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Monday, 5 June, 2006

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

Myeik Myothit being built for resettlement of its increasing population and developing industries

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of Myeik Myothit and GTC, functions of Kyweku Dock



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of Government Technological College in Myeik Myothit.—MNA

YANGON, 4 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, inspected Kyweku Dock of King Star Enterprise in Kyweku Village in Myeik Township yesterday.

Director U Hlaing Thura reported on construction of the dock and operating of its functions.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions. He heard reports on matters related to saw mills and lathe industries presented by entrepreneurs of Myeik,

and instructed them to make efforts for manufacturing small-scale agricultural equipment.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected repairing and building of trawlers at the dock.

About 300 employees are working at the dock. A total of 18 trawlers weighing 200 tons each can be docked.

On arrival at the construction site of Myeik Myothit Project near Kyweku-Kyaukpya Bridge, Secretary of the Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Nyunt reported on construction of the new town, Acting Director of Development Affairs Committee U Kyi Than on drawing of the town plan of Myeik Myothit, and other officials on construction of roads and bridges,

waterway administration and water supply tasks.

Furthermore, officials also submitted reports on resettlement and fund raising tasks.

The commander briefed Lt-Gen Maung Bo on implementation of the construction project.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that Myeik Myothit is being built for resettlement of the increasing population of Myeik and developing industries. He stressed the need to speed up construction tasks. It is necessary to resettle factories to the industrial zone in the new town. All are to try timely completion of construction tasks, water supply and beautifying the port.

(See page 8)

I N S I D E

PERSPECTIVES *there are dams in the arid zone, farmers can undertake their farming work with the use of irrigated water and participate in greening project and the activities to combat desertification. Moreover, rural water supply project contributes towards the greening project and it prevents desertification.*

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ARTICLES *There are many other countries affected by desertification. These included countries in Central Asia such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Desertification is also an important environmental concern in Mongolia, China, India and Pakistan.*

PAGE 7

YIN YIN LAY

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 5 June, 2006

Conserve environment for existence of living beings

All living beings in the world live on natural environment such as land, water, mountains, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans. Therefore it is important to conserve the environment properly.

Deserts have become wider in all the regions of the world due to the weather changes. This causes economic, social and environmental worries in most countries.

The United Nations Environment Programme has launched a plan to prevent against soil erosion due to drought starting since 1991. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification agreed to lay down an action to combat desertification in 1997.

Arid zone in Asia is 1.7 billion hectares, ranging from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to the coasts of the Pacific Ocean. Deserts in China, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan have gradually become wider and wider.

There is rapid erosion of mountains in Nepal and forest depletion occurs. The majority of the people are facing desertification and drought. That is why Asian countries are making concerted efforts for prevention of desertification.

Central part of Myanmar is in the dry zone. All the regions except the arid zone get heavy rains from May to the end of October. Annual rainfall of coastal regions, delta and northern parts of Myanmar is 5,000 millilitres. However, the annual rainfall of the central parts of Myanmar is less than 600 millilitres. Therefore, the arid zone became considerably hotter and drier.

In order to prevent against desertification in the arid zone, 13-district greening project and rural water supply project have been implemented and clusters of dams built. Barren hills and plains have changed into green forests owing to the 13-district greening project.

As there are dams in the arid zone, farmers can undertake their farming work with the use of irrigated water and participate in greening project and the activities to combat desertification. Moreover, rural water supply project contributes towards the greening project and it prevents desertification.

Thus, it is vitally important to conserve environment for the existence of all living beings.



CASH DONATED: U Min Maung-Daw Ngwe Shin and family of 13 (A), Daw Hla Pan Street, Ward 2, Mayangon Township, recently donated K 150,000 to Hninzingon Home for the Aged. Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home Administrative Board accepts the donations. — H

Combat Desertification

- * 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

Service personnel urged to carry out rural development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye called on departmental personnel to successfully carry out five rural development tasks in cooperation with local people at the work coordination meeting of Sagaing Division PDC held in the town hall of Monywa on 28 and 29 May.

He was briefed there by local authorities and departmental officials on arrangements for undertaking sector-wise projects. In response to the reports, the commander called for successful implementation of the projects. — MNA

Commander meets UDNR-bound students

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thuang Aye met with Shan nationals from Shan State (South), who will attend the BEd four-year course No 41 at University for Development of National Races, at the office of Shan State PDC in Taunggyi on 28 May afternoon.

In meeting with the nationals totalling 29, the commander urged them to try their best in attending the BEd course and presented them with exercise books, stationery and cash assistance.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, state level departmental officials, Shan State Education Officer U Aung Swe and officials. — MNA

MMCWA (Central) provides stationery, cash, medicines

YANGON, 4 June — CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) and other CEC members attended a ceremony to donate stationery and cash to the fund of Myanmar Nyunt Monastic Education School at the school in Thakayta Township, on 2 June morning.

They took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita of the monastery. They offered provisions to Sayadaws.

CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt and party donated K 100,000 to the trust-fund of the school. Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha supplicated on donation. Next, they provided school stationery to students.

A similar ceremony was also held at Shwekyin Monastic Education School in Kungyangon Village, Thanlyin Township. MMCWA donated K 100,000 to the trust-fund and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Joint-Secretary Dr Daw Nweni Ohn and responsible persons presented school stationery to



CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt presents K 300,000 to Thebyu Village Post-Primary School of Hmawby Township donated by MMCWA through Headmistress Daw Khin Mu. — MNA

students.

CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt and party attended the health care services and cash assistance donation ceremony at Thanlyin Township Hospital. Dr Daw Nweni Ohn explained the purpose of organizing the ceremony. Yangon South District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Khin Mya Mu presented membership applications to CEC members of MMCWA.

CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt and party presented K 100,000 to the hospital to Head of District Health Department Dr Myint Zaw. Yangon Division MCWSC member Daw Khin Thet Myaing pro-

vided cash assistance for claft lip and palate patients. They also gave vitamin and ferrous sulphate tablets for pregnant women.

In the afternoon, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt and members, Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai proceeded to Thebyu Village in Hmawby Township, and presented K 300,000

donated by MMCWA for the Village Post-Primary School to Headmistress Daw Khin Mu. CEC members Daw Nilar Thaw and Daw Khin Than Win and Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai also presented medicines and school stationery to Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi and students. The headmistress spoke words of thanks. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Cuba says US denied visa to UN AIDS delegate

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June — Cuba complained on Friday that the United States denied a visa to the head of its delegation to a UN AIDS conference, but a US spokesman said he applied too late.

Cuba's Public Health Minister Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera did not receive a visa, while four other members of the Cuban delegation were allowed into the United States to attend the conference.

The three-day conference, due to end on Friday, was convened to plot global strategy for battling AIDS.

"Once again, the United States is in blatant violation of its obligations under the Host Country Agreement," the Cuban mission to the United Nations said in a statement.

A spokesman for the US Mission to the United Nations said Balaguer applied for his visa two working days before the

start of the conference. "His application was never denied. It is still being processed," Richard Grenell said. The four others received visas because they applied in due time, he said.

The United States, as host country for the United Nations, is obliged to give visas to foreign officials for official UN business.

But diplomatic disputes occasionally occur between Washington and Havana over official Cuban activities inside US territory. The United States broke diplomatic ties with Communist-ruled Cuba in 1961 and later imposed economic sanctions.—MNA/Reuters



Indonesian men carry donated supplies past the ruins of their village in Kerten, in the Bantul District, south of the earthquake-hit Indonesia city of Yogyakarta, on 3 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Venezuela supports proposal to sell oil in euros

CARACAS, 3 June — Venezuela has backed a proposal to sell oil in euros instead of US dollars, Energy and Mines Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Thursday.

In an interview with state television, Ramirez said "Iran has an initiative that we support. They are going to start to do oil transactions in euros".

The remarks came ahead of a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Venezuela's capital on the same day.

Ramirez, who is also the president of the state oil company PDVSA, said "If a market in euros is created, with the euro as a reference, we could send our supplies so they are sold under this (currency)."

Responding to Ramirez' remarks, Edmund Daukoru, president of OPEC, said some member countries had raised the possibility but added that they had not formally tabled the proposal to the bloc.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy and his mother view a specimen of embryo during a corpse scientific exhibition held at the Suzhou International Conference Center in Suzhou on 2 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Baby boom shows Australians do it for their country

CANBERRA, 3 June — Australia is in the grip of a baby boom, figures showed on Friday, after the government urged couples to do their patriotic duty and "have one for your country".

Australia recorded 261,400 births in 2005, the highest number since 1992, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said, pushing the national population up to almost 20.5 million.

The baby boom came after Treasurer Peter Costello urged Australian couples two years ago to

have more children, saying they should have "one for mum, one for dad and one for the country". "It was a light-hearted way of making a serious point, and I am delighted that at least some families have been taking up the challenge," Costello said on Friday.

The government has

identified Australia's low fertility rate and ageing population as a key issue.

A government study has warned that the number of people aged 65 or older is set to double by 2042 and the number aged 85 or more would quadruple, while the number of working-age Australians will remain stable. Costello has urged Australians to have more children, and for older people to remain in the workforce beyond the usual retirement age of 65, to counter what he says is Australia's demographic destiny. In 2004, Costello introduced a A\$3,000 (1,200 pound) baby bonus, which is paid to the parents of each new-born child, which will rise to A\$4,000 from July this year and A\$5,000 from July 2008.

Internet

US military death toll rises to 2,476

WASHINGTON, 3 June — As of Saturday, 3 June, 2006, at least 2,476 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,953 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 113 deaths; Italy, 31; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, Denmark three; El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, one death each.—Internet



British police conducted an anti-terrorist raid in east London on 2 June, 2006.

INTERNET



Actor Pierce Brosnan (R) and wife Keely Shaye Smith arrive for the international launch event to unveil the new image of Dom Perignon Rose Vintage 1996 by designer Karl Lagerfeld, in Beverly Hills, California, on 2 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysian PM welcomes US readiness to join talks with Iran

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 June — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Friday welcomed the United States' readiness to join multilateral negotiations with Iran over the nuclear issue, saying that it would be a relief to the world.

Badawi said that he welcomed the statement issued by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on Wednesday, noting that it showed a change in the US' stand. This was a good move, which means force

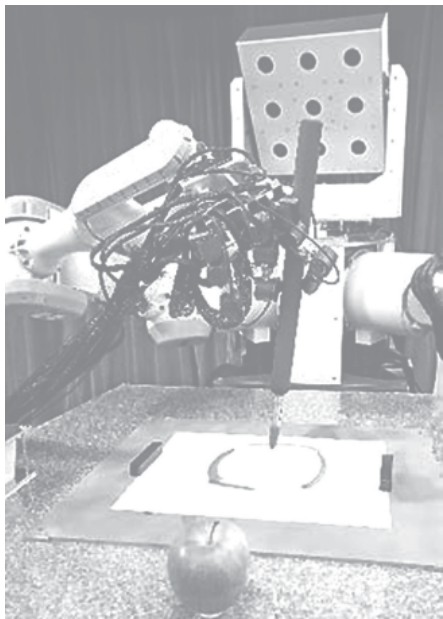
is no longer the primary option. Badawi was quoted as saying by Malaysia's national news agency *Bernama*.

A negotiation should be the approach to resolve the issue and it was important for Iran and the US to meet

at the negotiating table considering they had a history of enmity, he told a Press conference at Cyberjaya, a cyber town near here.

It was reported that Rice said in Washington on Wednesday that the US was ready to join France, Germany and Britain in the negotiation with Iran, if Iran stops uranium enrichment and nuclear material recycling activities.

MNA/Xinhua



A robot designed by Tokyo institute of industrial science showed its ability of painting on 2 June, 2006 in Tokyo, capital of Japan.—INTERNET

Death toll in Turkey mine blast rises to 17

ANKARA, 3 June — The death toll in a coal mine explosion in Dursunbey town of the western province of Balikesir rose to 17, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Guler said on Friday.

"There were 57 people in the coal mine. 35 of them were rescued, while five of them were wounded. Unfortunately 17 people lost their lives," Guler said at the site, 475 kilometres south of Istanbul.

A full investigation into the accident would be carried out, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



The Italian Freccie Tricolori acrobatic squad performs over the Vittoriano Unknown Soldier Monument in the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic in Rome on 2 June, 2006.—INTERNET

US soldier gets hard labour for Abu Ghraib abuse

FORT MEADE (Maryland), 3 June — A US Army dog handler was demoted and sentenced to 90 days of hard labour on Friday for using his dog to assault a prisoner at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq.

Sergeant Santos Cardona, 32, of Fullerton, California, the 11th US soldier convicted for abusing Abu Ghraib detainees, also will have to forfeit 7,200 US dollars in pay, an Army spokeswoman said. He

will not be confined during the term of hard labour but will be demoted to specialist.

A US military court-martial panel of four officers and three enlisted personnel convicted Cardona on Thursday of

two counts that could have led to 3-1/2 years in prison — failing to handle his dog properly and using the unmuzzled Belgian shepherd to threaten a detainee with a force "likely to produce death or grievous bodily

harm".

He was cleared on seven other counts, including accusations of letting his dog bite a prisoner and of conspiring with another dog handler to frighten inmates into defecating and urinating on themselves.

Cardona's defence attorneys had sought to portray him as a victim of unclear orders and an ambiguous chain of command that silently condoned using dogs to terrorize Iraqi prisoners in hopes of getting more intelligence out of them.

Cardona's case arose after the 2004 release of photographs of Army personnel at Abu Ghraib letting snarling dogs intimidate prisoners and forcing the inmates into humiliating poses.

MNA/Reuters

UK police search for chemical bomb

LONDON, 3 June — British anti-terrorist officers searched a house and two workplaces on Saturday for evidence of a possible chemical bomb plot as two suspects detained by police denied any links with terrorism.

The search followed a police raid on a home in the east of the capital a day earlier in which one of the suspects, a 23-year-old man, was shot in the shoulder and wounded.

Police said they had acted on intelligence that suggested the house may have been used to make bombs or chemical weapons.

They have said nothing suspicious was found in an initial search and

acknowledged intelligence may have been wrong.

Police also carried out further "small searches" at the workplaces of the two men detained in the raid that involved more than 250 officers, some dressed in chemical suits.

A police source told *Reuters* officers were looking for "some form of viable chemical device" in the house.

"A device that would have a fatal effect on

someone standing nearby both from the explosion and from the chemical it contained," the source said, adding that the device being sought was a type of conventional bomb surrounded by toxic material. If no bomb was found, it was possible the device had been moved, someone else was hiding it, that it had never been built or that the intelligence had been incorrect, the source said.—INTERNET



A protester chants slogans at an anti-US rally opposing a planned negotiation for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the US and South Korea, in Seoul on 3 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Reporter returns painting looted in World War II

LONDON, 3 June — A small 16th-Century Florentine painting looted from a German museum during World War II and given to a reporter as a "wedding gift" in 1952 has been returned to its rightful owner.

The portrait of Eleonora of Toledo by Alessandro Allori has been handed back to Berlin's Gemaeldegalerie after veteran BBC foreign correspondent Charles Wheeler asked the Commission for Looted Art in Europe (CLAE) to find out where it belonged.

"He had been carrying it around with him for years and was very fond with it but had no idea how important it was," Anne Webber, Co-chair of the

Commission, told *Reuters*.

"It was given to him as a wedding gift by a farmer he knew who told him he had got it from a Russian soldier in exchange for two sacks of potatoes to make vodka," she said. "He wasn't married at the time but it made no difference to the farmer."

The non-profit CLAE specialises returning Nazi-looted art and artefacts to their original owners.

Webber contacted galleries in Germany with a description of the oil-on-wood painting that measures 12 centimetres (4.72 inches) by 16 centimetre on the chance it might ring a bell. — MNA/Reuters

China, Africa summit to strengthen relations

BEIJING, 3 June — The China-Africa summit to be held in China in November will strengthen the growing China-Africa relationship, said visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa Aziz Pahad on Friday.

The relationship would cover political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts, said Pahad.

He said China's new Africa policy, the visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao to Africa in April and the coming visit by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Africa had brought a dynamism to relations.

Pahad said the purpose of his visit was to consolidate relations between South Africa and China. Next year would be the 10th anniversary of South Africa-China diplomatic relations, which had helped economic relations between South Africa and China grow considerably, Pahad said.

He said South African investment in China was higher than China's investment in South Africa, and South Africa hoped to see greater direct investment from China in South Africa.

The two sides had been working very closely on the African agenda and also cooperated closely in

issues like the UN reform, the Iran issue, and the North Korean issue, Pahad said.

"China has made a major offer to help us train people in South Africa," he said.

"We will want to see greater involvement of China in Africa. We want to see China playing a much more positive and active role in helping us develop the African continent," said Pahad. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Japanese girls plant rice seedlings on a roof garden of a high-rise building at Tokyo's Roppongi Hills complex during a rice planting event on 3 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Study shows dark soya sauce healthier than red wine

SINGAPORE, 3 June — Dark soya sauce, widely used in East Asia, may prove to be more effective than red wine and Vitamin C in combating human cell damage, researchers in Singapore said.

Scientists found that the sauce — derived from fermented soya beans — contains antioxidant properties about 10 times more effective than red wine and 150 times more potent than Vitamin C. Singapore's *Strait Times* reported on Saturday.

Antioxidants — found in red wine, fruits and vegetables — counter the effects of free radicals, unstable atoms which attack human cells and tissues.

Free radicals have been linked to the aging process as well as a range of ailments including Parkinson's disease, cancer and heart disease.

The National University of Singapore study also found that the sauce improved blood flow by as much as 50 per cent in the hours after consumption.

"There's a preventative aspect, showing that it may potentially slow down the rate of cardiovascular and

neurodegenerative diseases," research team leader Professor Barry Halliwell said.

But he cautioned against taking large

amounts of dark soya sauce because of its high salt content, which could lead to high blood pressure.

MNA/Reuters



A rescuer works at a site of landslide, caused by continuous heavy rain, next to a dormitory near Fuzhou University, east China's Fujian Province on 1 June, 2006. About 200 people were evacuated immediately from the spot, China Daily reported. —INTERNET

AIDS toll may reach 100 million in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 3 June — It began quietly, when a statistical anomaly pointed to a mysterious syndrome that attacked the immune systems of gay men in California. No one imagined 25 years ago that AIDS would become the deadliest epidemic in history.

Since 5 June, 1981, HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has killed more than 25 million people,

infected 40 million others and left a legacy of unspeakable loss, hardship, fear and despair.

Its spread was hastened by ignorance, prejudice, denial and the freedoms of the sexual revolution. Along the way from oddity to pandemic, AIDS changed the way people live and love.

Slowed but unchecked, the epidemic's relentless march has established footholds in the world's most populous countries. Advances in medicine and prevention that have made the disease manageable in the developed world haven't reach the rest.

In the worst case, sub-Saharan Africa, it has been devastating. And the

next 25 years of AIDS promise to be deadlier than the first.

AIDS could kill 31 million people in India and 18 million in China by 2025, according to projections by UN population researchers. By then in Africa, where AIDS likely began and where the virus has wrought the most devastation, researchers said the toll could reach 100 million.

"It is the worst and deadliest epidemic that humankind has ever experienced," Mark Stirling, the director of East and Southern Africa for UNAIDS, said in an interview.

More effective medicines, better access to treatment and improved prevention in the last few years have started to lower the grim projections. But even if new infections stopped immediately, additional African deaths alone would exceed 40 million, Stirling said.

"We will be grappling with AIDS for the next 10, 20, 30, 50 years," he said.

Internet

US, ex-nuclear scientist in spy probe reach deal

WASHINGTON, 3 June — A former nuclear scientist once suspected of spying will get 1,645,000 US dollars in a settlement

reached on Friday of his lawsuit accusing US Government officials of disclosing personal information about him and

the probe. As part of a settlement filed in federal court, the US Government agreed to pay the scientist, Wen Ho Lee, 895,000 US dollars to cover his legal fees and costs "in full and complete satisfaction of all claims in this action".

In addition to the money paid by the government, the news organizations of five reporters who had been held in contempt for refusing to disclose their sources for stories about Lee agreed to pay him 750,000 US dollars, Lee's lawyer said.

Both Lee and the government said the settlement agreement should not be viewed as an admission by the US Government that the allegations asserted by Lee were true.

Lee was suspected of

spying for China while he worked for the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Lee was fired in 1999. The government's case against him later collapsed, and Lee eventually pleaded guilty to one lesser charge.

MNA/Reuters



A police officer stands guard outside the Durham Region headquarters near Toronto on 2 June, 2006. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Friday that it arrested a number of individuals in the Toronto area for "terrorism-related offenses." —INTERNET

Malaysia trade up 8.6% in April

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 June — Malaysia recorded a trade value of 85.36 billion ringgit (23.07 billion US dollars) in April this year, up 8.6 per cent compared with the same month last year, according to statistics released by Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry on Friday.

The exports in April amounted to 46.30 billion ringgit (12.51 billion US dollars) in value, up 6.3 per cent year-on-year, while the imports posted 39.09 billion ringgit (10.56 billion US dollars), up 11.4 per cent, the ministry said. A trade surplus of 7.21 billion ringgit (1.95 billion US dollars) was recorded in the month this year, making it the 102nd consecutive month to record a trade surplus in the country since November 1997. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Cuban, Indonesian Presidents to hold talks

JAKARTA, 3 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Cuban President Fidel Castro would have a bilateral meeting on the sideline of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Havana in September, visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said here Friday.

“We are sure that President Fidel Castro will have a meeting with President Yudhoyono in Havana, and they will discuss about international situation, NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) and bilateral relations,” said Felipe.

The Foreign Minister

also delivered an official invitation from Castro to Susilo regarding the summit.

Indonesian Presidential spokesman Dino Pati Djalal said here on Friday that Susilo would call his Cuban counterpart on Friday afternoon about the plan. The senior official meeting in Havana will take place from 11 to 16 September. It will be followed by ministerial meeting and the meeting attended by heads of states, according to the minister.

He said that the summit would approve four main documents, including political declaration that would

update the framework of NAM in current international situation, South-South cooperation, Plan of Action that Cuba will materialize during its current presidency of three years as well as the methodology and organization of NAM.

In addition, the summit would approve final document in connection with regional and international affairs, said Felipe. — MNA/Xinhua



China's Zheng Jie (L)/ Yan Zi cheer themselves during a second round match of the women's doubles against Argentina's Maria-Emilia Salerni and Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, on 2 June, 2006. China won 2-0.—INTERNET

Italian PM reiterates resolve on withdrawing from Iraq

ROME, 3 June — Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi reiterated on Friday that Italy's decision to withdraw from

Iraq have already been made, no matter whether Britain agreed with it or not.

The point now was to find the most effective way to implement the decision, Prodi told reporters after he met with the visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Defence ministers of the two countries would later work out the details on the manner and timing of Italy's withdrawal, since Italy's troops in Iraq were under Britain's command, Prodi said.

At the same time, Prodi stressed the importance of security in Iraq.

Under the government of Silvio Berlusconi,

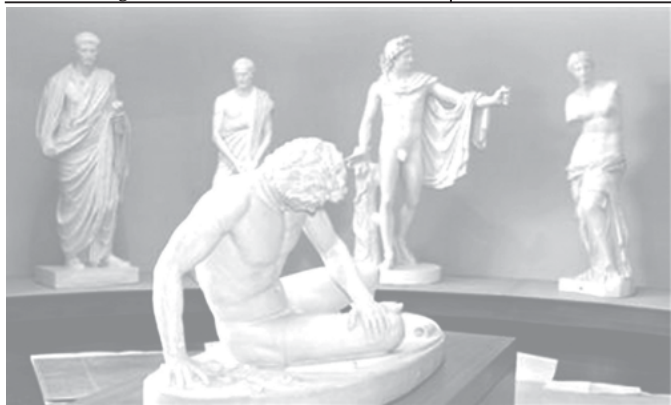
Prodi's predecessor, Italy sent some 3,000 troops to Iraq during the US-led war in 2003 to help with security and reconstruction.

Italy had already begun withdrawing forces from the war-ravaged country

as Berlusconi prepared for his re-election.

Following a timetable worked out under Berlusconi, Italy's military number will be cut down to 1,600 this month.

MNA/Xinhua



Nineteenth-century plaster casts of classical Greek and Roman sculptures, photographed on 13 April, 2006 in Austin, Texas, are part of the Blanton Museum of Art's 17,000-piece permanent collection. —INTERNET

Millions of Chinese affected by drought, 59 killed by floods

BEIJING, 3 June — Million of Chinese have been affected by drought in North China this year and 59 people have been killed by floods in the southern regions.

The lasting drought in North China has resulted in a shortage of drinking water for 9.49 million people, said E Jingping, secretary-general of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and also Vice-Minister of Water Resources.

The drought has affected 12.1 million hectares of farmland mainly in the northern and northeastern areas.

The drinking water shortage has also affected 8.7 million livestock, the official said.

In late April when the drought was most serious, it threatened supplies of drinking water to more than 14 million Chinese and affected 16.3 million hectares of farmland. It eased in the middle of May after rain fell across China, except in the northern and northeastern areas.

Meanwhile, the nation has been stricken by floods mainly in southern parts that have claimed 59 lives and affected 19 million people so far this year, E Jingping said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, 41 injured in road mishap in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 3 June — At least two persons died and 41 others injured on Friday in a road accident in western Nepal, chief of District Traffic Police Office (DTPO) confirmed Saturday.

“At least two person died on the spot and 41

others injured when a passenger bus were travelling in met with an accident at Lamdanda area of Palpa District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu,” DTPO chief Kamal Gurung said in a Press statement.

The injured were

undergoing treatment at the local Palpa Mission Hospital at Tansen City of the district.

The bus overturned when the driver lost control of the bus because of high speed, according to the statement.

The bus was heading towards from Tansen City

of the district to Butawal City of neighbouring Rupandehi District, the statement noted.

The driver of the bus has been absconded, the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua

Forest fire quenched in N-E China

JAGDAQI (Heilongjiang Province), 3 June — The forest fire that raged for 11 days at the Kanduhe Forest Farm in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province has been extinguished, the local fire fighting headquarters confirmed on early Friday morning.

The headquarters said at around 5:00 am on Friday, the fire, which occurred on 22 May and

resurged on 24 May at the farm in the southern part of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, was put out. Efforts are continuing to quench burning ashes, the headquarters added.

Lightning strikes were ascertained as the cause of the fire, and dry, windy weather contributed to its spreading.

Earlier reports said

the fire has ravaged 50,000 hectares of woods in the Greater Hinggan Mountains, home to China's largest virgin forest and an important lumber production base.

Earlier reports also said approximately 11,000 armed policemen and forest workers were mobilized to fight the fire.

MNA/Xinhua



Ugandan soldiers sort through weapons after a gun-burning ceremony in the industrial city of Jinja, 100 km (60 miles) east of the capital Kampala, on 1 June, 2006. Some 220 tones of weapons collected from robbers and rebels were destroyed on Thursday, army officials said. —INTERNET

Don't Desert Drylands!

Yin Yin Lay

Don't Desert Drylands! is the theme of this year's World Environment Day. The theme provokes several questions. Where are those drylands? Why are they so called? Who are those people that desert or abandon drylands and why? What will happen when the drylands are deserted?

Land is a precious natural resource. That, we all know very well. What we are not well aware is that land is finite, non-renewable, fragile and susceptible to human actions and pressures. About one-third of the Earth's surface is land and the rest is water. The total land area on this planet measures 140 million square kilometers. Depending on the geographical situation, there are different types of land ranging from wetland to arid deserts.

Drylands occupy 41 per cent of the Earth's land area. They are characterized by low rainfall, high rates of evaporation, fragile soils, sparse vegetation and harsh climate. Drylands are found in all regions including Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. More than 110 countries have drylands. Some 70 per cent of the drylands used for agriculture around the world are already degraded. This is almost about 30 per cent of the total land area of the world. Deforestation, drought, overcultivation, overgrazing, poor land management, wind and

water erosion affect drylands resulting in gradual decline of land productivity. The process of land degradation is known as desertification.

More than two billion people live in drylands. Of these about one billion people living in the rural areas of the drylands are economically dependent on agriculture and are most

Yet, there are still many people, millions indeed who have been forced to leave their land and migrate because of desertification, drought and famine. It is said that the ultimate response to desertification has been migration.

During the 1970s and 1980s, a devastating drought affected the Sahel in Africa. Desertification

important environmental concern in Mongolia, China, India and Pakistan.

Since the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment, the international community has become aware of the serious impact that desertification is having on the productive ecosystems especially in the poorest regions of the

after intensive intergovernmental negotiations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in Paris in 1994 and became effective in 1996. This year marks the 10th anniversary year of the UNCCD, and the United Nations General Assembly declared 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Myanmar acceded to the UNCCD in January 1997 and became a party to the Convention in April 1997. Myanmar has the total land area of 676,553 square kilometers of which 10 per cent can be classified as drylands. These drylands are found in the central part of Myanmar comprising Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Divisions.

These areas receive an average rainfall of about 30 inches a year, as monsoon becomes weak when it reaches central Myanmar after pouring heavy rains on the Rakhine Yoma. National

effort to contain land degradation in drylands began in 1994 with the launching of the 3-year Dry Zone Greening Project for the 9 critical districts in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions. As the Project proved to be effective and successful in promoting the economic, social and environmental conditions in the Dry Zone, the government established the Dry Zone Greening Department in 1997 to continue the greening programmes. In cooperation with the Dry Zone Greening Department, the international organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA; Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA are also undertaking greening programmes in the Dry Zone.

Local Community and well-wishers are also making contribution in cash and in kind for greening drylands in Myanmar.

Myanmar acceded to the UNCCD in January 1997 and became a party to the Convention in April 1997. Myanmar has the total land area of 676553 square kilometers of which 10 per cent can be classified as drylands.

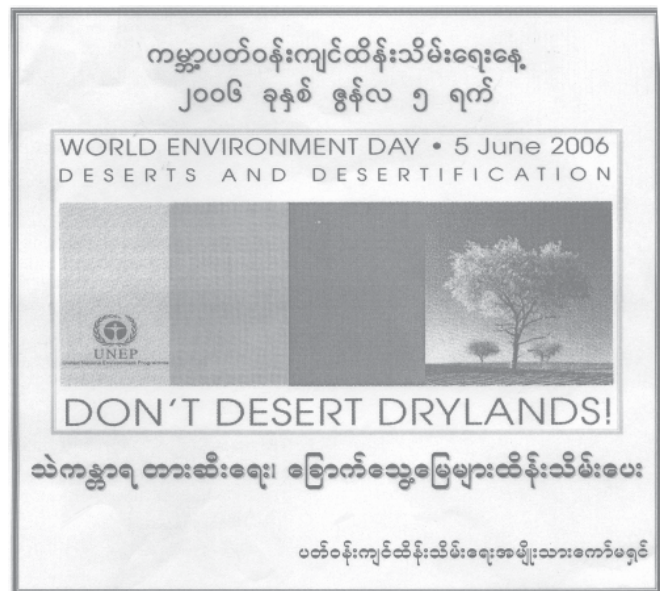
affected by land degradation and desertification. Their land faces the constant risk of losing its productivity and becoming degraded to the point where it can no longer sustain them.

Many thousands of years ago, people wandered from place to place, looking for favourable environmental conditions. When food and water became scarce in relation to growing numbers of people, they searched for better environment. In those days, movement of people was a common phenomenon in every continent. Nowadays, every country has taken its share of land on this planet. Movement of people from country to country is no longer easy.

and drought brought about an alarming drop in agricultural production in the Sahel. Over 200,000 people and millions of their animals died in the Sahelian famine of 1968-1974. Desertification has affected many countries in Africa including Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Mali and Burkina Faso. In Mali and Burkina Faso, one-sixth of the population has been uprooted as a result of desertification. Many people from these two countries moved to Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire.

There are many other countries affected by desertification. These include countries in Central Asia such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Desertification is also an

world. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992, also highlighted desertification as a social problem with a marked political dimension. Thus,



Myeik Myothis being built ...

(from page 1)

Next, they viewed round Myeik Myothis by car.

They proceeded to Government Technological College Project site in Myeik Myothis. Engineer U Thein Tun of Civil Tech Co Ltd reported on progress of the three-storey main building and future tasks.

Myeik GTC is located near Myeik-Dawei Road in Kabin Village. About 3,000 students can join the college for studying technology.

At Yan Taing Aung Hall of Coastal Region Command Headquarters, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with officers, other ranks and family members of Myeik Station. He explained progress of the State and gave instructions on undertaking of agriculture and livestock breeding and participation in regional development.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party spent the night in Myeik. — MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence meets officers, other ranks and family members of Myeik Station at Yan Taing Aung Hall of Coastal Region Command Headquarters. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General back from Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — At the invitation of the President of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization (VUFO), Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Htay Oo and party arrived back here by air from Vietnam this morning after a goodwill visit.

The delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by USDA CEC members U Maung Maung Thein and U Thein Swe, heads of department of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and



officials.

Delegation members — Dr Aung Gyi, U Kyaw Yi, Dr Hla Sein

and U Nyunt Win of USDA — also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Sub-Power Stations inspected in Mayangon, Hlinethaya Townships

YANGON, 4 June — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board, inspected Sein Pan Myaing Sub-Power Station and Mayangon Township Sub-Power Station in Mayangon Township on 2 June.

At Kanaung Hall of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-1, the minister met with members of the industrial zone supervisory committee and entrepreneurs.

The minister said that the Ministry of Electric Power No (2) is performing tasks of supplying power. The ministry is distributing electricity to industrial

zones on schedule for boosting production of the nation.

Col Khin Maung Soe of the YCEPSB and officials reported on installation of new power lines, power supply task, supply of electricity to industrial zones and functions of sub-power stations.

Next, the minister inspected Hlinethaya Sub-Power Station No 1. At Kanaung Hall in Shwelipan Industrial Zone, the minister said that the ministry will cooperate with officials concerned by using various ways for supplying full capacity of electricity to industrial zones.

Officials reported on construction of the power grid, and

installation of 500 kva power line from Meiktila to Bago.

After hearing the reports, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended to the needs of entrepreneurs. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gives instructions to industrial zone supervisory committee members and entrepreneurs at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-1. — MNA



World No-Tobacco Day observed in Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — The World No-Tobacco Day of Shan State (East) was observed at the Town Hall in Kengtung on 31 May morning.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address. Dr Sai Naw Ngin of Shan State (East) Health Department read out the message sent by the Minister for Health.

The commander and officials presented prizes to winners in the

essay contest to mark the World No-Tobacco Day.

After the ceremony, the commander and those present viewed prize winning poster and essays and documentary photos on activities of prevention against tobacco danger in the state.

Next, the commander attended the ceremony to put up the signboard of tobacco free centre at Kengtung BEHS No 1 organized by Shan State (East) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

MNA

Shan State (South) observes World No-Tobacco Day

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — A ceremony to mark the World No-Tobacco Day of Shan State (South) was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 31 May morning.

Chairman of Shan

State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye gave a speech. He explained dangers of tobacco to those present.

Head of Shan State Health Department Dr Sai Kham Hlaing read out the message sent by the Minister for Health.

Also present on the occasion were staff officers of the command headquarters, departmental officials, members of social organizations and staff.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence presents school stationery to students of Natmauk Monastic Education School. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening ...

(from page 16) including 127 novices are studying.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander inspected construction of Shukhintha Tax-free Market at the corner of

Yamonna and Myintawtha Roads in Ward 3 of Thakayta Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks, sales of fresh vegetables and meat and fish with correct weight at reasonable price, and carrying out of sanitation.

Yangon City Development Committee is undertaking construction tasks for opening the market on 10 June. On completion, people from Thakayta and Dawbon Townships will purchase goods at the market conveniently. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence pours water on a physic nut sapling to mark opening of Yuzana Beikman. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of buildings at Shukhintha Tax-free Market. —MNA

Coord meeting of Mon State Peace and Development Council held

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Mon State Peace and Development Council held the coordination meeting at its office in Mawlamyine on 30 May morning.

First, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win delivered an address. District and township authorities and departmental officials reported on their respective sectors.

On 31 May, the meeting continued. Departmental officials submitted reports on departmental tasks. Secretary of Mon State PDC Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung gave a supplementary report.

After fulfilling the requirements, the commander gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Stakes driven for construction of Myanmar Football Academy

YANGON, 4 June — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Myanmar Football Academy was held in the Sports Complex in Chanmyathazi Township this morning.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin

Zaw, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw and officials attended the ceremony.

The commander,

the minister, the mayor and the MFF President drove stakes at the designated places.

MFF President U Zaw reported on construction of the football academy.

The building of Myanmar Football Academy will be constructed with the contribution of Federation International

Association (FIFA) near Sports and Physical Education Institute in Mandalay.

With the cash assistance of FIFA, the MFF successfully implemented the Goal Project Part I in 2002. As part of the Goal Project Part II, MFF will construct the buildings of Myanmar Football Academy with one 3-storey reinforced concrete building, two training pitches and two football grounds. Beginning November 2007, 120 talented youth players between aged 11 and 18 will be folded into the training camp. —MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for China to attend International Trade Fair 2006

YANGON, 4 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun left Nay Pyi Taw by air for the People's Republic of China to attend the International Trade Fair-2006 to be held in Kunming, Yunnan, from 5 to 8 June.

Included in the delegation are General Manager U Toe Aung Myint of Myanmar Agriculture Service and Assistant Director U Han Win Naing of Directorate of Trade. — MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi speaking at coordination meeting of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise. — ENERGY

Work coord meeting on boosting production of oil and gas held

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — A work coord meeting on boosting production of oil and gas in 2006-2007 fiscal year of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy was held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 3 June.

Now world fuel prices are going up and steps are to be taken for boosting production of oil and gas and there must be more exploration, said the minister. Preparations for

the new wells are to be made. Necessary assistance will be rendered to drill new test-wells through Horizontal Drilling method. In addition, officials concerned are to go all out to minimize loss and wastage, he added.

Later, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials made detailed discussion.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.

It was also attended by directors-general and managing directors of

departments and enterprises, managers and officials concerned. —MNA



Yangon University (Hline Campus) holds tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 4 June — As the rainy season tree planting ceremony, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Yangon University (Hline Campus) in Hline Township this morning.

First, the commander delivered an address.

The commander, wife and officials presented physic nut saplings to departmental



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai grow physic nut plants in rainy season tree planting ceremony of Yangon University (Hline Campus). — MNA

personnel and members of social organizations. They viewed participation of departmental personnel and members of social organizations in growing physic nut saplings. MNA

Deputy Minister visits Rakhine State

YANGON, 4 June — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials attended a collective ordination ceremony at Khayma Mandaing Monastery on

28 May.

The deputy minister and officials offered alms to the members of Sangha and shared merits gained later.

The deputy minister and party, accompanied by Brig-Gen Ya Pyay of Kyauktaw Station visited Maha Muni Buddha Image and donated cash to the

pagoda.

The USDA CEC member also attended an opening ceremony of new office building of Paletwa Township USDA. Later, he met with members of USDA at Township PDC office and presented a set of computer, clothes, sports gear and exercise books to them.

The deputy

minister donated cash and kind to the Basic Education High School in the township. He went to the People's Hospital of Paletwa in the afternoon, donated K 100,000 to the hospital and comforted the patients.

The deputy minister also visited The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Anglican). He later attended a collective novitiation ceremony at Theravata Buddhist Missionary Baho Monastery in Paletwa on 30 May.

On 1 June, the deputy minister met with members of Kyauktaw Township USDA. — MNA

Murderer-cum-robber arrested within 24 hours

YANGON, 4 June — A robbery case involving murder of the victim in East Myothit Ward, Insein Township on 25 May was exposed within 24 hours.

Maung Ahka Paing, son of U Myint Cho, of No 180/B, Padauk Street, East Myothit Ward, Insein Township filed a complaint to Insein Township Police Station that he found his mother Daw Tin Htwe dead with stab wounds in the dining room upstairs of the house on his return from Bayint Naung Market at about 7 pm on 25 May. And he said he found that some K 10 million plus jewellery worth 3.5 million in a box went missing.

Upon investigation, a blood-stained blue Jean pants, a vest

with Gyothein cheroot brand and a brown sling bag were seized in a drain 100 yards from the scene of the incident.

Murderer Maung Kyaw (a) Aung Kyaw, 20, son of U Win Myint was arrested at Thonze creek jetty in Taungpanswe village, Thonze Township at 3 pm on 26 May.

Making a confession, the culprit said that he worked for Mudita tea shop belonging to Ko Ahka Paing, son of Daw Tin Htwe.

About a month ago, he was fired by Daw Tin Htwe due to his bad character.

He took a strong dislike to Daw Tin Htwe since then, and decided to murder and rob her of her possessions.

At 10 am on 25 May, he arrived at her house and asked for a job. At the time, his knife hidden on his waist dropped on the floor. On seeing that, Daw Tin Htwe shouted "robber, robber" and he stabbed her many times till she was dead. And he took cash and jewellery out of a box and made off with them.

Three kinds of gold ornaments bought with the cash robbed by the culprit and about K 800,000 were recovered.

Measures are being taken to recover the remaining cash and jewellery.

The arrest of the murderer within 24 hours can be attributed to the active participation of the public. — MNA

Commander inspects schools in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials went to No-1 BEHS in Chanmyathazan Township and inspected the learning of the students and school building on 1 June.

The commander also inspected No-4 BEHS, No-8 BEHS, No-11 BEHS and No-15 BEHS in Aungmyethazan Township and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Cooperative societies in Bago Division under close supervision

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut accompanied by officials inspected various kinds of fish bred at Kaytumati Fish and Chicken Breeding Cooperative Society Limited at Taungoo Township, Bago Division yesterday. The minister heard reports and attended to the needs.

The minister and party also inspected Lunge Ahman Agricultural Produce Cooperative Society at Nyaunghnapin village in Pyu Township and stressed the need for extended growing, using advanced technology and technique, boosting agricultural production.

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut met with service personnel and members of cooperative societies in Bago Division and urged them to seek ways and means suitable for market economy and earn more income for the State in line with rules and regulations. — MNA

Donations invited to open clinic monastic school at Pantapwinttaung Tawya

YANGON, 4 June — Under the auspices of Pantapwinttaung Tawya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññajotia, a ceremony to open the clinic and monastic education school for members of the Sangha, nuns and lay persons and students from first to tenth standard will be opened at the precinct of Pantapwinttaung Tawya in Taikkyi Township on 6 June.

Those wishing to donate medicines, school uniforms, stationary and cash to the funds may contact Pantapwinttaung Tawya Weiyawutsa Group, Tel: 055-20259. — MNA



Winners seen with prizes at the prize presentation ceremony of ASEAN Radio Quiz at Myanmar Radio and Television.

(News Reports) — MNA



An actor dressed as a clown stares at giant bubbles during a 'Soap Bubble Day' in Moscow, on 3 June, 2006. — INTERNET

General says British Army difficult to recruit soldiers

LONDON, 4 June — Britain's Armed Forces are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit soldiers because of the "Mom factor" — the fear that sons and daughters will be killed in Iraq if they join the Army, a senior British general said on Saturday.

In an interview with *The Daily Telegraph*, Major-General Andrew Ritchie, who retired as commandant of Sandhurst in April, said that the involvement of the Army in an unpopular war and the danger on the streets of Basra and Baghdad are undermining confidence.

"It is having an effect on recruiting," he said. "There is a mom factor. Moms find Iraq deeply unpopular — they are concerned that their youngsters will be exposed to real risk and danger. That worries them. And moms are hugely influential in boys and girls joining the Army."

Although the British Defence Ministry insists that it is on course to meet 85 per cent of its recruitment needs for 2005-2006, the shortfall last year rose by more than 300 per cent. That means more than 2,000 vacancies.

Opinion polls have consistently shown that oppo-

sition to the war in Iraq is higher among women than men.

British troops' morale had also been hit by the lack of public support for the war and by legal action against soldiers and officers accused of human rights abuses in Iraq, the general said.

MNA/Xinhua

EU readies sea patrol to help Spain on migration

LUXEMBOURG, 4 June — The European Union's border agency pledged 2.1 million euros (2.7 million dollars) on Friday to help Spain and Malta stop thousands of African illegal immigrants seeking to reach the wealthy 25-nation bloc.

The sum will help coordinate the EU's first joint sea patrol mission, aimed at helping Spain stop migrants from reaching its Canary Islands, which have seen in the last months a sharp rise in the arrival of migrants.

A total of 9,467 migrants landed on the Canary Islands by sea during

the January-May period, around twice the 4,751 that arrived in the whole of last year.

Preparations for the Canary Islands mission will be finalized in two weeks, said Michal Parzyszek, a spokesman for European border agency Frontex, which will coordinate the operation.

At least 10 EU nations will contribute to the mission, said Friso Roscam Abbing, spokesman for the EU's security commissioner. They were Germany, Britain, Portugal, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

"It is significant that countries like Britain, which is geographically far from the Canary Islands, share Spain's analysis that it is not only their problem but a European problem," Roscam Abbing said.

MNA/Reuters

Europe's "Space Station lab" arrives in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 4 June — NASA welcomed Europe's *International Space Station* laboratory *Columbus* to the shuttle launch site in Florida on Friday, hoping its stay in a hangar filled with gear awaiting rides to space will not be long.

The 26-foot (8-metre)-long cylindrical module is the heart of the European Space Agency's contribu-

tion to the 100-billion-US-dollar *Space Station*. Construction of the outpost has been on hold since the 2003 shuttle *Columbia* accident and subsequent grounding of the shuttle fleet for safety upgrades.

NASA wanted to resume assembly last year, but problems during the first post-*Columbia* shuttle mission in July prompted another suspen-

sion of flights. The agency is preparing for its next shuttle launch next month.

If all goes as planned, station assembly could resume as early as August.

"This will not be an easy task for this team,"

NASA's *Space Station* programme manager Bill Gerstenmaier said during a *Columbus* welcoming ceremony at the Kennedy Space Centre. "It is the largest task we have ever done."

MNA/Reuters



A policeman stands guard beside a car from which a Russian Embassy employee was killed and four others kidnapped by gunmen in Baghdad on 3 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Russian Embassy claims diplomat killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 June — An official at Russia's Embassy in Baghdad said on Saturday one diplomat had been killed and four embassy employees kidnapped, Russia's *Interfax* news agency reported.

"We confirm that one diplomat died and four

(people) have been kidnapped," *Interfax* reported the embassy official, who was not named, as saying.

Iraqi Interior Ministry and police sources said earlier that gunmen had killed a Russian embassy employee and kidnapped four others.—MNA/Reuters

Indonesia calls for stability of S-E Asian security

JAKARTA, 4 June — The stability of Southeast Asian security does not merely depend on military approach but on prospective economic growth and prosperity as well, Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said here on Friday.

"One thing high on our agenda is to ensure the stability of Southeast Asian security through a trilateral approach," *Antara* news agency quoted Juwono as saying.

The Defence Minister added the stability of Southeast Asian security would be discussed comprehensively at the annual Asian Security Forum in Singapore on 3-4 June.

He said three main aspects Southeast Asian countries had to consider for the sake of stability and security in the region were political, socio-cultural and economic.

"Those three issues cannot be ignored because they are inseparable," Juwono said, adding that the political,

socio-cultural and economic issues should be addressed by each country in Southeast Asia to achieve stability and security in the region.

Juwono said that in the annual Asian Security Forum in Singapore, the matters related to regional security and community development in addition to Malacca Strait security by the military commander of each participating country would be discussed.

Besides Juwono, Indonesian Defence Forces (TNI) Chief Marshal Djoko Suyanto and the United States Asia-Pacific Military Commander Admiral William Fallon will attend the forum.

MNA/Xinhua

Nations resist new financial commitments on AIDS

UNITED NATIONS, 4 June — A major UN meeting on AIDS strategy on Friday fell short of concrete financial commitments but recognized the growing spread of the disease among women and their right to protect themselves.

Friday's session, the last day of a three-day meeting, brought together heads of state, prime ministers and health officials from 151 countries on how to care for 40 million infected people over the next decade.

Some 25 million peo-

ple have died of AIDS since 1981 and 8,000 die each day of the disease, although the rate of new cases has slowed. Women in Africa have surpassed men in contracting the disease.

The final declaration, many activists said, was more positive than they had predicted. Some countries, including Iraq, Egypt and Pakistan, at one point had resisted commitments on the rights of women or girls.

Still, some 70 groups among the 800 attending denounced the declaration

as "pathetically weak" on financing and rights for girls under 18, many of them in forced marriages.

"I know that none of you got all that you wanted in this declaration," UN General Assembly President Jan Eliasson said in closing the session. But he said thanks to the advocacy groups, "the draft got stronger — not weaker".

Although the declaration is non-binding, it serves as a basis for programmes from governments, private groups and business.

MNA/Reuters

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Fresh floods threaten already-hit Guatemala village

GUATEMALA CITY, 3 June — People were evacuated on Friday from a Guatemalan village buried during last year's Hurricane Stan after days of heavy rain sparked fears of a repeat of a mudslide that killed as many as 1,400 people.

Authorities evacuated the lakeside village of Panabaj and two neighbouring hamlets after days of downpours sent rivers of water crashing down nearby mountains, Benedicto Giron of Guatemala's disaster prevention network said.

Many of the evacuees had been living in temporary plastic shelters after their houses were destroyed in October by a deadly slick of mud, rocks and trees that buried as many as 1,400 people alive and left thousands homeless.—MNA/Reuters

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Oil climbs nearly 3% on US refinery woes

NEW YORK, 3 June — Oil vaulted over 72 US dollars a barrel on Friday, reversing a two-day slide, as problems at a handful of US refineries and the kidnapping of foreign oil workers in Nigeria renewed concern about risks to supply.

The continuing standoff between the West and Iran over Teheran's nuclear ambitions also had the market on edge, oil dealers said.

US crude oil rose 1.99 US dollars, or 2.83 percent, to 72.33 US dollars a barrel, having reached as high as 72.70 US dollars. London Brent gained 1.64 US dollars to 71.03 US dollars a barrel.

Five oil refineries in Texas and Delaware reported outages since Thursday, most due to foul weather and lightning strikes — ramping up concerns over gasoline supply at the start of the summer driving season.

“At this time of the year you want all the refineries running,” said Bill O’Grady, analyst at A.G. Edwards. “The fact that there are these outages is a big deal.”

Valero said Friday it was restarting normal production at its Corpus Christi, Texas, and Delaware City, Delaware, refineries after brief

weather-related outages. It added that repairs on its Port Arthur, Texas refinery, would cut into gasoline output for another 10 days.

Refining companies Citgo and Flint Hills also reported refinery production cuts in Corpus Christi, which was battered by severe thunder storms on Thursday.

The news helped boost US gasoline futures 7.03 cents, or more than 3 per cent, to 2.1975 US dollars a gallon.

The kidnappings of eight workers in a raid on an oil rig off the coast of Nigeria on Friday added to concerns, and followed news on Thursday of a further cut to Nigerian oil output after a pipeline leak.—MNA/Reuters

British police shoot man during anti-terrorism raid

LONDON, 3 June — British anti-terrorist police shot one man and arrested another during a dawn raid on a house in east London on Friday, a police statement said.

Scotland Yard said the man had been shot after officers, backed by the bomb-disposal unit, carried out a raid as part of a pre-planned operation under the Terrorism Act.

“During the operation, a man was shot by police and has been taken to a nearby hospital,” the statement said. No details about the shot man or what had provoked the

raid were given.

The shooting incident has been routinely referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, who said the shot man's injuries were not life-threatening.

Police said the operation was intelligence-led and followed close liaison between security services and the Health Protection Agency, an independent body

India, Pakistan to boost cultural ties, but movies ban on

NEW DELHI, 3 June — India and Pakistan Friday agreed to accelerate people-to-people contacts through greater cultural exchange in diverse areas, including education, tourism and sports, but failed to achieve a breakthrough on the screening of films.

“The two sides underlined the importance of interaction in the field of culture and related areas as a part of efforts to expand people-to-people contacts and agreed to work on the modalities of proposals identified by them,” said a joint statement at the

end of two-day talks here between Indian Culture Secretary Badal Das and his Pakistani counterpart Jalil Abbas.

Das and Abbas discussed an entire gamut of issues aimed at promoting friendly exchanges between India and Pakistan that included proposals for cooperation in the fields of arts and culture, education, medicine, archaeology,

tourism, youth affairs, sports and media.

But despite the “cordial atmosphere” at the talks, the two countries failed to achieve a breakthrough on the long-standing Indian demand for lifting a ban on screening Bollywood movies in Pakistan.

India has responded positively to a request to hold a festival of Pakistani films, but the modalities

and dates are yet to be worked out. There was, however, no official confirmation and the proposal does not even find mention in the joint statement.

The Pakistani delegation also called on Indian Tourism Minister Ambika Soni and discussed steps to promote tourism between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Airline tax will buy medicine for world's poor

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June — Four governments, the United Nations and the world's soccer federation launched a plan on Friday to use the proceeds of a new airline ticket tax to treat people in the developing world suffering from AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis.

Officials of Brazil, Chile, France, Norway, the United Nations and FIFA — the Federation Internationale de Football Association — unveiled the International Drug Purchase Facility on

the sidelines of a UN conference that is discussing strategies against the AIDS pandemic.

“This is a wonderful day for the poor and the sick,” said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan “It is going to help millions of people around the world.”

The ticket tax is being pushed hard by French President Jacques Chirac and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Several other countries have signalled an intention to join the scheme.

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said the French tax, which takes effect 1 July, is expected to raise 300 million US dollars a year. It will range from 1 to 40 euros (1.28 US dollars to 51.11 US dollars) per ticket on

flights from France, depending on distance travelled and class of ticket.

As the number of participants grow, the amount raised “could reach 1 billion US dollars, 1.5 billion US dollars, why not?” said Douste-Blazy.

With soaring fuel costs driving up air fares, the plan has encountered resistance in the United States and failed to win widespread backing in Europe.

It has also upset airlines, which fear higher prices will drive away passengers.

Douste-Blazy encouraged Washington to set up a voluntary programme enabling individuals to contribute to the new fund only if they chose to.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရှင်တွေ ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Scientists discover 64 gene variants linked with lung cancer

LONDON, 3 June — British scientists have discovered, in the largest genetic survey to date, that 64 gene variants may slightly predispose certain individuals to lung cancer.

The discovery was made in the new genome-wide survey carried out by Richard Houlston of the Institute of Cancer Research, in Sutton, and his colleagues, a report on the latest website of the *New Scientist* said.

These 64 DNA variants are known as “low-penetrance alleles” because they only occasionally stimulate tumour development.

To identify the genes, Houlston’s team analyzed the DNA in blood samples collected from 1,529 people with lung cancer

and from 2,707 individuals without the disease. In total, they investigated 871 genes among the volunteers, all of whom were White.

Of the 64 gene variants the researchers found, 11 were located within genes that encode

key parts of a biological pathway involving an insulin-like growth factor.

Houlston suggested that scientists developing future treatments for lung cancer may want to consider targeting this pathway. But he stressed that the risk of lung cancer conferred by these genetic changes was minute compared to one particular lifestyle choice: smoking, the biggest risk factor for lung cancer.

Lung cancer claims approximately 1.2 million lives worldwide each year and the discovery was seen as a step towards developing tests to identify those at high risk of developing the deadly condition.—MNA/Xinhua



A child plays in a giant leather shoe displayed in a store in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 1 June, 2006. The 1.28-meter-long shoe weighing 39 kilograms was sewn by three craftsmen in half a month.—INTERNET



A Butoh-A-Go-Go company of Canada presents its new production “Working Title: Vancouver” at Moscow International Contemporary Dance Festival in Moscow on 3 June, 2006.—INTERNET

Beijinger bitten by a man and his dog

BEIJING, 3 June — A man in Beijing has been awarded nearly 1,000 US dollars in compensation after being bitten by a dog — and the dog’s owner.

On November 2004, the victim, surnamed Huo, became involved in an argument with a man surnamed Liu after his left leg was bitten by Liu’s

dog, the Beijing Municipal No 2 Intermediate People’s Court heard on Friday.

A fight ensued in which Liu bit Huo’s left cheek, leaving a two-centimetre-long rip.

Huo sued Liu last September.

Liu was ordered to pay Huo 7,500 yuan (937.5 US dollars) in compensation, according to the court judgement.

MNA/Xinhua

“ISS” astronauts complete spacewalk

MOSCOW, 3 June — The two crew members of the *International Space Station* (ISS) completed a spacewalk that lasted six and a half hours, according to the Mission Control.

The Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and the US astronaut Jeff Williams took one hour longer than planned on Friday’s spacewalk.

In the first of two spacewalks scheduled for the two crewmen since their arrival at the *ISS* in early April, Vinogradov and Williams repaired a vent of the Elektron oxygen generation unit, replaced a camera, and retrieved materials from a completed science experiment.

Vinogradov and Williams had spent more than two weeks collecting equipment and practising the procedures for their outing.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese meteorologists improve typhoon forecasting services

BEIJING, 3 June — Chinese meteorologists will implement a new system for typhoon forecasting in mid-June, according to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

Two new terms — severe typhoon and super typhoon — will be added to the forecast grades in a bid to reduce the casualties and losses caused by typhoons, said Xiao Ziniu, deputy head of the Chinese Central Meteorological Station under the CMA.

“Traditionally, strong tropical storms would be called typhoons if the wind speed exceeded 32.7 metres per second, no matter how strong it was,” said Xiao.

In the new system, tropical storms with wind speeds from 32.7 to 41.4 metres per second will be classified as typhoons, those with wind speeds from 41.5 to 50.9 metres per second will be classified as severe typhoons, and those above 51 metres per second will be called super typhoons.

“The new system will

help warn citizens properly about the power of the typhoons to help them make full preparations,” Xiao said. The first typhoon this year, Chanchu, landed at China on 18 May, 40 days earlier than the average date in previous years, according to the CMA.

MNA/Xinhua



A Koala sits in its enclosure at Sydney’s Taronga Park Zoo recently.—INTERNET

Nepali famous mountaineer eyes more feats

KATHMANDU, 3 June — Apa Sherpa, famed for his record number of Mt Everest ascents, said his recent feat of conquering the world’s highest peak for the 16th time had partly to do with his zeal to maintain his feat and to ensure that his team members succeeded in their climbing mission.

Apa was quoted by Friday’s *The Himalayan Times* as saying that he plans to continue climbing as long as his health is fine.

“I decided to scale the peak to make sure my team members successfully conquered Mt. Everest and also to maintain my record climbs,” Apa told the newspaper.

Since he is physically fit and will have been

bored staying at Mt Everest Base Camp, he decided again stay back in the base camp, according to Apa.

Being a Sirdar (head mountain guide) of the American expedition “Team No Limits 2006”, he did not really have to go up, he could have monitored the team’s activities from the Base Camp.

On his wife’s pressuring him to give up climbing, he said, “My wife and family members had no idea I planned to climb the peak this time. She came to know about it after I broke my record.”

When he got back from the mountain, there was no room for argument.

He returned to the capital on Thursday after his feat on Mt Everest.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Czechs beat Trinidad & Tobago 3-0 in friendly

PRAGUE, 4 June — Striker Jan Koller notched a pair of goals and Pavel Nedved added another as the Czech Republic beat Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 on Saturday in their final tune-up ahead of the World Cup finals.

Koller looked to have regained his form after missing several months following knee surgery, a welcome sign for a Czech team depleted by injury.

The towering Borussia Dortmund striker headed home Karel Poborsky's cross from the left side just six minutes into the match.

Midfielder Nedved made it 2-0 in the 22nd minute with his long drive before helping set up Koller to make it 3-0 five minutes before halftime.

The Czechs have been hit by injuries in recent weeks, with Vladimir Smicer ruled out of the World Cup finals due to a nagging leg injury, while Koller, striker Vratislav Lokvenc, defender Zdenek Grygera are all coming off lengthy layoffs. —MNA/Reuters



Switzerland's Martina Hingis plays a shot to Croatia's Ivana Lisjak during the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris on 3 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Swiss on course after final warm-up

ZURICH, 4 June — Switzerland coach Koenig Kuhn declared himself highly satisfied with his team's progress after a demanding eight-day warm-up for their World Cup campaign.

Kuhn's young squad, the third youngest overall at the finals, beat China 4-1 on Saturday after 1-1 draws last Saturday and Wednesday with fellow World Cup contenders Ivory Coast and Italy.

"I'm very happy with what I've seen," Kuhn told reporters after Saturday's win.

"Including our training sessions we've had two weeks of hard work and I think the team is absolutely where I want it to be and well on course for the World Cup finals." Kuhn had designed his team's warm-up programme to mirror the demands of the World Cup group stage with Ivory Coast, Italy and China standing in for group rivals Togo, France and

Crouch gets hat-trick in England goal riot

MANCHESTER (England), 4 June — Striker Peter Crouch scored a hat-trick as England ran riot in a 6-0 victory over Jamaica in their final World Cup warm-up on Saturday.

Frank Lampard began the goal bonanza at Old Trafford after 11 minutes, Jamaica's Jermaine Taylor headed into his own net and fellow defender Omar Daley was no luckier when a Crouch shot struck him and flew in the net.

Michael Owen, plagued by a foot injury since 31 December, scored his first goal of the year in the 32nd minute and Crouch claimed his second of a sunlit day with a 66th minute tap-in.

He looked to have spurned his chance of a hat-trick when the lanky striker hopelessly skied an 82nd minute penalty won by Owen, only to rifle in England's sixth in the 89th minute after a neat Owen pass.

The classy finish from the edge of the area made for a perfect send-off for England, who open their World Cup campaign next Saturday against Paraguay in Group B.

Sven-Goran Eriksson's last home game as England manager, with the Swede stepping down after the World Cup in Germany, rewarded him with the best winning margin of his five and a half years at the helm.

Even allowing for the modesty of the opposition, England looked more comfortable in a classic 4-4-2 formation with Crouch and Owen up front, compared



England's Joe Cole (R) shoots at goal during their international friendly soccer match against Jamaica at Old Trafford, Manchester, on 3 June, 2006. —INTERNET

to Tuesday's 3-1 win over Hungary.

Midfielder Steven Gerrard had played as a second striker and defender Jamie Carragher was used as a holding midfielder in that game, sparking a national debate over England's tactics so close to the finals.

MNA/Reuters

Spain beat Egypt, extend unbeaten run

ELCHE (Spain), 4 June — An opportunist strike from Raul and a superbly struck free kick from substitute Jose Antonio Reyes earned Spain a 2-0 win over African champions Egypt in a World Cup warm-up match in Elche on Saturday.

Raul, who has been the subject of an intense debate in the Spanish media as to whether or not he merits a place in the side, put his side in front when he guided home from close range after 14 minutes.

Spain struggled to press

home their advantage against their hard-working opponents, but managed to extend their lead when Reyes sent a dipping free kick into the top corner early in the second half.

Luis Aragones' side, who are now unbeaten in 21 games, drew 0-0 against Russia last weekend and complete their World Cup preparations against

fellow qualifiers Croatia in Geneva next Wednesday.

They begin their World Cup campaign against Ukraine in Leipzig on June 14 and then face Tunisia and Saudi Arabia in their remaining games in Group H. Raul, back in the starting lineup at the expense of Luis Garcia, put ahead just before a quarter of an hour was up with a trade-

mark strike.

The Real Madrid striker steered into the empty net from five metres out after Egypt keeper Essam Al Hadari had spilled a 20-metre drive from left back Antonio Lopez.

It was Raul's 43rd goal in 94 games, but his first for either club or country since October last year.

MNA/Reuters

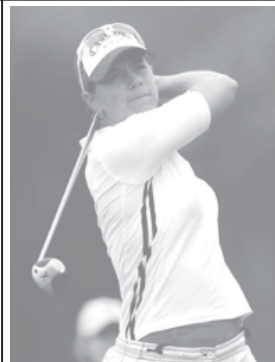
Ashley Cole scan shows no thigh problem

MANCHESTER (England), 4 June — England left back Ashley Cole needed a scan on a thigh problem on Saturday after being substituted in England's 6-0 demolition of Jamaica in a pre-World Cup friendly.

Cole and fellow defender John Terry were taken off after little more than half an hour at Old Trafford after both suffered knocks a week before England open their World Cup campaign against Paraguay.

Cole was later given the all-clear after the scan on his thigh, the FA said.

An FA spokesman said Terry had been taken off with a knee problem. England had started without regular right back Gary Neville, who was rested and replaced by Jamie Carragher due to a hamstring injury. —MNA/Reuters



Annika Sorenstam of Sweden drives on the fourth hole during second round play in the Shoprite LPGA classic near Atlantic City, New Jersey, on 3 June, 2006. —INTERNET

Smolarek header gives Poland 1-0 win over Croatia

BERLIN, 4 June — A second half header from Borussia Dortmund striker Ebi Smolarek gave Poland a 1-0 win over Croatia in their final World Cup warm-up in Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Smolarek found space in the box to head home a Maciej Zurawski corner in the 54th minute after an otherwise dominant Croatia had struggled to create clear openings against a defensive Polish formation in the first half.

Following Saturday's loss to Columbia, Polish coach Pawel Janas dropped one striker in favour of a second holding player in a five-man midfield, with

Smolarek and winger Jacek Krzynowek pushing up on the flanks.

The Croatians' best chance fell to midfielder Dario Srna, who hit the crossbar with a 30-metre free-kick in 42 minutes. Ivan Bosnjak also pushed a shot just wide of Polish keeper Artur Boruc's post after being put clean through just after the break.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	F	A	U	L	T	Y	8	8	W	I	N	K	S				
2	U	N	S	I	8	8	8	8	E	8	8	E					
3	T	U	T	O	R	8	8	R	E	P	L	I	E	D			
4	U	S	A	S	E	8	8	U	8	T	8	G	8	A			
5	R	A	M	E	S	E	8	8	S	8	C	H	A	T			
6	E	S	E	8	8	8	8	T	A	P	8	8	8	E			
7	8	A	D	A	M	8	8	8	8	E	D	G	E	8			
8	17	P	8	8	8	E	R	A	8	C	8	R	8	B			
9	21	A	R	I	D	8	8	8	8	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	
10	25	T	8	R	8	C	8	8	8	O	8	L	8	M	8	R	
11	29	H	E	A	T	H	E	R	8	8	I	M	P	E	L		
12	33	O	8	T	8	E	8	8	8	N	8	A	8	S	U	8	I
13	37	S	H	E	L	F	8	8	8	O	8	R	I	S	O	N	

South Korea.

"It was not just the opponents that were important but also the nature of the schedule," Kuhn added.

"For the three matches, we actually gave ourselves two days less than we will have at the World Cup and we had the whole stress of travelling to different cities to give our young team some tournament-like experience."

Playing without central defender Philippe Senderos, who was rested following a knock in training, the Swiss looked uneasy at the back against China as the match got underway with the visitors creating the most threatening chances.

Han Peng hit the woodwork in the 25th minute and then failed to put away the rebound. Ten minutes later Xu Liang picked out Li Jinyu in the area, the Shandong player turning neatly but then dragging his shot left of the goal.

MNA/Reuters



A lightning bolt illuminates the sky above Manhattan during an electrical storm in New York on 1 June, 2006. — INTERNET

Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS prevalence among women reaches 5%

ADDIS ABABA, 4 June — The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has reached 5 per cent among Ethiopian women and it is still on the rise, according to a government report on Friday.

HIV/AIDS, compounded with poverty, was one of the major challenges for the health of mothers and the survival of children in Ethiopia, said the report issued by the Ministry of Health. "Ethiopian women are vulnerable to HIV infection due to their low socio-economic status on top of the biological factors," it said.

According to govern-

ment statistics, close to two million people are currently living with the virus in Ethiopia, making it the country with the largest HIV-infected population in the world. However, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) estimate that over three million people live with the virus in the country.

The current prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS is

estimated at 4.4 per cent at Ethiopia's national level.

"This 5 per cent HIV prevalence among the women is a bad news. It shows that there is still a lot that need to be done in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women," said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

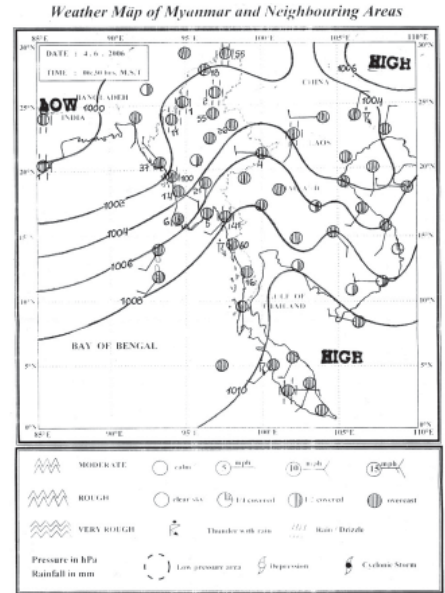
US factory orders down in April

WASHINGTON, 4 June — Factory orders in the United States declined by 1.8 per cent in April, the largest drop since a 2.7-per cent fall in January, the Commerce Department reported on Friday.

The report showed that demand for manufactured goods dropped by 7.4 billion dollars to 397.98 billion dollars in April.

US factory orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, declined by a sharp 4.4 per cent in April, the biggest drop since January. Total orders for transportation products dropped by 11.7 per cent as the weakness in airplanes was offset somewhat by a 1.7-per-cent increase in demand for motor vehicles and parts.

Orders for nondurable goods increased by 1.2 per cent in April following a 1.8 per cent gain in March.—MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 4 June, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (4.80) inches, Dawei (2.36) inches, Putao and Bhamo (2.17) inches each and Mawlamyine (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-6-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 4-6-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 4-6-2006 was (81%). Total sunshine hours on 3-6-2006 was (2.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 4-6-2006 were (0.80) inch at Mingaladon, (0.19) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.19) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (16.65) inches at Mingaladon, (21.57) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.87) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (13:10) hours MST on 3-6-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-6-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayah State and Taninthayi Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 5-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 5-6-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 5-6-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

U Maung Maung (Myingyan) Retired Manager, Myanmar Economic Bank (Age 82)

Son of U Ahoon-Daw Daw Yee, brother of U Kyin Sein-Daw Yin Kyi, U Hla Ngwe-(Daw Khin Khin Mya), father of Mr John Hulme-Daw Khin May Kyin (Mrs May Hulme), U Ko Ko Aye (NCEA)-Daw Khin May Aye and Dr U Pye Nyein-Daw Khin May Swe and husband of Daw Thein Nyunt (Retd Lecturer, TTC, Yankin) No (30), Thitsar Shin Street, Ward (19), Dagon Myothit (South) expired on 3-6-2006. (Funeral at 11:00 am on 5-6-2006 at Yeway Crematorium.)



Monday, 5 June Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music
- 9:00pm Spotlight on the star - 6 -
- 9:25 pm Drug news
- 9:35 pm Golden Land Melody
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Monday, 5 June View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of parittas by missionary sayardaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am
 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
 7. Cute little of dancers
- 8:25 am
 8. ကပ်တဲလ်ကြိုးတဲတား
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Grammar made easy
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm
 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
 5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:15 pm
 6. Dance variety
- 5:25 pm
 7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:35 pm
 8. Song and dance of national races
- 5:40 pm
 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:45 pm
 10. "အရေးကြီးလိုလီ" (ခင်လှိုင်၊ ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့၊ ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့နွဲ့) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့နွဲ့)
- 5:50 pm
 11. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:00 pm
 12. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 13. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 6:45 pm
 15. Industrial Achievement
- 6:55 pm
 16. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:05 pm
 17. သယ်တော စိန်ခဲလင် မြန်မာ့ ဝတ်စုံကျင့်
- 7:20 pm
 18. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm
 19. မြန်မာ့ပုဂံဆယ်မျိုး(ဝန်းပု)
- 7:45 pm
 20. နွဲ့ဖြိုးတိုက်ကံ သီးပွင့်ဆော ကတိုးတော့နှုတ်ကျားရွာ
- 8:00 pm
 21. News
- 8:05 pm
 22. International news
- 8:10 pm
 23. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
 24. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းကွဲ "အိမ်မက်ကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၉)
- 8:20 pm
 25. The next day's programme

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Yuzana Beikman at Natmauk Monastery in Thakayta Township



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wellwishers receive the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa of Maha Aungmyebonsan Monastery. — MNA

YANGON, 4 June — A ceremony to open Yuzana Beikman in the precinct of Natmauk Monastery on Shukhintha Road, Shukhintha Ward, Thakayta Township, was held at the monastery this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Maha Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Secretary of

Yangon Division Monastic Education School Supervisory Committee Presiding Nayaka of Natmauk Monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kusala and members of the Sangha, 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, local authorities, departmental officials, wellwishers and guests.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, wellwisher Yuzana Co

Chairman Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Htay Myint and Managing Director of Yuzana Co U Win Myint formally opened the archway of the

To mark the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and U Htay Myint planted physic nut saplings.

At the ceremony to

Wellwisher U Htay Myint supplicated on the purpose of the donation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party offered robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

At the ceremony to

lion by U Soe Myint Aung-Daw Thida Lwin and family of Kan Lin Thu Co; K 500,000 by U San Maung-Daw Yi Yi Myint of Sein Pan Myaing Restaurant; and K 100,000 by U

U Htay Myint and wife present K 3 million for Natmauk Monastic Education School to Lt-Gen Myint Swe.
MNA



Weather Forecast for (5-6-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

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

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

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

Beikman.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the stone plaque. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and U Htay Myint sprinkled scented water on it.

share merits gained, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

donate cash to the funds of the monastery, Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 3 million donated by Yuzana Co Chairman U Htay Myint and wife; K 1 mil-

lion by U Soe Myint Aung-Daw Thida Lwin and family of Kan Lin Thu Co; K 500,000 by U San Maung-Daw Yi Yi Myint of Sein Pan Myaing Restaurant; and K 100,000 by U

Maung Maung Aye-Daw Tin Tin. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented stationery to students of Natmauk monastic education school. Likewise, the chairman of Yuzana Co presented school uniforms to teachers.

Later, Joint-Secretary Myingyan Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Today's donations including stationery and uniforms amounted to K 8,538,000. At Natmauk Monastic Education Middle School, 302 students (See page 9)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence unveils the stone plaque of Yuzana Beikman at Natmauk Monastery. — MNA