vigilance against the fatal avian

influenza.

"The situation is still grave," he said, urging related departments to "overcome numbness, have a correct judgement for the current epidemic situation and take the fight against the disease as a long-term task".

An outbreak among migratory birds was

reported in northwestern Qinghai Province earlier this month. More than 300 birds died in the outbreak, but the epidemic did not spread to poultry, the Ministry of Agriculture said on Friday. China also reported 18 human infections of bird flu, with 12 fatalities since late last year.—MNA/Xinhua

### Expert says China, land of opportunity for Canadian companies

OTTAWA, 20 May — Head of Canada's largest trade and industry organization on Thursday urged the country's business community to lose no time in entering the lucrative Chinese market.

Perrin Beatty, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Manufacturers &

Exporters (CME) said many Canadian businesses see the rising China as a huge challenge — the land of outsourced Canadian production, but with a population of over 1.3 billion, the Asian giant represents a potentially colossal market for Canadian companies.

"It all depends on whether you consider

the glass is half-full or half-empty."

He was speaking to about 200 parliamentarians and business representatives at a breakfast briefing on the Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

"CME believes it is half-full, and with some imagination and hard work on our part, we can fill it the rest of the way," Beatty said.

MNA/Xinhua



Painters compete during a facsimile match in Dafen Village, Shenzhen City, south China's Guangdong Province, on Thursday, 18 May, 2006. More than 110 contestants make facsimile of portrait or scenery oil painting in the timed game held in the village which is famous for its oil painting facsimile industry.—INTERNET

### India, Poland sign trade accord

WARSAW, 20 May — India and Poland have signed an accord on trade and economic cooperation, the Polish news agency PAP reported on Friday.

The accord with India proved Poland's growing importance in the European Union and the world, PAP cited the Polish Economy Minister Piotr Wozniak as saying.

India's visiting Industry Minister Kamal Nath said that India's trade with Poland, which amounted to merely 600 million US dollars annually, could be better.

"We should be speaking about billions,"

he said.

According to Nath, Indian investors were mainly interested in Poland's industry branches such as IT, coking coal and electronics.

He added that India was hoping to import infra-structure projects from Poland.

Trade with India currently accounts for 0.25 per cent of Poland's foreign trade.

MNA/Xinhua

## FAO calls world to prioritize funds for preventing bird flu

JAKARTA, 20 May—The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) asked the international community to put top priority on allocating funds for the efforts to stop the spread of avian influenza, top official said here on Thursday.

“Some nine billion US dollars was pledged by the world to fight avian Influenza, but most of this money is on the prevention measures in case of pandemic. This is at the level of human beings instead of giving priority to the current disease itself. It is the disease of animals,” said FAO Director General Jack Diouf at the FAO’s 28th Regional Conference for

Asia and the Pacific Region.

“We agree with the precautionary measures that make sense, but we also think that the strategy should focus on stopping avian influenza at the level of poultry and birds, if the pandemic actions are the second line of defence,” he said.

“We have therefore been able to collect some funds. It is still marginal

compared to money that is being put into fighting the possible pandemic at the level of human being,” the director said.

The disease that earlier only contracted livestock in three countries in Southeast Asia, namely Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, now had spread to nearly all over the world, he said.

“If we are able to eliminate, at least limit the number of birds that are infected, then we will limit the risk of transmission to human being and other consequences. They have got to mutate for direct transmission from human being to human being,” he said.

To pave the way for reaching the goal, the director stressed the need for international cooperation and an immediate respond to the danger of the virus.

MNA/Xinhua



Models pose besides a Ford car to promote the brand at the Chongqing International Auto Show in Chongqing, a municipality in southwest China, on 20 May, 2006. About 40 carmakers display their latest and most popular cars at the show.—INTERNET

## Fire destroys nearly 33.3 hectares of forest in Hainan

HAIKOU, 20 May—A forest fire broke out in China's island province of Hainan Thursday morning, destroying nearly 33.3 hectares of forest west of the Haikou-Sanya expressway.

The fire was first found in the woods of Duanxi Village, Longgun Town of Wanning City, about 109 kilometres south of Haikou and to the west of the expressway, which runs along the island's eastern coast linking the two major cities of Haikou and Sanya.

Flames rising seven to eight metres could be seen from far away and have spread to less than 10 metres from the expressway.

The blaze has destroyed about 33.3 hectares of woods, according to an official at the scene. “The fire is expanding and has

not been controlled,” he said.

A large number of local villagers, government workers, policemen and fire fighters were rushing to the site. A local villager said the fire might have been caused by some people who were lumbering in the forest in the morning.

MNA/Xinhua

## Signs of feeding prehistoric birds found in Alaska

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 20 May—Scientists found fossilized depressions and footprints in Alaska’s Denali National Park and Preserve in what is believed to be the first

evidence of prehistoric wading birds probing for food, a geologist said on Friday.

The tracks and the feeding marks found in rocks formed from freshwater sediments were 65 million to 70 million years old, said Phil Brease, a geologist at Denali National Park.

Such evidence of prehistoric birds’ feeding behaviour is difficult to find because the marks made in the mud disappear

easily and the fossilized evidence often erodes, Brease said.

Geologists discovered the tracks and marks last summer, but confirmed the work over the winter after studying photographs and molds.

Denali National Park is an emerging hotbed of fossil findings. A team of geologists also discovered a fossilized footprint of a three-toed, meat-eating dinosaur known as a theropod.—MNA/Reuters



A Russian Beriev Be-200 firefighting plane empties its tanks during the flight display programme at the International Air Show ILA at the Schoenefeld airport in Berlin on the last day of the exhibition, on 21 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## Beijing Capital Museum opens with call for better exhibition spaces

BEIJING, 20 May—The Capital Museum of Beijing, housing more than 200,000 antiques, was formally opened to public on Thursday with a call for more better museums in China.

More than 300,000 people have passed through its doors since its trial operation five months ago, with the highest daily attendance reaching 7,000, said curator Guo Xiaoling at the opening on International Museum Day.

The ongoing exhibition of the British Museum’s “Treasures of the World’s Cultures”, the first large international exhibition at the museum, attracted more than 80,000 visitors in its first month.

The cultural relics

housed in the museum recorded the 500,000-year human history of Beijing, the city’s 3,000-year history and its eight centuries as the capital of China, said Guo.

“There is no other place like the Capital Museum of Beijing where people can see how life was in ancient times in Beijing,” Guo said.

Beijing has entered a new period of extensive construction of museums, according to a report by the municipal bureau of cultural relics. The city has 131 registered museums, topping the country in terms of quantity and quality.

Zhang Bai, deputy director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), said the

number of museums in China had reached 2,300, or one museum for every 600,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua



Villagers walk to their field to work as Mount Merapi, background, is seen spewing volcanic smoke in Stabelan village near the town of Boyolali, Indonesia, on 21 May, 2006.—INTERNET

## Venezuelan Govt ready to sell ‘F-16s’

CARACAS, 20 May—The Venezuelan Government was willing to sell its F-16 aircraft bought from the United States “to anybody”, Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel said on Friday.

Rangel said Caracas could do whatever it wanted with the aircraft, but had no intention to break off ties with the United States.

“It is the United States who does not have the right to cut off the supply,” he said.

The fighter planes were bought from the United States in the 1980s under a memorandum of understanding, which said the US authorities would supply spare parts and offer technical help. In the same document, Venezuela promised not to sell the technology or the planes to a third party.

Rangel slammed the delay in the American supply of spare parts for the 21 F-16s, which had prevented Venezuelan Armed Forces from using the aircraft.—MNA/Xinhua

## Hu orders proper transfer of military officers to civilian work

BEIJING, 20 May — Hu Jintao, the Chinese President and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, says the proper transfer of military officers to civilian work will have an impact on the country's reform and development.

"CPC committees and governments at all levels should improve placement policies and explore new approaches in compliance with national and military conditions," said Hu, who is also Chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Hu also asked military officers facing career transitions to

understand the difficulties of regional authorities in allocating them jobs. He asked them to accept and respect the jobs they are provided.

Hu's instructions were conveyed to a national video and telephone conference held in Beijing on Thursday to discuss placement of military officers in civilian posts.

Li Jinai, a member of the Central Military Commission and director of the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, cited 2006 as a crucial year for the transfer of military officers to civilian work.

China made a decision in 2003 to reduce its troops by 200,000 to 2.3 million.

MNA/Xinhua



Taxis wait for customers at the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 May, 2006. Taxi fare in Beijing was raised from 1.6 RMB yuan (0.2 US dollars) per kilometre to 2 yuan (0.25 dollars). According to the local authorities, the price change was to offset the increase in fuel costs. Currently, Beijing has about 66,000 taxis and nearly 100,000 cab drivers. —INTERNET

## Quake hits off Indonesian island of Sulawesi

WASHINGTON, 20 May — An earthquake registering 6.1 hit in the Molucca Sea near Indonesia but officials expected no major repercussions, an official at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said on Friday.

The quake struck at 10:44 pm Saturday local time (10:44 am EDT/1444 GMT) but was not strong enough to require a tsunami warning, said Dailin Wang of the warning centre in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. Wang said the epicenter of the quake was about 125 miles (200 kilometres) off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. — MNA/Reuters

## Musharraf rejects using Afghanistan as strategic depth

ISLAMABAD, 20 May — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has rejected the old notion of using Afghanistan as strategic depth in case of any aggression, a local TV channel reported on Friday.

Rejecting using Afghanistan as strategic depth, Musharraf said that the theory is based on assumptions that a country has been invaded and overrun and the

government is operating from other countries.

"This can never happen to Pakistan," Musharraf told the TV Khyber in an interview aired on Friday, adding that according to Pakistan's military strategy its defences lie in the borders.

"We will never let our enemies enter our areas," the Pakistani President said.

No one knew where Osama bin Laden was and those who say he was in Pakistan, should come up with information and intelligence, Musharraf said. Saying that Osama could be anywhere in the world, the Pakistani President, however, presumed that he might be hiding in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Referring to the past policies on Afghanistan, Musharraf said that every country has a policy which changes in accordance with the existing environment.

Pakistan's present government policy was very clear and Pakistan was not interfering in internal affairs of Afghanistan, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz (C) stands with the Chopard trophy honourees Kevin Zegers (L) and Jasmine Trinca during a ceremony in Cannes, on 20 May, 2006. Chopard honours masculine and feminine acting revelations during the annual Cannes Film Festival. — INTERNET

## WHO confirms two bird flu cases in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 May — The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed one more human fatality and one more human infection of bird flu for Indonesia, local officials said here on Friday. A 12-year-old boy who died in Jakarta on May 13 and a 10-year-

old boy in North Sumatra, still alive, were the new victims of the disease, said Health Ministry spokeswoman Lilly S. Sulistyawati.

The country's total number of fatality of bird flu now stood at 32 and that of infection at 43, she added.

All over the world, the WHO has raised the confirmed human death toll from the H5N1 bird flu strain to 122, while the total number of confirmed human infections since the current outbreak began in 2003 has reached 216.

MNA/Xinhua

## NPL of Philippine banks drops to lowest level in 8 years

MANILA, 20 May — The universal and commercial banks' non-performing loans (NPL) dropped nearly one billion US dollars from last year to a ratio of 8.26 per cent in March, the lowest level in eight years, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Philippine Central Bank, said Friday.

The end-March 2006 ratio was lower than 11.3 per cent last year. As of March, the banks' non-performing loans stood at 157.8 billion pesos (three billion US dollars), lower than 207.1 billion (four billion US dollars) last

year, the BSP said in an updated report.

The remarkable drop was due to the banks' write-off of problematic loans and aggressive collection and settlement of past dues with borrowers, the report

said. The ratio was the industry's lowest since 1998, the central bank added. The Philippine banks' total loan portfolio stood at 1.9 trillion pesos (36.5 billion dollars), it said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Fire sparks explosions at Sudan arms dump

JUBA (Sudan), 20 May — A fire at a munitions dump sparked a wave of explosions and injured at least four people outside the southern Sudanese capital of Juba on Friday, witnesses and UN staff said.

The fire, whose cause was unknown, caused intermittent explosions for about 90 minutes from 4 pm (1300 GMT) and sent a plume of smoke into the air on the edge of Juba, where the government of southern Sudan is based. — MNA/Reuters



Chinese rescuers (R) offer food to Vietnamese fishermen who were saved in the South China Sea on 20 May, 2006. A total of 330 Vietnamese fishermen caught in typhoon Chanchu have been saved by Chinese rescuers, said China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre on Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported. —INTERNET

# Biodiversity: Our Life, Our Future

*Yin Yin Lay*

Loss of biodiversity is one of the serious environmental issues the world is facing today. Yet, apart from scientific community and environmental circles, few people actually understand the seriousness of the problem or grasp its impact on our life and future. With the aim to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues, the United Nations has designated 22 May as the International Biodiversity Day. Many nations across the globe mark the day with special events to draw public attention on these critical issues.

Scientists began using the term biological diversity (or "biodiversity") in the 1980s. This term gained prominence in 1992, when the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Simply defined, biodiversity means various forms of plants, animals, insects and microbes. There are three types of biodiversity:

- Genetic diversity is the variety of genetic version of a single species
- Species diversity is the variety of organism within a community or ecosystem; and
- Ecological diversity is the variety of ecosystem on Earth

Despite surveys and research, it is not yet exactly known how many species are currently on this planet. Science has recorded and named some 1.7 million species but this can only be some small fraction of the true number. Estimates range from some 3.6 million to over 100 million species.

Biodiversity brings enormous benefits to mankind. Trees, plants, animals and other species provide basic supplies of food, medicines, timber, fibers, fuel and many other products. Roughly, one-third of all plant species have edible fruits, tubers, nuts, seeds, leaves, roots or stems. Less than a dozen crops now feed most of the world's population of over 6 billion. Three cereals namely, maize, rice and wheat alone supply 80 to 90 per cent of world calorie intake. Maize is important food security for Africa, while rice is the principle food source for half of the world's population mainly living in Asia. Demand for wheat is growing worldwide and the consumption has doubled in

the last thirty years.

Many people rely on plants for health and longevity. The World Health Organization estimates that 3.5 billion people in the developing countries rely on plant-based medicine for their primary health care. Ayurvedic and other traditional healers in South Asia use at least 1,800 different plant species in treatments. In China, healers employ more than 5000 plant species. One-quarter of the medicines marketed in North America and Europe contain active ingredients derived from plants. FAO estimates that between 4,000 to 6,000 species of medicinal plants are traded internationally. Biodiversity has economic and commercial importance. A large percentage of the rural population in the developing countries depend on locally available biodiversity for their livelihood. The economy of most of the developing countries also depends to a large extent on the production and export of crops, livestock, fisheries and forest products.

Biodiversity also performs important ecological function. For example, trees release oxygen, purify air, stabilize climate and prevent soil erosion. Moreover, biodiversity has spiritual, ethical and aesthetic values. Natural world and its aesthetic richness such as the song of birds, the hum of bees and insects, exotic flowers, green woods and dense forests enrich human minds and thoughts and instill aspirations and happiness. It is really a pity that nowadays, people especially in the urban centres are being confined to the steel, concrete and plastic world.

Notwithstanding its enormous value and significance, the Earth's biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate mainly as a result of human actions. It has been estimated that 27,000 species are lost every year. Aerial and satellite photos have revealed that tropical rain forests which harbor most of the terrestrial species of our planet are disappearing at a rate of 12 million hectares a year. Species extinction is expected to rise to between 1,000 and 10,000 times the natural rate.

Overexploitation, overharvesting, illegal hunting and trade, illegal logging and loss of habitats are some of the main causes of biodiversity loss. Land use changes such

as agricultural expansion, mining and urban development also result in degradation and loss of habitats. Depletion of wetlands is also an important cause of a decline in fresh water fish and waterfowls. Marine life is also being threatened due to overexploitation and pollution.

Turning to the bright side, there are positive developments as regards biodiversity conservation. Recognising the need to address the dwindling world biological resources, international conventions such as Convention on Biodiversity and Biosafety Protocol; Convention on Migratory species; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance have been adopted and are being implemented. Since the last two or three decades, a host of biodiversity conservation projects and activities have been undertaken by international and local environmental NGOs. There are also many individuals who are committed to protect and conserve biodiversity.

Myanmar has rich biological resources. Although biodiversity inventory has not yet completed in Myanmar, it has been officially stated that there are 350 mammal species, 300 reptile species, 1000 bird species and 9600 plant species.

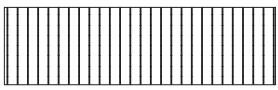
Biodiversity conservation has been a tradition, long practised in Myanmar. The wildlife sanctuary at the environ of Mandalay City was decreed by King Mindon in 1859. Conservation of nature and biodiversity is an ingrained habits of most people in Myanmar to conserve biodiversity, the Government enacted the Protection of Wildlife, Wild plants and Conservation of Natural Area Law in 1994. A target has been set to increase protected area up to 5 per cent in the short term and 10 per cent in the long term.

There are now 40 protected areas in Myanmar including wildlife and bird sanctuaries, national parks and nature reserves. Myanmar is also a party to the Convention on Biodiversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

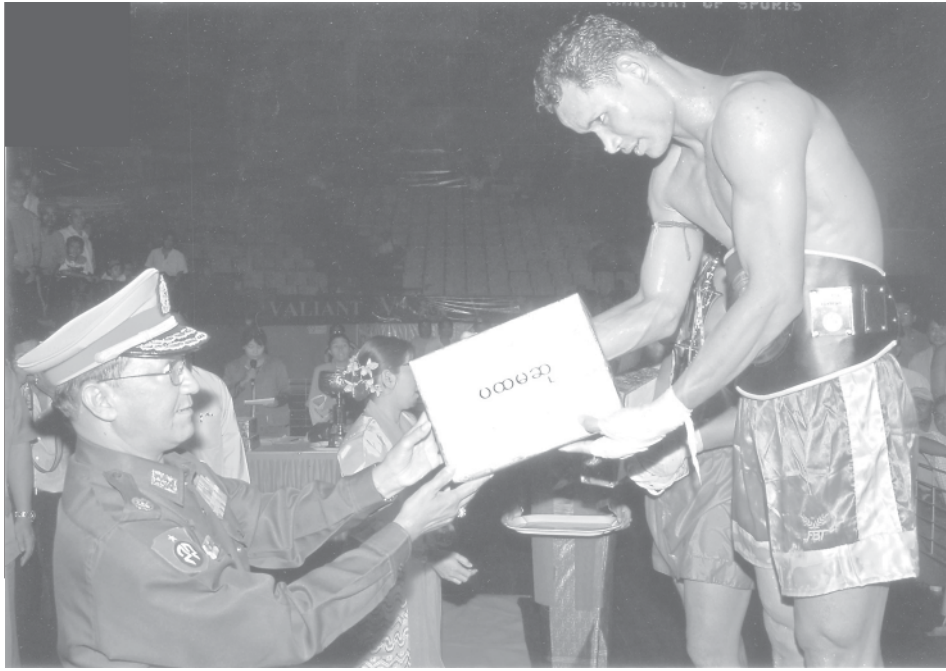
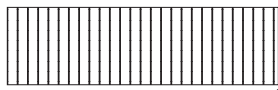
This year's theme for the International Biodiversity Day is "Protect Biodiversity in Drylands". Drylands cover more than 40 per cent of the planet's surface. Over 250 million people living in the drylands are more vulnerable members of society whose livelihood depend greatly on local biodiversity. In order to promote and sustain economic and social wellbeing of the dryland population, it is most crucial to protect biodiversity in those regions. In Myanmar about 10 per cent of land in the country are drylands. Greening project in the Dry Zone undertaken since 1994 is indeed an important measure to protect and conserve biodiversity in the drylands of Myanmar.

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**Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to Golden Belt Champion Lone Chaw, the winner of Above-Middleweight Class at Youth Training Centre, Thuwunna on Sunday. — MNA**



## Ministry of Forestry meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May—The Ministry of Forestry held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Forest Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

It was also attended by heads of department under the ministry, the rector of Institute of Forestry, the pro-rectors, the chairman of Forest Product Joint Venture Corporation, directors, managers and others.

The State/Division officials reported on work carried out and managing directors gave the supplementary reports.

In response to the reports of directors of Arid Zone Greening Departments and the director-general, the minister gave instructions on forest plantations and conservation of natural forests.

Next, the directors of the State/Division Forest Departments reported on work being carried out.

Afterwards, Director-General of Planning and Statistics Department U Than Swe reported on weaknesses and strengths during the four-month period of the ministry and future works.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses work co-ordination meeting of the Ministry of Forestry.—MNA

## Training courses of UMFCCI conclude

YANGON, 21 May—Sponsored by Education Work Committee under the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the UMFCCI Level I&II Course and Koeki Japanese Language Course concluded at Hotel Nikko, here, yesterday afternoon.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint made a

speech. U Sein Win Hlaing, General Secretary of the federation and Chairman of the Education Work Committee, explained matters related to the training courses conducted by the federation. Instructor Mr Eigo Khino Shito of Koeki Japanese Language Course also explained giving lectures on

Japanese language course. President U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and U Thaug Tin and members of the Education Work

Committee awarded prizes to outstanding trainees and presented certificates to other trainees. They also gave gifts to instructors of the training courses.—MNA



President U Win Myint of UMFCCI presents gift to Koeki Japanese Language Course Instructor Mr Eigo Khino Shito. — UMFCCI

## Spain initiates Africa Plan to control immigration influxes

MADRID, 21 May — Spain on Friday put forward the Africa Plan aimed at expanding cooperation with African countries in the next three years to control immigration outflows from the continent.

Under the plan unveiled by the Council of Ministers, Spain will open three new embassies in Mali, Sudan and Cape Verde.

The plan also includes the opening of technical cooperation offices in Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Mali, as well as commercial offices in Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.

Meanwhile, Spain will reinforce its diplomatic missions in Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

One of the goals of the plan is to promote cooperation with African countries in regulating migration surges, according to the government.

Spain is preparing a package of Agreements on Migratory Cooperation and Readmission with African countries. — MNA/Xinhua

## THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR DISTRICT NEWS

### Plan for self-reliant libraries' durability discussed



Deputy Director Daw Khin San of Shan State (North) IPRD speaks at the meeting for self-reliant library's durability in Manhe Village of Hsipaw Township.

HSIPAW, 10 May — Deputy Director Daw Khin San of Shan State (North) Information and Public Relations Department together with Staff Officer U Maung Ko and officials of Kyaukme District IPRD inspected Pinnya Alin self-reliant library in Manhe Village in Hsipaw Township, and discussed durability of the library with responsible persons recently.

Head of Hsipaw Township IPRD U Sai Tha Hlaing and Secretary of Manhe Village Self-Reliant Library Committee Daw Maw Maw Tun reported on progress of the library. Deputy Director Daw Khin San gave instructions on its perpetual existence.

Kyemon

### Physic nut plant growing ceremony held in Twantay



Physic nut plant growing ceremony in progress in Twantay Township.

TWANTAY, 15 May — The physic nut plant growing ceremony organized by Yangon South District Forest Department was held on 12 May at Kyuntaw Reserved Forest in Phayakyi Village, Twantay Township.

Deputy Director U Than Oo of Yangon South District Forest Department, Twantay Township Forest Department Staff Officer U Mya Win Aung and staff planted 30,250 physic nut saplings on 25 acres of land from 5 to 16 May. — Kyemon

### Cash assistance provided to retired sisters in Pathein

PATHEIN, 12 May — In commemoration of the International Nurses Day, Pathein Nurses Association (Branch) donated cash assistance to retired sisters of Pathein in Ayeyawady Division on 11 May. Members of the Nurses Association (Branch) presented K 5,000 each for 11 retired nurses. Staff Officers Daw Kyin Hmwe and Daw Win Win Myint of Ayeyawady Division Health Department (Nurse), the Principal and instructors of Nurses and Mid-Wifery Training School of Pathein, Sister Daw Ohn Myint and nurses of Pathein General Hospital gave cash assistance to the retired persons at their homes. — Kyemon



## Sports Minister meets Myanmar athletes

YANGON, 20 May — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met Myanmar athletes who will take part in the international competitions at National Indoor Stadium 1 this afternoon.

First, the athletes were introduced to the minister and the officials reported on preparations for the competitions.

In meeting with the athletes, the minister urged them to redouble their efforts to achieve success in the respective competitions through perseverance and sporting spirit.

MNA

## Foreign Minister meets...

(from page 16)

The Bangladesh delegation was seen off at the airport by the Director General of Consular and Legal Affairs U Phae Thann Oo, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr Mohammed Khairuzzaman and officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Yangon.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu meets with Bangladeshi delegation. — MNA

# Myanmar Youth set sights on success in Lion Cup, Asian U-17 Championship

Myanmar U-17 Football Team is holding the opportunity to enter the final stage of the Asian U-17 Championship hosted by Singapore in September 2006 by grabbing a win over opponent Thai youth team in the qualifier match.

At present, Myanmar youth team is making preparations keenly for improvement of players' skills to achieve victory to a certain extent in the Asian level football tournament. When the championship commences, Myanmar will have to struggle for its success in the group comprising Asian powerhouse teams—Saudi Arabia, North Korea and improving Laos.

As a tune-up competition, Myanmar

four. Myanmar Youth Team, being champion in the ASEAN U-17 Championship 2005 is favorite to win success in the Cup. Although it did not play with Malaysia and Singapore in the ASEAN U-17 Championship 2005, Myanmar deservedly clinched the championship trophy by defeating Thai and other rival teams.

Now, a total of 26 tentatively selected players of Myanmar Youth Team is undergoing training to participate in the Asian U-17 Championship. Together with six new players, the team is formed with 20 players who took part in the qualifier of the championship. Out of 26 players, 18 selected players will be picked out for taking

Myanmar Youth Team has been undergoing training. As part of preparations for the Asian U-17 Championship, Myanmar youth will enter the Lion Cup in Singapore. At present, the Myanmar Youth Team is in the best position. The team is formed with 20 players who had taken part in the qualifier of the championship, together with three players each from Sports and Physical Education Institutes (Yangon) and (Mandalay). Two injured players Goalkeeper Nay Hlaing and Naing Lin Tun will miss the Lion Cup. Prior to the Lion Cup, the Myanmar Youth



A Myanmar Coach training Myanmar U-17 players.

**Article: Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt**  
**Photos: Soe Nyunt (Kyemon)**



A player of Myanmar U-17 seen in training session.

Youth Team that sets sights on participation in the Asian U-17 Championship is scheduled to take part in the Lion Cup to be organized by Singapore Football Federation in Singapore. In 1992, Myanmar had secured champion in the Lion Cup.

In the Lion Cup to be held from 5 to 10 September, Singapore (A) and Singapore (B) teams from the host country will play against with Myanmar and Malaysia, totalling

part in the Lion Cup. At present, the players are being folded into the camp to undergo training under Chief Coach Mr Minkovski (Bulgaria) together with Coaches U Khin Maung Tint, U Zaw Lay Aung, U Kyaw Lwin and Goalkeeper Coach U Tun Tint Aung.

Coach U Khin Maung Tint, in an interview, said that they were making preparations for the Asian U-17 Championship. Since December 2005, the

Team has played six tune-up matches. In its tune-up matches, the Myanmar Youth Team trounced the Under-20 Construction Team and the Industry-1 Team with a 5-0 result each on 6 and 10 May. However, the team lost to First Eleven FC with a goalless draw on 15 May and a 0-1 result on 17 May. Another tune-up match was held between the Myanmar Youth Team and Transport on 19 May. In its schedules, the Myanmar Youth Team will meet with

Construction Team on 22 May. Despite suffering injury in the tune-up matches, Pyae Phyo Oo, Zin Myo Aung and Than Tun Aung would recover from their injury soon and they will not miss the matches. Now, the Myanmar Youth Team is being nurtured by Chief Coach Mr Minkovski and Myanmar Coaches.

In the qualifier of the Asian U-17 Championship held in Thailand from 13 to 17 November 2005, Myanmar whitewashed Maldives 12-0 and played a

1-1 draw with host Thai Youth Team. Due to the goal scores difference, Myanmar was qualified for the championship.

A total of 26 tentatively selected players of the Myanmar Youth Team are: Pyae Phyo Oo, Kaung Myat Han, San Lwin Oo, Than Tun Aung, Naing Lin Tun, Moe Naing Tun, Myat Naing Aung, Nyein Nyan Soe, Van La Harwe (Goalkeeper), Aye Moe, Zin Myo Aung, Aung Kyaw Moe, Zaw Lin, Chit Ko Ko Htwe, David Dun, Tin Win Aung, Paing Myo Oo, Aung Myint Tun, Yan Aung Win, Nay Hlaing

(Goalkeeper), Pyae Phyo Ko Ko, Chit Ko Ko (2), Soe Paing Thu (Goalkeeper), Aung Zaw Lin, Aung Pyone Kyaing and Kaung Myat Tun.

To be able to bring the honour to the State, Myanmar Under-17 Team — holder of the ASEAN Under-17 Championship 2005 and the qualifier of the Asian Under-17 Championship 2006—is striving with concerted efforts to take part in the Asian U-17 Championship and the Lion Cup of Singapore.

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Translation: TTA



Bulgarian Coach gives training to players of Myanmar U-17 Team.

## Growing number of Chinese prefer electronic reading

BEIJING, 21 May — Electronic books, e-bookstores and digital libraries are becoming more popular in China.

A national survey on people's reading habits in the Internet era, conducted by Beijing Founder Electronic Co Ltd affiliated to Beijing University and a national newspaper called *China Information World*, showed 27.8 per cent of Chinese citizens were accustomed to reading books and articles on the Internet in 2005, while the figures in 1999 and 2003 were 3.7 per cent

and 18.3 per cent respectively.

China currently has 110 million netizens and the number is growing steadily.

To feed citizens' increasing e-reading needs, publishing houses are co-operating with websites, mobile phone suppliers and telecommunications operators. China has more than 400 publishing houses operating online publishing businesses.

Dai Longji, curator of Beijing University library, said the borrowing of e-books is constantly

increasing in his library. The problem is the number and the content of e-books cannot satisfy readers' needs. He suggested bookstores establish electronic bookstores on the Internet as soon as possible to meet readers' needs.

The popularity of online-reading has begun to affect the circulation of newspapers and magazines in the country, according to reports. A number of newspapers and magazines have reported the decline in advertisement revenue.

MNA/Xinhua

**A male baboon yawns in the Cape Peninsula outside Cape Town, South Africa in this 9 May, 2006 file photo. Unruly gangs of baboons raid the upmarket homes that line the spectacular coast of South Africa's Cape Peninsula, clearing out pantries, emptying fridges, and defecating**



**over the designer finishes. It's baboon versus human in a string of wealthy ocean-front communities 30 minutes from the trendy centre of Cape Town, a top tourist destination. Picture taken on 9 May, 2006.**

INTERNET

## US FDA says benzene found in some soft drinks

WASHINGTON, 21 May — Government testing found the cancer-causing chemical benzene in some soft drinks but not at high enough levels to cause harm, US regulators said on Friday.

Five out of more than 100 beverages tested had benzene in amounts exceeding the limit set for US drinking water — 5 parts per billion, the Food and Drug Administration said. The agency said it asked manufacturers to minimize or eliminate benzene levels in their products. All of the makers contacted have reformulated the drinks or are in the process of doing so, FDA officials said.

The agency tested samples of soft drinks and other beverages from November 2005 through April 2006.

The benzene amounts detected "do not pose a safety concern for consumers", the FDA said in a statement. Most products had very low levels of benzene or none that was

detected, said Dr Laura Tarantino, director of the FDA's Office of Food Additive Safety. Some levels were as high as 88 parts per billion, according to data posted on the FDA website. There is no limit set for soft drinks but regulators believe benzene levels should be minimal, Tarantino said.

"Any benzene in soft drinks that can be avoided by the way you formulate or package or distribute should be avoided. That's what we're really asking," she said.

The drinks with benzene exceeding five parts per billion were certain lots of Safeway Inc's Safeway Select Diet Orange; Cadbury Schweppes Plc's Crush Pineapple; Giant Light Cranberry Juice Cocktail, sold by Ahold unit Giant Food Inc; Meridian Beverage Co's AquaCal Strawberry Flavoured Water Beverage, and Kraft Food Inc's Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange.

Safeway reformulated its Select Diet Orange

soda before it was contacted by the FDA, company spokeswoman Teena Massingill said. Representatives of the other makers could not immediately be reached on Friday evening.

MNA/Reuters



**A representative for Swiss jeweller Chopard displays the Palme d'Or film award as preparations continue on the eve of the start of the 59th International Film Festival in Cannes, on May 16, 2006. The festival opens on 17 May and runs until 28 May. INTERNET**

## Former rightist Czech official attacks Minister

PRAGUE, 21 May — A former rightist deputy prime minister attacked leftist Health Minister David Rath at a meeting on Saturday, state television showed, raising political tensions in the Czech Republic two weeks before an election.

Miroslav Macek, a former deputy prime minister in the 1990s and a long-time adviser to President Vaclav Klaus, was chairing a meeting of Czech dentists when videotape aired on state television showed he walked over to a seated Rath and hit him in the back of the head.

Macek, a dentist who is no longer officially active in politics but still closely associated with the rightist Civic Democrats, said he hit Rath over comments the minister had made about him and his wife. The two men stood toe to toe arguing after the first hit, before Macek again tried to punch Rath. The two then wrestled briefly before they were separated.

The Civic Democrats have a narrow 4 percentage point lead over the

leftist Social Democrats of Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek with a 2-3 June vote looming in a bruising campaign.

"Dr Macek has shown how the Civic Democrats behave. That is, they attack unexpectedly from behind those who oppose their views," Rath said journalists at the meeting after the incident.

Macek said the incident was personal and not political, a line echoed by the Civic Democrats.

MNA/Reuters

## HK suspends poultry import application from Denmark

HONG KONG, 21 May — Hong Kong Friday suspended processing of applications for the importation of poultry meat from Denmark for fear of bird flu outbreak.

The city's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department made the announcement on Friday and declared its immediate effectiveness.

"The decision was taken following the confirmation of an outbreak of avian influenza H5N1 in a poultry farm in Denmark," said a spokesman for the department.

"We are seeking further information from the relevant authorities concerning the case," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



**French actress Marie Gillain (L) and French actor Jose Garcia arrive for the screening of French director Nicole Garcia's in-competition film 'Selon Charlie' at the 59th Cannes Film Festival on 20 May, 2006. — INTERNET**

## Teenager held over London schoolboy's death

LONDON, 21 May — Police arrested a teenager on Saturday in their investigation into the stabbing to death this week of a 15-year-old boy outside his London school.

Kiyon Prince was fatally wounded outside the London Academy in Edgware, northwest London, as pupils were going home on Thursday. He was taken to a hospital but died from his wounds.

British media said the boy was stabbed after stepping in to break up a fight.

Scotland Yard said on Saturday they had arrested a 16-year-old boy in connection with their inquiry. Prince was a youth team player at the London Championship soccer club Queens Park Rangers (QPR).

"He was a great lad, a terrific prospect and it's a huge setback for everyone that knew him," head of youth Joe Gallen said on the QPR website.

Chairman Gianni Paladini said the club would do everything it could to help the family through "this terrible time".

The school's principal Phil Hearne said staff and children were devastated by the attack in what he described as a safe and quiet area.

"This was a lovely young man," he said. "He was looked up to by youngsters here, terribly well respected, an extremely reliable, hard working, bright young man — a natural born leader." — MNA/Reuters



An Airbus A319 of East Star Air is seen at the Meilan International Airport in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province on 20 May, 2006. East Star Air opened the flight from Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, to Haikou on 20 May. The Wuhan-based company is the fourth private airlines in China. — INTERNET

## Indonesia pressing for Australian support on Papua

MEDFORD, (Massachusetts), 21 May — Australia's leader should sign a document recognizing

Jakarta's rule over West Papua Province to resolve a dispute over Canberra's decision to grant 42 Papuans asylum, a senior Indonesia official said on Saturday.

Leaders of Australia and Indonesia, facing their most serious disruption of relations since over East Timor independence in 1999, plan to meet soon to discuss the dispute, which caused Jakarta to recall its ambassador.

Indonesia says Australia's decision to grant refugee status to the Papuans in March gave support to Papua's independence movement.

But differences over the issue were narrowing between Jakarta and Canberra, said Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda.

MNA/Reuters

## Flood forces evacuation of community in eastern Canada

OTTAWA, 21 May — Ten straight days of rain have forced a community east of Montreal, Canada's second largest city, to evacuate about 30 homes because of flooding.

The banks of the Yamaska River began overflowing early Saturday morning, forcing about 100 people from their homes, reports reaching here said.

Officials warned that more homes could be evacuated if the situation worsens, and are asking residents to clear out their basements as a precautionary measure.

The Red Cross set up an emergency shelter for the evacuees, and several pumps are working to keep the flooding from spreading.

Flooding was also reported in several other regions of Quebec Province. According to Environment Canada, around 140 millimetres of rain has fallen this month in southwestern Quebec. The agency says the 10 consecutive days of rain parts of the province have seen is unusual. —MNA/Xinhua



Rescuers install steel pipes to pump water out of the flooded shaft of a coal mine in order to rescue at least 44 still trapped underground in Zuoyun county, Shanxi Province on 20 May, 2006. A total of 145 miners were working underground when the flooding accident took place on Thursday night, and 101 managed to escape, rescuers said. —INTERNET

## China begins comprehensive check of pharmaceutical plants

BEIJING, 21 May — China has launched a comprehensive check of pharmaceutical plants nationwide after a fake drug caused the death of five people.

"Drug administrations should immediately launch comprehensive checks of raw materials purchased, management of materials and examination of finished products of pharmaceutical plants," says a circular issued by the State Food and Drug Administration.

Five people died and six people were hospitalized after they were injected with the fake drug Armillarisi A injection made by the Qiqihar No 2 Pharmaceutical Co Ltd in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The government has shut down the plant and banned the sale of all medicines made by it.

"We must further improve supervision and

administration of drug production to ensure the safety of drugs and prevent such accidents from happening again," said an official with the administration.

According to a government investigation, the company purchased one ton of "propylene glycol" from drug dealer Wang Guiping in September 2005 as auxiliary material for producing the Armillarisi A Injection.

The "propylene glycol" delivered by Wang is actually diglycol, an industrial material which causes acute kidney failure if taken by humans. The company's quality inspectors failed to discover the problem.

Using diglycol, the

company produced the injection, mainly for treating acute or chronic cholecystitis and chronic and atrophic gastritis.

Drug authorities in South China's Guangdong Province reported on 3 May that patients using the injection had developed acute kidney failure symptoms, which prompted immediate investigation into the case.

The police have detained the suspect Wang Guiping and have taken other people involved in the case into custody.

Further investigations revealed the Qiqihar No 2 Pharmaceutical Co Ltd had been producing four other fake drugs before its closure.

MNA/Xinhua



The Third All-China Games is opened in Suzhou, a city in east China's Jiangsu Province, on 20 May, 2006. The event held every four years includes almost all non-Olympic sports items in China. —INTERNET

## Two killed in Gaza's Palestinian security HQs blast

GAZA, 21 May — Two people were killed and 10 others including Palestinian intelligence chief were injured in a blast that rocked the Palestinian security headquarters in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, security sources said.

Palestinian intelligence chief Tareq Abu Rajab and his bodyguards were in the area when the explosion went off in the building's elevator, said the sources. One of Abu Rajab's bodyguard was killed in the blast and the other was not immediately recognized.

Abu Rajab, along with other injured, was rushed to Gaza City hospital where he was undergoing a surgery, said the sources.

The blast was caused

by a bomb planted in the building's elevator bank, said the sources, adding that the bomb went off in the elevator close to the second floor as he and his bodyguards were heading to his office on the fourth floor of the building.

It is the third time that he escapes assassination attempt. Saturday's blast against the security headquarters in Gaza came amid mounting tension between ruling Hamas and supporters of the previously

dominant Fatah movement after armed clashes had left several militants dead.

Abu Rajab heads the general intelligence forces, which is under Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' command.

The intelligence chief headed an investigation team to Jordan in mid-May to probe an alleged weapon smuggling issued by Hamas activists.

MNA/Xinhua

## 28 climbers scale Mt Everest on Saturday

KATHMANDU, 21 May — A total of 28 mountaineers of four different expeditions have scaled Mt Qomolangma, the world's tallest peak, on Saturday.

According to Radio Nepal, a 12-member team of India climbed Mt Everest Saturday from South. The team comprises of six Indians and six Nepali high altitude workers.

The six Indians who scaled the peak were all government employees.

MNA/Xinhua

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Thein Aung B.Sc.,R.L.,D.B.L Advocate  
**MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM**  
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm  
Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666  
Yangon. 22 May 2006

**Int'l cultural expo opens in S China**

GUANGZHOU, 20 May— An international cultural expo opened Thursday in Shenzhen, a booming city in southern China's Guangdong Province, with the aim of promoting Chinese cultural products and services to the world market. Activities during the four-day expo include exhibitions, trade fairs, and seminars on artistic design, media technology, publication, education, auctions and performances by international artists.

More than 1,500 Chinese enterprises, 26 delegations from Australia, South Korea, Japan and a number of other countries, and some 21,000 participants from cultural circles, will attend the expo.— *MNA/Xinhua*

**China's Trade Union calls for minimum wage boost**

BEIJING, 20 May— The All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) has called on provincial governments to raise their legal minimum wage amid concerns the real value of the minimum wage is slipping.

A statement from the ACFTU said some governments had yet to set per-hour minimum wage standards, some had failed to include unemployment insurance, workers' injury insurance, medical insurance and public housing funds when setting minimum wage standards.

Employers in some areas are by-passing local minimum wage standards by implementing a

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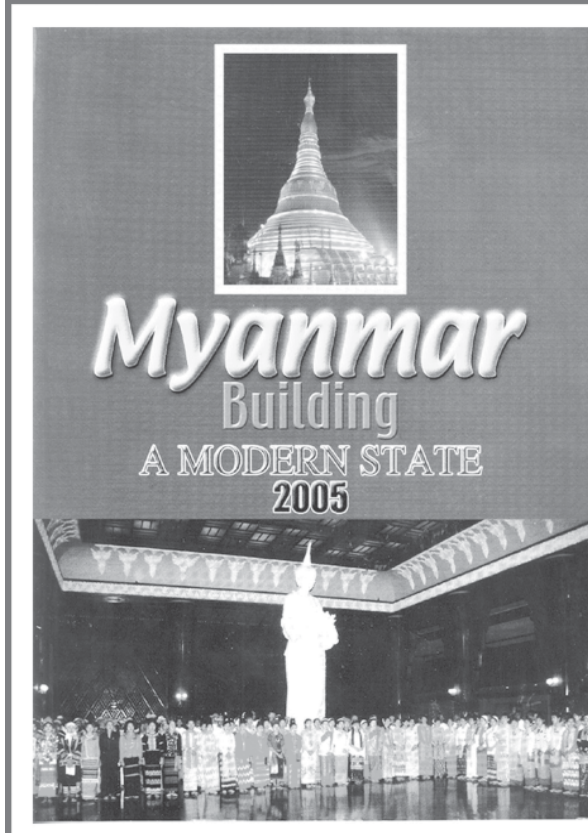
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Win Mu Tin  
M.A.,H.G.P.,D.B.L  
for HENKEL CORPORATION  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon.  
Dated: 22 May 2006

piecework wage system.

The Chinese Government established a minimum wage system in 1993, which the country's 31 provincial, autonomous region and municipal authorities were responsible for implementing.

Minimum wage levels in some areas were considered too low to ensure low-income groups and an inadequate minimum wage would enlarge the



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**Work on Three Gorges Dam's main wall starts final sprint**

THREE GORGES DAM SITE (Hubei Province), 20 May— The final part of concrete placement for the main section of the mammoth Three Gorges Dam started at 4:00 am on Friday in the middle reach of the Yangtze River, the longest in China.

The final concrete placement is due to finish on Saturday, which will mark the completion of the dam's main wall.

The 185-metre-high and 2,309-metre-long dam, often compared to the Great Wall in its scale, is the world's largest dam of reinforced concrete, with a total of 28 million cubic metres of

concrete to be poured. The last placement involves 1,017.5 cubic metres of concrete.

Actually, the completed section of the dam's main wall is 184.8 metres high, with the remaining 0.2 metre reserved for building the highway on the top of the dam.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Singapore launches new service to help SMEs finance**

SINGAPORE, 20 May— Singapore's SME (small- and medium-sized enterprises) Credit Bureau launched a new service, the Singapore Business Toolkit, to help SMEs finance, Minister of State for Education and Trade and Industry Chan Soo Sen announced on Friday.

"The Toolkit will help SMEs to identify areas of weaknesses and offer basic advice to address these areas. The ultimate goal is to improve SMEs' credit standing and thus enhance their chances in

raising capital," Chan said at the second SME Credit Bureau Conference.

The service is a joint effort by the SME Credit Bureau, which is an online platform providing lenders with credit-related information on local companies, and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation.

Chan also noted in his speech that the Singapore Government has adopted a three-pronged approach to collaborate with the private sector in helping SMEs access financing.

Firstly, it has developed a suite of financing schemes, including the Start-up Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS) and the Business Angel Scheme (BAS) for the start-ups, as well as the Local Enterprise Finance Scheme (LEFS) and Microloans for the growing SMEs, to address

areas where there are market gaps, Chan said.

The LEFS has offered 40,000 loans worth 10 billion Singapore dollars (about six billion US dollars) since its launch in 1976 while Microloans have benefitted more than 10,000 businesses, which have less than 10 employees each, in the past five years with some 326 million Singapore dollars (about 207 million US dollars), according to the minister.

The second approach is that the government has been catalyzing new financing options, Chan said, citing the Loan Insurance Scheme (LIS) and the SME Access Loan as examples. The SME Access Loan has so far provided loans of over 100 million Singapore dollars (about 63 million US dollars) to more than 400 under-served SMEs.

Thirdly, the government also helps create greater awareness and match SMEs to the appropriate financing options available through various platforms, such as the Finance Roadshows, Deal Flow Connection, EnterpriseOne and the Enterprise Development Centres, Chan noted.

He reiterated that the government has pledged three billion Singapore dollars (about two billion US dollars) as loans to SMEs over the next five years, hoping to catalyze an equal amount of loans from the private sector during the same period.

Currently, there are over 130,000 SMEs operating in the city state, which employ more than half of the total workforce and contribute to some 43 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). — *MNA/Xinhua*

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

**China offers subsidies for retiring outdated motor vehicles**

BEIJING, 20 May — China will offer up to 15,000 yuan (1,875 US dollars) for each motor vehicle which is retired before the date required by law, China's Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The retired motor vehicle eligible for subsidies include large cargo and passenger vehicles registered during 1997 and 1999 and scrapped or dismembered this year.

those with over 30 seats and nine metres in length. The ministry said the subsidies for retiring and replacing an outdated bus with a new bus that meet EURO II exhaust gas emission standards will be 15,000 yuan.

The move is designed to promote the development of the country's auto sector, reduce air pollution and traffic accidents, and save energy.—MNA/Xinhua

**Chinese Vice-Premier wants**

**improved meteorological innovation**

BEIJING, 20 May— Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu underscored here Thursday that China needs to build a world class modern meteorological system.

Hui said China's meteorological services have played an important role in the country's disaster relief, economic construction, social development and national defence.

Yet the Vice-Premier said that current meteorological technology and services do not entirely meet the need of the fast growing society.

He urged all the related departments to implement the central government's policies on meteorological development and provide sufficient support to the innovation.

MNA/Xinhua

*Villagers row a newly-built dragon boat at a river in the suburbs of Guangzhou, capital of China's southern Guangdong Province on 20 May, 2006. The boats are prepared for the Dragon Boat Festival which is celebrated with boat races to represent the attempted rescue of poet Chu Yuan. Chu Yuan drowned on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month in 277 BC. This year's Dragon Boat Festival falls on 31 May.*



INTERNET

**Chinese netizens oppose auction of Mao Zedong's portrait**

BEIJING, 20 May — Sina.com, a popular Chinese Internet portal, has seen more than 18,000 posts from netizens opposing the auction of late Chairman Mao Zedong's portrait.

After the website published the news that Huachen Auction Company will begin the bidding for Mao's portrait on 3 June,

thousands went online expressing hopes that the government authority will end the auction, Saturday's China Daily reported.

The original model for the Mao painting that hung over high through the 1950s on Beijing's Tiananmen Rostrum, the symbol of the China's Communist revolution, is expected to fetch one million to 1.2 million yuan (120,000-

150,000 US dollars).

"I strongly oppose the auction of Chairman Mao's portrait because it is neither a mere piece of artistic work nor a commercial activity. Mao Zedong is the spirit of our great nation," an anonymous person said on the Internet. "How dare they do such a thing! If they sold Mao's portrait today, they will sold Tiananmen Rostrum the other day."

another person said.

The portrait was painted by Zhang Zhenshi, known as the best portraitist in China specialized in the painting of Mao. He was among more than 30 painters invited from around the country to create a new portrait of Mao to mark the first anniversary of the People's Republic of China in 1950.

MNA/Xinhua



*A baby Bactrian camel is sheltered by its mother Lila, two-year-old, in their enclosure at Hellabrunn zoo in Munich on 28 April, 2006. The female baby camel is yet to be named, and was born on 17 April, 2006.*

INTERNET

**Mittal Steel launches Arcelor takeover bid**

BRUSSELS, 20 May — Mittal Steel has officially launched its bid for rival Arcelor after the go-ahead from European regulators, local media reported on Thursday.

France, Belgium and Luxembourg regulators have already given approval for Mittal's 21-billion-euro hostile takeover bid for steel firm Arcelor, according to Brussels-based news website expatica.

US regulators have also cleared the deal on antitrust grounds, but Mittal is still waiting for EU-level regulatory approval. The European Union (EU) is set to approve the deal by June 7. Mittal, the world's largest

steel group by volume, is offering a mix of cash and equity during its Arcelor offer period extending until June 29. However, the Luxembourg-based Arcelor has repeatedly voiced its opposition to the bid.

Acelor has urged shareholders to preserve its independence and has already promised an increased 2005 dividend and a 5-billion-euro (around 6.4 billion US dollars) share buyback above market level to convince them.

MNA/Xinhua

**Solar energy production base established in Shanghai**

SHANGHAI, 21 May — A Chinese company plans to invest two billion yuan (250 million US dollars) to set up a solar energy production base in Shanghai in the coming five years, one of the largest of its kind in the country.

The Jinlong Industrial Group, a leading solar energy company based in Hebei Province, will be engaged in manufacturing photovoltaic cell, crystal silicon and other key products in Fengxian County of Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua

**Greenpeace briefly shuts Cargill in Brazil terminal**

SAOPAULO (Brazil), 20 May — Environmental activist group Greenpeace said on Friday it temporarily shut down a Cargill Inc export terminal in Brazil to protest the US grain trader's work in the Amazon.

The group said the soy exported from Cargill's terminal in Santarem was grown on deforested Amazon jungle.

One activist was thrown into the river and eight people were arrested, Greenpeace said. Climbers tried to occupy the roof and conveyor belts of Cargill's facility where they display a banner reading 'Fora Cargill' — 'Cargill get out', Greenpeace said in a statement.

Greenpeace said other volunteers were trying to prevent soybeans from being unloaded from barges.

The organization's Arctic Sunrise boat was obstructing the dock area but a vessel at the terminal was attempting to remove it.

"American corporations like Cargill are

eating up the Amazon to grow soya," Greenpeace Amazon coordinator

Paulo Adario said in the statement.

MNA/Reuters



*The new Sony Ericsson Walkman telephone. Ericsson, the world's biggest supplier of mobile telecommunication systems, is to bid for a contract to set up a 2.1 billion euro (2.7 billion dollar) surveillance system on the US-Mexico border.—INTERNET*

# SPORTS



Thierry Henry and Arsene Wenger.

## Henry signs new contract with Arsenal

LONDON, 21 May — Arsenal talisman Thierry Henry ended months of speculation about his future by pledging his future to the North London club on Friday.

The 28-year-old, who signed a new four-year contract, had a year left on his former contract and had been linked with a move to Barcelona but has opted to stay and lead Arsenal in their new stadium.

"At one point it crossed my mind to leave," he told a news conference, two days after Arsenal lost the Champions League final to Barca.

"But I think with my heart and my heart told me to stay."

Henry said Arsenal's performance in the 2-1 defeat to Barcelona had been key to his decision to commit his future to the club.

"We can be so proud of what we did," he said.

"The game reassured me of one thing I wanted to know — how far I can go with that team. They showed me they are a team with heart and lots of quality.— MNA/Xinhua

## Brazilians power CSKA Moscow to Cup victory

Moscow, 21 May — CSKA Moscow kept hold of the Russian Cup on Saturday after their Brazilian strikers Jo and Vagner Love swept them to a 3-0 victory over city rivals Spartak.

Jo opened the scoring two minutes before the end of a fast and furious first half, driving a free kick through the wall and out of reach of Spartak keeper Wojciech Kowalewski.

Spartak, who have not won a game against CSKA since 2001, tried hard to level but never looked dangerous and their misery was compounded when midfielder Santos Mozart was shown a red card for fouling fellow Brazilian Dudu two minutes from time.

Vagner Love made it 2-0 with a solo effort in the 90th minute when he picked the ball up in midfield and foxed the goalkeeper.

Jo, Russian league's top scorer with 11 goals in nine matches, then finished off Spartak with a clean strike from just outside the box in injury time.

Spartak's caretaker coach Vladimir Fedotov praised his opponents.

"We simply lost to a better team," said former CSKA striker Fedotov.

CSKA coach Valery Gazzayev added: "It's not enough to play well, it was also important to show the team spirit and fight to the end." —MNA/Reuters

## South Africa end 7-hour goal drought in Swazi win

JOHANNESBURG, 21 May — South Africa ended a run of almost seven hours without a goal in a 1-0 win over Swaziland in the Cosafa Castle Cup on Saturday. Benson Mhlongo scored with a 13th minute header to ensure a place in the Group B final against Botswana on Sunday.

Botswana won Saturday's second semifinal with a 2-0 win over Madagascar. Mhlongo's

ended South Africa's record run of 418 minutes without a goal when he stole in behind Swaziland's defence.

A locally-based side proved too strong for the Swazis, playing their first match under Belgian coach Jan van Winckel.

Two goals in two minutes midway through the second half from substitute Moemedi Mothiaping and defender Khumo Mothibane allowed Botswana to capi-

talize on their domination against the Malagasy.

The mini-tournament serves as a qualifier for the semifinals of the annual southern African regional tournament.

World Cup finalists Angola qualified from the Group A tournament in Lesotho last month.

MNA/Reuters

## Levski secure Bulgarian league title for 24th time

SOFIA, 21 May — Levski Sofia clinched their 24th Bulgarian league title on Saturday with a 2-1 win at relegation-threatened Botev Plovdiv.

With two matches to go, Levski have an unassailable eight-point lead over bitter city rivals CSKA who were beaten 1-0 at lowly Rodopa Smolyan.

CSKA had a seven-point lead at the top after the first half of the season but thanks to a string of fine performances Levski overtook them to capture their first league title since 2002. Levski top the 15-team league with 67 points from 26 matches and will play in the second qualifying round of the Champions League next season. CSKA lie second on 59.

"We've been the most consistent team throughout the season and we deserve the title," said Levski coach Stanimir Stoilov whose side also enjoyed an excellent run in the UEFA Cup this season, reaching the quarter-finals. —MNA/Reuters

## Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1 A	2 M	3 A	4 A	5 L	6 D
7 B	R	I	D	G	E
8 R	N	L	9 A	P	N
10 A	B	S	C	O	N
11 H	T	W	M	A	N
12 A	P	E	X	13 W	I
14 M	R	14 A	R	T	15 A
16 D	R	E	A	D	16 B
17 A	20 H	S	L	21 S	C
22 D	R	O	N	E	23 T
24 A	I	N	Y	A	H
25 G	O	S	S	I	P
26 E	T	C	E	L	E



Jose Armando Santa Cruz, right, of Los Angeles lands a right to the bloody face of Chikashi Inada, of Japan, early in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-round WBC lightweight interim world championship boxing match in Los Angeles, on Saturday, 20 May, 2006. Santa Cruz won by TKO when the referee stopped the fight later in the sixth round.—INTERNET

## Safina struggles past Kuznetsova to Rome final

ROME 21, May — Dinara Safina emerged victorious from a 2-1/2 hour claycourt battle, beating fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 to reach the final of the Italian Open on Saturday.

She will play Martina Hingis or Venus Williams in the final.

Safina, seeded 16, finally seized control in the 11th game of the final set when seventh seed Kuznetsova netted two forehands and drifted a backhand over the baseline to gift her opponent a break and the chance to serve out for the match.

"It was really a long time. In the second set I just said to myself 'play it point by point' and in the end it went my way today," said Safina after

reaching her first final of the year.

Former US Open champion Kuznetsova made a slow start to the match, going 3-1 down to Safina before finding the rhythm on her groundstrokes to break in the seventh and ninth games and wrap up the first set.

She battled back from a break down in the second set too, but then served a double fault and put a backhand wide in the ninth game to gift a vital break to Safina who levelled the match.

Safina maintained her momentum into the decider, three times going a break up only to be pegged back on each occasion.

MNA/Reuters

## Barca lose but Eto'o finishes as top scorer

MADRID, 21 May — Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o crowned a memorable season by finishing as the Primera Liga's top marksman with 26 goals as he scored in his side's 3-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

The Cameroon international missed out on the honour last year when Villarreal's Diego Forlan pipped him at the post on the last day of the season.

Eto'o, who also scored in Wednesday's 2-1 Champions League final win over Arsenal, started the day level with Valencia's David Villa on 25 goals.

He netted after 36 minutes to put his weakened side ahead in their rescheduled last game of the season though the Basques scored three times after the break to take the points.

The European and Spanish champions finished their league campaign on 82 points, 12 clear of second-placed Real Madrid. After a season spent fighting against relegation Bilbao climbed to 12th.

The game had a true end of season feel about it with Barca already crowned champions and Bilbao safe from relegation and out of the run-

ning for the European places.

The visitors were shorn of first-team regulars such as Ronaldinho, Deco, Carles Puyol and Rafael Marquez. Part of FIFA's ruling that allowed the delayed match to take place after the May 15 deadline set for the end of the league season was that international players involved in next month's World Cup finals were barred from competing.

MNA/Reuters



Samuel Eto'o



Irish U2 lead singer and anti-poverty campaigner Bono is welcomed by Maasai women as he visits their traditional Shambasha Village near Arusha on 20 May. —INTERNET

## Toronto issues health warning over hepatitis outbreak

OTTAWA, 21 May — Toronto, Canada's largest city, issued a health warning on Saturday following an outbreak of hepatitis among about 400 dialysis patients at a local hospital.

Toronto Public Health urged the patients not to share toothbrushes or razors with family members and to use condoms.

"There are eight patients we are investigating with new infections," Dr Michael Finkelstein, an associate medical officer with Toronto Public Health, told the *Globe and Mail* newspaper.

It is not clear how dialysis patients who use the facilities run by

Scarborough Hospital, located at Toronto's east end, would have become infected with the Hepatitis B or C that has shown up in recent routine tests.

Dr Gordon Nagai, who works in the Scarborough Regional Dialysis Programme, said that they were searching for the source of the infection. A staff member could be the source and the entire staff is being tested. However, the infection

could be coming from another place.

Every dialysis patient is being tested for both Hepatitis B and C. As a further precaution, they are also testing for HIV during regular dialysis sessions.

Hepatitis B and C are viral diseases of the liver spread through contact with blood or body fluids. The disease can cause permanent liver damage.

MNA/Xinhua

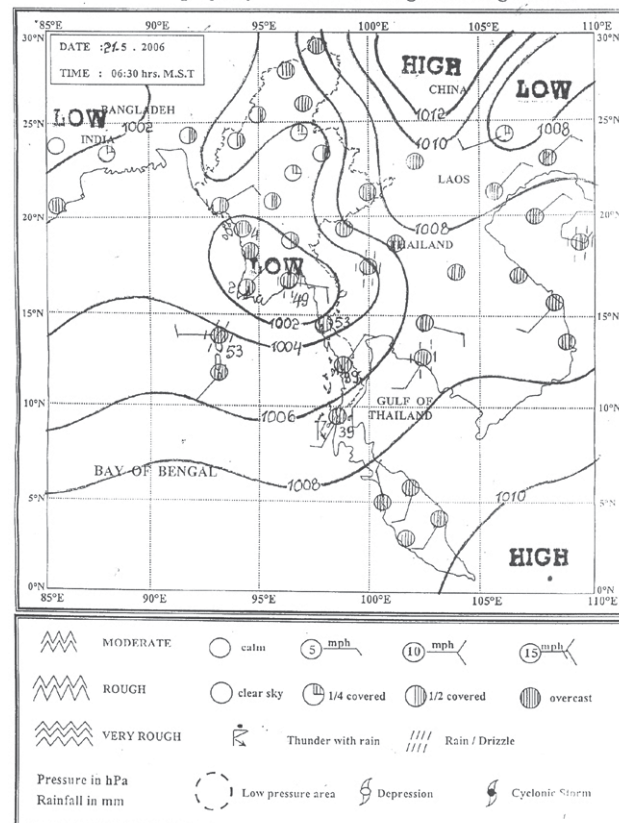
## Offices in Nepal busy with changing names

KATHMANDU, 21 May — Government offices and state institutions have been busy since on Friday with changing their signboards, letter pads and stamps and adopting the new name: Government of Nepal, local Press reported on Saturday.

Following a proclamation by the House of Representatives on Thursday, the government told all its ministries, offices and other bodies, including foreign missions, to replace "His Majesty's Government" with "Government of Nepal" in signboards, letter pads, official seals and officials circulars. *The Kathmandu Post* reported.

The Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) and Council of Ministers Friday told the Army to rename itself "Nepali Army", the English-language newspaper reported. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Sunday, 21 May, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, the Southwest monsoon has advanced into Myanmar Deltaic areas. Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Bago Division, isolated in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions with locally heavyfall in Taninthayi Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Yangon Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Kalewa (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Launglon (6.22) inches, Myeik (4.65) inches, Ye and Central Yangon (4.14) inches each, Dawei (3.90) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.24) inches, Co co Island (2.12) inches and Mawlamyine (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-5-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 21-5-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-5-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 20-5-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 21-5-2006 were (1.38) inches at Mingaladon, (2.24) inches at Kaba-Aye and (4.14) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (12.60) inches at Mingaladon, (14.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (14.49) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southeast at (11:50) hours MST on 20-5-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 22-5-2006:** Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions 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 thundery conditions in Central Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2006:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2006:** Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2006:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Monday, 22 May  
View on today

- 7:00 am
  1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara
- 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. Song of national races
- 8:05 am
  6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
  7. Cute little dancers
- 8:25 am
  8. ဆပ်သွားတံတား
- 8:30 am
  9. International news

- 8:45 am
  10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm
  1. Martial songs
- 4:15 pm
  2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
  3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
  4. Musical programme
- 4:55 pm
  5. အစားသင့်တော်သည့်အားဖြင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ရုပ်ပေဒ)
- 5:05 pm
  6. Dance variety
- 5:15 pm
  7. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ တောစလေ့ ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ
- 5:25 pm
  8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:35 pm
  9. "မနိုင်သောအရူး" (ဟက်ကတ်၊ ဇင်ရဲထက်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး)
- 5:50 pm
  10. Musical programme

- (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:00 pm
  11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
  12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
  13. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 6:50 pm
  14. Industrial achievement
- 7:05 pm
  15. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:15 pm
  16. မဲဆောင်းတံတား (ချင်းပြည်နယ်)
- 7:25 pm
  17. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:35 pm
  18. Musical programme
- 7:50 pm
  19. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းပဲ)
- 8:00 pm
  20. News
- 21. International news
- 22. Weather report
- 23. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အိပ်မက်ကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 24. The next day's programme



Monday, 22 May  
Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music:
  - What a girl wants...Christina
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music:
  - To the moon & back
- 8.50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
  - Goodbye...GIL
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
  - Viva La Radio
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music:
  - I love you because of love because I love you because you loved me because of you
- 9.00 pm Spotlight on M2M
- 9.15 pm Article
- 9.25 pm Music:
  - I want it that way...B.S.B
  - Nothing compares to you...Sinead O'conner
  - Rush rush... Paul Abdul
- 9.45 pm News / Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

# Foreign Minister meets Bangladeshi guests

YANGON, 21 May— The Bangladeshi Delegation led by Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr Hemayetuddin, who was on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar at the invitation of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, paid a courtesy call on U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs at 3 pm on 19 May at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the call, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh was accompanied by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr Mohammed Kairuzzaman and the members of the Bangladesh delegation.

During their stay in Myanmar, the Bangladesh Delegation led by Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Mr Hemayetuddin held High-level Bilateral Consultations with the Myanmar Delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu on bilateral issues and mutually beneficial cooperation in the morning on 19 May at the Hotel Nikko Royal Lake. In the evening the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and wife hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Bangladesh Foreign Secretary and his wife and members of the delegation at the Hotel Nikko Royal Lake.

The Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh was accompanied by his wife, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr Mohammad Mohsin and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of



Foreign Minister U Nyan Win receives Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr Hemayetuddin.— MNA

Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation also held a separate meeting with Col Maung Maung Than, Director-General of the Department of Immigration and National Registration in the afternoon on 19 May.

The Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E Mr Hemayetuddin and party left here by air yesterday.

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## INSIDE

*In order to promote and sustain economic and social wellbeing of the dryland population, it is most crucial to protect biodiversity in those regions. In Myanmar about 10 per cent of land in the country are drylands. Greening project in the Dry Zone undertaken since 1994 is indeed an important measure to protect and conserve biodiversity in the drylands of Myanmar.*

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YIN YIN LAY



Shwe Wah Tun (MPCE) and Lone Chaw (KLN) in action in final match of Above-Middleweight Class held at Youth Training Centre, Thuwunna on Sunday. The latter wins the match.— NLM

## Being jealous of peace and stability prevailing in the State, NLD is instigating the people to cause panic NLD sticking to policy of "Look West" and grabbing power

### Members of Namtu Township NLD resign

YANGON, 21 May—Nine members of Namtu Township National League for Democracy in Shan State (North) — Chairman U Mya Aung, Vice-Chairman-1 U Kyaw Nyein, Vice-Chairman-2 U Than Tun, Secretary-1 U Aik Kyan, Secretary-2 U Tin Tun, Treasurer Daw Khin Myint and executives Daw Kyi Kyi Myint, U San Win and U Kyaw Naing Oo — resigned of their own accord from the party by sending their resignation letters to NLD (HQ) and authorities concerned.

In the letter they said Namtu Township NLD was reconstituted in 2002 with the aim of serving the interest of the local people. But, a glance at the acts of NLD would reveal that it has been sticking to the policy of "Look West" and grabbing power. Besides, being jealous of peace and stability prevailing in the State, it is instigating the people to cause panic

among them. Meanwhile, the government has been endeavouring for the development of their region in collaboration with the local people. As a result, PSLA of Special Region-7 and SSNA of Special Region-3 have exchanged arms for peace after realizing the goodwill of the government. So, the State as well as the local people of the region are now in a position to fully enjoy development fruits. Therefore, breaking away from the acts of NLD, they have decided to resign from the party and shut down the township NLD so as to work for the development of education, health and transport sectors of the region in cooperation with local authorities.

Apart from executive U Min Min Myo Naing of Namtu NLD, who has moved to the other area, all the remaining nine members have resigned of their own volition from the party, it is learnt. — MNA

## Weather Forecast for (21-5-2006)

**Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas**  
Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Yangon & neighbouring areas**  
Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Mandalay and neighbouring areas**  
Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).