

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 24 May, 2006

True patriotism

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

Tax-free markets in townships inspected

YANGON, 23 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials inspected tax-free markets here this morning.

On arrival at the tax-free market near Hti Hlaing Shin Housing in Hlinethaya, Lt-Gen Myint Swe was welcomed by the commander, the mayor and officials.

They visited tax-free markets in Shwepyitha and Dagon Myothit (North and South) and inspected shops of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Energy, YCDC, regiments and units of Yangon Command, District and Township Peace and Development Councils and companies, Central Sanpya Fish Market and Myanmar Rice Merchants Association, Oil Merchants and Entrepreneurs Association and sale of commodities.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects a tax-free market in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Weather Forecast for (24-5-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

INSIDE

- * Up to 17 May 2006, a total of 54,177 self-reliant village libraries have been established across the country.
- * Successful establishment of self-reliant libraries in the villages in rural areas is making remarkable contribution towards the drive for transforming the Myanmar society into a life-long learning one. And Myanmar has become a nation of libraries.

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MOE HTET MYINT (DELTA REGION)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 May, 2006

Continue carrying out the nation-building work

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar. The Union Solidarity and Development Association, on its part, is actively carrying out its lot for the successful execution of that national duty.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a major national force. It is participating in the nation-building work with the national spirit and Union Spirit. At the same time, it constantly remains vigilant to ward off any danger that could jeopardize peace and stability and successful realization of a modern and developed nation.

Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association are being trained in order that they can become human resources who have the right way of thinking and keep things in perspective. Training courses and seminars for USDA members are designed for honing their skills and abilities and strengthening their convictions.

The courses deal with management, national politics, national security and defence and national development. Only if the members of the association at different levels are highly-qualified will the fulfilment of the Association's visions and realization of its future work programme be possible.

Members of the associations at lower levels are required to follow the leadership of the associations at higher levels. Only then will all the members be able to work together in unity and unison for achievement of their ambition.

It is with the concerted efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw that a peaceful and developed nation is being built. The entire national people including the USDA members constitute a major force in this national endeavour. We believe that members of the associations at different levels, following the correct leadership, will continue carrying out the nation-building work.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်မေလအတွက် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၂၈-၅-၂၀၀၆)ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လအတွက်
(၁၁-၆-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့

နှင့်
(၂၅-၆-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် မေလအတွက်

- * 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

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds work coordination meeting



Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—The Ministry of Rail Transportation held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin and U Pe Than, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, departmental officials, state level officials and others.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min said that the Ministry of Rail Transportation is taking steps for the convenience of passengers and commodity transport. With a view to ensuring the smooth flow of commodities, special cargo trains

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min addresses the work coordination meeting of Ministry of Rail Transportation. — MNA

are being run across the nation. The minister stressed the need for Road Transport Administration Department and Transport Planning Department to make relentless efforts for exceeding the target of the ministry. Next, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thuang Lwin and U Pe Than assessed the work done. Afterwards, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises took part in the discussions. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min.—MNA

Two companies present FP diesel engine parts

YANGON, 23 May — At the Summit Parkview Hotel here this morning was a presentation of FP diesel engine parts organized by MV Associates Co Ltd and Federal Mogul Corporation.

In his three-part presentation, Mr Augustino Sarrentino, Asia Pacific Sales Director of Federal Mogul Corporation, said that the FP parts include pistons, liners, gaskets, rings, bearings and valves for Caterpillar Cummins, Detroit Diesel, International, John Deere, Komatsu,

Mack Waukesha, White Superior Engine used in operating excavators, dumper trucks, generators and other heavy machines, and ship engines.

MV Associates Co Ltd is the sole distributor of FP diesel engine parts in Myanmar, he said. In addition, the company is distributing Champion Spark Plugs, Beral Clutch Discs, AE engine components, Payen oil sales, National oil sales, SKF Rolling Bearings, maintenance equipment, Optibelt, TRW-Lucas, Petronas lubricants and Militec-1 metal conditioners as the sole agent, he said.

The distributor company is located at 216, Bogyoke Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, (Ph: 392502, 392503, 392588, 392823). The ceremony opened with an introductory by CEO U Ye Htut of MV Associates Co Ltd.—MNA



Mr Augustino Sarrentino. — MNA

USDA CEC member gives lecture on national policy

YANGON, 23 May — Central Executive Committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, today gave lecture on national policy and development of the State at No 23 Basic Organizing Course organized by South Okkalapa Township USDA.

A total of 102 trainees are attending the course.—MNA

Nurse Aid Course to be opened in Jivitadana Sangha Hospital

YANGON, 23 May — A Nurse Aid Course will be opened at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in a bid to improve the qualification for nursing at the hospital.

Anyone who passed 10th grade and aged between 18 and 25 (man, single) is eligible to attend the course and can register at the hospital not later than 10 June. After the course, the trainees will be appointed as assistant nurses at the hospital.

More information are available at 10-558434,541795,545782.—MNA

Funfair for monastic education school's funds on 2 and 3 June

YANGON, 23 May—Funfair towards the funds of the monastic education school in Hlaingthaya to be built by Ven Mok Tak, Chairman of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Interchange Association will be held at Karaweik Palace from 4 to 7 pm on 2 June and from 9 am to 7 pm on 3 June.—MNA



A Shanghai girl named Xu Yan gobbles up 10 puffs in three minutes and 58 seconds in an eating contest in the city recently. Sixty contestants took part in the event, with 28 getting through to the semi-final to be held on 20 May 2006.—INTERNET

ထုတ်တုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Syria condemns EU for interfering in domestic affairs

DAMASCUS, 22 May — Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned representative of the European Union on Saturday to protest against interference in its internal affairs after the EU criticized Syria's crackdown on dissidents, the official SANA news agency reported. The EU urged Damascus on Friday to release all

political prisoners including activists who demanded mending ties with Lebanon. "The EU announcement constitutes unacceptable interference in Syrian internal affairs," a Foreign Ministry statement said. "The (arrests) issue lies in the domain of Syrian sovereignty, which includes protecting the population

and applying the country's legal code." Syria rejected on 17 May a UN Security Council resolution calling on Syria to establish formal diplomatic ties with Lebanon and demarcate the countries' common border, terming it as interference". MNA/Xinhua

Innocent Britons branded as criminals due to mix-up

LONDON, 22 May —The British government, already under pressure over a series of blunders in its immigration and prison services, has confirmed it wrongly branded around 1,500 innocent people as criminals due to a computer mix-up.

It said the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), which carries out checks on people who have applied for jobs working with children or vulnerable adults, had confused the innocent people with convicted criminals because they had similar or identical names.

The names were stored on a police database.

The case is the latest in a series of embarrassments for Prime Minister Tony Blair and his beleaguered Home Office (Interior Ministry), which oversees the CRB. "We make no apology for erring on the side of caution. We are talking about the protection of children and vulnerable adults," a Home Office spokesman said. Last month, the Home Office admitted it had allowed more than 1,000 foreign prisoners to walk free from British jails when they should have been considered for deportation.

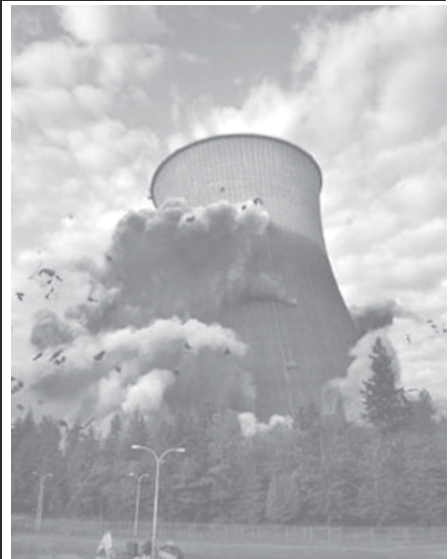
Home Secretary Charles Clarke was sacked in a reshuffle shortly after the fiasco and has been replaced by John Reid.

The ministry is also looking into allegations a handful of illegal immigrants worked for several years as cleaners at the offices of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, also overseen by the Home Office. And on Saturday the ministry said it had suspended an immigration officer from his job after a newspaper alleged he offered to help an 18-year-old Zimbabwean woman with her asylum application in exchange for sex. Blair, coming under increasing pressure to name a date for his departure after nine years in office, has vowed to sort the problems out.

The Home Office described the CRB incidents as "mismatches" rather than mistakes, and defended the bureau's actions.

"These cases are clearly regrettable, but represent a tiny proportion of cases — 0.03 per cent of the nine million disclosures issued by the CRB since it began operating in March 2002," the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters



The 499-foot cooling tower at the Trojan Nuclear Plant in Rainier, Oregon is imploded 21 May, 2006. Portland General Electric's facility located 42 miles North of Portland on the Columbia River is the first large-scale commercial nuclear plant to be decommissioned in the United States. The implosion of the 41,000 tons of concrete and steel took only 10 seconds and 2,800 pounds of dynamite. The tower provided water cooling for electricity production in the region from 1976-1993. —INTERNET

Pakistan, Iran discuss project of gas pipeline

ISLAMABAD, 22 May — Pakistani and Iranian experts on Sunday concluded their first round of talks on the multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline in Islamabad and discussed its "technical, financial and legal aspects", officials said. "The meeting also considered the issues of gas sales and purchase pricing, project structuring and feasibility study of the project," according to a statement issued by Pakistan Petroleum Ministry.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Muhammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian and Pakistan Secretary Petroleum Ahmed Waqar led their delegations respectively at the eighth meeting of the Iran-Pakistan bilateral working group. A two-day trilateral working group meeting of the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project will be held on Monday, the statement

said. It is the second expert level meeting in less than a month to review progress on the project to involve 7.1 billion US dollars.

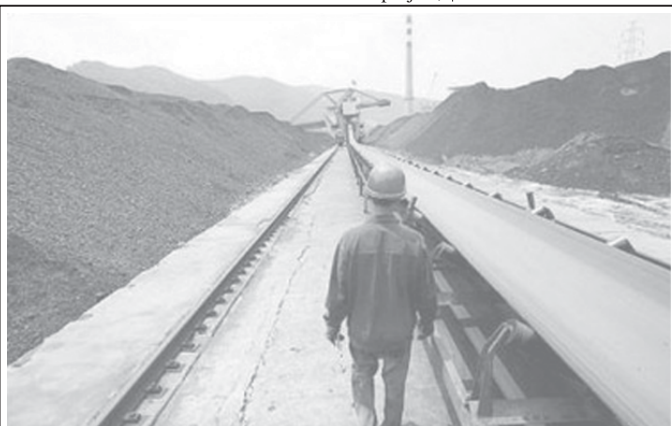
Pakistan sent a draft gas pricing formula to Iran based on its domestic gas pricing mechanism and the two sides discussed the

formula in the talks on Sunday. If the project be implemented, the 2,670-kilometre-pipeline will have 1,115 kilometres in Iran, 705 kilometres in Pakistan and 850 kilometres in India, the statement said, adding that despite extensive discussions on the project,

the United States has not given up its opposition to the project.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Saturday that Pakistan would go ahead with the gas pipeline project and that the project was likely to be finalized this year.

MNA/Xinhua



A miner walks between mounds of coal waiting to be processed at a mine in China. As many as 57 coal miners were feared trapped in a flooded pit in northern China and several managerial staff were arrested for trying to cover up the disaster, state media said.—INTERNET

Annan names pine tree at E China's renowned Huangshan Mountain

BEIJING, 22 May — Visiting UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Sunday named a pine tree "Umbrella Pine" on Mount Huangshan, a famous tourist site in East China. Annan toured Mount Huangshan, a World Cultural and Natural Heritage site, and the nearby Xidi Village, a well-preserved ancient village and also a World Cultural Heritage site.

There are tens of thousands of pine trees on Mount Huangshan, according to the tour guide accompanying Annan. However, only a few of them have been named.

Annan stopped at a pine tree shaped like an open umbrella along the mountain path and asked whether it could be named "Umbrella Pine". — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to 13 in Baghdad restaurant attack

BAGHDAD, 22 May — The death toll has risen to at least 13 in a bomb attack in a Baghdad restaurant on Sunday, which also wounded 18 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

"Our latest reports said that we have 13 people killed and 18 others wounded in the powerful blast into the Saffar Restaurant in Karada District," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. — MNA/Xinhua

British standards watchdog slams Blair over sleaze row

LONDON, 22 May — Prime Minister Tony Blair, caught up in a row over the alleged sale of peerages, has made a “major error of judgement” by ignoring the importance of upholding standards, Britain’s sleaze watchdog said on Sunday.

Sir Alistair Graham, chairman of the committee on standards in public life, told *The Sunday Times* newspaper Blair treated standards as a “peripheral, minor issue, not worthy of serious consideration”.

Blair swept to power in 1997 promising to be “whiter than white” after a string of sleaze allegations damaged the previous Conservative government.

But the Prime Minister and his Labour government have been damaged in recent months by the “loans for peerages” row. Police

are investigating accusations that Blair’s office nominated several millionaires for seats in the House of Lords — Parliament’s unelected Upper Chamber—in return for loans to Labour or funding for new schools.

A 1925 law made it illegal to sell seats in the Lords. Labour denies the allegations. Graham, who was appointed by Blair to oversee the behaviour of politicians, said the row had damaged the whole government. “Opinion polls (show) the public think this government is as sleazy as the last,” he told the paper. “He (Blair) has paid a heavy price for ignoring standards.”

A poll in the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper said more than half of those questioned thought seats

in the House of Lords were offered in return for loans and, if proven, Blair should be prosecuted.

Graham said the “loans for peerages” row had been particularly damaging to the trust between the public and politicians. “We would have preferred more positive support from the Prime Minister,” he said.

“We suspect he is pretty lukewarm to the work we do.” The scandal broke after the Labour Party revealed it had received nearly 14 million pounds (26.25 million US dollars) in loans from 12 businessmen, some of whom were later nominated for seats in the Upper House of Lords.

MNA/Reuters

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



A visitor looks at the golden crown, part of Zlatnitsa Thracian golden treasure dated 4th century BC at the Archaeology Museum in Varna, Bulgaria, ancient home of the Thracian civilization, took this weekend on full display in the eastern Black Sea city of Varna its nine largest Thracian gold and silver treasures, exhibited together for the first time to act as a magnet for tourists.—INTERNET

Asians join immigration reform call

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — Asian-American and Pacific Islander groups have joined calls for immigration reforms as undocumented Asian immigrants also face the possibility of deportation.

Leaders representing 39 Asian-American and Pacific Islander groups in Southern California have presented a list of principles to achieve humane immigration reform, the groups said in a statement available to *Xinhua* on Saturday.

The group said current debate on immigration has focused on Southern border issues, but stories of immigrants and refugees facing deportation also raise the need for a comprehensive reform.

The groups, which include the Asian Pacific American Legal Centre and the Pilipino Workers’ Centre, called on Washington to provide means for undocumented immigrants to obtain citizenship, eliminate the backlogs in the family-based immigration system and end unjust detention and deportation of immigrants and refugees.

“We want to see a pathway to citizenship,” said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American

Legal Centre. “We believe immigrants should not be criminalized and we reject the House approach.”

The groups described the border security bill HR 4437, passed by the House of Representatives in December, as “draconian”. The Senate is now working on a broader bill following President George W Bush’s call Monday for National Guard troops to patrol the US border with Mexico.

MNA/Xinhua



World’s oldest running shoes

The University of Oregon and running shoes seem to match well. Oregon’s *Museum of Natural and Cultural History* contains the world’s oldest running shoes — 10,000 year-old sandals found by the late university archaeologist Luther Cressman. He discovered them in the 1930s at Fort Rock Cave in Oregon’s high desert.

The sample above, from the famed cache of sagebrush bark footwear, is on display as part of the museum’s permanent exhibit, Oregon — Where Past is Present.—Internet

Beijing to build over 100 hotels for 2008 Olympic Games

BEIJING, 22 May — Beijing will build about 110 star hotels to accommodate the increasing demand during the 2008 Olympic Games.

“The planned 110 hotels will range from one star to five stars, with a majority of them targeting at high-end guests,” Du Jiang, director of Beijing Tourism Bureau, said at a seminar on economy hotels on Friday.

During the 2008 Olympic Games, most guests will be accommodated in Beijing hotels, Du said. “But the hotels in neighbouring Hebei Province, which are about 100 kilometres away from Beijing, will be stand-by hotels.” According to the official, there are 56 hotels, including eight four or five-stars hotels, are within 100 kilometres away from Beijing.

By 2007, the number of star hotels in Beijing will hit 800, providing 130,000 rooms, Beijing’s Vice-Mayor Zhang Mao said at the seminar. It is estimated that some 250,000 foreign tourists, regular tourists and game viewers will make Beijing hotels accommodate 550,000 people per day during the 2008 Olympic Games. Till now, Beijing has 658 star hotels, which offer a total of 109,000 rooms.—MNA/Xinhua



Sanitary workers carry a garbage can used to cull domestic birds in a quarantined area in Bucharest, Romania on 21 May, 2006. The area was sealed off after laboratory tests confirmed the presence of birds infected with avian flu in the Romania’s capital for the first time since it was detected in poultry in the Danube delta last October, officials said on Sunday. Romania has reported more than 20 bird flu outbreaks over the past week, mostly in the central county of Brasov, just a month after the strain was said to have been eradicated in the Black Sea state.—INTERNET

Bangladesh hoping to reduce river accidents

DHAKA, 22 May — Bangladesh said on Sunday that it would tighten shipping laws and regulations in an effort to cut the number of ferry accidents that claim hundreds of lives each year.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain said plans include tighter monitoring of passenger numbers and stiff penalties for companies that ignore regulations or storm warnings. The government is also mobilizing funds to buy better salvage tugs to deal with accidents, and also dredgers to clear silt from rivers.

According to the Bangladesh shipping department, thousands of people have been killed in dozens of accidents in the past three decades.

Bangladesh has over 8,000 kilometres (5,000 miles) of riverways, and ferries and boats carry 70 per cent of Bangladesh’s inland passengers and goods, providing a lifeline to the poor nation’s economy, government officials said. But journeys are often risky. A survey conducted by two teachers of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) revealed last week that about 35 per cent of river accidents occurred because of bad weather. — MNA/Reuters

Russia, Kazakhstan to enhance cooperation in military, energy areas

Moscow, 22 May — Russia and Kazakhstan made a series of agreements to enhance cooperation, especially in the military and energy areas during talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Saturday.

The two states have reached "major agreements on interaction in the development of the Armed Forces and on military technological cooperation, in particular concerning the acquisition by Kazakhstan of Russian armaments," Putin was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

Putin also said the two countries had made agreements on energy.

"Our specialists came to agreements on the joint production, processing, refinement, and marketing of Kazakh (natural) gas. Specialists assess the volumes as by and large comparable to volumes of production on larger Russian fields. Also, an agreement on prices has been reached, something that has been quite a difficult point at negotiations until now,"

Putin said. Nazarbayev said Kazakhstan and Russia had for the first time reached an agreement on cargo transportation in containers from China to Europe via Kazakhstan and Russia. The two countries had also made a Customs tariff agreement, and deals on exports of Kazakh grain to Belarus via Russia and on coal trade, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



KDDI Corp PR staff Yoko Watanabe displays her company's new cellular telephone handset with built-in Sony Corp 'Walkman' music player in Tokyo on 22 May, 2006. The Walkman-brand phone is one of seven new handset models KDDI will launch in June, aiming to win new subscribers in the increasingly competitive mobile communication market. —INTERNET

India's Tarapur Atomic Power Plant almost complete

TARAPUR (Maharashtra), 22 May — India took a giant leap forward in nuclear power generation when its 16th nuclear power plant and second 540 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), Tarapur Atomic Power Plant (TAPP-3), went critical Sunday. "This is one step before connecting power to the western grid and the electricity produced from this plant would be synchronized to the grid in June," the Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) S K Jain said.

He said the plant went

critical by 0514 GMT Sunday. The commercial production will start in July. Once it is done, the country's total installed capacity of nuclear energy will go up to 3,890 MW from the existing 3,350 MW of electricity, Jain said. The fourth unit of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant (TAPP-4), commissioned ahead of TAPP-3, went critical last March and was synchronized to the grid in June 2005. It started commercial production in September, 2005. The two units were built at a cost of 61 billion rupees although it had an approval cost of 65.25 billion rupees, Jain said.

MNA/PTI

Intel to make India its global design hub for innovation

NEW DELHI, 22 May—Intel Corporation, the 39 billion US dollars global chip maker, is set to make India its design and development hub for driving innovation at a global level, a top company official hinted in Bangalore on Sunday. Even as its new CEO Paul Otellini comes calling on Tuesday, a flurry of activities is on at Intel India in Bangalore to play the perfect host and showcase the country's growing prowess in technology and research. —MNA/Xinhua



Seals swim through a vertical tube-like water tank connected to a huge water tank at Asahiyama Zoo in Asahikawa, northern Japan on 22 May, 2006. The zoo, known as its unique interactive animal viewing facilities, is one of the most popular zoos in Japan, and about 2.07 million people visited in the previous year, the zoo official said. —INTERNET

Death toll from Turkey's traffic accident rises to 44

ANKARA, 22 May—Death toll from a Friday traffic accident in southern Turkey rose to 44, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Saturday. A truck carrying 55 illegal immigrants from Afghanistan and Bangladesh crashed into a transport truck on a highway between the southern provinces of Osmaniye and Gaziantep on Friday.

The death toll rose to 44 after two of the six injured died in the hospital and three people are still receiving medical treatment. Speeding was reportedly the cause of the accident. The ill-fated immigrants had entered Turkey from

Iran and planned to sneak into Bulgaria and then to Greece, *Anatolia* reported. MNA/Xinhua



Visitors follow the landing of an Airbus A-380-841 at the International Aerospace Exhibition ILA2006 in the German capital of Berlin on 21 May, 2006. Around 60,000 people attend the last day of the air show to watch the world's largest double-decker passenger aircraft among high-tech presentations by 1,014 exhibitors from 42 countries. —INTERNET

Seven killed in road accident in Spain

MADRID, 22 May — At least seven people were killed and other 26 injured in a bus accident on Sunday outside the capital city of Madrid, officials said.

The accident occurred when the bus, carrying a group of Moroccans who were going back to Brussels after a visit to Spain, veered off a highway some 50 kilometres north of Madrid, flipped over and hit a tree, said Alfredo Prada, Interior and Justice Minister of the Madrid regional government.

There were 31 passengers and two drivers on the bus. The victims of the accident included an 18-month-old boy. Six of the injured were in serious conditions, and other 20 suffered minor injuries.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Iraqis killed in car bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 May — A car bomb went off in a heavily populated neighbourhood in northern Baghdad on Sunday, killing two people and wounding 15 others, an Interior Ministry source said. "A car parked in the Shula District, a mainly Shiite neighbourhood, detonated shortly after midday, killing two people and wounding 15 others," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

China rescues 330 Vietnamese fishermen after typhoon

BEIJING, 22 May — China has rescued 330 Vietnamese fishermen missing after a typhoon swept through the South China Sea but also recovered 18 bodies, state television said on Sunday.

Rescuers found the survivors on 22 Vietnamese ships near the Pratas Islands, off the southern coast of Guangdong Province, the report said, adding it was the largest international marine rescue operation ever mounted by China. —MNA/Reuters/Xinhua

Chinese coal mine accident traps 44

BEIJING, 22 May — A flood at a colliery has trapped 44 miners in the northern Chinese province of Shanxi, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

The flood hit on Thursday night, but 101 miners managed to escape, *Xinhua* said in an overnight report on Saturday. The police have arrested nine of the mine's managers, but the boss has gone into hiding, *Xinhua* said.

Some managers had hired taxis to send family members of the trapped miners to the neighbouring region of Inner Mongolia to stop them rioting or speaking to the Press, it added. —MNA/Reuters

ASEAN University Network Educational Forum opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 May — The 8th ASEAN University Network Educational Forum opened in Singapore on Monday with the theme of “Tertiary education in ASEAN — perspectives from young leaders”.

According to Channel NewsAsiareport, more than 40 youth leaders from 15 universities in members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam— are participating in the 10-day event. They will discuss topics

such as why only three universities from ASEAN were included in the world’s top 200 universities list and how Southeast Asia can serve as the gateway to China and India, said the

report. The forum provides an opportunity for participants, who are “the cream or the top students in each university” and “expected to be the leaders of their respective countries in the future”, to exchange ideas and familiarize with each other, the report quoted Piniti Ratananukul, executive director of ASEAN University Network, as saying. The students will also take part in educational and cultural trips during their stay in the city state.

This is the first time for Singapore to host this annual event.

MNA/Xinhua

China keen for furthering Sino-German relations

BEIJING, 23 May— China on Monday called for furthering China-Germany relations to enhance their global responsibilities based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

“China regards its ties with Germany as extremely important and is willing to make concerted efforts with Germany to foster all-round China-EU partnership and achieve sustainable peace and common prosperity of the world”, Chinese President Hu Jintao said in his meeting with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“China and Germany are both influential nations in the world and their respective regions”, Hu said, noting that the two sides share same or similar views on significant international issues such as the maintenance of the world peace and the promotion of common prosperity.

Hu also spoke highly of the development of bilateral relations, expres-

sing his appreciation to Germany’s focus on relations with China and the continuity of the country’s China policy.

“China and Germany have established frequent high-level exchanges and witnessed rapid growth of bilateral trade and investment in recent years”, Hu said, adding that Germany is China’s largest trading partner within the EU and the two countries have held intensive consultations and cooperation on international issues within the framework of China-EU relations.

“We appreciate the German Government’s adherence to the one-China policy and supports Germany playing a larger role in international organizations such as the United Nations”, Hu said.

Echoing Hu’s view

on bilateral relations, Merkel said that Germany will continue to uphold the one-China policy and the continuity of the China-Germany strategic and cooperative partnership.

MNA/Xinhua



KDDI Corp’s new Walkman brand music phone (R) and water and impact resistant phone are displayed at an unveiling in Tokyo on 22 May, 2006. KDDI, Japan’s second-largest telecoms operator, said on Monday that it plans to launch the music phone, developed by Sony Ericsson, in Japan in June for about 20,000 yen (\$179). —INTERNET

Chief Financial Officer Summit Asia Pacific 2006 held in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 23 May— The annual Chief Financial Officer Summit Asia Pacific organized by the World Trade Group opened Monday in Singapore.

The three-day event features a conference, where experts in the financial industry from North America, Europe and Asia Pacific are expected to deliver speeches, as well as workshops, one-to-one meetings and networking activities.

“Business events like this Summit are important platforms for businesses to enhance their intellectual capital and global networks to advance their business agendas,” said Singapore’s Minister of State for Education and Trade and Industry Chan Soo Sen at the opening ceremony.

He added that each company needs to have “its own particular qualities that set it apart from its

competitors” and to achieve “growth coupled with responsibility, accountability and flexibility to respond to environmental changes”.

Over 600 local and foreign financial institutions including banks, insurance companies, insurance brokers, stock-broking firms and fund managers are currently based in Singapore, while the financial services sector accounts for some 11 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), according to the minister.

Headquartered in London, the World Trade Group is a global corporation dedicated to organizing business summits.

MNA/Xinhua



British sailor Dee Caffari waves to the crowd on the bow of her yacht Aviva as she returns home to the city of Southampton, England on 21 May, 2006, at the end of her epic six months alone at sea Caffari is the first woman to sail solo, non-stop around the world against the prevailing winds and tides.—INTERNET

U2 Bono says eradicating malaria is like first moon walk

ARUSHA (Tanzania), 22 May — Rock singer and activist Bono said on Saturday the idea of eradicating Africa’s biggest killer in the next decade was as exciting as watching Neil Armstrong take the first walk on the moon.

The front man for Irish rock band U2 — who is half-way through a six-nation African jaunt — was inspired by the use of new technology in a family-owned Tanzanian factory to make nets which will repel mosquitoes, the insect which transmits malaria.

“It’s about as exciting a reason to get out of bed in the morning as I have ever heard. That is changing the world,” Bono said after a tour of A to Z Textile Mills Ltd.

The company teamed up with Japan’s

Sumitomo Chemical to become the first factory in Africa to use new technology that makes long-lasting nets treated with insecticide.

Malaria infects between 300 million to 500 million people a year.

A million of those taken ill will die, mostly infants and babies.

Of the deaths, more than 80 per cent occur in Africa and more than half those could be prevented if bed nets were made available to families, according to experts.

MNA/Reuters

Two French servicemen killed in combat in Afghanistan

PARIS, 22 May — Two French special forces soldiers were killed Saturday in a combat with Taliban militants, the French Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The statement gave no more details about the fighting near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie expressed condolences to the families of the killed soldiers and reiterated support for the coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan, according to the statement.

About 200 French special forces soldiers are stationed in Afghanistan as a part of the US-led military operations there.

MNA/Xinhua



The visitor’s center encompasses a dinosaur bone yard embedded in sand on 18 May, 2006, at Dinosaur National Monument east of Vernal, Utah. The building, however, is shifting due to the unstable ground it was built on, resulting in cracked walls, uneven floors and jammed doors.—INTERNET

Myanmar, nation of libraries

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

Many ages have passed, and information studies and knowledge becomes common throughout the world. It is required to combine library studies and information studies to serve the interests of the people. Information studies plays a major role in the process.

Information studies becomes an important part in the 21st Century and people need to specialize in it. In a drive for ensuring all-round development of a nation, a network system like Internet is installed in libraries and that calls for preservation and development of literary heritage of a nation.

Libraries help sharpen the abilities and uplift moral conduct of students, enhance knowledge of the people and ensure development of a nation. In order to achieve the target fully, it is needed to establish libraries systematically. According to today's education system, a scholar is not only to learn by rote but also to be a data bank. Ancient cultural heritages such as palm-leaf manuscripts, stone inscriptions and ink inscriptions are to be preserved and pursuing education and library studies are to be combined for national development.

Establishment of a library calls for three requirements — books, the brain and the building. It is also required to do research on Myanmar literature and libraries so as to ensure qualitative and quantitative improvement of Myanmar literature and libraries.

A library is a building where collections of publications and newspapers are kept systematically for people to read, study or to borrow. So, a library is a place where those who wish to enlarge their scope of knowledge, can enhance their knowledge freely. In olden days, in Myanmar, libraries were called Pitakataiks. In the Bagan Period, King Anawrahta conveyed Pitakats (three repositories of Buddhist Scriptures) from Thaton and kept them in a brick building in Bagan. Later, there emerged a large number of Pitakataiks in Myanmar.

After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War that took place in 1885, the colonialists occupied royal

libraries and Pitakataiks, and that led to loss of many palm-leaf manuscripts and records. But, the invaders dared not destroy the pitakataiks in monasteries. So, Myanmar literature flourished again due to monastic libraries. Yangon University Library was established in 1920.

Since 1948 in which Myanmar regained independence, efforts had been exerted to establish libraries that contributed toward the development of the education sector, thereby bringing about various forms of libraries in abundance in urban areas.

In Myanmar, libraries can be categorized into five groups as follows:—

- (1) National Library
- (2) university and college libraries
- (3) public libraries
- (4) special libraries
- (5) rural self-reliant libraries.

It is particularly needed to establish libraries in rural areas where 70 per cent of the nation's population live. The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information is opening self-reliant libraries in villages the length and breadth of the nation to catch up with the world level in the knowledge age.

The Ministry of Information organized a ceremony to mark successful completion of establishment of a self-reliant library in each village in Bago Division along with the presenting of cash donations, TV sets, radios and publications to the libraries in Toungoo, Bago Division, on 11 May this year. In his speech, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan expressed gratitude to the officials and wellwishers in Bago Division for their contributions towards the drive.

He said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on establishment of a life-long learning society in Myanmar. Now, youths and young people had an easy access to advanced technologies in the nation.

However, he said that rural folks that made up 70 per cent of the nation's population had less

opportunity to enhance their intellectual power and knowledge. So, a plan was laid down to facilitate the villages with self-reliant libraries and was launched in 2004-2005. Up to 18 April 2006, of 61,949 villages, 53,554 villages had been served with a self-reliant library each. The opening of self-reliant libraries had covered all the 6,602 villages in Bago Division. So, Myanmar could be proud to be the first-ever country in the world where each village has a self-reliant library. People should also be proud of being capable of shouldering such a national duty, he said.

Today is knowledge age, and so a variety of technologies are applied to accomplish the functions of human society such as education and health. And these steps are to be taken with added momentum in future for national development.

Myanmar will face many forms of losses and hardships unless it can keep abreast of other nations in the field of knowledge. It is now implementing the 30-year long-term education plan for promotion of the national education.

Of the three strengths — the government, local people, and wellwishers — wellwishers play a crucial role in the process. So far, 13 ceremonies to donate publications have been held and wellwishers have donated cash and kind worth more than K 255.3 million including 20 different kinds of books, 1,220 TV sets and radios and more than K 71.3 million.

At the ceremony held in Bago Division, wellwishers donated cash and kind valued at K 57.899 million including trust funds of K 12.45 million, publications, radios, TV sets and furniture.

Here, five work programmes are to be implemented for perpetuation of the already-established libraries — to organize rural people to cultivate a good habit of reading, to set up trust funds to maintain the publications and to increase the number of books, to construct a building in a village where there has been no library, to provide libraries with complete set of furniture, and for the IPRD to nurture skilled librarians for the libraries.

Up to 17 May 2006, a total of 54,177 self-reliant libraries have been established across the country.

Successful establishment of self-reliant libraries in the villages in rural areas is making remarkable contribution towards the drive for transforming the Myanmar society into a life-long learning one. And Myanmar has become a nation of libraries.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 23-5-2006

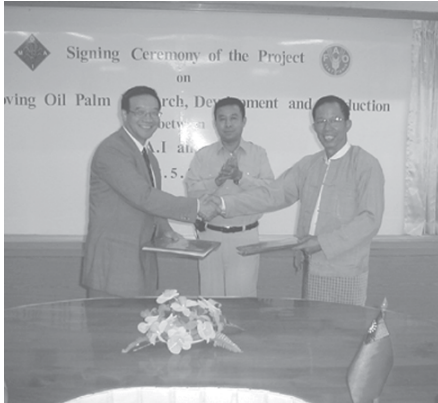
Five work programmes are to be implemented for perpetuation of the already-established libraries — to organize rural people to cultivate a good habit of reading, to set up trust funds to maintain the publications and to increase the number of books, to construct a building in a village where there has been no library, to provide libraries with complete set of furniture, and for the IPRD to nurture skilled librarians for the libraries.

Agreement on oil palm production inked

YANGON, 23 May— Agriculture and Irrigation and Food and Agriculture Organization-FAO was signed today at Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise (Head Office)

Director-General of Agriculture Planning Department U Tin Htut Oo and Resident Representative of FAO Mr Tangzhengping signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, FAO will provide assistance to extended cultivation of oil palm in Myanmar. Since 1998, oil palm cultivation has been extended in Taninthayi Division. So far a total of 164,927 acres — 163,048 acres in Taninthayi Division, 1,723 acres in Mon State, 57 acres in Kachin State, 94 acres in Rakhine State and 5 acres in Ayeyawady Division— have been put under oil palm. — MNA



Director-General U Tin Htut Oo and Mr Tangzhengping exchange documents. — MNA

Developing Namtain Village in Mongpan Township, Langkho District, Shan State (South)

YANGON, 23 May— Five rural development tasks are being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State across the country. Self-reliant Ywama gravel road was opened in Namtain model village in Mongpan Township, Langkho District, Shan State (South), on 4 May. The opening ceremony was attended by Shan State (South) Peace and Development Council member-1 U Khin Maung Gyi, District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Aung Maung, departmental officials at district and township levels, members of social organizations and local people totalling 2500. The road was built at a cost of K 300,000.

Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association executive Daw San Yin Ohn Pyinnya Alinyaung self-reliant library, opened by Information and Public Relations Department, donated K 5,000 to the library. Member of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nan Sein Nu and Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Maung Maung Oo also donated K 5,000 and 100 books of various kinds to the library. Officials presented prizes to students at the prize-presentation ceremony of Namtain Village BEMS for 2005-2006 academic year.

At Namtain Rural Health Centre, Specialist Dr Tin Zaw Win-led team of Loilem District Hospital gave free medical treatment to 206 patients. Officials inspected growing of physic nut plants on five-acre land in Namtain Village. In Mongpan Township, 1158 acres of physic nuts have been grown and there are 17.11 physic nut saplings. At Namtain Village monastery, Langkho District Women's Affairs Organization held a round-table discussion with national women. On the occasion, functions of WAO and prevention against trafficking in persons and violence against women were discussed. Next, 12 elderly persons were presented with cash assistance.

Namtain Model Village has 72 households and 1548 acres of cultivable land. Its main crops are paddy, soy bean, garlic, pineapple and orange. Its agricultural produce is distributed to other townships via Langkho District. The village is being supplied with power through three generators and irrigation water through three Namtain dams. Mongpan can be reached via Namtain Village where Maha Teza Dipadi Pagoda (Replica of Shwedagon Pagoda) is located. Sharing borders with Thailand, Mongpan Township is abundant in teak, timber and agricultural products that help develop Namtain model village. — MNA



Officials visiting Pyinnya Alinyaung self-reliant library in Namtain Model Village. — MNA

Social welfare tasks supervised



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe visits Kaba Aye Youth Training School. — MNA

YANGON, 23 May— Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspected the Fire Services Department near the Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township, here, this afternoon.

Director-General U Myint Tun and directors reported on work being

done. The minister gave instructions on fire services.

The minister also inspected the Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Director-General U Sit Myaung reported on organizational set-up of the department and social welfare tasks. The minister called for

contributing towards the implementation of the State's policy and cooperation with local administrative bodies, social organizations and wellwishers in carrying out social welfare tasks.

Next, he visited Kaba Aye youths training centre and the training centre for women in Mayangon Township. — MNA

Myanmar Environmental Conservation Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May— The Myanmar Environmental Conservation Committee held its third meeting at the Ministry of Forestry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung dealt with implementation of resolutions passed at the second meeting, conservation of forests in the watershed areas for proper flowing of rivers and creeks, and conservation of mangrove forests for ensuring constant production of fish and prawns. He instructed

those in charge of the special work group of the committee to make field trips to the regions where they were assigned duties to lay down plans through coordination with local authorities and departments and to implement them, and to submit four-monthly reports.

Vice-Chairman of the committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint said that environmental conservation became the most important function in the world.

The Head of State gave guidance on establishment of the committee for carrying out environmental conservation tasks systematically.

A huge amount of investment has to be made in the work for prevention of rivers from being silted up and recovery from environmental degradation. So, those in charge deputy ministers are to make field trips to states and divisions to do work for environmental conservation and the

reports are to be submitted regularly, he said.

Secretary of the committee Director-General of the Forest Department U Soe Win reported on progress of work and reception of reports.

Those in charge of the committee Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe and Deputy Minister for Electric Power (1) U Myo Myint and the director of the General Administration Department reported on work being done.

The chairman of the committee gave concluding remarks, calling for collaborative efforts for environmental conservation.

MNA

Culture Ministry coordinates work

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Ministry of Culture held a meeting to coordinate work at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this afternoon.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivered an address.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials reported on accomplishment of tasks by

respective departments and future plans.

In his concluding remarks, the minister called for speeding up efforts harmoniously to meet the targets.

Before the meeting, the minister met with officials and personnel of departments and the University of Culture under the ministry.

MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint addresses the ministry's coordination meeting. — MNA

Yangon Division WAO organizes Basic Management Course

YANGON, 23 May — Basic Management Course organized by Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization was opened today at No 1 Basic Education High School in Thingangyun Township, Yangon East District.

A total of 81 trainees from Yangon East District are attending the one-week course.

The course was opened with an address by Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Chairperson of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Myo Thu and executives, Patron of Yangon East District WAO Daw Nann Shwe and members of Yangon East District and Township WAOs.

MNA

First aid course opens in Kayan Township

YANGON, 23 May — A first aid course, organized by Myanmar Red Cross Society, was opened at No 1 Basic Education High School in Kayan Township on 15 May.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ms Bridget Gardner of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Associations, officials of Kayan Township Peace and Development Council and social organizations and coordinators of Myanmar Red Cross Society. Ms Bridget Gardner and Coordinator of MRCS Dr Tun Aung Shwe spoke on the occasion. A total of 36 trainees from the townships of Minbu, Kyaukpyu, Shwebo, Zigon, Madaya, Mingaladon, Pathein and Pyu are attending the course which will last till 25 May. — MNA



Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai speaks at opening of Basic Management Course. — MNA

7th Meeting of ASEAN Customs Directors commences



Chairman of the meeting Mr Alexander Musnic Arevalo of the Philippines giving a speech. MNA

Director-General of the Customs Department U Khin Maung Linn delivers address at the 7th Meeting of ASEAN Customs Directors of ICT. — MNA

YANGON, 23 May — The 7th Meeting of ASEAN Customs Directors of ICT was opened today at Traders Hotel here.

Mr Alexander Musnic Arevalo of the Philippines presided over the meeting which will last till 25 May.

In his opening address, Director-General of the Customs Department U Khin Maung Linn called for the development of information and communication technology in transportation and custom services among ASEAN nations. — MNA

Singapore's wholesale trade up in Q1

SINGAPORE, 23 May — Singapore's domestic and foreign wholesale trade indices grew 7.5 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively in the first quarter of 2006 in comparison with the same period last year.

According to the figures released by Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) Monday, the general wholesale trade sector and the ship chandlers and bunkering sector led the growth of the domestic wholesale trade by expanding 61.6 per cent and 37.8 per cent respectively in the first quarter of this year.

The electronic components sector and the telecommunications and computers sector also registered double-digit increases in domestic wholesale in the first quarter, while domestic wholesaling of the food, beverages and tobacco

sector, the timber, paints and construction materials sector and the petroleum and petroleum products sector contracted year-on-year in the same period.

The ship chandlers and bunkering sector, which rose 63.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2006 over the previous year, remained the major growth contributor to the foreign wholesale trade.

The wholesaling of electronic components, petroleum and petroleum products, general wholesale trade and other wholesale trade outside Singapore saw double-digit increases in the quarter.

The foreign wholesaling of timber, paints and construction materials, food, beverages and tobacco, as well as household equipment and furniture, declined in the quarter ending in March 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

Minister inspects laboratory of Fisheries Department



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspects Antibiotic Residue and Virus Laboratory of the Fisheries Department in Thakayta Township. — L & F

YANGON, 23 May — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein yesterday afternoon inspected the Antibiotic Residue and Virus Labo-

ratory of the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on Shukhintha Street in Thakayta Township where Director-General

of Fisheries Department U Than Tun and Deputy Director-General U Khin Ko Lay reported on carrying out laboratory work for marine products and fish and meat to be free from bacteria and virus.

Next, the minister gave instructions on checking up of bacteria and virus, meeting the in-

ternational standard and viewed round the laboratory.

On arrival at the 300-ton Palm Oil Mill of Yuzans a Edible Oil Group on Shukhintha Street in Thakayta, the minister inspected the functions of the mill including the production process of palm oil.

MNA

Prisoners in Meiktila Prison supplied with food, medicine

YANGON, 23 May — Meiktila District Union Solidarity and Development Association on 9 May went to Meiktila Prison and supplied medicines and food to the prisoners.

Comprising members of Meiktila District USDA, members of Meiktila Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Organization, War Veteran's Organization and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Health Department, a 20-member group led by Secretary of Meiktila District USDA U Saw Htay and Secretary of Meiktila Township USDA U Soe Than comforted the prisoners saying that they will provide them with monthly supplies of food and medicines and will inform the families of those who lost contact with their relatives.

On their trip to the prison, they presented 2,000 tablets of Metronidazole, 240 bars of soap, 14 sports journals, 74 Nanmyint Journals, cheroots, cakes and betel and betel nut. There are 389 prisoners — 318 men and 71 women — in the prison.

MNA

Fires break out in Bago, Meiktila

YANGON, 23 May — A fire broke out on *Hino* passenger bus No Ba/7143 of Pyikyaw bus service between mile posts 56 and 57 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Mayin Village, Bago Township yesterday evening.

The fire occurred due to the wire shock and the bus plies Yangon and Pyinbongyi and it was driven by U Tin Win and conductor U Khin Soe.

Altogether 17 firefighters rushed to the scene and put out the fire. Some seats and the front part of the bus were destroyed. The loss was about K 500,000.

Another fire occurred at the house of U Kyaw Kyaw Oo in the compound of Sibintheyayay in Meiktila Township early morning today.

Fifty firefighters put out the fire. Due to the fire, roof of the house and some properties were destroyed.

MNA

WHO chief dies after blood clot on brain

GENEVA, 23 May — The head of the World Health Organization, Lee Jong-wook of South Korea, died on Monday after suffering a blood clot on the brain, the United Nations agency said.

Lee was 61 and had been WHO director-general since 2003.

"I am sorry to tell you that Dr Lee Jong-wook, director-general of the WHO, died this morning," Spain's Health Minister Elena Salgado told the opening session of the agency's annual assembly.

Lee underwent an operation on Saturday to remove a blood clot on his brain at the Cantonal Hospital of Geneva. He had been taken ill suddenly in the afternoon.

Before taking over as its head, he had worked for the health agency at country and regional level and at the Geneva headquarters for 23 years.

The five-day annual assembly was immediately suspended for 30 minutes following the announcement. It 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 long-standing bid to win observership. —MNA/Reuters

EU says 22 states to ease defence market access

BRUSSELS, 23 May — Twenty-two out of 25 European Union states will take part in an EU-run voluntary scheme to give each other's firms greater access to their national defence markets, the bloc said on Monday.

Spain and Hungary have notified the EU they will not take part in the scheme under which defence equipment contracts will from July be posted on an electronic bulletin board, a EU spokeswoman said. Denmark has an existing opt-out from some EU defence cooperation.

At present Europe's national defence markets are jealously guarded, with EU states able to cite national security grounds for not opening a contract to competitive bidding. Around half of all procurement contracts worth around 30 billion euros (38 billion US dollars) a year are estimated to have such protection. —MNA/Reuters



Workers walk in front of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze river in central China's Hubei Province, on 17 May, 2006.

INTERNET

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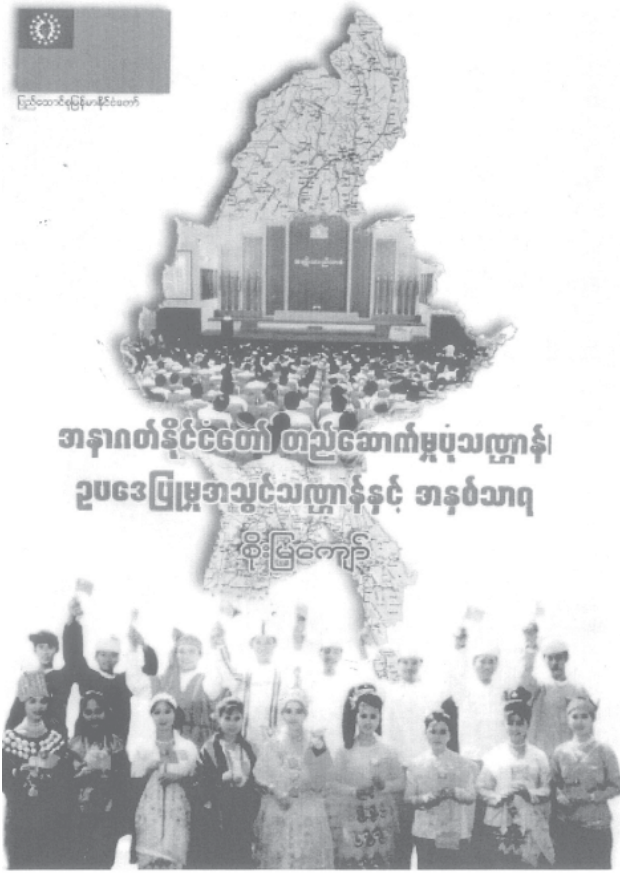


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Ugandan Govt set to ban plastic bags

KAMPALA, 23 May — The Ugandan Government has planned to ban the importation, production and use of certain types of polythene bags, known as buveera in local language.

The move is part of the National Environment Management Authority's (NEMA) grand plan to conserve the environment. "By nature polythene bags are not environmentally friendly," Monday's *Daily Monitor* quoted NEMA's executive director Henry Aryamanya Mugisha as saying. "As a priority, we are going to ban the production, importation and use of the black and white thin polythene carrier bags," he said, adding that all is set to implement the ban, except that NEMA has been waiting for Parliament to

pass an enabling law. Local industries would be encouraged to produce paper bags as they phase out buveera and importers would be advised to bring in environment friendly bags. About 10 per cent of buveera is produced locally while 90 per cent is imported. The central and local governments will provide money for recycling of existing buveera. But the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) and traders under the Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA) oppose the

ban. UMA's Executive Director Obonyo Hillary said the paper bags, which the government prefers, would also degrade the environment by increasing pressure on the existing trees. Obonyo said the government and NEMA should provide incentives to the private sector to collect the buveera in recycling and take them for recycling.—MNA/Xinhua

India to invest \$6b in Nigeria

ABUJA, 23 May — India has agreed to invest six billion US dollars in power plants and other projects in Nigeria, Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria Anil Trigunayat said at the weekend.

"An agreement to that effect has been reached after an Indian delegation met with President Olusegun Obasanjo recently," he said. Already, he added, Obasanjo had constituted a committee headed by Minister of Power and Steel Lyiel Imoke to work out the modality for such projects. Describing Nigeria as one of India's strategic partners, the Indian diplomat said as the most populous countries in Africa and Asia respectively, both Nigeria and India had a lot to learn and gain from each other. MNA/Xinhua

China "positive" on maglev cooperation with Germany

BELING, 23 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Monday that his government is "positive" in continuing cooperation with Germany on magnetic levitation (maglev) railway development.

"The cooperation between China and Germany on maglev railways has been fruitful," Wen said when asked why his talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel failed to yield a new contract. China and Germany have already built a 30-kilometre maglev line in Shanghai.

Wen said China was undertaking a feasibility study on a 175-kilometre line between Shanghai and Zhejiang Province. "Considering the huge investment, thorough research should be done in order to make a scientific decision," Wen said. "But I can make quite

clear that China has a positive attitude to cooperation with Germany." The Premier said China hoped to introduce Germany's advanced technology. "Meanwhile, we will also make solemn commitment that we protect intellectual property." MNA/Xinhua

Entrepreneur says tourism business reviving in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 May — Nepali tourism business, which witnessed lean days in the past, is gradually rising, a tourism entrepreneur said here on Monday.

"Although, immediate impact of the political change in tourism sector has not seen for the moment, positive signs are already being felt," Shyam Mohan Shrestha, owner of Mirabel Resort nestled at the scenic hills of Dhulikhel Town of central Kavre District, told *Xinhua*.

Referring to the activities at his own resort located some 50 kilometres east of Nepali capital Kathmandu, Shrestha said that there has been a steady rise in the number of people who have been going there for excursion and seminars in the past few days.

Tourists were seen moving around the four-star facility resort on Monday morning and bookings were all filled for the rooms.

The turn out of tourists at the resort was encouraging, Shrestha noted, adding, "A total of 11 guests checked out Monday, however, more than 11 new guests have already booked the rooms so far."

Nepal experienced huge loss in the past years of insurgency. — MNA/Xinhua



Pigeons take advantage of water lying on top of a pillar in Lahore on 21 May, 2006.— INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

Malaysia pledges \$16m to Palestinian Authority

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 22 May— Malaysia pledged 16 million US dollars on Sunday in humanitarian aid and budget support to the Palestinian Authority to compensate for the loss of US and European assistance.

But in practice the Malaysian pledge, like previous contributions from Arab states, will not reach the Palestinians until the United States lifts the threat of sanctions against banks which transfer the funds to the West Bank or Gaza.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made the pledge at a news conference on the sidelines of a World Economic Forum meeting in Egypt.

The Palestinian Authority lost most of its direct funding after the Islamist group Hamas won parliamentary elections and formed a new Cabinet.

MNA/Reuters

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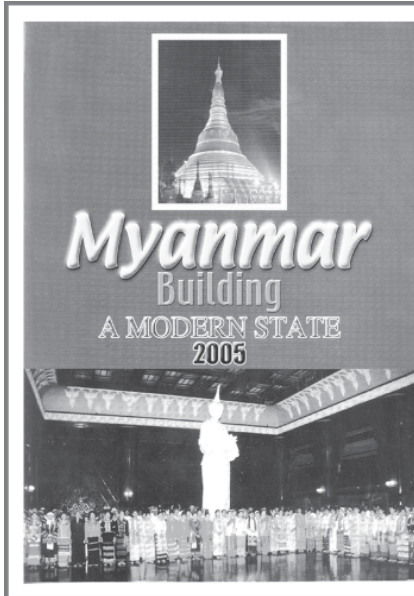
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Zimbabwe joins fight against child hunger

HARARE, 22 May — Zimbabwe will on Sunday join the rest of the world in a World Food Programme (WFP) solidarity walk aimed at encouraging people to fight against child hunger.

The walk, to be undertaken under the theme of Walk the World, will see participants walk for 3.4 kilometres to and from Harare Gardens in the country's capital city.

Boy scouts, primary school children as well as representatives from government and non-

governmental organizations will participate in the march that seeks to transform the lives of the poorest children in the world.

More than 700,000 people from over 100 countries across 24 time zones are expected to walk to fight child hunger.

"This number includes some 100,000 children who are expected to walk in Sub-Saharan Africa, most are beneficiaries of WFP's innovative and successful School Feeding Scheme,"

said WFP in a statement.

It said the walk was meant to call attention to an estimated 300 million children who suffer from hunger all over the world, adding that in 2005, over 200,000 people in 266 locations participated and raised enough funds to feed 70,000 children.

"This year, we aim to raise 5 million US dollars for WFP's global school feeding programme, which helps children in poor countries grow into healthy and educated citizens," it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Police impound 89 sick cattle in western Uganda

KAMPALA, 22 May— Police have arrested five on charges of moving cattle in a quarantined area, following the interception of 89 cattle with foot and mouth disease in Ugandan western district of Mbarara.

According to the report of the Daily Monitor on Saturday, the police are holding an assistant district veterinary officer and four others for illegally moving cattle from a quarantined area.

The accused officer, William Tumwebaze was arrested for allegedly issuing cattle movement permits from a prohibited area on Thursday with 89 cows most of which were suffering from foot and mouth disease and were believed to have been ferried from Isingiro District.

"We impounded four trucks full of cattle at the junction of Rushere road check point commonly known as Kaguta Road in the wee hours of the morning and they are now at Mbarara Police Station," said the regional Police Commander Taire Idhwege.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino journalist killed in W Philippines

MANILA, 22 May— Unidentified gunmen shot dead a radio news commentator in Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, Western Philippines on Monday morning, local radio said.

The victim was identified as Fernando Batul, commentator of Palawan's DYPR radio station. Batul was the fifth Filipino journalist killed in the country this year, according to a report on Radio DZMM.

Initial reports by the radio said two men riding a motorcycle drove up to shoot Batul who was on his way to the DYPR radio station in Valencia Street of the city around 6 a.m.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn confirmed the killing, the report said.

In an interview with DZMM, Hagedorn said that Batul was one of his critics. He added that he has ordered the policemen to resolve Batul's killing within 48 hours or face

possible dismissal.

On last Tuesday, tabloid photojournalist Alberto Orsolino was shot dead also by unidentified gunmen in Caloocan City, north of Manila.

In its annual report, the Paris-based organization Reporters Without Borders ranked the Philippines as the most dangerous country for journalists only after Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuelan int'l flights suspended due to volcanic ash

CARACAS, 22 May— Some international flights were suspended due to a huge cloud of ash billowing from a volcano on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, airlines official said on Sunday.

Aeropostal, a Venezuelan carrier, has "decided to suspend flight

from Venezuela to the United States...due to clouds of volcanic ash in the region," Aeropostal Vice-President Juan Carlos Blanco told Venezuelan television station Globovision.

Ash will start moving away from the region on early Monday morning, he

said. The US-based company, American Airlines, also announced its suspension of flights between the United States and Venezuela.

Delta Air Lines and Continental Air Lines, another two US companies that also operate flights to Venezuela, have not made statements about their flight plans. A dome atop a volcano on Montserrat island collapsed on Saturday, emitting debris and ashes about 16 kilometres into the sky. No injuries have been reported.

MNA/Xinhua



The world's smallest box of matches.—INTERNET

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Rooftop collapse leaves six dead, 18 more injured

DALIAN, 22 May — Six people were killed and 18 more injured when a rooftop collapsed at a construction site in Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The tragedy happened around 9:40 pm on Friday at the construction site of Shenyang Music Conservatory's Dalian school area, located at Jinshitan of Dalian, when some of the workers were doing concrete pouring on the rooftop of a five-storey mansion, a local official in charge of construction affairs from Dalian City told *Xinhua*.

Three of the six killed were transient workers hired from a local labour market a day before the accident.

The construction site did not even have a permit for construction. It had been twice sealed from entrance for factors including chaotic management, and the fallen part this time was the sunlight rooftop, said the official—*MNA/Xinhua*

Actor Song Seung-heon to send message to SG Wannabe's Concert in Japan



Song Seung-heon

SEOUL, 22 May—Hallyu star Song Seung-heon, who is currently serving in the Army, will send a video message to be shown at the group SG Wannabe's first solo concert in Japan.

A 5-minute video message from Song will be shown at the group's concert to be held at the Stellar Hall of the Shinagawa Prince Hotel in Tokyo on 13 May.

Song has a close relationship with the music group, as they are under contract with the same agency. He filmed about a 5 minute-long video message to celebrate the group's first solo concert in Japan. SG Wannabe will sing its hit song "While I'm Living," using as a backdrop the music video of "Sad Love Story," which was filmed in Australia.

Upon hearing the news, members of Song's official Japanese fan club "Heonirang Japan" had asked the group's agency and the programme planning agency for 10,000 tickets to attend the concert. But as the performing hall's capacity is limited to 3,000 seats, the agencies decided to allocate only about 100 tickets to Song's fans.

SG Wannabe's performances are scheduled to be held at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm on the concert day. The group's popularity has been demonstrated as the concerts were sold out just three days

after the tickets began selling.

At the upcoming performances, the group will sing its hit songs, such as "Timeless," "Crime and Punishment" and "Gwang," and other OST songs from popular hallyu TV dramas. SG Wannabe began gaining popularity when the songs of popular TV dramas, including "Isn't It Funny?" from the drama "Hotelier" and "While I'm Living" from the drama "Sad Love Story," became known in Japan. The group has captivated the hearts of many Japanese fans with its outstanding singing ability and beautiful tunes. —*Internet*

Venezuela claims to buy Russian fighter planes

CARACAS, 22 May — Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez said on his Sunday television and radio show, **Alo Presidente**, that his nation will sign a deal to buy Russian fighter planes when he visits Moscow in August or September.

Chavez also said that he could sell Venezuela's F-16 fighter planes if the United States does not provide spare parts to his country.

"We will soon be in Moscow, because we will buy Russian fighter planes to defend our sky and land," said Chavez, adding these jets would be Russia's Sukhoi Su-30 planes, which are "100 times better than the F-16s that Venezuela bought from the United States."

Chavez's remarks echoed a statement by

General Alberto Muller Rojas, the presidential advisor, who said last week that Venezuela was looking at the idea of selling the F-16s to Iran if Venezuela does not receive spare parts.

Citing Muller's statement, Chavez said: "he said that if they do not want to sell us spare parts, we should sell the planes... why lose all that money? It is millions of dollars. Then,

Muller said, we should sell them to Iran, and that could be done."

Last Monday, the United States announced a ban on military sales to Venezuela, and one day after that Sean McCormack, spokesman for the US State Department, said that the sale of the planes to Iran, or anyone else "is not permitted."

MNA/Xinhua

HIV on increase in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 23 May — The number of people infected with the HIV virus in Belgium is on the increase, local VRT news quoted latest research results as reporting on Monday.

According to the latest figures from Sensoa, the Flemish centre for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, 2.9 new cases of contamination of the virus that can lead to AIDS are recorded every day. A total

of 1,066 new HIV infections were diagnosed last year. That is an increase of more than 6 percent on 2004 when the number of new cases actually decreased for the first time in 10 years.

MNA/Xinhua



Toyota Motor employees dust the cars at the company's Tokyo showroom. Toyota Motor Corp plans to build new factories in Asia, North America and Europe to boost its annual output to 10 million vehicles by 2010 and probably overtake US General Motors, a report said recently.—INTERNET

Thousands march in New York for immigration rights

NEW YORK, 22 May — Several thousand New Yorkers took to the street in midtown Manhattan on Saturday afternoon to show their support for immigrant rights just days before the US Senate votes for the immigration bill next week.

The week between 14 and 20 May has been designated as a week for nationwide action for immigration rights, and Saturday's march is just the latest in a series of events which have taken place nationwide over the past few months, according to New York Immigration Coalition, one of the organizers of Saturday's march.

The coalition said it launched the march on the last day of the week just to send a strong signal to the Bush Administration and the Senate that immigrants want changes in immigration laws and are against the immigration bill up for a vote in the Senate next week. It argued that the proposed Guest Worker programme is in fact just an effort to

find immigrants and deport them.

It also asked for an end to raids against illegal immigrants and treating community activists who helped illegal immigrants as criminals. The coalition urged the Congress to offer immigrants, both legal and illegal, access to US citizenship, and enable them to reunite with their families.

MNA/Xinhua



Steve Williams holds up the ball at his home in Pacifica, California from San Francisco Giants Barry Bonds' 700th home run after the top bid of \$804,129 was announced. The ball had received 240 offers after a 10-day online auction. Williams got the ball after a scramble in the left-center field bleachers at SBC Park in San Francisco. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Braxton Bilbrey, left, a 7-year-old from Arizona, sits with his father, Steve Bilbrey at San Francisco's Aquatic Park, where the youngster finished an estimated 1.4 mile swim from Alcatraz Island, on 22 May, 2006, in San Francisco. Bilbrey became one of the youngest swimmers to cross the channel from Alcatraz Island to the city.

INTERNET

Moggi denies wrongdoing, blames Galliani for ambush

MILAN, 23 May— Luciano Moggi, the former Juventus official at the centre of Italy's soccer scandal, has denied he tried to get favourable referees appointed to his club's games and blamed AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani for his downfall.

In an interview with the QN group of regional newspapers Moggi, who is being investigated by prosecutors in Rome and Naples, said he was merely trying to get a fair deal for Juventus.

"I, like my other colleagues, wanted only to assure myself that ref-

erees who were enemies of Juventus did not take the field and that all the matches would be taken charge of by serious professionals, who were good and above all impartial," said Moggi.

Published telephone intercepts of Moggi's conversations with Foot-

ball Federation officials responsible for selecting referees have led to a series of investigations into allegations of match-fixing.

But Moggi said that all clubs were involved in lobbying over refereeing appointments.

"I will tell you one thing — for years, every day of the week, the refereeing selectors received calls from the presidents and directors of clubs at all levels, starting from (AC Milan official Leonardo) Meani and (Inter Milan President Giacinto) Facchetti."

Meani is already under investigation by prosecutors, but Facchetti is not.

MNA/Reuters

Cruyff says Henry will regret for snubbing Barca

LONDON, 23 May— Football legend Johan Cruyff has claimed that striker Thierry Henry may live to regret his decision to snub Barcelona and stay at Arsenal.

The Catalan giants hoped to clinch a deal for Henry after beating Arsenal 2-1 in the Champions League final.

But Henry, 28, opted to sign a new four-year contract at Arsenal, a move heavily criticized by Cruyff.

The former Nou Camp legend said: "In the cold light of day, without looking inside his head, I think that he has made a mistake."

Cruyff added: "He has taken a decision in the heat of the moment when you should make them with a lot of consideration." "With his track record of what he has achieved in France and England it only lacked a spell in Spain to give him the rubber stamp. This spell could have been at Barcelona.

"There are big deci-

sions to be made in every footballer's career. This was the moment in Henry's life, not just as a player but as a man. He could look back and regret it.

MNA/Xinhua

Watford promoted after 3-0 win over Leeds

LONDON, 23 May— Watford won promotion to the English Premier League when they beat Leeds United 3-0 in the playoff final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Sunday.

They join champions Reading and Sheffield United as the three promoted teams. Watford had finished the season in third place in the Second Division, with Leeds in fifth.

American defender Jay DeMerit put Watford in front midway through the first half when he met an inswinging corner at the far post with a firm header.

Watford doubled their advantage 12 minutes into the second half when a James Chambers shot was deflected off Leeds's World Cup-bound US midfielder Eddie Lewis, hit the base of the near post and went in off diving goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

Darius Henderson put the finishing touch to an emphatic victory with a penalty seven minutes from time after Shaun Derry brought down striker Marlon King.

The victory to Watford, who had one season in the Premier League in 1999/2000, is worth close to 40 million pounds (75 million US dollars), made up largely of expected television revenue in the top flight, according to British media reports.

"It sounds fantastic," was DeMerit's reaction to the fact that Watford will be in the Premier League next season. "We all worked really hard all season.

MNA/Reuters

Federer, Kostelic win Laureus sporting Oscars

BARCELONA, 23 May— Roger Federer reasserted his status on top of the sporting world on Monday by again winning the Sportsman of the Year title at the Laureus World Sports awards on a big night for tennis.

Croatian skier Janica Kostelic took the women's prize after an unprecedented fourth Winter Olympic gold, while Federer's compatriot Martina Hingis won the Comeback of the Year Award, a day after her first singles title success in over four years.

Spaniard Rafael Nadal, Federer's great rival, was named Newcomer of the Year after 12 months in which the 19-year-old was crowned French Open champion and became unbeatable on clay.

"He totally deserves it. He's almost at the level

where he could win the (top) Laureus Award, but I think Newcomer is the right award for him," Federer said. "Him winning the Newcomer and me winning the big one, that's a great sign for tennis."

Formula One constructors Renault won the team award, offering some consolation to losing nominee Fernando Alonso, who became the sport's youngest-ever champion.

Along with Alonso, Federer beat off competition from seven-times Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, Brazil's Ronaldinho, two-time winner Tiger Woods, and Italian motorcycle champion Valentino Rossi, who picked up a Spirit of Sport Award after three fruitless years as a contender.

Federer, who goes to the French Open on Sun-

day aiming to become the first man since 1969 to hold all four grand slams, also won the Laureus Award in Estoril 12 months ago — when he was the Wimbledon and US Open champion.

With the Australian Open title also now in his possession, the powerful frame of Nadal is likely to be his greatest obstacle to glory at Roland Garros.

MNA/Reuters

Lippi gets backing from Italy administrator

FLORENCE (Italy), 23 May— Italy coach Marcello Lippi, who has faced calls to resign, has been given a vote of confidence by the head of the Italian Football Federation.

"I have total and full confidence in Lippi," federation emergency administrator Guido Rossi told reporters at Italy's pre-World Cup training camp.

Magistrates summoned Lippi on Friday as a witness in an investigation into allegations surrounding his former club Juventus. He is expected to be questioned more extensively next week.

Lippi denied last week that former Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi, who is at the centre of match-fixing allegations, forced him to select

certain players for the national side. Lippi's son Davide is also an agent at the GEA players and coaches management agency being probed by authorities.

Some politicians and newspapers called for Lippi to resign before the World Cup in Germany which starts on June 9 as a step towards improving the image of Italian football.

But Rossi, who was appointed following the resignation of Federation president Franco Carraro, said that was out of the question.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil arrive in lakeside resort for training camp

WEGGIS (Switzerland), 23 May— World champions Brazil arrived in the lakeside resort of Weggis on Monday to begin their training camp ahead of the World Cup.

Media representatives outnumbered fans as the bus arrived at their hotel at about 1600 local time (1400 GMT), around one hour later than scheduled.

Some of the players turned up earlier after making their own way, including Real Madrid striker Ronaldo, who had nipped off to Dubai for a quick holiday, and AC Milan trio Kaka, Cafu and goalkeeper Dida.

The players will undergo medical tests at a nearby clinic on Tuesday before training begins in earnest on Wednesday.

A 5,000 capacity arena has been built — 1,000 more than the population of the village — and organizers say tickets for all the planned training sessions have already been sold.

On Monday, Brazilian improvisation seemed to be the rule rather than Swiss efficiency with builders still putting the finishing touches to the training complex, which lies just up the hill from the team hotel.

Brazil, who face Croatia, Australia and Japan in their Group F first round matches in Germany, will stay in Weggis until Saturday June 3 when they head for Geneva to play New Zealand in their only international warm-up the following day.

They then move on to Germany. About 150 fans had given the squad a send-off from Rio de Janeiro on Sunday night.

"We're going to this World Cup with an obligation to win," coach Carlos Alberto Parreira told reporters.

MNA/Reuters



Spain's Daniel Sordo and his navigator Marc Marti take a jump in their Citroen Xsara during the Rally of Italy, in the Sardinian town of Olbia, Italy, on 21 May, 2006. Sordo placed third.—INTERNET

Nearly 300 Vietnamese fishermen missing in Typhoon Chanchu

HANOI, 23 May — Eighteen Vietnamese fishing ships with a total of 287 people on board have gone missing in Typhoon Chanchu, local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* reported on Monday.

The 18 ships from the four central provinces of Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh had been defined by 21 May either sinking or going missing, the newspaper quoted Vietnamese Deputy Fisheries Minister Nguyen Viet Thang as saying.

By 21:30 of 20 May, Chinese forces had rescued a total of 21 Vietnamese fishing ships sailing in the Chinese waters hit by the typhoon, the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi said, noting that they had supplied

fuel, drinking water and foodstuffs to 15 Vietnamese ships with 330 fishermen on board. Of the people, 21 have died and six have been injured, the embassy noted.

Chanchu, which means "pearl," formed in the Pacific, about 550 kilometres east of Mindanao Island in the Philippines on 9 May. It hit the central Philippines, then headed

to central Vietnam, but suddenly changed its direction to southern China, killing dozens of people and affecting thousands of others from the three countries. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Collapsing church roof injures three in Uganda

KAMPALA, 23 May — Three children were injured after a church roof was ripped off in Kampala by the strong wind and downpour two months after a collapsing church killed 28 people in the capital city.

The children were part of the congregation in the church when the accident occurred on Sunday, according to a report of *Daily Monitor* on Monday.

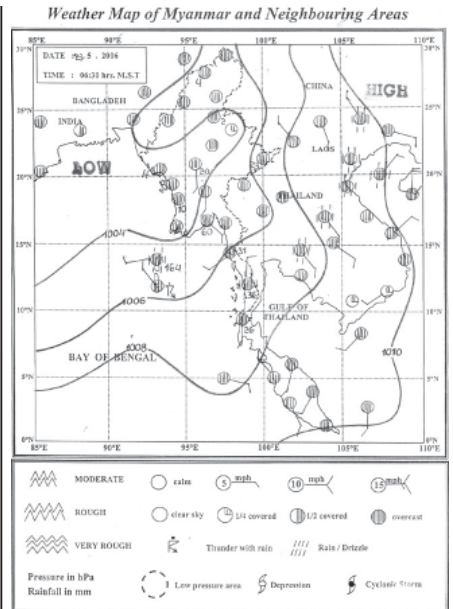
Witnesses said the incident was caused by strong winds in the heavy downpour, causing some bricks to descend onto the children, who were rushed

to Mulago hospitals for treatment.

The church, which accommodated about 100 worshippers, is located in Corner Zone in Kawempe Division, Kampala.

In the same area, a wall fence of Aya factory owned by the Sudanese tycoon Mohammed Aya, collapsed on a house and a maize-milling store after rainwater forced its way through it.

According to the police officer in charge of Kawempe, Peruth Karungi, the wall collapsed due to poor drainage. — *MNA/Xinhua*



WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin and Mon States, Taninthayi and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Yangon Division and isolated heavyfalls in Magway Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Kalaywa, Myingyan, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway and Pakokku (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Co Co Island (6.54) inches, Central (Yangon) (3.66) inches, Myeik (2.44) inches, Kaba-Aye (Yangon) (2.36) inches, Magway and Khayan (1.49) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 23-5-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 23-5-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 22-5-2006 was (4.2) hour (approx).

Rainfalls on 23-5-2006 were (0.86) inch at Mingaladon, (2.37) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.66) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (13.50) inches at Mingaladon, (16.50) inches at Kaba-Aye and (18.15) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from South at (21:15) hours MST on 22-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State and Ayeyawady Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions 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 advancement of Southwest monsoon over Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2006: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“CONDOLENCE”

We convey our deepest sympathy to Lt.Col-HTUN SHEIN (Retd) & DAW MYA OHN on the sad demise of their beloved daughter, also to Dr. U SEIN HLA KYAW (Myanmar ISOS, Total Myanmar) on the sad demise of his beloved wife

Dr. DAW WIN WIN SHEIN (55 Years)

Assistant Health Program Co-ordinator (Care International in Myanmar) on Friday 19th, May, 2006.

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Myanmar 21 st Century Group Co., Ltd. | (Tel: 502468) |
| 2. Eastern Star Trading Co., Ltd. | (Tel: 539443) |
| 3. Myint Sadana Tyres & Lubricant Trading. | (Tel: 501660) |
| 4. Kyaw Ye Aung Trading Co., Ltd. | (Tel: 527708) |
| 5. 313 Refrigerator & Air-Con Trading And Services. | (Tel: 525401) |
| 6. Shwe War Win Trading Ltd. | (Tel: 297705) |
| 7. Nine Dimension Int'l Trading Co., Ltd. | (Tel: 681169/09 50 18407) |
| 8. Tri Star General Trading Co., Ltd. | (Tel: 524621/Fax: 501028) |
| | E-Mail:tristar@mptmail.net.mm) |



Wednesday, 24 May
Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -It's gotta be you
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Truely
- 8.50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Moving on
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -With you
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music: -If only you were here
- 9:00 pm Interview with Vietnamese delegation
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Variations on a tune -Will you still have me tomorrow
- 9:30 pm Music at your request -Look me in your heat
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 24 May
View on today

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| <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>6. မြန်မာ့အလင်း ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p> <p>8:10 am</p> <p>7. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>8. တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်း</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>9. International news</p> | <p>8:45 am</p> <p>10.Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial songs</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. Practice in reading</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Musical programme</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>5. အဆောင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတ်ယူနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>6. Song of national races</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:35 pm</p> <p>8. Classical Song</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>9. “ဆွေမျိုးတော်ပေမယ့်” (ဒုတိယခန်း တင်လင်း၊ အောင်အိမ်ဖြူတို့၊ ဗေဒါ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> | <p>5:50 pm</p> <p>10. ရွှေယုန်လင် အာစီယံအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>11. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>13. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်</p> <p>7:15 pm</p> <p>14. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:20 pm</p> <p>15. Musical programme</p> <p>7:35 pm</p> <p>16. ကြားမြင်သွင်းပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တာဝန်ပေးအဖြစ် (၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ (ရုပ်သား) “မင်းကုသစာတော်ကြီး” (ဓမ္မ လောဘိဋ်)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p> |
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Pyapon Bridge construction project inspected

YANGON, 23 May—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials concerned, this morning inspected construction of bridges along Hlinethaya-Kanbe-Twantay-Kungyangon-Dedaye-Pyapon road.

At the briefing hall of Pyapon Bridge project, Deputy Superintending Engineer of Bridge

Construction Project Special Group-7 U Khin Maung Se reported to the minister on progress of work and future tasks.

Before inspecting the project site, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project and attended to the needs.

Pyapon Bridge is of reinforced concrete type. The

3,932 feet long bridge has a 28 feet motor road and two pedestrian lanes on either side. It can withstand 60 tons of load.

The installation of steel beams has been completed and the laying of reinforced concrete on the bridge is nearing completion.

MNA

Minister inspects Myanma Port Authority, Asia World Port Terminal, docking tasks

YANGON, 23 May — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe went on an inspection tour of Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty of Myanma Port Authority yesterday afternoon.

During the arrival, Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority U Thein Htay, Director-General of Customs Department U Khin Maung Lin and officials conducted the minister around containers arriving at the port and stockpile of cargoes at the warehouse.

In connection with the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and inspected X-ray machine for checking containers and packed goods for export.

Next, the minister together with the directors-general and officials proceeded to Ahlon Asia World Port Terminal.

Director-General of Customs Department U Khin Maung Lin and officials conducted the minister around containers arriving at the port. Afterwards, the minister looked into imported cargoes inside the containers, a newly-installed X-ray machine and its checks on containers, loading and unloading of cargoes



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects goods at Asia World Jetty on his inspection tour. — MNA

and arrival of containers and stockpile of cargoes.

Regarding the reports, the minister gave instructions and attended to the needs. After the minister had overseen

docking tasks of Bago vessel which belongs to Myanmar Five Star Line at 12000-ton water-tight dockyard, work procedures were reported to him by Managing Director of Myanmar Shipyards U Maung Maung Nyein and General Manager U Aye Thauang. Next, the minister inspected worksites and left. —MNA

National Cycling C'ship continues

YANGON, 23 May —Tha National Cycling Races continued at

Youths Sports Training Centre here today. Maung Maung Soe

of (F&R) came in first in the 1000-metre individual race followed by Myint

Aye of the same ministry and Khin Maung Cho (A&I). In the women's event Khaing Mar Oo (A&I), Su Su Wai (L&F), and Khin Soe Htay (YCDC) were first, second and third respectively.

In the 1600-metre individual race, Win Naing Tar (A&I) won the first prize, Maung Maung Soe (F&R) second prize, Kyaw Myo Hlaing (F&R) third prize. In the women's race, Khaing Mar Oo stood first, Yu Mar Oo (A&I) second and Khin Soe Htay (YCDC) third.

The events continue tomorrow. — NLM



Cyclists taking part in the women's 1600-metre individual event. — NLM



Cyclists in action in the men's 4800-metre individual event. — NLM