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Tuesday, 23 May, 2006

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends message of congratulations to Italian counterpart

YANGON, 23 May — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Romano Prodi, who was sworn in on 17 May 2006 as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy. — MNA

Govt, Tatmadaw and people, genuine forces building nation

USDA Advanced Management Course (Special) No 1 for executives opens

YANGON, 22 May — Union Solidarity and Development Association opened the Advanced Management Course



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses Advanced Management Course (Special) No 1 for executives of USDA. — MNA

(Special) No 1 for executives in Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Training School in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo said that a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state is the national goal of the entire people. Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — is based on true Union patriotism and is also an indis-

putable national task that springs from the nation's objective conditions. Hence, the government has been applying the four

political means, four economic methods and four social systems, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes as the foundation of success. The 12 objectives are correct and practical. The trainees have witnessed the all-round developments thanks to firm policies and practical and sincere efforts.

The nation is being developed by the true national forces — the government, the Tatmadaw and the people. Among the three, the people in which the trainees are also included is the main force. They will have to organize the people to have belief in the nation's policies and take part with might and

main in implementing them.

The USDA members are not born of a different class, but are born and brought up in the regions inside the nation. They all have joined the association with the noble wish to harmoniously discharge the national duties in accord with the policy, system and rules of the USDA. Systematic organization and arrangements are being made to achieve the united strength of the

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

association. The members should serve the public interest according to the future programmes in trying to gain more cooperation of the regional people. Programmes are under way

to enhance the qualifications of the members. Only the qualified members can realize the goals in cooperation with the local people.

(See page 8)

In establishing a new nation, the government is implementing the tasks for stability of the Union, strong economy of the State and promotion of national education.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 23 May, 2006

Produce more and more oil and natural gas

Oil and natural gas are among the natural resources available in our country and the Ministry of Energy is exploring these resources both onshore and offshore in joint ventures with foreign companies to meet the country's need for energy.

According to the test explorations in the blocks off the Rakhine coast, it has been found that there are gas reserves from which gas can be produced commercially. The old blocks and the new ones of the Yedagon oil and natural gas field off the Taninthayi coast are producing more and more natural gas every day.

New explorations are being made at onshore oil and natural gas fields in Nyaungdon, Maubin and Pantanaw and there have been good prospects. Natural gas and condensate are being produced at new oil well Nos 21, 24 and 32. Well No 21 produces 6.974 million cubic feet of natural gas, well No 24 produces 5.208 million cubic feet and well No 32 produces 3.5 million cubic feet and 20 barrel of condensate per day.

In the same way, Thakyitaung and Sabai oil field in Magway Division produces 360 barrels of crude oil and 19 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

Also in Myaing Township in Magway Division, the Ministry of Energy is drilling for oil from Kyaukkhwet-Letpanto oil and natural gas field. This oil and natural gas field produces 830 barrels of crude oil and eight million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

We believe that the Ministry of Energy will succeed in producing more and more oil and natural gas by repairing old wells and exploring new ones.

Oppose those Destroying

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

IAI-Training Course on Customs Modernization and Management held

YANGON, 22 May — Under the programme of Initiative for ASEAN Integration IAI-Work Plan Project, Myanmar Civil Service Selection and Training Board held a training course on customs modernization and management at Traders Hotel this morning.

Technical Officer (Project) Mr Agus Nugroho of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Unit of ASEAN Secretariat and Director-General of CSSTB U Hla Kyi made speeches on the occasion. The course continues up to 24 May. Officials of International Trade Institute of Singapore came to give lectures at the course. A total of 22 custom officers are attending the course. The Myanmar Civil Service Selection and Training Board is making arrangements to open eight more courses during 2006.—MNA

Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister leaves for Qatar

YANGON, 22 May — A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint left here by air this morning to participate in the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue to be held in Qatar on 23-24 May.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by directors-general and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation includes Adviser U Aung Than and Principal Officer U Sein Oo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA

Director-General of CSSTB U Hla Kyi delivers an address at a training course on customs modernization and management. — MNA



Cycling race kicks off

YANGON, 22 May — The 52nd Myanmar Cycling Federation Chairman's Cup men's and women's cycling race for 2006 kicked off at the training ground of Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this morning.

Among the spectators were Vice-Chairman of MCF U Thet Win and executives, officials of the Ministry of Sports, guests and enthusiasts.

On the first day, there were trials of men's 1600-metre event, men's 800-metre event and men's 1000-metre event as well as women's 1600-metre event, women's 800-metre event and women's 1000-metre event.

A total of 93 participants— 73 men and 20 women—are taking part in the race which continues up to 25 May.

NLM



Cyclists seen at the 1600-metre cycling.

NLM

Aung Hsan Oo clinches title in 5th Asian Billiards Singles' Competition

YANGON, 22 May — Myanmar duo Aung Hsan Oo and Kyaw Oo, gold medalists in 23rd SEA Games participated in 5th Asian Billiards Singles' Competition held in Teheran, Iran from 13 to 20 May.

Myanmar Aung Hsan Oo cruised to the final match after victory over Thai champion Paraput in the first semi-final match. Myanmar Kyaw Oo and Thai champion Paraput shared third position after losing to Indian champion Joshi

in the second semifinal.

Myanmar Aung Hsan Oo grabbed the title following the defeat of Indian champion Joshi with 5-0. Aung Hsan Oo won a gold medal and Kyaw Oo a bronze



5th Asian Billiards Champion Aung Hsan Oo. — MNA



Bronze medal winner Kyaw Oo.

medal. Myanmar will take part in 15th Asian Sports Festival. Myanmar expects to achieve success in the festival. The victorious Myanmar Billiards team is returning home by air tomorrow.—MNA

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China marks completion of Three Gorges Dam

BEIJING, 21 May—China completed construction on Saturday of the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectricity project, and marked the occasion with a ceremony broadcast live on state television.

A brass band played and confetti rained over the site after workers poured the last batch of concrete. No top officials attended the event, in contrast to the launch of work on the dam in 1997, for which then-president Jiang Zemin and then-premier Li Peng were both present.

Officials stressed that although construction of the dam's main span was now complete, there was still a long way to go until the entire project would be finished.

"Although the dam is now complete, we still have a long way to go and cannot become self-satisfied or relax our efforts in the least," Li Yongan, general manager of the Three Gorges Project Development Corp, said at the ceremony.

"We need to continue to put quality and safety first," Li said. The official *China Daily* in an editorial called for people to remember the more than 100 people who died

during the dam's construction, as well as the 1.3 million people facing relocation to make way for the dam's reservoir.

"The best possible way to repay such a debt of gratitude is to make sure the highest safety and quality standards are observed up till the very

end of the entire building process," the editorial said.

The 25-billion-US-dollar project is set to be completed in 2009, when the reservoir will reach its full level and its 26 turbines will all come online, bringing its total power generating capacity

to 18 gigawatts. The dam, which authorities say will tame flooding on the Yangtze River, is 185 metres (607 feet) tall and 2,309 metres (7,575 feet) long. It and its attached locks have consumed 27 million cubic metres (35 million cubic yards) of concrete.—MNA/Reuters



Chinese actors Guo Xiaodong and Hao Lei pose upon arriving at the Festival Palace for the screening of Chinese director Lou Ye's film 'Summer Palace' at the 59th edition of the International Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, Southern France recently.—INTERNET



Construction worker Robert DuFaux inspects a piece of 'Animal Always', a sculpture by Albert Paley, on 9 May, 2006 in St Louis. The sculpture, a gift from Thelma Zalk, will welcome visitors to the zoo.—INTERNET

WHO chief undergoes brain surgery

GENEVA, 21 May—The head of the World Health Organization, Lee Jong-wook of South Korea, underwent brain surgery on Saturday after suddenly being taken ill, the United Nations agency said.

In a statement posted on its website, the WHO said the 61-year-old director-general was operated on to remove a blood clot on his brain at the Cantonal Hospital of Geneva.

It said that he was "currently recovering".

Lee took over as head of the organization in July

2003 after working for the WHO at country and regional level and at the Geneva Headquarters for 23 years. His illness means that he will miss the 192-state WHO's annual assembly, which begins on Monday.

The five-day assembly is set to discuss the global reaction to the threat of bird flu, whether or not to destroy the world's remaining stocks of smallpox and Taiwan's 10-year-old bid to win observer status.

MNA/Reuters

FBI raids US House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, 21 May—FBI officers raided a House of Representatives office building on Saturday night, and NBC television said it had searched the offices of Louisiana Democratic Representative William Jefferson.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed the unusual raid at the Rayburn House Office Building on Washington's Capitol Hill but would not say whose

office was searched.

"Agents of the FBI's Washington field office executed a search warrant this evening at Rayburn at approximately 7:15," Debbie Weierman, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Washington field office, said. Weierman said the search warrant was sealed and she could not confirm whose office was being searched.

But two lawmakers under investigation

in separate bribery scandals have offices in the Rayburn building—Jefferson and Ohio Republican Representative Bob Ney.

Calls to Jefferson's and Ney's offices were not answered.

Jefferson has maintained his innocence, but a former staffer and a Kentucky businessman have pleaded guilty to bribing him in connection with an African telecommunications

venture.

According to court records filed in the plea deal, Jefferson helped secure a deal with a Nigerian company called Netlink Digital Television and in return demanded payments to a company maintained in the name of his wife and children.—MNA/Reuters

Pre-monsoon storms lash India, 20 dead

KOLKATA (India), 21 May—Lightning strikes and falling trees have killed 20 people in pre-monsoon storms which lashed two Indian states, officials said on Saturday.

At least 12 people died in the southern state of

Andhra Pradesh and eight others were struck dead by lightning in West Bengal on Friday, they said.

In West Bengal, five of the deaths occurred on the banks of Fulahar River, about 380 kilometres (237

miles) north of state capital Kolkata.

The South West monsoon, the lifeline for millions of Indian farmers and the economy, is expected to set in by the end of the month.

MNA/Reuters

British immigration officer suspended over sex claims

LONDON, 21 May—A British immigration officer was suspended from his job on Saturday after a newspaper alleged he offered to help an 18-year-old Zimbabwean woman with her asylum application in exchange for sex, the Home Office said.

"A Home Office official has been suspended pending a full investigation," a spokesman for the ministry said.

"The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) expects the highest levels of integrity from its staff and any

suspensions of corruption are investigated."

The *Observer* newspaper said the 53-year-old man, based at the IND's Croydon office, had offered to coach the teenager before her asylum interview so she could give the right answers. The paper said he sent text messages to her mobile phone and, when she asked for assurances, asked her to meet him at a hotel, saying: "I will tell you when we are alone because you are going to have sex."—MNA/Reuters



Protesters display their placards as they stage a rally on 20 May, 2006 in front of the US Embassy in Manila in support to Cuba and Venezuela. The protesters called for the release of five Cuban nationals who they said are detained in the US for alleged terrorist acts and expressed their solidarity support to President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

INTERNET

WHO backs dual anti-viral therapy for some bird flu cases

GENEVA, 21 May— Bird flu patients should receive Tamiflu as a frontline treatment, but doctors may also consider combining it with an older class of effective flu drugs, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The option of so-called “dual anti-viral therapy” was among the latest clinical recommendations issued by the United Nations agency for countries battling outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 virus among humans.

The recommendations were drawn up at a closed-door meeting of 30 international experts in late March, hosted by the WHO, which published them on its website on Friday.

It said the experts strongly recommended Tamiflu, a flu drug made by Swiss-based Roche, be used. Zanamivir — which is marketed as Relenza by GlaxoSmithKline — was a second choice. Relenza

is available only for inhalation.

Both drugs belong to a new class called neuraminidase inhibitors and can prevent the virus from infecting cells in the first place.

But the experts said amantadine and rimantadine — in an older class of drugs known as M2 inhibitors which are cheaper — may be used alongside the newer drugs in certain cases.

“Clinicians might administer a combination of a neuraminidase inhibitor and an M2 inhibitor if local surveillance data show that the H5N1 virus is known or likely to be susceptible,” the WHO report said.

Nahoko Shindo, a WHO medical officer who took part in the experts’ meeting, said the dual therapy could block the virus from replicating in two different ways.

“This is the first time we clearly state the possibility of dual therapy to be considered in case you are facing an H5N1 outbreak,” Shindo, who advised hospitals in eastern Turkey during the country’s outbreak last January, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မွှေးအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



Mexican actress Ana Claudia Talancón, featured in US director Richard Linklater’s in-competition film ‘Fast Food Nation’, poses for Reuters at the American Pavilion at the 59th Cannes Film Festival on 20 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Ugandan Parlt approves appointment of Vice-President, Premier

KAMPALA, 21 May— The Ugandan Parliament has approved President Yoweri Museveni’s re-appointment of Gilbert Bukenya as Vice-President and Apollo Nsibambi as Prime Minister.

The 307-member Parliament which was sworn in this week approved the

two to retain their positions on Wednesday with 210 and 196 voted for each candidate respectively.

The Ugandan law requires the appointment of the VP be approved by a simple majority of the members of Parliament.

Parliament also approved Museveni’s

request to increase the number of Cabinet of ministers from the constitutional 21 to 25 and that of ministers of state from 21 to 44.

According to a letter from Museveni to the Speaker of Parliament Edward Ssekandi, the creation of new ministries will enable the accommodation of various interests in Cabinet.

Among the new ministries created include the Chief Whip, Ministry

of Lands Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology.

These approvals mark the beginning of Museveni’s creation of a new government after he was sworn in for his third elected term in office last week. The complete lineup of the new Cabinet is expected to be announced anytime after several top positions were settled.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, six wounded in Afghan battle

KABUL, 21 May — One US soldier was killed and six wounded during a battle with fighters in Afghanistan, the US military said on Saturday.

The soldier was killed in the southern province of Uruzgan as US-led Afghan forces were conducting a joint operation, the military said in a statement.

Twenty-four US troops have been killed in Afghanistan this year including 10 who died this month when their helicopter crashed during an operation in an eastern province.

About 100 people, including a Canadian soldier, were killed in violence on Wednesday

and Thursday, most in fighting in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar.

MNA/Reuters



Residents collect prospectuses for the initial public offering of Bank of China in Hong Kong, on 18 May, 2006. INTERNET

Mozambican Govt seeks eco-friendly use of physic nut

LUANDA, 21 May—The Mozambican Government says Friday it wants to extend the use of the physic nut plant, currently used as a biofuel, to the production of agricultural fertilizers and cooking fuels.

According to a report reaching here Friday from the Mozambican capital Maputo, the Agriculture Minister Tomas Mandlate said that the Mozambican authorities are examining ways to exploit the derivatives of the physic nut, particularly the husk, “in fertilizers and cooking-fuel mixtures as an alternative to coal, which harms the environment”.

Projects to promote alternative uses for the physic nut are being implemented in semi-arid areas of Mozambique to boost the productivity and revenues of both peasant farmers and agribusinesses, added the minister. —MNA/Xinhua



A tiger cools off in a pond at Karachi zoo, where the temperature has reached 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), on 12 May, 2006 in Karachi, Pakistan. —INTERNET

19 Iraqis killed in bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 May— A makeshift bomb went off on Saturday morning in Baghdad’s Shiite Sadr City neighbourhood, killing 19 people and wounding 58 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A home-made explosive charge detonated at about 7:00 am (0300 GMT) among a crowd of construction workers, who

gathered to be hired for daily works, in Baghdad’s Sadr City slum,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, the source put the casualty figure at 19 killed and 36 wounded.

The powerful blast also damaged several shops and nearby buildings, he said.

Iraqi security forces rushed to the scene and

cordoned off the area, paving the way for ambulances to evacuate the casualties, he added.

The explosion occurred hours before the Parliament is scheduled to meet on 11:00 am (0700 GMT) to approve a new Cabinet of national unity led by Shiite Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki.

MNA/Xinhua



Ships travelling upstream on the Yangtze River pack into a ship lock at the Three Gorges Dam project in Yichang on 17 May 2006. After 13 years of immense physical effort and technical ingenuity, China put the finishing touches to its controversial Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydropower project.

INTERNET

30 feared killed in Indian road crash

MUMBAI, 21 May— A truck carrying a wedding party crashed down a gorge in a remote area of the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Saturday killing at least 30 people, police said. The crash took place near Rajapur Village, about 250 kilometres (160 miles) south of the commercial capital Mumbai. "According to preliminary reports 30-32 people have died in the accident. It has happened in a remote area and we have still not been able to reach there," Sanjeev Dayal, Maharashtra's deputy police chief told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Nepali Govt ready to involve UN in peace process

KATHMANDU, 21 May— Nepali Deputy Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has said that the Nepali Government was ready to work with the United Nations (UN) and other international institutions for peaceful settlement of the anti-government guerillas problem, state-run Radio Nepal reported Saturday. "The Nepali Government was for general and complete disarmament under effective international control and is ready to work with the UN and other international institutions for peaceful settlement of the guerilla's problem," the radio quoted Oli, who is also Foreign Minister, as saying. "As the dialogue between the government and the guerilla moves forward, at that specific moment, we may feel the need of some sort of international engagement," Oli said. Oli made the remarks while briefing the heads of diplomatic missions here on the kingdom's current political situation as well as foreign policy priorities at the Foreign Ministry office Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

"Chanchu" kills 104, scores missing in Vietnam

HANOI, 21 May— A typhoon that raked the South China Sea has killed at least 104 people, and Vietnamese officials said on Saturday that more than 160 fishermen were still missing and feared dead. Typhoon Chanchu, the strongest on record to enter the South China Sea in May, the start of the storm season, left a trail of destruction through China, Vietnam and the Philippines. It killed at least 37 people in the Philippines last weekend. By late Friday, bodies of 44 Vietnamese fishermen were found by Vietnamese and Taiwanese rescuers after Chanchu, the Chinese word for "pearl", moved west briefly before changing course to head north, sweeping away dozens of Vietnam's ships in its path. The typhoon, with winds of up to 170 kilometres per hour (106 miles per hour), killed 23 people in China after it slammed into the southern coast on Thursday and moved north where it weakened. In Vietnam five fishing ships sank off the central city of Danang with 122 crew members, and rescuers have found 20 bodies and rescued 30 others, said Tran Van Huy, director of the city's Fisheries Department. — MNA/Xinhua

NATO general says drugs Afghanistan's biggest threat

BERLIN, 21 May — Afghanistan is on the brink of becoming a narco-state with drug cartels now posing a greater threat to the country's future than Taliban insurgents, NATO's top military commander in Europe said on Saturday. Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, the raw material for heroin. The narcotics trade accounts for about a third of its economy.

said the huge trade is feeding an escalating insurgency against foreign troops and Afghanistan's Western-backed government. NATO is planning expanded operations in Afghanistan in the coming months that will take foreign troop numbers there to the highest level since the Taliban's overthrow in 2001. Jones acknowledged a surge in Taliban attacks in recent weeks but said the country was "not backsliding into chaos". — MNA/Reuters

In an interview with the *International Herald Tribune*, General James Jones said: "Afghanistan is teetering on becoming a narco-state." "It is not the resurgence of the Taliban but the linkage of the economy to drug production, crime, corruption and black market activities which poses the greatest danger for Afghanistan," he added. Jones was appointed commander of NATO and the US forces in Europe in 2003. Afghanistan's opium output last year was about 4,500 tons and about 90 per cent of the world's heroin comes from Afghanistan. Experts have



The Camera d'Or film award is seen on display as preparations continue on the eve of the start of the 59th International Film Festival in Cannes on 16 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Bomb suspect killed in clashes with Egyptian security forces

CAIRO, 21 May— A man suspected of involving in a series of bombings in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula was killed by an explosion while clashing with security forces near the border with the Gaza Strip on Friday, the official MENA news agency reported. Arafat Ouda Ali Salama Hamadein, accused of involving in deadly bomb attacks in Egypt's Sinai resorts of Sharm el-Sheikh in 2005 and Dahab in April, was killed when a hand grenade he attempted to throw at the security forces exploded in his face, reported MENA, citing an official security source. The source added that acting upon a tip-off, the security forces surrounded a peach farm in Rafah close to the Gaza-Egypt border, where Salama Hamadein was hiding. The suspect opened fire at the security troops who fired back and injured him before the fatal accidental explosion, according to the report. An investigation was underway, MENA added. On 24 April, triple suicide bomb attacks rocked the Red Sea resort of Dahab, killing 20 people and wounding dozens. — MNA/Xinhua

39 killed in traffic accident in southern Turkey

ANKARA, 21 May— A truck carrying suspected illegal immigrants from Afghan and Bangladesh collided with a transport truck in the southern Turkish province of Osmaniye on Friday, killing 39 people and injuring six others. The accident occurred on a highway in Osmaniye when the truck carrying suspected illegal immigrants rammed into another truck. Zubeyir Kemelek, the governor of Osmaniye, was quoted by the semi-official Anatolia news agency as saying. A total of 39 people were killed in the accident, Kemelek said. Turkey has often been used as a springboard by illegal immigrants from the Mideast and Asian countries to go to Europe. In 2004, Turkish security forces have arrested 56,430 illegal immigrants in Turkey. — MNA/Xinhua



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz arrives at the screening for Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's in-competition film 'Volver' at the 59th Cannes Film Festival on 19 May, 2006. —INTERNET

EU says US, China open to global emissions trade

EISENTADT (Austria), 21 May—The European Union's environment chief said on Friday the United States was open to discussing a global greenhouse gas emissions market, but the US Government said it remained opposed to mandatory caps on emissions as called for by the Kyoto Protocol.

EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas expressed optimism that the United States, China and India would be ready to discuss a global system that lets industries that cut their emissions under set limits to sell credits allowing other industries to keep releasing greenhouse gases.

Asked about Dimas' comments, a US State Department official on Friday deferred to comments earlier in the week from an Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman.

The EPA spokeswoman had said the agency's head

had talked with Dimas about US plans to cut oil dependency, not about curbing emissions after the first phase of Kyoto runs out in 2012.

The State Department official also deferred to comments from Harlan Watson, the chief US climate negotiator, who told *Reuters* on Thursday at UN climate talks in Germany that Washington was not reconsidering its opposition to Kyoto.

The United States, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, agreed last year to participate in a UN non-binding exchange of information on how to combat climate change beyond Kyoto's first phase.

US President George W Bush pulled the United States out of Kyoto in 2001, citing a lack of targets for developing nations and concerns the caps would cost US jobs.

MNA/Reuters



A dog owner feeds her Yorkshire Terrier at the Coolbaby dog restaurant in Beijing on 20 May, 2006. The newly opened dog theme park, the first in China's capital, has a playground, a swimming pool, obstacle courses, and also a restaurant specially designed for pets. Not only can pets have meals together with their owners, but the recipes offered are based on nutritional science and tailored for dogs of different breeds, ages and sizes. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, 2006 is the year of the dog.—INTERNET

China aims to develop large equipment-making groups by 2010

BEIJING, 21 May—China will make efforts to build a batch of competitive equipment manufacturing groups by 2010, said Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan Friday.

The industry's capacity to make key technology equipment with independent intellectual property rights should be enhanced, Zeng said at a seminar commemorating a passed machinery veteran Shen Hong. Jia Qinglin, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, attended the seminar. Domestic manufacturing capacity should meet demand in areas of energy, transportation, raw materials and national defence building, he said.

Key areas and technologies should be selected to provide breakthroughs in key technology equipment, said the Vice-Premier.

He said that the equipment-making industry should develop through market competition. As a machinery expert, Shen Hong made great contributions to China's equipment-making industry in the 1950s-1960s period, including designing and making China's first 10,000-ton water press.

MNA/Xinhua



Despite the devastating effects of recent fires, wild flowers emerge from the fire ravaged slopes of Cape Town's landmark Table Mountain in this file photograph taken on 14 March, 2006. A United Nations report in March said humans were causing the worst spate of extinctions since the dinosaurs vanished 65 million years ago and it warned the world would have to make unprecedented efforts to reach a goal of slowing losses by 2010. 'The direct causes of biodiversity loss — habitat change, over-exploitation, the introduction of invasive species, nutrient loading and climate change — show no sign of abating,' it said.—INTERNET

Afghan soldier killed in ambush

KABUL, 21 May—One Afghan soldier was killed and another injured when Taliban-linked militias ambushed a convoy of Afghanistan National Army (ANA) in the southern Helmand Province on Saturday morning, an officer in the convoy confirmed.

"The enemies attacked our convoy in Sangin District this morning as a result one soldier was killed and another soldier got wounded," the officer told *Xinhua* but refused to be identified.

In another development, the ANA's regional Corps Commander General Rahmatullah Raufi confirmed firefight in the same district on Friday, saying:

"The enemies ambushed a convoy of ANA when it was moving from Kajaki District to Sangin yesterday, one soldier was killed and four others injured."

Meantime, Taliban's purported spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed that the militants had killed some 50 soldiers in their attacks on troops in Sangin District. He also confirmed that five militants had also lost their lives in the firefight. Clashes and skirmishes have been on the rise since last week during which over 200 have been killed, bringing the total number of conflict victims to around 500 over the past five months. —MNA/Xinhua

Zambia to make electricity available in all rural areas

LUSAKA, 21 May—Zambia Electricity Service Corporation (ZESCO) and Rural Electrification Authority (REA) signed a 48.3-billion-kwacha (about 15.58-million-US-dollar) deal to make electricity available to all the rural areas, *Times of Zambia* reported Saturday.

At the signing ceremony held here Friday, ZESCO managing director Rhodnie Sisala commended REA for identifying ZESCO as a strategic partner in taking electricity to the rural areas.

He said ZESCO's connecting rural areas will reduce dependence on wood based sources and improve the livelihood of the rural people.

He also commended the government for setting up the REA to oversee

implementation of the rural electrification projects in all the nine provinces of the southern African country.

"It is hoped that with the signing of this agreement, REA will ensure timely provision of the required funds to enable ZESCO to carry out speedy implementation of these 43 projects whose total estimated cost is 48.3 billion kwacha. We will ensure that the projects are completed within stipulated time," he said.

REA board chairman Likolo Ndalamai said on the same occasion that the projects are not an easy task especially in light of the overwhelming needs from all corners of Zambia.

MNA/Xinhua



A jaguar is seen at the Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia, on 18 May, 2006. After nearly two years away 'vacationing' at other zoos, lions, snow leopards, a puma and other big cats are back at the Philadelphia Zoo. Next week, the zoo is scheduled to open a new \$20 million habitat for them that aims to educate visitors about conservation.—INTERNET

Discussions of pensioners-15

Hein Myint

After the lunch, we pensioners continued our discussions about the 2006 press conference.

"I have learnt that U Aung Thein of Thakayta Township and U Khin Maung Win of Ottwin NLD are among the hard-core UGs of NDD Thein Win. After the unrest U Aung Thein joined NLD and served as member of the organizing committee and then member of the central supporting group for social affairs".

"According to the confessions and replies to the queries of the correspondents, of these two, and other UGs Saya Ye (a) Than Oo of Pyu, Khaing Mar Soe of Pyu, Yu Noot (a) Aung Cho Oo of Tamway, and U Aung Moe who was arrested on 28 March this year, it is apparent that NLD members, so-called veteran politicians and terrorists in exile have contacts with insurgents".

"So, the Information Minister said at the press conference held on 26 April this year that there had been a number of evidences that were concrete enough to declare NLD unlawful association".

"The Ministry of Home Affairs released the notification 1/2006 dated 12 April 2006 and declared Sein Win-led NCGUB, Hla Oo and Pyithit Nyunt Wai-led FTUB, Than Khe-led ABSDF, and Win Khet-led NLD (LA) and all their members as terrorists".

"The declaration also carried with concrete evidences some incidents of inhuman bomb blasts, some plots to detonate bombs that had been exposed in time, and some destructive acts designed to incite mass protests".

"Then, we can deduce from the clarification made at the press conference and the declarations as terrorists that terrorists of underground, aboveground and expatriates who are desperately anxious to seize power are audaciously committing terrorist acts that are targeted on innocent people through three-pronged attack with the intention of driving the government into a tight corner and discrediting it. They are resorting to various evil means to keep on committing terrorist acts. Moreover, they are variously manufacturing fabricated news and exaggerated stories to cause unrest in our nation and calling on big countries to put pressure on and impose economic sanctions against our nation.

"Of course, they are totally disregarding the national interests and are abysmally wicked for their party to come to power and for themselves to gain higher positions however many people have been killed in the incidents and the people are in dire straits. Their acts are as the saying that goes the more a person suffers, the more the other is benefited".

"Throughout the history of our nation, there were so many persons in successive periods who perpetrated destructive acts because they did not come to power, who vied with others for power and who were too self-centered. Every time in the end, the nation and the people fell victim to their struggles".

"So, it is high time they correctly reviewed the prevailing conditions of the world and our nation and worked together with goodwill for national development rather than in the interests of themselves and their party".

"They should also have considered that if they stick to terrorist and destructive acts with inhumane

manner and narrow-minded attitude to hamper development in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, they will have to suffer the evil consequences due to their misdeeds not only in present existence but also in future existences. And if they do not hinder national development tasks, I am sure our nation will become a democratic one with development sooner".

"They should have taken lessons that the conditions in Iraq after the US has invaded the country and is transforming it into a democratic one to its liking are many times worse than those in the time of Saddam Hussein".

"In my opinion, all should take necessary measures so that the people will not get into trouble and the nation will not collapse. I would say, democracy can never be introduced in our nation if our nation is not developed and the people are poverty-stricken with adversities. And our nation will be able to practise democracy and it will exist long only when the nation is peaceful, modern and developed".

"But, some say 'no pain: no gain' and cling to the wrong concept that the people have to withstand pains and troubles at present and they will make the nation developed and prosperous when they come to power. And they are persuading international community to impose sanctions and put pressure on the nation so that the Tatmadaw Government will not achieve any success in its national development tasks. They are also perpetrating destructive acts to cause unrest in the nation. So, they should have made reviews to find out whether their acts are correct or not, it is because it has taken nearly two decades but their acts have not showed any fruitful results".

"I do not think they will achieve their goal because whatever they do they rely on foreign elements instead of on the domestic strength. Their attempts harmed our nation's economy to an extent and the closure of many garment factories in the nation left a great number of workers especially women jobless. And many young women fell victim to human trafficking. Moreover, political cases became to associate with the social sector and in consequence various kinds of social assistance were banned or withdrawn. Their acts have resulted in adverse effects to the nation and the people in the short-term and long-term".

"What is the use of detonating bombs in three busy places in Yangon that killed 23 innocent people and wounded 150. And what was the use of the scheme they plotted to blast the train and to fire heavy weapons to kill the passengers. They should think it over that their plot could tarnish the image of the government and prove that the nation was in unstable condition. The blasted places in Yangon are now hectic again. In the times of previous governments, there were many bomb explosions to destroy railroads. But, the destroyed railroads were reconstructed just a few days later and the people were travelling as usual".

"We all should note the fact that invented stories led to the 1988 unrest and that was followed by anarchy. Some people are still taken in by the stories although they know that destructive elements are in the habit of fabricating news. So, all the people are to be vigilant against their destructive acts and respective officials are to often make clarifications to such acts to the people".

"You are a retired serviceman, so explain to us the role of the Tatmadaw, please".

"The Tatmadaw is a force that is systematically formed. It is public knowledge that discipline is the mainstay of the Tatmadaw and it has a fine tradition that servicemen are shouldering duties with the vow to sacrifice their lives for the motherland and the people without seeking their own interests. It is also a fine tradition that servicemen are to conscientiously obey the order and responsibilities their superiors at different levels give to them. If assigned duties, they have to discharge the duties at risk to their lives even though they are under whatever difficulties and hardships".

"As you know, no parties nor persons were in a position to take responsibilities to arrest the deteriorating situations in the nation and so the Tatmadaw had to take over State responsibilities as a historic duty. Since then, it has been taking all possible measures systematically for national development, proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, and building of a democratic nation".

"Whatever it does, the Tatmadaw first seeks appropriate ways that can yield the most fruitful results but can cause the fewest bad consequences and lays down plans. Now, in the nation-building drive, no doubt, it laid down first the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation and systematically implementing it through the most appropriate ways that are in conformity with the prevailing conditions of the nation. I am sure the government will be pursuing the national goal through the State's seven-step Road Map until it achieves its goal. Whatever hardships the government is facing, surely as its tradition, it will see to the road map in the interests of the nation and the people".

"For many years, the Tatmadaw has invited NLD to the National Convention. The NC is being held with the representatives of national races and representatives from all walks of life and the representatives of political parties. But, the NLD walked out of the NC of its own accord. When the NC resumed after it was adjourned, the government again invited the NLD to the NC. But, the NLD excused that its all the demands were not met and thus it failed to attend the NC again".

"The Tatmadaw invited the NLD to the NC for many times but it remained hard-line. After the Tatmadaw had made a good headway with the NC, the NLD started to enter negotiation. I think the Tatmadaw will continue to march forwards with grim determination along the path it has paved itself until it meets its goal. I do not think the government will not change its mind to serve the interests of the nation and the people. And it will be convenient only if the NLD joins hands with the Tatmadaw. I would like to urge the NLD to put aside its own interests and to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in the interests of the nation and the people".

"Anyhow, it is the best that all work together in harmony in the interests of the nation and the people. Indeed, the Tatmadaw is not a political party but it is just a force that has already had a fine tradition that it focuses on the interests of the nation and the people as long as the nation exists. So, I would say respective political parties, organizations and politicians should review the prevailing conditions as they really are and collaborate with the Tatmadaw".

We were deep in our conversation but it was getting dark. So, we stopped our discussions and said goodbye to each other and headed home. On my way home, I was influenced by a thought that if all work together and give priority to the interests of the nation and the people, our nation will be able to transform itself into a democratic one and will be able to stand tall in the international community.

Translation: MS

We were deep in our conversation but it was getting dark. So, we stopped our discussions and said goodbye to each other and headed home. On my way home, I was influenced by a thought that if all work together and give priority to the interests of the nation and the people, our nation will be able to transform itself into a democratic one and will be able to stand tall in the international community.

Govt, Tatmadaw and people, genuine forces building...

(from page 1)

All training programmes have profound and fine goals. The trainees are the persons who are leading the locals in successfully realizing the aims of the association, with firm belief. Enhancement of the members' qualifications will lead to stronger unity and to peace and stability and progress. The members will be able to lead and organize the entire people by actively taking part in regional development tasks.

The subject lectured at the course will help strengthen and improve the conviction, belief, qualification and leadership ability of the members. In addition, the course will also teach duties of a leader and a follower, administration, national politics, national security and defence and national development. The discussions at the course will focus on the united strength through correct leadership.

In implementation of the tasks for peace and stability and development the qualifications of the leaders at different levels must be high and effective so that they can undertake the objectives of the association and future tasks and serve the interest of the people, he said.

He said they must

have the leadership qualities to serve the duty of higher levels and also possess qualities of good followers in carrying out the guidelines of the association and leaders at different levels. They have to try to possess good qualities of a leader such as strong belief and concept, knowledge, courage, perseverance, endurance, loyalty, enthusiasm, patience, amicability, sincerity, morality, decisive will and justice and organize the followers to take active part in the tasks, he added. He said it is necessary for them to have such concept to follow the guidelines for realization of the objectives.

He said they must have not only good qualities of the leader but those of the followers. The leader and the followers are inseparable. If one is a good follower, he will be a good leader. He is a leader as well as a follower at the same time. Realizing that the leaders discharge heavy duties, the followers have to cooperate with him with confidence and loyalty. They are to be trained to become good followers as well as good leaders on whom the State and the association can rely, he said.

In establishing a new nation, the government is implementing the tasks for

stability of the State, strong economy of the State and promotion of national education. The USDA holds annual general meetings each year and lay down future tasks, he said. Associations at different levels are implementing the nine future tasks in conformity with the present conditions of the State laid down at the annual general meeting (2005), he added.

The future tasks of the association are in the interest of the State and the people and USDA members are to explain the tasks to local people. By doing so, the local people will come to realize the community welfare services and they can cooperate with the association.

In summer, the association conducted proficiency, international studies, national culture and moral courses, management and vocational training courses and nurtured its 3,002,128 members in 25,406 venues.

The USDA members come to know the value of sovereignty, the Union, unity, independence and peace and they become those who want to build the Union, preserve the national characters and customs and safeguard the Myanmar society. These courses nurture the association members to be-

come good citizens with high qualifications and human resources.

He said Myanmar has been a sovereign, independent nation with its own culture for thousands of years. All the national races safeguard the sovereignty and independence with nationalist spirit. The country has been standing tall among the nations of the world as it preserves the high standard of culture and national prestige and integrity, he said.

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. Only Union Spirit is the base of Our Three Main National Causes. Those who uphold Our Three Main National Causes will be able to build a peaceful and developed nation. The entire national people are to try to be constantly imbued with Union Spirit.

The rural people constitute over 70 per cent of

the nation's population. The rural residents are the main work force of the nation. Efforts are being made from rural development to urban development. Meantime, steps are also to be taken to bring about equitable development across the Union. In this regard, the five rural development tasks are being implemented to be coupled with the tasks for ensuring supply of power to rural regions and opening of rural libraries. Moreover, extended cultivation of physic nut plants is to be carried out with the active participation of the USDA members.

The seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented in order to build a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The National Convention, the first and crucial step of the Road Map is being convened for the drafting of the State constitution. The emergence of the State constitution is the duty of all citizens of

Myanmar. This being so, it is incumbent upon all the USDA members to do their bit with Union Spirit for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

In conclusion, the USDA Secretary-General called on the association members to try their best to be well-qualified in all aspects, realizing the prevailing situations of the nation, to strive to equip the national people with Union Spirit and the spirit of serving the interest of the State and the people, to make earnest efforts for success of Our Three Main National Causes, the 12 objectives, the seven-step Road Map, the five rural development tasks and the nine work programmes of the association, to implement the nation-building endeavours, enlisting the strength of the people, and to exercise a constant vigilance against the destructive acts.

After the ceremony, the USDA Secretary-General greeted those present on the occasion.

MNA

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Korean training ship concludes stopover visit

YANGON, 22 May — A training ship of the Republic of Korea, namely HANBADA, from Korea Maritime University, concluded its 5-day stopover visit and left here today.

The ship carrying 116 trainees and four cadet officers arrived here on 18 May as part of its training sea voyage around the world.

Before they left Nanthida Jetty, Captain of

HANBADA Mr Lee Hyoung Ki and Professor U Thein Tun of the Institute of Marine Technology exchanged souvenirs.

Director General U Maung Maung Oo of the Transport Department, Managing Director U Thein Htay of the Myanmar Port Authority and responsible officials bade farewell to Korean trainees.

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Korean Training ship, HANBADA, leaving Nanthida Jetty.
MNA

Wellwishers invited to donate cash to Gwa township storm victims

YANGON, 22 May — Public wellwishers are contributing cash donations for storm victims through Gwa Township Storm Relief Committee of Rakhine Social Organizations at Danyawady Monastery at the corner of Yedashe Street and U Htaung Bo Street in Bahan township here.

To date the donations amounted to K 4.8 million — K 250,000 by Manaung Township Association; K 200,000 each by Maungtaw Township Organization, Rakhine Youth Association, U Kyaw Khin and Daw Mwe Mwe (Decoland Co Ltd) and U Khin Maung Win and Daw Soe Moe Thu; K 150,000 each by Dr U Thaug Lwin and Dr Khin Aye Than and U Shwe Tin Aung and Daw Phyu Nu; K 100,000 each by Pauktaw Township Association, Laydauk Township Association, U Aung Tha Tun and Daw Mya Oo, U Sein Tun Hla and Daw Tan Yi and Daw Kyan; K 50,000 each by U Tha Tun (Kyaukpyu), U Ba Shwe and Daw Thein Kyi, U Aung Myint and Daw Nu Shwe, U Myint Shwe and Daw Mi Mi Shein and U Ba Khant and Daw Khin Shwe; 78 shirts and 43 sets of slippers for kids worth K 200,000 by U Zaw Zaw Min and U Myat Zaw Soe Latt and Daw Htet Htet Myo; exercise books and stationery worth K 100,000; and cash and kind worth K 2.6 million by other wellwishers plus K 2.2 million donated on 16 May alone.

Anyone can contribute cash donations to Gwa Township Storm Relief Committee, which will be kept open until 15 June from 9 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA

Computer graphics competition to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win gives encouragement to the participants who are taking part in a commemorative computer graphics competition. —MNA

YANGON, 22 May — Organized by Yangon Division Prevention Against Danger of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, a computer graphics competition at division level to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at University of Computer Studies on Parami Road in Hline Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and

Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win came to give encouragement to the participants in the competition. On his arrival, the commander was conducted by rector of the university Dr Nila Thein and officials concerned round there.

A total of 30 students from basic education high schools and middle ones in Yangon Division took part in the competition. — MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects city plantation and resort



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects growth of fish to be incubated in fish farm, Uto region. — MNA

YANGON, 22 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials this morning inspected the city plantation and resort being undertaken by YCDC in Uto in Taikkyi

township, Yangon North District.

The mayor heard reports on farming and poultry rearing at the plantation. Later, he inspected fish ponds, chicken farms, two rice mills and paddy storage

facilities, and grew a physic nut plant in the plantation. After inspecting vegetable plantations, the mayor called for cultivation of 1,500-acre monsoon paddy, extension of poultry farming and

building of fish ponds.

There are a lot of cattle, 29 acres of physic nut plantation and poultry rearing in the city plantation and resort.

YCDC

Three Gorges project plays key role in flood control of Yangtze

THREE GORES DAM SITE (HUBEI), 22 MAY— The Three Gorges Project, whose mammoth dam was completed on Saturday, plays a key role in the flood control system of the Yangtze River, experts said here.

The project is capable

of holding back major floods on the longest river in China because of its location, size and landform, said Zheng Shouren, member of the Academy of Engineering of China.

The project is located at the site where the

Yangtze River's upper and middle reaches meet.

As a key facility to hold back flooded water, the Three Gorges Reservoir is capable of holding 22.15 billion cubic water level of 175 metres.

MNA/Xinhua

Sittaung Bridge (Moppalin) inspected

YANGON, 22 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by the officials of Public Works this morning inspected earth work for building DaikU-Myitkyo-Nyaungkahshay motor road and two bridges along the road.

The minister instructed the engineers to redouble their efforts to upgrade the road into a tarred road. The 21-mile 2-furlong long road links Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik road with Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

At the briefing hall of Sittaung Bridge (Moppalin), the minister heard reports on completion of the bridge and work to be carried out, and attended to the needs.

The Sittaung Bridge (Moppalin) is of a steel-framed type and it is 2392.7 feet long, and can withstand 60-ton load. Now, the rest of the bridge is under construction.—MNA

Malaysia Khind Electrical & Electronics presents gifts to sales agents, lucky draw winners

YANGON, 22 May — Malaysia Khind Electrical & Electronics presented gifts to sales agents who sold the products of the company at most and awards to winners of lucky draw programme at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here yesterday.

Managing Director U Bilal (a) U Kyaw Kyaw presented Nanosilver Poly Technology Khind side by side refrigerators worth K 1.8 million to sales agents Sein Gay Har Super Centre, City Mart Holding Co Ltd and Kyaw Electronic and awards to lucky draw winners U Min Thein of South Oakkapala Township and Daw Ni Ni Khaing of Sangyoung Township. Director Mohrmd Faisal (a) U Thura also presented awards to other sale agents and lucky draw winners.

Next, production process of Khind Electronics were demonstrated with the use of coporate radio. At Khind Electro World of Lapyawin Plaza prizes are being given out to the remaining 78 winners out of 90 who won lucky draw programme held at Sein Gay Har Centre on 29 April.

Water heater, gas cooker, cooker hood, vacuum cleaner, microwave oven, oven toaster and glasster hop are also available.

Those wishing to buy such electronic appliances can contact Ph No 292307.

MNA

Three sales agents, two lucky draw winners, a managing-director and a director seen together with prize money.

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Indian mily delegation visits NDC, DSMA

YANGON, 22 May — A 20-member delegation of National Defence College of the Republic of India visited National Defence College here today.

First, Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein greeted them at the hall of the college and briefed on the background history and academic studies of the college. Next, leader of the delegation group Commodore Rear Admiral Venkat Shanker, vsm, Senior Directing Staff (Navy) and Maj-Gen Moe Hein exchanged souvenirs.

Afterwards, the delegation also visited the Defence Services Medical Institute in



Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein receives Commodore Rear Admiral, Venkat Shanker, vsm, Senior Directing Staff (Navy). — MNA

Mingaladon Township where Rector of the institute Brig-Gen Min Thein welcomed them.

In the afternoon, they went to the War Cemetery in Htaukkyant and

laid wreaths. The Indian delegation arrived here yesterday evening and they were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Com-

mandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Aung, Military Attaché of India to Myanmar Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra and officers. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint...

(from page 16)

Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Maung Win presented medal to Mike Hke (Kywemin) who stood second in Featherweight Class and golden belt to Dawna Pan (Kywemin).

Vice-President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation U Myint Soe presented medal to Saw Lu Min (Taungkalay) who stood second in Lightweight Class and golden belt to Win Tun (A&I Ministry).

U Khin Maung Tun (Htet Lin) presented medal to Naga Lay (Mwehaukmin) who stood second in Light Welterweight Class and golden belt to Kye Lin Aung (Taungkalay).

Director U Aung Tin (Myanmar Towards Co) presented medal to Yan Gyi Aung (Alinyaung) who stood second in Welterweight Class and golden belt to Thura Ye Aung (Myanmarpyitha).

Deputy Director-General of SPED U Thein Aung presented medal to Kyaw Nyein (Cement Plant) who stood second in Light Middleweight Class and golden belt to Zan Htoo (Taungkalay).

Director-General of SPED U Thaug Htaik presented medal to Zarni Hsin Yaing (Taungkalay) who stood second in Middleweight Class and golden belt to Cement Star (Cement Plant).

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented cash and medal to Shwe Wah Tun (MPCE) who stood second in Above-Middleweight Class, cash and golden belt to Lone Chaw (KLN) who stood first, championship shield to Cement Plant Club which scored points most in the match and cash to the ring referees.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint presented cash awards to Kye Lin Aung (Taungkalay) who won the best boxer award and Shwe Wah Tun (MPCE) who won the best competitor award.

President U Win Myint, Director-General U Thaug Htaik and Vice-President U Myint Soe presented cash awards to referees. — MNA

Debut of "Thwe" (Blood) Movie on 23-24 May

YANGON, 22 May — "Thwe" (Blood) Movie directed by Japanese Director Mr Koji Chino will be shown at Thamada Cinema here on 23 and 24 May and as the debut in Myanmar.

Director Mr Koji Chino made the debut of the Japan-Myanmar

friendship movie in Tokyo on 8 December in 2003 and in Kyoto, Osaka and other cities. When the debut was made in Japan, it was crowded with Japanese World-War II Veterans, 76-year-old Director Mr Koji said.

The movie characters were Myanmar

actors Kyaw Thu, Min Maw Gon, Myanmar Actress Myo Thandar Tun, Japanese Actress Akari Asou and Japanese Actor Toshiyuki Nagashima.

Mr Koji will also screen the movie in Mandalay on 30 and 31 May.

MNA



Mr Koji Chino. — MNA

ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်စားသောက်စရာ အန္တရာယ်ကင်းဖို့ သတိပြုလိုက်နာ

လူတို့ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်သန်စွမ်းစေရန် နေ့စဉ်စားသောက်သည့် အစားအစာများတွင် ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်နိုင်သည့် ဗီတာမင်သက်စေ့ဓာတ်များနှင့် သတ္တုဓာတ်များပါဝင်သည့် ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်များနှင့် အသီးအနှံများကိုပါ စားသုံးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်များနှင့် အသီးအနှံများစားသုံးရာတွင် သဘာဝအတိုင်းမဟုတ်ဘဲ ပြုပြင်ထားသော ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်သစ်သီးဝလံများ၊ ဝိုင်းသတ်ဆေး၊ ဓာတ်မြေမြှုပ်စာစသည့် ဓာတ်ပစ္စည်းများပါဝင်သည့် ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်များကို စားသုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဝမ်းပျက် ဝမ်းလျော့ခြင်း၊ ဗိုက်ရစ်နာ၍ အော့အန်ခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်မူးခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ ဖျံ့ပွားနိုင်စွမ်းလျော့နည်းခြင်း၊ သန္ဓေသား ချို့ယွင်းမှုဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှင်းဆူရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ကင်ဆာရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားခြင်း စသည့် ကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။

သို့ပါ၍ ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်နှင့် အသီးအနှံများစားသုံးရာတွင် ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်ပြီး ဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကင်းရှင်းစေရန်အတွက် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို သတိပြုလိုက်နာကြရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

လိုက်နာရမည့်အချက်များ

- ၁။ သဘာဝအတိုင်း စိုက်ပျိုးရေးချသော ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်၊ သစ်သီးဝလံများကို စားသုံးပါ။
- ၂။ ဓာတ်ဆေးများအသုံးပြု၍ ပါဝင်နေအောင်ပြုလုပ်ထားသော သစ်သီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
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ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Split emerges in West's front against Iran

BERLIN, 22 May — The European Union and Washington are split over an EU proposal to offer Iran a generous package of incentives including nuclear reactors and security pledges if it stops enriching uranium, diplomats said on Saturday.

The EU draft offer of a package of incentives in exchange for a suspension of enrichment has caused a split in the West's previously united position on Iran since Washington has serious reservations about the European plan, EU diplomats said.

The plan will be discussed in London on Wednesday by senior officials from France, Britain and Germany (the EU3), the United States, Russia and China, an EU diplomat familiar with the EU3's draft told Reuters.

"We agreed to offer Iran a nuclear power plant and possibly more, along with support for an international (nuclear) fuel consortium to guarantee fuel

for civilian nuclear activity," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

Russia and China are expected to support the plan but Washington is concerned about the idea of supporting a regional security framework in the Middle East and exempting EU firms from US penalties if they do business with Iran.

"We're still looking at it and we've not yet decided our position," Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns told Reuters.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said public discussion of the EU proposal's contents was "premature" and indicated that there was no guarantee Iran would be offered any reactors.

"The possible supply of a light-water reactor for Iran is still under consideration," he said.

EU diplomats said Washington was uncomfortable with the idea of offering Iran any reactors

and was loathe to ask Congress to exempt EU firms from US penalties for nuclear deals with Iran.

The EU and United States believe Iran is secretly developing atomic weapons under cover of a civilian energy programme

and want it to halt its enrichment programme, which could produce atom bomb fuel. Iran refuses, saying its atomic programme is solely aimed at the peaceful generation of electricity.

MNA/Reuters

France, Morocco to step up cooperation in fighting terrorism

RABAT, 22 May — France and Morocco said on Saturday they would strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

"We have decided to reinforce the cooperation in fighting terrorism and drug trafficking," said French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy in the southern Moroccan city of Marrakech after meeting with his Moroccan counterpart Chakib Benmoussa.

Benmoussa said the two countries will step up cooperation in fighting terrorism, especially in

the dismantlement of a number of terrorist cells in the region.

According to a joint statement issued after the meeting, Sarkozy and Benmoussa have made an evaluation on the menace of terrorism in the region.

Sarkozy and Benmoussa also talked about the issue of illegal migrants. They agreed to step up efforts to bring the issue under control, and at the same time offer technological and financial aid to the west Mediterranean countries to help stem illegal migrants from flooding in. — MNA/Xinhua

Cathay Pacific named "Airline of the Year 2006" by OAG

HONG KONG, 22 May — Cathay Pacific Airways has been named "Airline of the Year 2006" by global travel and transport information company OAG (Official Airline Guide) at its prestigious 24th annual awards ceremony in London earlier this week.

According to a Press release from Cathay Pacific on Saturday, Cathay Pacific was also voted "Best Airline Based in Asia" and "Best Transpacific Airline" in OAG's awards based on its poll of business travellers.

The awards are among the most valued and respected of in the industry, "representing

the views of the most frequent travellers," OAG said, adding "Independent and unbiased, the awards recognize airlines' ability to deliver the promises made by the marketing and advertising departments. It is for this reason that the OAG Airline of the Year Awards are held in such high esteem."

Cathay Pacific beat off competition from more

than 40 airlines nominated in 16 regional and global categories. The OAG "Airline of the Year 2006" award is the fourth consecutive Airline of the Year accolade won by Cathay Pacific in the past two years. It was named "Airline of the Year 2005" in the world's biggest passengers poll conducted by Skytrax, last October. — MNA/Xinhua



A couple look at a Malaysia Airlines aircraft at the international airport in Sepang, outside Kuala Lumpur on 22 May, 2006. — INTERNET

Mexico says US fails to check flow of illegal immigrants

MEXICO, 22 May — Despite anti-immigration measures, the United States has not managed to stem the flow of illegal immigrants to the United States, said the National Population Council on Sunday.

In a research report, the Mexico's state agency said the illegal immigration continues because immigrants are crossing in the United States from more physically dangerous areas and by the network operated by gangs of immigrant smugglers.

From 1993 to 1997, Tijuana and Nuevo Laredo—which are not distant from the US cities of San Diego and Laredo respectively—saw about 47 per cent of illegal border crossings.

Now only 26 per cent of such crossings took place there because 20 per cent illegal immigrants made their crossings now at Agua Prieta, El Sasabe and Sonoyta or over the desert in Sonora, where physical risks are much higher.

In addition, more and more people were trafficked into the United States by the human smuggling gangs.

According to statistics, a majority of undocumented immigrants from the Mexican states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz and Yucatan from 2001 to 2004 were transported into the United States by the gangs.

The research agency recommended setting up a migratory deal to encourage orderly and legal migration. — MNA/Xinhua

WEF meeting on Mid-East opens in Egypt's resort

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 21 May — The World Economic Forum (WEF) conference on the Middle East kicked off on Saturday afternoon in Egypt's Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, which is attended by some 1,200 political and business leaders from 46 countries.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inaugurated the key regional event.

In his opening speech, Mubarak said that the forum came at an important time for the Middle East, which he said had seen transformations and achievements, aspirations and opportunities, challenges and difficulties. The world was changing and that all the people in the world were facing similar

challenges, such as the escalating danger of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and poverty, which called for more international cooperation,

said Mubarak.

"A world of challenges that must be overcome, such as the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the political

and economic imbalance of the present global order and the escalating threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Firemen in old uniforms drive an old fire engine that can be dated back to the year of 1929 in the street of Helsinki, capital of Finland on 20 May, 2006. More than 50 old fire engines of different times and styles are showcased in the street of Helsinki as part of the activity of the Old Fire Engine Display. — INTERNET

US lawmaker taped accepting cash

WASHINGTON, 22 May — FBI agents videotaped Representative William Jefferson, a Louisiana Democrat, accepting 100,000 US dollars in cash they said was intended as a bribe for a Nigerian official and later found 90,000 US dollars of the money hidden in his freezer, according to a court document released on Sunday.

The document said the eight-term congressman received the cash from an FBI informant, who approached the bureau in March 2005 with her suspicion that Jefferson and two business associates conspired to defraud her out of 3.5 million US dollars.

Jefferson, a senior member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, has been under investigation for his role in helping a Nigerian company with an Internet venture. He has maintained his innocence in the matter.

The court document was the basis for an FBI search of Jefferson's congressional office on Saturday and Sunday. The FBI had no comment on what it found in the 18-

hour search.

According to the document, the FBI recorded a series of conversations between Jefferson and the informant, leading up to a 30 July, 2005, meeting at a hotel in the Virginia suburbs of Washington. What happened next was captured by the FBI on videotape, the document said.

"At the close of the meeting, (the informant) and Congressman Jefferson exited the building and stood before the open trunk of (the informant's) car. At that time, Congressman Jefferson reached in and removed a reddish-brown coloured leather briefcase which contained 100,000 US dollars cash in denominations of 100-dollar bills," according to the court document.

"He placed the briefcase in a reddish-brown coloured cloth bag, then took the bag, containing the briefcase and the 100,000 US dollars in cash and placed it inside the passenger compartment of his 1990 Lincoln Town Car and drove off."

According to the document, the money was to be used to bribe a high-ranking Nigerian Government official who had agreed to help an American telecommunications company do business in Nigeria. FBI agents searched Jefferson's Washington residence on 3 August and found 90,000 US dollars of the cash in his freezer, stuffed in frozen food containers and aluminum foil, the document said. — MNA/Reuters



In this image released by onEdition, British yachswoman Dee Caffari, sails toward the finish line, aboard Aviva, off of The Lizard, southwestern England on 18 May, 2006 as she becomes the first woman to complete solo non-stop round the world voyage against prevailing winds and currents in a west-about route. — INTERNET

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Hamas slams President's call for money smuggling probe

GAZA, 21 May—

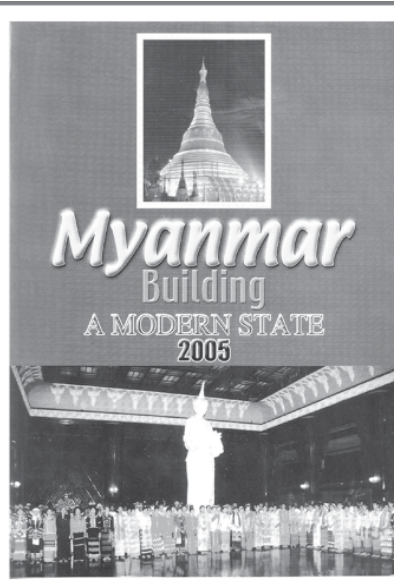
Ruling Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri on Saturday slammed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' call for investigation into an alleged money smuggling by Abu Zuhri into the Gaza Strip on Friday.

In a written statement sent to reporters, Abu Zuhri has also accused Abbas' aides of "standing behind the call to investigate the issue of trying to smuggle money into the Gaza Strip".

A source in Abbas' office in the West Bank city of Ramallah said on Friday that Abbas ordered the attorney general to open an investigation and question Abu Zuhri on where this money came from.

Abu Zuhri was caught trying to smuggle 639,000 euros (about 817,000 US dollars) at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip on Friday. European Union monitors at Rafah crossing point asked Palestinian security officers to inspect Abu Zuhri, whom Palestinian sources said he was coming from Damascus, as they suspected "something strange" hidden under his cloths.

MNA/Xinhua



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Nuclear energy to play important role in Canada

OTTAWA, 21 May— Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Friday nuclear energy will play an important role in future energy solutions in Canada.

Speaking at a joint conference with his Australian counterpart John Howard after their two days of meetings, Harper said although his government has not made final its nuclear policies, he thinks nuclear energy is "going to be an important part of the mix as we deal with energy and environmental challenges in the next century".

Both Harper and Howard said they will be studying American-led proposals on uranium production and nuclear energy at the Press

conference held in Gatineau, Ottawa's neighbouring city.

Canada and Australia together account for 43 per cent of the world's uranium deposits and more than half its uranium production.

Harper also said he and Howard discussed Canada's potential participation in the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, touted as an alternative to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, also known as AP6, groups Australia, India, Japan, China, South Korea, and the United States. Member countries

cooperate on development and transfer of technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But unlike the Kyoto Protocol which imposes mandatory limits, this agreement allows member countries to set their goals for reducing emissions individually, with no mandatory enforcement mechanism.

Harper has been publicly critical of Kyoto recently, describing its targets as unachievable. He said Canada is 35 per cent behind its targets and wanted the protocol to be more lenient in its second phase.

The Australian Prime Minister reiterated his wish for closer bilateral ties at the joint conference. He said he believes his meetings with Harper this

week "represent a new start in the contemporary relationship between Australia and Canada".

Both leaders said they had agreed to explore further collaboration in all fields, from international security and their countries' respective roles in Afghanistan, to their roles in the Asia-Pacific Region. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush discusses Mideast, energy with Saudi FM

WASHINGTON, 21 May— US President George W Bush met on Friday with visiting Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and the two leaders talked about issues such as the Middle East and energy, White House spokesman Tony Snow said at a briefing.

"They are continuing to talk about areas of mutual concern, including counterterrorism, military affairs, energy, consular affairs, regional concerns," Snow said.

The meeting, attended by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, is expected to discuss issues concerning Iran, Iraq and the Middle East peace process.

Rice met with Saud on Thursday and they discussed regional and global issues of interest for the second strategic dialogue between the two countries. Saudi Arabia has been a US ally in the Middle East.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Europeans ask US to consider selling planes to Iran

WASHINGTON, 21 May— Europeans have asked the United States to consider selling new commercial planes to Iran as part of a proposed package of inducements and penalties aimed at resolving the nuclear crisis with Teheran, diplomats said on Friday.

The Europeans have also proposed a regional security dialogue that some hope could eventually draw Washington and Teheran, adversaries for more than 25 years, into direct talks.

The package was formally presented to the United States, Russia and

China shortly after it was agreed on Thursday by Britain, France, Germany and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"We're still looking at it and we've not yet decided our position," Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns told Reuters.

He refused to discuss details of the EU package and said he would deliver the US response at a meeting of political directors of the major powers in London on Wednesday.

When the United States first signed on to a

European initiative in early 2005 aimed at persuading Iran to abandon nuclear weapons-related activities, it agreed to consider selling aircraft spare parts as an inducement to Teheran.

But Iran, under sweeping US sanctions since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, has also asked for planes to modernize its aging fleet. One question for Washington now is "could we go beyond spare parts and consider providing Iran with new planes, which would necessarily need acceptance by the US", a senior European diplomat told reporters.

သစ်ပင်စိုက်ပါ ပျားမွေးပါ

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Nigeria lures Asian investors with oil rights

LAGOS, 21 May — Nigeria opened an auction for oil drilling rights on Friday hoping to attract billions of dollars into infrastructure development from mostly Asian investors in a public sale that raised questions about transparency.

The government offered a total of 17 blocks, mostly in deep water areas near huge oil discoveries, to 10 companies and gave them all first right of refusal over at least one area each in return for commitments to invest more than 20 billion US dollars.

Chinese and Indian companies dominated the bidders' list, promising investments in oil refining, power generation and railways in the impoverished African oil giant. But several unknown Nigerian companies were also set to receive major

drilling rights and analysts questioned the transparency of the process, coming at a time of heightened political uncertainty with landmark elections due next year.

"In the same way that President Olusegun Obasanjo had a long hard look at the deals made at the tail end of the previous military administration, there is every reason to think that a new

government next year would look at these if there is any controversy associated with this process," said Anthony Goldman, an independent risk analyst.

Many of the blocks offered on Friday were unused portions of earlier licences which were relinquished by major oil companies, some of which have seen billion-barrel oil finds.— MNA/Reuters



Dee Caffari (R) is congratulated by Chay Blyth, the first man to sail the 'wrong way' round the world in 1971, after arriving into Southampton aboard Aviva on 21 May, 2006. Caffari, 33, became the first solo yachswoman to sail non-stop around the world against the prevailing winds and currents when she crossed the finish line off the coast of Cornwall on 19 May, 2006. The 29,000-mile voyage took Caffari 178 days.— INTERNET

Urban Chinese to turn to digital TV programmes in 2015

SHENZHEN, 21 May — China is planning to have all its citizens to be accessible to digital cable TV programmes from 2015, an official said here Saturday.

Zhang Haitao, deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, said China is working to switch from analog cable television to digital cable television after a three-year pilot programme proves successful in 49 urban areas.

He made the remarks at the on-going second China International Cultural Industry Fair held in the southern Guangdong Province. By now, the upgrading of digital broadcasting in cities like Qingdao, Hangzhou, Shenzhen has been completed, while the work in provinces and municipalities including Shanghai, Tianjin, Guang-

dong and Sichuan is still going on. By the end of last year, China had 2,548 radio and TV stations. According to government statistics, there are 126 million cable TV users in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A NTT DoCoMo employee presents the company's new FOMA N902iX HIGH-SPEED mobile phone during an unveiling in Tokyo on 11 May, 2006. NTT DoCoMo Inc, Japan's largest mobile phone operator, plans to make all its models compatible with global standards so they can be used in more than 130 countries, a leading Japanese newspaper said on Sunday.—INTERNET

41 recovering following poisonous gas leak in C China

YICHANG, 21 May — Forty-one people are recovering in hospital after a poisonous gas leak was caused by a chain of collisions on an expressway in central China's Hubei Province on Thursday.

Three other seriously injured people are now in a stable condition, sources with the local government of Yichang City said.

The chain of collisions occurred at 3:55 am Thursday when eight motor vehicles collided in heavy fog on the Wuhan-Yichang expressway near Zhijiang City.

Four drivers died in the

initial accident and a fireman died after being hit by a bus while trying to rescue the injured.

The pile-up caused a leak of dimethyl sulfate, a toxic gas, from one of the vehicles.

The leak caused more than 50 people, including policemen, firemen and nearby villagers, to suffer discomfort in the throat,

aching eyes, and red and swollen skin. All were taken to hospital.

Ding Wenbai, a doctor with the Yichang City Centre Hospital, said that dimethyl sulfate, when in contact with water, produces sulphuric acid and formaldehyde which are harmful to the respiratory tract and eyes.

MNA/Xinhua

Bolivia enhances security measures in airports against bird flu

LIMA, 21 May — Bolivia would reinforce security measures in all airports across the country as part of the efforts to combat possible avian

influenza outbreaks, the Bolivian Health Ministry said on Friday.

Bolivia was heeding recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), said Vice-Health Minister Juan Nogales.

In June or July, a national contingency programme will go into effect to fight possible outbreaks of bird flu.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of the virus, lethal for human beings, has not been detected in Bolivia.

According to the WHO, the confirmed worldwide human death toll from the H5N1 strain has reached 122 so far.

MNA/Xinhua

"Discovery" rolled to launch pad

WASHINGTON, 21 May — NASA on Friday rolled space shuttle Discovery to the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, in preparation for a second test flight since the 2003 Columbia disaster.

The trip of about 6.5 kilometres from the Vehicle Assembly Building took nearly eight hours.

The launch window is between 1 July and 19 July.

Shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale said he was confident that Discovery would fly in July and NASA could complete another two flights within this year. Insulation foam falling off the shuttle's external fuel tank doomed Columbia in 2003.

Despite expensive fuel tank modifications, the problem re-emerged during Discovery's liftoff last July in the first flight since the Columbia disaster, forcing the shuttle fleet to be grounded again.

The incident led to redesigns of the fuel tank. NASA engineers are still testing the improvements.

Hale said an initial review of the data appeared to be good. NASA will not make a final decision until mid-June on whether to launch Discovery in July.

MNA/Xinhua



Three female chimpanzees nod-off as they sit on rocks in their open air enclosure at the Taronga Zoo in Sydney in April 2005. Our early ancestors interbred with chimpanzees after the two species drew apart millions of years ago, a paper suggests.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Tottenham defender Dawson put on England stand-by

LONDON, 22 May — Tottenham Hotspur defender Michael Dawson has been put on stand-by for England's World Cup squad after Luke Young withdrew with an ankle injury, the Football Association said on Sunday.

Central defender Dawson will join the rest of the England squad at their training camp in Portugal on Monday.

Young, one of five players named as reserves when coach Sven-Goran Eriksson named his 23-man squad for the tournament in Germany, pulled out on Saturday after suffering a recurrence of an injury that had seen him miss Charlton Athletic's last seven games of the Premier League season.

"It's amazing really and caps a fantastic season for both myself and the club," Dawson told Tottenham's website.

"To actually be in the squad and to see what happens as we build up to a World Cup will be a great experience and I'm looking forward to it. I'll thoroughly enjoy it and we'll see what happens." —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal reject 50-million-pound bids for Henry

LONDON, 22 May — Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein has claimed that the club turned down two 50-million-pound offers for striker Thierry Henry before he agreed to sign a new four-year deal.



Thierry Henry

Henry's decision ended any chance of him replacing 47 million pounds Zinedine Zidane as the world's most expensive player.

"We turned down two world record deals from Spanish clubs. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out who they were," he was quoted by the *Sunday Express* as saying.

"Our message was clear — he wasn't for sale. I'd like to think he heard that."

Dein also revealed that the contract Henry signed was one that he was offered back in January.

"We made an offer in January, prodded Thierry now and then, but never put pressure on him," he said.

"Money wasn't really mentioned. He wanted to know where we were going, but in reality I think he knew."

Dein said the chance to influence the next generation of youngsters at Arsenal, who want to play with him, may also have persuaded Henry to stay on.

"He had seen the youngsters emerge after a dark period.

"We have three teenagers at the World Cup — how many other clubs can say that?"

"The reason they are here is because of Thierry. The first question Theo Walcott asked was "Will Thierry still be here?"

"I believe he also knew that if he went to a club like Barcelona or Real Madrid, he would just be a prince. Here he knows he is a king."

Dein also hinted that Robert Pires could be ready to move away from the club.

He told BBC Radio Five Live: "There will be a time now where there will be certain changes.

"We are looking to bring in one or two new players and it may be that one or two decide it's time to move on." —MNA/Xinhua

Botswana upset South Africa in Cosafa Cup

GABORONE, 22 May — Botswana upset South Africa with a penalty shootout victory to book a place in the final four of the Cosafa Castle Cup in Gaborone on Sunday.

Goalkeeper Modiri Marumo saved from South Africa defender Siboniso Gaxa to ensure a 6-5 triumph in their Group B final after the match had ended 0-0.

It is the first time that Botswana have reached the final four of the annual

southern African championship.

Marumo proved the hero for his country with key saves in the game as Botswana stacked their defence and kept an inexperienced South Africa side at bay.

South Africa were de-

nied an early lead when striker Alton Meiring struck the upright with a curling free kick.

The defeat for South Africa continues a dismal run of form in the competition for the top ranked nation in the region. They have only won the trophy

once in its 10-year existence.

Botswana join Angola and holders Zimbabwe in the semifinal in August. The last place in the final four will be determined in July when Namibia host the Group C tournament at which Malawi, the Seychelles and Zambia will also compete.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea to discuss Lampard deal after World Cup

LONDON, 22 May — Frank Lampard will begin contract talks with Chelsea after the World Cup, according to the England star's agent.

The 28-year-old midfielder has been linked with a move away from Stamford Bridge but recently revealed his intentions to stay at the club.

Agent Steve Kutner said: "I have spoken to Peter Kenyon and we are looking to sit down shortly after the World Cup."

Lampard has three years left on the five-year deal he signed in the summer of 2004. —MNA/Xinhua

Hingis beats Williams to reach Rome final

ROME, 22 May — Martina Hingis broke her "Williams sisters" jinx to beat Venus 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 at the Italian Open on Saturday and reach her second final since ending a three-year retirement.

Hingis' win — her first over the Wimbledon champion since the semi-finals of the 2001 Australian Open — sent the Swiss through to a final against 16th seed Dinara Safina who edged out fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

After a litany of unforced errors in the first set, Hingis worked her way into the match before snatching a crucial break in the eighth game of the decider and serving out for victory in a match be-

tween two former world number ones.

"In the first set I felt like I could cry — I was missing my shots by a little bit and my timing was out," said Hingis, who also beat Williams on her way to winning the title in 1998.

"It's amazing that I played Venus in the semi-finals again eight years later — I'm just trying to enjoy it."

Hingis lost her only previous final this year, in Tokyo in February, to

Elena Dementieva. She last beat Serena Williams, Venus' younger sister, in the same Australian Open in 2001.

In the first set there was simply no contest as Williams, seeded ninth, bludgeoned unseeded Hingis from the baseline.

But Williams could not maintain her high level and errors crept into her game in the second set.

MNA/Reuters

Ballack to finish career at Chelsea

LONDON, 22 May — Chelsea new signing Michael Ballack has revealed he expects to finish his career at Stamford Bridge.

The 29-year-old German completed his free transfer from Bayern Munich, signing a three-year deal, and said he hoped it would be his last club.

"I'd like to finish my career here," Ballack said. "I hope things work out well and that we're successful in the next three years and the possibility will exist to extend that contract.

"You could say that is my vision at the moment, to end my career at Chelsea."

Ballack may face his new teammates

during the summer with the prospect of England and Germany playing each other in the second round of the World Cup.

He added: "Germany always has great respect for England, comparable with Brazil, Italy and Argentina.

"The strengths of the English midfield are well known but, given that, the people of Germany would always look forward to England playing Germany.

"It is always a big game. It is a duel and we will look forward to renewing that duel." — MNA/Xinhua

Viduka to captain Australia at World Cup

MELBOURNE, 22 May — Striker Mark Viduka has been handed the task of leading Australia at their first World Cup finals for 32 years.

The 30-year-old Middlesbrough forward was named captain of the Socceroos by coach Guus Hiddink on Sunday and said he was honoured to have been selected ahead of former skipper Craig Moore.

"To be honest, it was with mixed emotions because when he (Hiddink) told me he said I looked like a 60-year-old," Viduka told reporters of the moment the Dutchman broke the news.

Viduka was handed the captain's armband during Australia's qualification campaign last year after Newcastle United defender Moore was ruled out of action with a hamstring injury.

MNA/Reuters

Doctor says Rooney set to win fitness battle

LONDON, 22 May — Wayne Rooney's chances of playing in England's opening World Cup match looked much more promising after the team doctor said he was encouraged by the striker's recovery from a broken foot. "Everything points to a perfect recovery," England doctor Leif Sward was quoted as saying in Monday's *Sun* newspaper.

"I have the highest hopes for Rooney and the World Cup and I hope I can give the perfect answer about Rooney after the next MRI examination on Thursday.

"The healing process has been very very good."

Rooney damaged the fifth metatarsal bone in his right foot in Manchester United's 3-0 defeat at Chelsea on 29 April and has been in a race against time to be fit for England's first match against Paraguay on 10 June.

MNA/Reuters



England's Takaloo lands a punch on Ireland's Eamon Magee during the WBU Welter Weight title fight in the Kings Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 20 May, 2006. Takaloo went on to win the fight. —INTERNET

Five killed, one survives in US coal mine blast

LOUISVILLE (Kentucky), 22 May — A coal-mine explosion in southeastern Kentucky early on Saturday killed five people, authorities said, making this the deadliest year for US coal country since 2001.

The explosion happened at about 1:00 am (0500 GMT) at the Darby Mine No 1 operated by Kentucky Darby LLC, federal Mine Safety and Health Administration administrator Ray McKinney said.

Four of the dead miners were found 3,000 feet

(1,000 metres) underground in a mine that was 11,300 (3,400 metres) feet deep, McKinney said. The fifth body was retrieved near an exit. There was one survivor, miner Paul Ledford.

"One walked out on his own," MSHA spokes-

woman Amy Louvieres said. Ledford was treated at an area hospital and released, state authorities said.

The blast in mountainous Harlan County, near the Virginia border, raised the death toll in US coal mines to 31 this year, up from 22 last year, according to MSHA. In 2001, 42 were killed in coal-mine accidents. "Our hearts, our sympathies and our prayers go out to the families and the community," McKinney said in a telephone news conference. Kentucky Darby declined to comment on the accident.

A possible cause was a methane explosion, a spokesman for the Harlan Police Department said. Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher, who visited the mine and talked to bereaved wives, said a section of the mine apparently had a leak in it. "We don't know the exact cause of what sparked the explosion, but there was a substantial explosion," Fletcher told Fox News in a telephone interview.

There were also storms in the area, Joe Grieshop, judge-executive for Harlan County, told MSNBC television.

Investigators have blamed a lightning strike that ignited methane gas for

a deadly explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia in January. That incident killed 12 miners and left one brain damaged.

MNA/Reuters

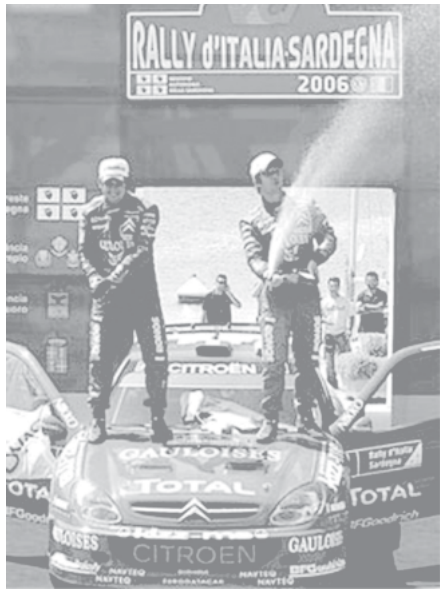
Oil tank explodes near Tokyo, no casualty

TOKYO, 22 May — An oil tank near Tokyo exploded on Sunday afternoon, *Jiji Press* said. No casualty was reported in the accident. The explosion occurred at around 3:00 pm (0600 GMT) at the Mizue Factory of Japan's TOA Oil Co Ltd in Kawazaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, a dozen kilometres south of Tokyo.

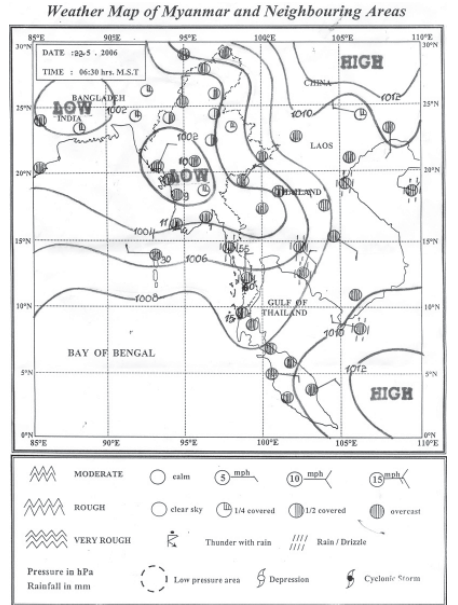
The explosion blew off the roof of a room where the tank is located. Nobody was injured in the accident, local police said. Fire caused by the explosion has been put out.

The cause of the accident is not known.

TOA Oil is a member of the Showa Shell Group. MNA/Xinhua



French World Champion Sebastien Loeb, left, and his navigator Daniel Elena spray champagne after winning the Rally of Italy with their Citroen Xsara, in the Sardinian island of Olbia, Italy, on 21 May, 2006. Loeb clinched his fifth straight victory of the season Sunday in the Rally of Italy, stretching his lead in the World Rally Championship. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Monday, 22 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Kayah States and upper Sagaing division. Rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin, Mon, Kayin States and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan and NyaungU (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Ye (15.04) inches, Dawei (3.31) inches and Myeik (3.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-5-2006 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 22-5-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 22-5-2006 was (88%). Total sunshine hours on 21-5-2006 was (0.8) hour (approx). Rainfalls on 22-5-2006 were (0.04) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Tr) at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (12.64) inches at Mingaladon, (14.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (14.49) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (14) mph from West at (14:45) hours MST on 21-5-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea, South and East Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon and Kayin States, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thundery conditions in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-5-2006: Partly Cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-5-2006: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-5-2006: Partly Cloudy.

New Rainfall Record
(Issued at 10:30 hours MST on 22nd May 2006)
 The amount of rainfall 382 mm (15.04 inches) observed at (09:30) hours MST on 22nd May 2006 in Ye is the 24 hours new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of May during last (42) years. The former record was 225 mm (8.86 inches) on 23rd May 1980.

<p>Tuesday, 23 May View on today</p> <p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am 5. ကဗျာပန်းညွှန်</p> <p>8:00 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am 7. Song of yesteryears</p> <p>8:15 am 8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am 9. သင်ပုန်းရေလှောင်တစ် (ဓမ္မဇေးတိုင်း)</p>	<p>8:30 am 10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 11. Happy and educational English for everyday use</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial songs</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>4:45 pm 5. အစားသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (တောစောအထူးပြု) (တောစော)</p> <p>5:00 pm 6. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:15 pm 7. ခံစားနားဆင်စားစာတိုဝင်</p> <p>5:25 pm 8. "ရောင်ပြန်ဟပ်ခြင်း" (မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ကုသိုလ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့)</p>	<p>5:30 pm 9. Sing and enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm 10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>6:50 pm 13. သားငါးဖွဲ့ပြီး ပြည့်အံ့ချီး</p> <p>7:00 pm 14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:15 pm 15. ပန်းလှိုင်တံတား</p> <p>7:30 pm 16. The mirror image of the musical oldies</p> <p>7:45 pm 17. မြန်မာ့ ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းတိမ်)</p> <p>8:00 pm 18. News</p> <p>8:05 pm 19. International news</p> <p>8:10 pm 20. Weather report</p> <p>8:15 pm 21. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အိပ်မက်ကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆) (အပိုင်း-၁၆)</p> <p>8:20 pm 22. The next day's programme</p>
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Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Sagaing, Kyaukse

YANGON, 22 May — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 20 and 21 May went to Sagaing and Kyaukse in Mandalay Division, to assist in production of the factories under the ministry.

During his tour of Sagaing on 20 May, Minister U Aung Thaung inspected Textile Factory and the Garment Factory under Myanmar Textile Industries, Noodle Factory and Wheat Mill under Myanmar Foodstuff Industries and Spirulina Medicine Factory under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries.

On his tour of inspection in Sagaing, the minister looked into the production process of the factories and gave instructions.

Minister U Aung Thaung yesterday went to the Granite Factory of Myanmar Ceramic

Industries in Singaing Township, Mandalay Division, and inspected granite slabs produced by the factory.

Afterwards, he proceeded to Sewing Machine Factory under the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, and inspected the new designs for sewing machine and spare parts. At the foundry shop of the factory, the minister viewed the molding of bodies parts of sewing machines. On his tour of Kyaukse, the minister met with factory-managers of the factories in Kyaukse under the ministry and urged them to fulfill the requirements and to step up production of the factories so as to reach their targets.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected the Ceramics and Steel Ware



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects production process of Provimin at Spirulina Medicine Factory (Yekha Camp). — INDUSTRY-1

Factory of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and Intravenous Injection Factory of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in Kyaukse.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watches final match of Golden Belt Traditional Boxing Challenges

YANGON, 22 May — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the final match of the Third Golden Belt Traditional Boxing Challenges held at the National Indoor Stadium-1, Thuwunna yesterday.

Among the spectators were officials from the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Women's

Sports Federation, Myanmar Boxing Federation, guests, sports enthusiasts and others.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation U Aung Min presented medal to Moe Thi (Myanmar-pyitha) who stood second in Flyweight Class and golden belt to Naing Win (Cement Plant) who stood first. Joint-Secretary U Than Zaw presented

medal to Htit Chone (KLN) who stood second in Flyweight Class and golden belt to Shwe Kyi Hsan (Cement Plant).

Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Zaw Lin presented medal to Atheswe (Cement Plant) who stood second in Bantamweight Class and golden belt to Dawna Aung (Kywemin).

(See page 10)

Special sale of jade, jewellery and pearl on 20 June

YANGON, 22 May — The special sale of jade, jewellery and pearl will be held at the Gems Mart and Myanmar Convention Centre starting from 20 June.

The entrepreneurs

who are engaged in mining of gems in line with the Myanmar Gems Law and the citizens who are engaged in the sale of gems in accord with the Myanmar Gems Law will be allowed to buy the

items at the special sale.

Those who want to attend the special sale are to contact the administration sub-committee's offices of the two venues beginning 8 June.—MNA

INSIDE

- * The Tatmadaw invited the NLD to the NC for many times but it remained hard-line.
- * Tatmadaw will continue to march forward with firm determination along the path it has paved until it meets its goal.
- * NLD is urged to put aside its own interests and to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in the interests of the nation and the people.