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Friday, 20 May, 2005

Four political objectives

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

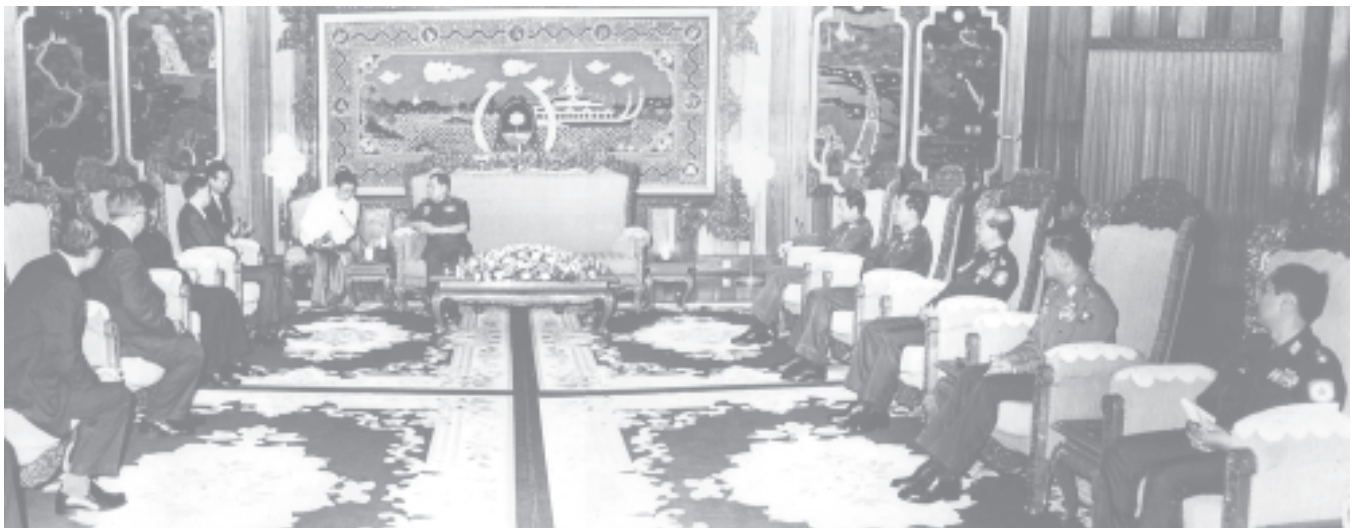
Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe receives Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Military Affairs of Thailand



Senior General Than Shwe receives former Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces Arthit Kamlang-ek at Zeyathiri Beikman. —MNA

YANGON, 19 May — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received a Thai goodwill delegation led by former Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Arthit Kamlang-ek,

Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Military Affairs, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthar, at 10 am today.

The former Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and party arrived here for paying a goodwill visit to Myanmar. Also present at the

call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of

the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-

Admiral Soe Thein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

The Thai goodwill delegation was accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal. —MNA

Billboard erected to hail MWVO conference

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to erect billboard hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference for 2005 was held near the traffic lights in Min Su Ward in Loikaw, Kayah State on 9 May

morning. Secretary of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Htun and Chairman of Loikaw District PDC Lt-Col Win Maung formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Patron of Supervisory Committee for Kayah State WVO Chairman of Kayah State PDC Col Hla Myint Shwe pressed the button to open the billboard and the ceremony concluded.—MNA

Rice, oil, clothes donated for youth training school in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to donate rice, oil and clothes for the youth training school in Mawlamyine was held at the training school on 17 May, attended by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla, departmental officials, Principal of training school U Nay Won and trainees.

The principal of the school reported to the commander on salient points of the school. Afterwards, the commander donated rice, oil and clothes for the school and Principal U Nay Won

accepted the donation. Next, wife of commander Daw Than Than Nwe donated stationery for the students and the ceremony ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. —MNA

INSIDE

The peoples of the two regions should continue to establish and maintain a firm Asian-African Strategic Partnership with practical and long-term beneficial efforts, while adhering to the Bandung principles that remain a potent force till now.

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U ZAW

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 May, 2005

To supply clean water to rural people

The State Peace and Development Council, upholding "Our Three Main National Causes", has been implementing the plans for the development of border areas and 24 special regions in addition to the five rural development tasks.

The annual coordination meeting of the development affairs committees of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the Development Affairs Department on 16 May and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said that rural people would be healthier if safe drinking water could be supplied sufficiently in rural areas. Moreover, he added, it would save them time, money and labour to get a pail of water. He called for speedy completion of water supply projects in villages and constant maintenance of the existing tube-wells.

To supply clean water is the second one of the five rural development tasks and the government is implementing it in various townships by laying a 10-year plan. As a result, 7,157 out of 8,042 villages in three divisions in the dry zone have had sufficient water supply during the period from the fiscal year 2000-2001 to 2004-2005.

In the remaining states and divisions also, water supply projects have been completed in 7,152 out of 15,183 villages. Therefore, now all over the nation, 14,309 out of 23,225 villages have safe drinking water supply.

The government has provided K 1,536.574 million and Development Affairs Department funded K 2,833.94 million and wellwishers donated K 1,053.067 million, US \$ 70,252, FEC 10,012 and 770 euro for water supply projects.

We would like to call on all those responsible and wellwishers to fully cooperate with one another to make sure that every township, every district and every state and division has sufficient drinking water.

Self-reliant libraries mushrooming in Gangaw District

YANGON, 19 May — With the assistance of Gangaw District Information and Public Relations Department, libraries have been opened on self-reliant basis in every ward and village in Gangaw District.

So far, 19 libraries in Gangaw Township, 75 in Saw Township, 95 in Htilin Township and 45 in Kyaukhtu Township in Gangaw District have been established.

On 29 April, a self-reliant library was inaugurated in Kyun Khone Tha Village in Gangaw Township.

At the opening ceremony, Chairman of the village Peace and Development Council contributed K 30,000 to the fund of the library and handed over 335 books to an official of the library. — MNA

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ကျောင်းနေအရွယ်ကလေးကျောင်းအပ်နှံရေး
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People's Desire

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

Appointment of Iranian Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 19 May — The government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Mohsen Pak Aein as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Mohsen Pak Aein was born in 1954 in Fasa, Iran. He graduated from the University of Tehran with a Bachelor Degree in Political Science. After graduation, he joined the diplomatic service in 1981 and has served in various capacities at the Iranian Foreign Ministry and embassies in Zambia and Uzbekistan.

Mr Mohsen Pak Aein will be concurrently accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

He is married and has three children. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Information receives Thai guests

YANGON, 19 May — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein received International Market Executive & Technical Engineer Mr Hideo Sato and party of Interink Press in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Ministry of Information at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanma Radio and Television, Acting Managing Director Col Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, Head of Office U Ye Tint and officials.

MNA

Mr Hideo Sato of Interink Press, Bangkok, and party call on Information Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Aung Thein. —MNA



MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 19 May — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Col Maung Maung Than Ministry of Defence	Director-General Immigration and National Registration Department Ministry of Immigration and Population
(b) Dr U Thein Tun Deputy Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health	Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health
(c) U Sein Oo Pro-Rector Loikaw University Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Education	Rector Loikaw University Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Education
(d) U Myint Swe Deputy Director-General Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs	Principal Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) Education and Training Department Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs—MNA

General Secretary of UMFCCI meets Chinese guests

YANGON, 19 May — General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Joint-Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, U Htun Aung and executives received General Secretary Mr Xu Ning Ning of China-Southeast Asia Commercial Committee (CSACC) and party at the office of UMFCCI on 17 May. They discussed a boost in bilateral economic sectors between the two countries.

MNA

UMFCCI General Secretary- meeting with CSACC General Secretary-. — MNA

China to improve agri production, environmental protection

BEIJING, 18 May — China will fortify the agricultural base and intensify environmental protection for overall, well-coordinated and sustainable development, said Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan on Tuesday at the ongoing 2005 Fortune Global Forum here.

To accelerate agricultural development, the government is carrying out a policy under which industry supports agriculture and cities support the countryside, Zeng said.

The government will try its best to help farmers increase incomes, he said, adding that the government will increase the supply of crop seeds, chemical fertilizers and farm vehicles for agriculture, and enable grain supply mainly by increasing domestic production.

Efforts will also be continued to improve the

production conditions and living environment in rural areas.

To protect environment, China will encourage clean production and put discharge of major pollutants under strict control, Zeng said. Water pollution control should be reinforced in key regions and river valleys, and desulfurization carried out in coal-firing power stations.

Zeng urged governments at all levels to increase input in environmental protection, while at the same time pushing

forward market-oriented operation of sewage treatment and garbage disposal.

Ecological conservation programmes, including conversion of farm land to forests, soil erosion control and prevention of land desertification, will continue.

China will also strengthen cooperation with foreign countries in scientific and technological innovation, protect intellectual property rights and give full play to human resources, he said.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Singapore, Thailand to strengthen bilateral ties

SINGAPORE, 18 May — Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo and visiting Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon agreed on Tuesday that the two countries should further strengthen bilateral ties, according to a spokesman from Singapore Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman said the two ministers also discussed regional developments. The ministers believed that the strong bilateral cooperation between Singapore and Thailand would be a catalyst for greater coop-

eration among members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Suphamongkhon arrived in Singapore on Tuesday for a two-day visit, which is part of his introductory tour of

ASEAN countries since he took office in March this year.

He is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during his stay in the city state.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Thailand to cooperate in setting rice prices

HANOI, 18 May — Vietnam and Thailand are considering a proposal raised by the latter, under which the two countries will jointly set prices of several kinds of rice and sell them in the world market at the same price, Vietnamese newspaper *Trade* reported on Tuesday.

The kinds of rice under consideration include white rice 100 per cent grade B and white rice 5 per cent broken. Thailand is looking forward to bilateral meetings on the cooperation, said the report.

Such cooperation on rice prices will benefit both Thailand and Vietnam, especially in the context of long-lasting drought and higher expenses for materials, petroleum and transport, because it can prevent price decreases caused by competition between the world's biggest and second biggest rice exporters, the report said. Vietnam has the edge on prices, and Thailand on quality and quality and supply stability. Now, Thailand offers 5-per-cent broken rice at the price of 293-294 US dollars per ton, while the price of simi-

lar Vietnamese rice stands at 255-260 dollars per ton. Thus, some countries, including Iran and the Philippines have recently turned to Vietnamese rice.

In the first 4 months of this year, Vietnam exported nearly 1.6 million tons of rice worth 425 million dollars, down 9.9 per cent in volume but up 10.6 per cent in value against the same period last year, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

Vietnam, which shipped abroad over 4 million tons of rice worth 941 million dollars in 2004, is expected to export 3.8-3.9 million tons of the commodity this year. Meanwhile, Thailand's rice export is estimated at 8 million tons, down from more than 10.1 million tons last year, according to the report. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Bollywood Actor Zayed Khan poses with a pizza during the launch of a new product by pizza chain 'Pizza Hut' called Freshizza, at an outlet in New Delhi, India, on Wednesday, 18 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesia signs gas purchase contracts with foreign firms

JAKARTA, 18 May — The Indonesian oil and gas executive body, BP Migas, here Tuesday signed gas sale and purchase agreements with Malaysia's Petronas Carigali Muriah Ltd and Kalila Operator Pty Ltd and PetroChina International.

Under the agreements, Petronas will supply 145 trillion British thermal unit (BTU) of gas per day for a ten-year term to a gas-fired power plant in Central Java belonging to state-run electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN).

Kalila will supply PLN's Pekanbaru power plant with 15 trillion BTU of gas per day for 15 years, and PetroChina is awarded a five-year gas supply contract of 1.2 trillion BTU per day for a plywood industry in Papua Province.

MNA/Xinhua

The rising economic cost of the Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 19 May — Fighting in Iraq has been prolonged and remains intense enough that it has pushed the total cost of US military operations since 11 September, 2001, close to that of the Korean War.

Despite the yawning federal deficit, Congress hasn't blinked at this price. And while annual defence spending is now as high as it ever was during the Reagan buildup, the US economy as a whole is much larger, making it easier, in economic terms, for the nation to shoulder the bill.

Yet the costs for Pentagon operations are likely to pile up in years ahead. By 2010, war expenses might total \$600 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Much depends on when - and how many - US military personnel can be withdrawn from the Iraqi theater of operations.

"We can't be any more certain about the trend of the defence budget than we can be about the number of troops that will be deployed overseas," says Steven Kosiak, director of budget studies for the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The demands and unpredictability of war have, in essence, turned the defence budget into a two-part allocation. First is the regular budget request, which contains acquisition and research and development funds as well as personnel and operations costs, and which Congress considers in its normal appropriations process. Second is the supplemental appropriations - the add-on emergency spending requested by the administration later in the year.

Internet



A mother leads her daughter by the hand past debris following a twin car bomb explosion in the Dura District of Baghdad on 18 May, 2005.—INTERNET

China, India expected to explore opportunities

BEIJING, 18 May — As the world is busy praising the fast-developing Chinese market, India, China's neighbour, is receiving increasing attention as an emerging economic power likely to set forth a development paradigm in the world.

At the ongoing 2005 Fortune Global Forum here in Beijing, corporate executives from across the globe listened to the interpretation of the Indian story from an insider's perspective.

Lakshmi Narayanan, the Indian-born CEO and President of the US-headquartered IT company Cognizant, admitted that his envy of China's sound infrastructure but was obviously confident in his country's ability to "do a lot of catching-up" quickly.

Widely recognized as a potential leader in the world's knowledge processing industry, India has been reporting robust growth in its IT-centred service sector. "We will continuously find intellectual, management and leadership resources and develop them across the globe," Narayanan said, proud of the market growth of the Indian IT industry over the past ten years.

As the world's second most populous nation, India boasts a large proportion of

relatively young people with people aged under 45 accounting for 30 per cent of the country's total population.

"India's young social structure propels the country to create more jobs and grow more rapidly," said Michael Patsalos-Fox, Chairman of Mckinsey & Company Americas. Endowed with a sound educational system and a large population of young talents fluent in English and well trained in professional disciplines, the south Asian country also enjoys a full-fledged capital market, a big advantage over China's chronically bearish stock market. Meanwhile, India's increasing exposure to social and economic achievements scored by peer developing nations such as China also helped create an "incredible" urgency in India for social and economic progresses, said David Kirkpatrick, senior editor of the *Fortune* magazine, impressed by the Indian people's overwhelming "we will succeed" mentality. — MNA/Xinhua



Traffic moves during a hot day in front of the Presidential Palace in New Delhi on 18 May, 2005. High temperatures are affecting most parts of India, including the capital New Delhi, as is usual for this time of year ahead of the monsoon, which normally begins in the south in the first week of June. —INTERNET

US soldier sentenced to six months in jail for prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON, 18 May — A US Army reservist convicted of mistreating Iraqi prisoners was sentenced on Tuesday to six months in jail for her role in the abuse at the Abu Ghraib Prison outside Iraqi capital Baghdad in late 2003.

Sabrina Harman, 27, a military policewoman, will also be reduced in rank to private and receive a bad conduct discharge, a military jury ruled at Fort Hood, Texas.

The punishments against Harman is one of the lightest handed down in the Abu Ghraib cases.

Harman was found guilty on Monday of four charges of maltreatment of detainees, one charge of conspiracy to maltreat detainees and one charge of dereliction of duty.

She had faced a maximum sentence of five and a half years in jail, but prosecutors asked the jury to sentence her to three years in jail.

Harman appeared in several of the most infamous abuse photos taken by American military police at the Abu Ghraib Prison, including one photo showing a naked pyramid of Iraqi prisoners.

She was also found to be behind a photographed incident in which she placed wires on the hands of a hooded Iraqi prisoner standing on a box and said he would be electrocuted if he stepped off the box.

During Tuesday's sentencing hearing, Harman apologized for mistreating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

"As a soldier and military police officer, I failed my duties and failed my mission to protect and defend," she said. "I not only let down the people in Iraq, but I let down every single soldier that serves today."

Harman was the second US soldier tried and convicted in the scandal. Charles Graner Jr, the other soldier to have been tried in the scandal, was convicted in January and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

MNA/Xinhua

Wealth and knowledge gaps challenge Asia

BEIJING, 18 May — Economists agreed Tuesday that the widening gap between the rich and poor is a major problem confronting the world and that both developing and developed nations should work together to deal with it.

"Some experts estimated the 21st Century is Asia's century, and we should take the opportunities and confront the challenges as well, especially the wealth and knowledge gaps," said Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress and a well-known economist, who is attending the 2005 Fortune Global Forum.

"The allocation of wealth is crucial in shortening the gap of wealth," he said, clarifying that the first level allocation should pay attention to

efficiency, and make the knowledgeable and hard-working people rich.

The second allocation should pay attention to equality, and the government should help underprivileged groups using tax revenues, and establish a comprehensive, systematic, equal and effective security system in both cities and villages covering retirement, unemployment, medical care, and accidents, Chen said.

He noted the third allocation should take social responsibility as a priority, and the rich should help the poor to

improve living standards, education and medical care. "The gaps of wealth and knowledge are the two challenges in the new Asian century," said Chen.

The time of knowledge is coming, and it characterizes a large proportion of the knowledge cost in products and services, he said. "We should improve our creativity and promote education if we don't want to become nations without 'brains'."

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN+3 tourism officials to meet in South Korea

SEOUL, 18 May — Working-level tourism officials from 10 ASEAN members and South Korea, China and Japan will meet in South Korea next week to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in tourism, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said on Tuesday.

The meeting will bring about 70 government officials, heads of national tourism organizations and tourism experts to eastern coastal city of Sokcho from Sunday to Friday, the ministry said.

ASEAN refers to the Association of the South-East Asian Nations.

The meeting is held twice a year, but South Korea is the first non-ASEAN state to host it.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan, Malaysia mull basic FTA deal

TOKYO, 18 May — Japan and Malaysia will negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement during a two-day vice-ministerial level meeting in Malaysia from Tuesday with the aim to seal a basic deal by the end of May, a top Japanese Trade Ministry official said Monday.

"We expect good results from the upcoming talks so that the two countries can strike a basic FTA agreement when Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi visits Japan on 25 May," Vice Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Hideji Sugiyama said at a Press conference.

The two countries, which launched official FTA talks in January last year, have reached a basic accord on agricultural and marine products but failed to narrow gaps on industrial products.

"Some progress was made in the auto and steel trade during the previous round of vice-ministerial talks in Tokyo last week, but differences remain," Sugiyama said.

Malaysia may fully eliminate tariffs on vehicle imports by 2015 and is also considering immediate tariff removal on some models that do not compete with vehicles produced by national car makers Proton Holdings and Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Kedua, better known as Perodua, according to the official. — MNA/Xinhua



Onlookers view the remains of a vehicle which was destroyed by a car bombing at a Baghdad market on 17 May, 2005. —INTERNET



A head portion of a 150-kilogramme tuna awaits a fish shop worker sharpening a knife at Tuskiji fish market in Tokyo, on 17 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Nordic countries lead in equality of women's social status

STOCKHOLM, 18 May — Norway and the other Nordic countries are the leading nations of the world when it comes to the equal status of women in society, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on Tuesday.

The least difference between men and women within politics, society, work and education is found in Sweden, followed by Norway, Iceland, Denmark and Finland, according to a survey among 58 countries, made by the World Economic Forum.

The report covered 30 OECD countries and 28 other emerging markets. The study compared gender differences in wages, access to labour market,

political representation, access to education, and access to reproductive healthcare.

Augusto Lopez-Claros, chief economist and director of the Global Competitiveness Programme at the World Economic Forum, said the Nordic example demonstrated that countries reaped handsome economic rewards for their efforts to minimize the gender gap.

MNA/Xinhua

107-year-old woman to vote in parliamentary elections in Gaza

GAZA, 18 May — A 107-year-old woman has registered her name to vote in the 17 July parliamentary elections, elections officials said on Tuesday.

Officials in the Central Elections Committee in Gaza said Hakema Darweesh Sheikhal Eeed, born in 1898, went to the Rafah registration office Monday evening asking for registration.

Sheikh al Eeed, a resident in Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza Strip, told elections officials that she came to register her name to avoid confusion that happened in the presidential elections in January and municipal elections held in Rafah, where her name was not on the list.

The oldest Palestinian woman in the Gaza Strip holds an identity card she obtained when the Gaza Strip was under the British mandate before 1948. Her full name was clearly written in ID. "I ask everyone who wants to vote to come and register his name on the list. I urge all my children and grandchildren to come and register here," she said.

The registration team warmly welcomed the woman, promising that "her name will be there in the coming elections."

MNA/Xinhua

ADB to offer loans to Cambodia for airport expansion

PHNOM PENH, 18 May — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a four million US dollars loan to the Cambodian Government to expand Ratanakkiri Airport to promote tourism, according a local newspaper report on Tuesday.

Work on Ratanakkiri Airport will start in about 18 months.

The runway will be paved and lengthened so planes carrying 70 passengers can land, and a fence will be built to keep wild animals out, *The Cambodia Daily* quoted Alfredo Perdiguero, a project

economist with the ADB's Mekong department, as saying.

The new airport is expected to be finished by 2007 and will allow tourists to fly directly from China and Vietnam, as well as from Siem Reap Province, the home of world well-known Angkor temples.

"Tourism is growing so much in Cambodia, but is too focused on Siem Reap," Perdiguero said. "We will distribute the tourists in other areas," he added.

According to the ADB's most recent statistics, about 12,000 people visit the province each year.

The new airport could triple that figure to 36,000 tourists, or about 100 tourists per day.

Tourist arrivals in 2004 were over 1.05 million which earned more than 777 million US dollars for the country, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

India to test-fire longest range missile by year end

NEW DELHI, 18 May — India would test-fire its 3,000 kilometres longest range surface-to-surface missile *Agni III* by the year end and has started induction of the short and intermediate range *Agni I* and *Agni II* versions in the newly raised strategic command, India's top defence scientist Dr M Natrajan on Tuesday said.

"Development of *Agni III* missile is on schedule and it would fly by the year end," Natrajan said in a presentation made at the Defence Research and Development Organization Technology day awards function here in the presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

His remarks assume significance as DRDO has put off tests of the wholly solid *Agni III* missiles twice. Former defence minister George Fernandes had announced that the missile, which can give India the capability of developing intercontinental range ballistic missile, would be

test fired in 2003 year end.

The missile was later scheduled to be tested in mid-2004, but the trials were put off with defence scientists saying some snags had been noticed in propulsion systems and that these were being rectified.

The country's scientific advisor on defence also announced "nine successful test firings have been undertaken of the surface-to-air *Akash* missile and fourth generation fire and forget *Nag* anti-tank missiles," he said declaring that *Nag* was now ready for user trials.

However, DRDO officials did not throw light on

the recent claims by country's top missile scientist Dr. Prahlada of the organization developing a hypersonic missile development capability.

Natrajan also announced that India had achieved a big breakthrough in indigenous production of the pilotless target aircraft, *Lakshya* and remotely piloted vehicle *Nishant*.

While 13 *Lakshya* had been delivered to three services, on *Nishant* UAV, limited series production had started with the system being in advanced stages of clearance by the Ministry of Defence for induction.

On indigenous Bat-

tlefield Surveillance Radars, he said Army had placed a bulk order for 1,171 man portable systems at a cost of 5.51 billion rupees with Bharat Electronics in Bangalore. He said that Indian artillery would get a boost with two regiments being equipped with *Pinaka* multi-barrel rocket system, which fires 12 rockets in 40 seconds. Natrajan also said that DRDO had successfully developed a man portable briefcase size satellite receivers which had been successfully tested and orders received for the first batch of six systems.

MNA/PTI

S Korea's used car exports tumble this year

SEOUL, 18 May — South Korean exports of secondhand vehicles have plunged this year due largely to Iraq's restrictions on imports, the *South Korean News Agency* quoted a trade association as reporting on Tuesday.

Overseas shipments of used cars plunged 41.5 per cent from a year ago to 62,400 units in the January-April period, according to the Seoul Used Car and Part Export Association.

The nosedive represents a sharp turnaround from 2004, when exports of secondhand vehicles spiked 68 per cent year-on-year to 273,800.

The sharp drop was attributed mainly to a January import ban the Iraqi Government imposed on vehicles made before 2000. "The import regulation was the biggest reason for the tumble in exports," said Park Sangjun, an official at the association.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of Vietnamese in need of kidney, liver transplant

HANOI, 18 May — Between 5,000 and 6,000 chronic kidney patients in Vietnam need to undergo kidney transplant surgery, and thousands of other local people want liver transplant, according to the country's Health Ministry on Tuesday.

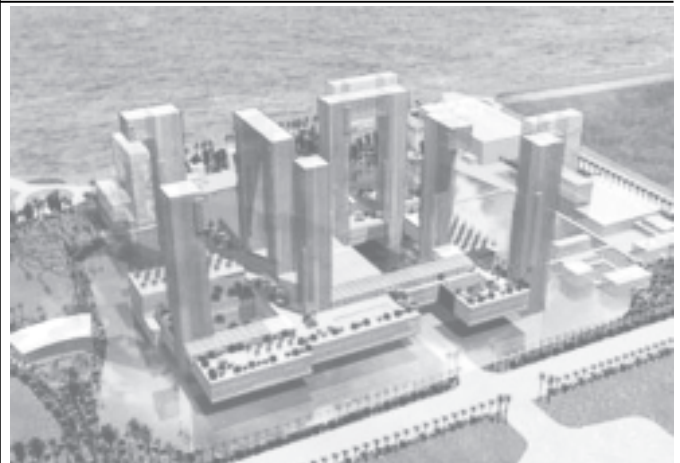
However, Vietnam is facing scarcity of kidney

and liver sources for transplant, so some local patients have to undergo operation in China. Over 200 Vietnamese people have had their kidneys transplanted in the neighbour country in recent years.

In the capital city of Hanoi alone, 1,500 Vietnamese liver patients are now in need of liver transplant, but

they find no liver donors. Vietnam's first liver transplant was successfully conducted early last year with the liver donor being a 31-year-old man and the recipient being his 10-year-old daughter. The country carried out over 110 kidney transplant cases in the 1992-2004 period.

MNA/Xinhua



An artist's impression of the 'City of Dreams', a hotel and casino project featuring the world's first underwater casino to be built in Macau's Cotai island, is displayed in Hong Kong on 17 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Asian-African cooperation based on Bandung spirit

U Zaw

Myanmar delegation led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe attended the Asian-African Summit 2005 held in Jakarta for two days on 22 and 23 April, and the Commemoration of Golden Jubilee of Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung on 24 April. At the conference, the leaders of the two continents reinvigorated the Bandung spirit that was conceived at the Bandung Conference and found areas of friendly cooperation in the future.

In addition to heads of state/government and government representatives of 54 Asian nations and 52 African nations totalling 106, the UN secretary general also attended the conference. There were representatives from large and small nations as well as rich and poor countries.

The combined population of the two continents is 4.6 billion or over 73 per cent of the global population. The total gross domestic product of the countries of Asia and Africa is about US \$ 9.3 trillion. Superficially, the figures look encouraging. But a number of Asian and African nations are still in poverty facing the problem of illiteracy, diseases, socio-economic hardships, political instability and internal armed conflicts resulting from the consequences of the long-time exploitation and the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists, insincere and insufficient aids the rich nations have been providing to them together with acts of agitation, and their own weaknesses.

A look back at the past 50 years will show that colonial powers including Britain, France, Dutch and Belgium were reluctant to relinquish their colonies. Thus, the colonized nations were struggling to regain independence. And when World War II ended, the Cold War started and the tensions were high between the west bloc led by the US and the east bloc led by the Soviet Union. But for the newly independent nations including Myanmar they would be able to safeguard their sovereignty and would not become a minion of the powers only if they are able to free themselves from the Cold War.

Bandung

In that situation, leaders of the five politically awakened nations — Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Pakistan — met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in April 1954 and initiated the idea of holding the Asia-Africa Conference. The historic first Asia-Africa Conference was held in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, in April 1955.

Leaders of 26 Asian nations including Myanmar and three African nations totalling 29 attended the conference. Such a large conference attended by representatives of 29 nations was rare during the time. The first Asia-Africa Conference

was known more as the Bandung Conference. The Bandung Declaration provided effective spiritual encouragement to the countries striving to regain independence and the newly independent nations. Many new liberated nations emerged in the world, and their opinion of the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement of the third world countries had conceived among the former colonies to free themselves from the dangers of the Cold War between the two rival powers. Even the then global powers were not able to reject, but had to accept and recognize the 10 principles of international relations laid down by the Bandung Conference. The conference was successful to that degree.

The Asian-African Summit 2005

Thanks to the efforts of the co-sponsors — Indonesia and South Africa — and the revitalization of the Bandung spirit, the number of participating countries has increased to 106 at the first Asia-Africa Summit.

The Bandung Conference has gone down in the annals of history for laying down the international relations principles including friendship, mutual cooperation, equality and peaceful co-existence between the nations. The rise of terrorism has caused encroachments upon the territorial integrity and sovereignty of many small nations.

The Bandung Conference has gone down in the annals of history for laying down the international relations principles including friendship, mutual cooperation, equality and peaceful co-existence between the nations. The rise of terrorism has caused encroachments upon the territorial integrity and sovereignty of many small nations. The international community is facing lopsided and self-centred pressures and intimidations, with human rights and democracy as excuses. And the rich-poor gap is still widening in the world.

The majority of developing countries are still facing and addressing the socio-economic problems of poverty, epidemics including new kind of diseases, portable water shortages and lower education standard.

True, for the newly independent nations, the evil colonialism and the Cold War were real challenges for them to overcome in 1955. But in today's changing era, dignity, security, peaceful co-existence and sufficiency in social lives are the actual requirements.

At the conference, Head of State Senior

General Than Shwe explained the importance of Bandung Conference and the emergence of a fairer world, saying, "Myanmar is proud to have been among the 29 countries at the Bandung Conference and among the Colombo Five that co-sponsored and initiated the historic conference. The ten principles adopted in Bandung remain sacrosanct for developing countries like ours. I would like to urge that we always uphold those principles. The world today is vastly different from that of 1955. It is a matter of deep satisfaction that all countries in Asia and Africa have regained independence and moved forward. We have indeed come a long way. However, political freedom without commensurate economic development and human security does not meet fully the aspirations of our peoples for a fairer and more equitable world."

Leaders of other nations also delivered addresses at the conference. During the two-day conference, the leaders found time to hold meetings between themselves on the sideline. Myanmar leader Senior General Than Shwe held talks with UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, President Mr Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China, and President Mr Susilo Bambang Yadhoyono of Indonesia. He also met with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.

The Asian-African Summit 2005 is a historic meeting benefiting the human race. The conference adopted and issued the Declaration on a "New Asian-African Strategic Partnership" and the joint statement on tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters. It also approved to convene the next four-yearly summit in South Africa.

The benefits of the 1955 Bandung Conference still exist for 50 years till today. The Asian-African Summit 2005 will help practically enhance the mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between the two continents.

Concerning the matter, Myanmar leader Senior General Than Shwe in his address said, "The spirit of Bandung remains a potent force for closer relations between the two regions. What needs to be done now is to galvanize our efforts by adopting an effective and sustainable mechanism for interregional dialogue and cooperation."

In this regard, the peoples of the two regions should continue to establish and maintain a firm Asian-African Strategic Partnership with practical and long-term beneficial efforts, while adhering to the Bandung principles that remain a potent force till now.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 19.5.2005.

Wellwishers present stipends for students to MWAF

YANGON, 19 May — Wellwishers donated stipends for students to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation at the meeting hall of the federation this afternoon.

President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe presented K 100,000 for the stipends to Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint.

Next, President Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint and General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun accepted K 5,206,000 donated by 21 wellwishers including K 1 million by Managing Director U Soe Thein of Dhana Aung Co Ltd and wife Additional Judge of Yangon Division Daw Khin Cho Ohn; K 415,000 by members of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group and wellwishers; K 370,000 by members of the Women's Social Enhancement Working Group, K 300,000 by Ministry of Commerce; K 230,000 by Information Division and wellwisher; K 100,000 each by Myanmar Paper & Stationery Co and



MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe thanks wellwishers for their donations for stipends of students.—MNA

Shine Construction; K 300,000 each by Finance Division, wellwishers, members of the National Races Affairs Working Group, Legal Affairs Working Group, Consultation Working Group; K 180,000 by Director Daw Khin Moe Nyunt of Aung Yi Phyo Co Ltd; K 131,000 by members of the social and cultural working group; K 128,000 by members of the Discipline Enforcement Division and wellwishers; K 110,000 by Leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group Daw Khin Aye and family; K

100,000 each by wellwishers of the Organizational Division, gem merchant Daw Myint Myint Aye; Dr Aung Kyaw Win-Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Shwe Nandaw Jewellery Shop, U Mya Soe of Doh Shwepyi Construction, Dr Myat Thu-Dr Khin Cho Oo and family of Asia Tawwin Specialist Clinic, Director U Thein Lwin of Asia Tawwin Specialist Clinic, U Kyaw Khaing-Daw Khin Khin Aye of Myanma Ahla Construction, President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation Daw

Mi Mi Khin, Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Than Myint-Daw Khin Thein Kyi, U Tin Hla-Daw Aye Aye Kyi, and Dr Aung Win-Daw Kyway Kyway Zin, K 42,000 by wellwishers of the Management Division. Afterwards, certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

President Daw Than Than Nwe thanked the wellwishers for their donations.

MWAF plans to provide stipends from donations of the wellwishers to needy students, especially for girls.

MNA

MWVO Conference billboard erected in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to erect billboard hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference for 2005 was held in front of city hall of Monywa on 15 May morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and departmental personnel.

Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Sagaing Division WVO sprinkled scented water on the billboard, erected it and the ceremony ended.

MNA

Deputy Rail Transportation Minister attends work coord meetings

YANGON, 19 May — Work coordination meeting of the Road Transport Administration Department was held at the meeting hall of the department (Headquarters) on 17 May with an address by Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than.

Next, the deputy minister presented prizes of honours to in charges of division/district offices who carried out highest efficiency in the tasks.

Similarly, the deputy minister attended the work coordination meeting of the Road Transport held at Base Workshop No 1 in Botahtaung Township and made an address.

Later, the deputy minister awarded the prize medals to winners of outstanding prize in efficiency presented by the State and prizes of honours to the in charges of the passengers transport division.

MNA

Contest to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held

YANGON, 19 May— An opening ceremony of arts, cartoon, poster and computer poster contest to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held on 14 May morning at Khabaung Hall,

Taungoo, Bago Division. Taungoo District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Ye Myint made an address and commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Tun Yi reported on contests. After-

wards, Taungoo District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Ye Myint opened the ceremony. Computer poster and arts contests took place at the hall of Education College on 15 May.

MNA

Workshop on production of learning aids commences

YANGON, 19 May— The workshop on production of learning aids for disabled youths was launched at the Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Pyay Road, Kamayut Township this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, departmental heads, guests, principals, teachers and students of Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Dumb and Yangon School for the Blind (Khawegyan).

The minister in his address said that the workshop contributes towards the project "Education for All". The Inclusive Education Plan covers the drive for enabling handicapped children to pursue education. He called for establishment of learning and recreation centres fully in-

stalled with pedagogical aids for disabled children.

The workshop continues till 25 May. — MNA

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန်ရာသီချိန်တွင် ငါးမဖမ်းရန်
 ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၁/၉၇)

ငါးရစ် ငါးသန်၊ ဘေးမှဲချန်၊ ပုံမှန်စားသုံး၊ မျိုးမတုံး

မိုးဖြိုင်ဖြိုင်ရွာသော မေလနှောင်းပိုင်းနှင့် ဇွန်၊ ဇူလိုင်လများတွင် မြစ်ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင်အနံ့အပြာ၌ ဥများဖြင့် ပြည်နေသော ငါးမကြီးများနှင့် မျိုးရည်ပြည့်ဝသော ငါးထီးကြီးများသည် ဥချရန် နေရာရှာဖွေ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ကြွပါသည်။ ထိုငါးရစ်ငါးများကို ဖမ်းဆီးလိုက်ပါက ပေါက်ဖွားလာမည့် သန်းပေါင်းများစွာသော နွယ်လှည့်သားပေါက်ငါးသန်များသည်လည်း သေကြေပျက်စီးကာ တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး ဖူလုံစွာစားသုံးမှုနှင့် အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုကို အထောက်အကူ မပြုတော့ဘဲ ငါးမျိုးပြုန်းတီးသွားစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနမှ အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာ အမှတ် (၂/၉၂) ဖြင့် ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်မှတစ်ပါး ငါးများ ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို ဖောက်ဖျက်ကျူးလွန်ပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဥပဒေပုဒ်မ (၄၅) အရ ဖမ်းဆီးတရားစွဲအပြစ်ပေးနိုင်ရန် ပြဌာန်းထားပါသည်။

သို့ပါ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ချိန်နှင့် ငါးသန်သားပေါက်သော မိုးရာသီအချိန်များတွင် လွတ်လပ်စွာ ဥချ သားပေါက်နိုင်ရန် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း မပြုဘဲ ဘေးမှဲပေးကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
 အဆင့်မြင့်ပညာဦးစီးဌာန
 (အောက်မြန်မာပြည်)
 ရန်ကုန်အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်
 e-Education Learning Centre
 သင်ခန်းစာထုတ်လွှင့်မည့် အစီအစဉ်

၂၀-၅-၂၀၀၅ (သောကြာနေ့)
 * An Introduction to Educational Psychology
 - ဘီအီးဒီ (ပ-နှစ် စာပေးစာယူ ကျောင်းသား/သူများ)

* Validity & Reliability
 - ဘီအီးဒီ (ဒု-နှစ် စာပေးစာယူ ကျောင်းသား/သူများ)

နံနက် ၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၆:၀၀ နာရီထိ

၂၁-၅-၂၀၀၅ (စနေနေ့)
 * အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများ အတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

၂၂-၅-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
 * အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများ အတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

Ash of Naya Sayadaw put into Ayeyawady River

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to put ash of the remains of Naya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Medhiyabhivamsa, State Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddharmajotika Chairman of Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar Dictionary Treatise Committee, of Dekkhinayama Phayaygi Taik in Chanmyathazi Township, was held at Gawwein Jetty in Chanayethazan Township on 16 May morning.

Altogether 30 members of the Sangha led by Lepaw Monastery Sayadaw U Karusa graced the ceremony. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Man-

dalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, authorities, social organizations, relatives and local people.

The commander and the minister conveyed golden and silver urns of the Sayadaw on board the Karaweik barge.

The urns were carried by Karaweik barge to the designated place of Ayeyawady River. Meanwhile, members of the Sangha recited religious verses. The commander and the minister put the ash into the river.

Afterwards, the commander attended the coordination meeting of Mandalay Division Police Force held at the division MPF office.

MNA

Course for basic health care with traditional medicine concludes



Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana offers completion certificate to a trainee monk. — MNA

YANGON, 19 May — Organized by Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, course No 7 for basic health care with traditional medicine concluded at Ordination Hall of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) this afternoon.

On behalf of the Minister for Religious Affairs, Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of DPPS supplicated on religious affairs to the Sayadaws.

Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of DPPS and Director-General Professor Dr Thein Swe of Traditional Medicine Department offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Next, Dr Thein Swe presented prizes to outstanding trainee monks.

Later, Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw and officials gave away completion certificates to the trainee monks.

MNA



Director-General U Khin Maung Lin of Customs Department and wife donate alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saddhamma Kittisara of Aungsan Tawya TatU Monastery of Insein at 18th communal ordination ceremony of Customs Department on 14 May, 2005. — MNA

Commander attends Shan State inter-middle school soccer tourney

YANGON, 19 May — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended the prize-presentation ceremony for Shan State Education Officer's Shield inter-middle school soccer tournament (2005) at Pyidaungsu sports ground on 16 May afternoon.

In the final match, Muse District (B) team beat Lashio District (A) team 8-7.

Officials presented best player awards to the winners and prizes to the winning teams. The commander presented the trophy to Muse District (B) team.

Next, the commander inspected the paddy fields of the command, and the 100-acre model plot of soya bean and sunflower of the Camp Commandant's Office, and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

MNA

Construction tasks in Ayethaya Industrial Zone inspected

YANGON, 19 May — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint arrived at the site to build the office of Hydro-electric Power Department No 7 under the Ministry of Electric Power in Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township on 15 May morning. The Commander heard reports on progress of construction of the office by Deputy Director U Tin Hsan of Settlement and Land Records Department of Shan State

(East) and departmental personnel and gave necessary instructions.

The commander then proceeded to the construction site of foundry plant in Ayethaya Industrial Zone. In charge of the plant U Than Zin Myint and officials reported on completion of the plant and installation of machinery to the commander. Afterwards, the commander also looked into extension of the road between Ayethaya Industrial Zone and Shwe Nyaung and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Harvesting ceremony of Shwe Yin Aye summer paddy model plot held in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to reap Shwe Yin Aye summer paddy model plot was held at the pandal on 200-acre paddy field in Yan Law village-tract in Kentung Township, Shan State (East) on 17 May morning. It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, state, district and township level departmental personnel, social organisations and the peasants. Deputy manager U Aung Kyaw

Myint of Myanma Agriculture Service of Shan State (East) reported on progress of cultivating summer paddy in Shan State (East). The commander inspected pilot in 200-acre paddy field, the use of fertiliser and summer paddy fields.

The summer paddy has been cultivated in 20093 acres in Shan State (East) more than targeted acres.

The commander then inspected summer paddy plot of the command and Seintalone mango farm and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

ဥကင်နေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများ မဖမ်းရန် ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂/၉၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကဆုန်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥကင်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်ချောင်း အင်းအိုင်များတွင် ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီထောင်ပေါင်းများစွာသော ပုစွန်များလည်း ပေါက်ဖွားလာတော့မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥကင်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပုစွန်သားလောင်းများ မပေါက်ဖွားနိုင်တော့ဘဲ ချိုပြုန်းတီးရာလည်း ရောက်စေပါသည်။ ရေချိုပုစွန်များ ပေါများကြွယ်ဝလာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကင်နေသောရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမဲ့ပေးမှသာ ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအားမြှင့်မားလာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်များ ရေရှည်တည်တံ့နေစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကင်ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲနေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမဲ့ပေးကြပါရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

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Top Chinese legislator applauds cooperation with Singapore

SINGAPORE, 19 May — Visiting top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo hailed on Tuesday his country's good cooperative relations with Singapore and called for increased exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), held talks with Singapore Speaker Abdullah Tarmugi. They had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations, parliamentary exchanges and other issues of common interest, and reached wide-ranging consensus.

Wu, who arrived in Singapore earlier in the day for a three-day official goodwill visit, gave a positive assessment of bilateral relations, noting that there have been frequent exchanges of visits by top leaders of the two countries in recent years, which increased mutual understanding and trust and economic and trade cooperation. Remarkable achievements have been made in bilateral exchanges in science and technology, culture, education, personnel training and other fields, Wu said.

China-Singapore cooperation has been marked by its high levels and mutual understanding and respect, he added.

Wu said China attaches great importance to its relationship with Singapore and the aim of his current visit to the Southeast Asian country is to give a fresh impetus to the good relations of cooperation between the two countries so that they will grow in an all-round way.

Speaker Abdullah noted the importance of Wu's visit to further bilateral ties and exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries. He added that in addition to the frequent exchanges of visits at the top level, there have been good exchanges between different departments of the two countries, which have given a strong boost to the development of bilateral ties.

Singapore is ready to increase exchanges and

cooperation with China in various areas and at various levels, Abdullah said.

Wu said exchanges between parliaments form an important part of state-to-state relations and strengthening parliamentary exchanges will help promote mutual understanding and friendship between peoples of different countries. A good foundation exists for exchanges and cooperation between China's NPC and the Singapore Parliament, he added. The NPC is ready to strengthen friendly exchanges with the Singapore Parliament at various levels, Wu said.

He invited Singapore parliamentarians, young MPs in particular, to often pay visits to China and see for themselves what is happening there.

Abdullah agreed. He also reaffirmed his country's adherence to the one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian manufacturer constructs sponge iron factory in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 19 May — Indian manufacturer, Steelmakers (Private) Limited, is constructing a multi-billion-dollar factory which is expected to produce 200 tons of sponge iron daily, in a development likely to change the face of industry-starved Masvingo, local newspaper *The Herald* reported on Wednesday.

About 100 tons of sponge iron will be produced per day at the processing plant under phase one of the project.

The sponge iron will be ferried to another plant in Kwekwe where it will be processed into various stainless steel products.

The steelmakers investment in Masvingo has so far benefitted about 200 people through direct employment.

The iron ore is being mined at Glenlivet Hill, about 25 kilometres east of Masvingo.

Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining Development Tinos Rusere was quoted as saying that development was

going to earn the country precious foreign currency.

"We as the government are very pleased with such a development because they will be using locally available resources for all their activities. The venture will no doubt earn the country the much-needed foreign currency considering the high demand for steel products on the international market," he said.

"As the government we will give them the requisite support so that they stay on course since such a big project will also change the economic fortunes of Masvingo Province and the country at large," said Rusere. — MNA/Xinhua

Macao promotes tourism through Visa's help

MACAO, 19 May — Macao Special Administrative Region is to promote tourism with the help of Visa International, the world credit-card giant.

It was announced here Tuesday at a Press conference that Visa has launched a promotional campaign entitled "Visa Treasure Hunt" to offer "treasures" for Visa card-holders visiting Macao till 30 June.

Prudence Chan, Visa's Country Manager for Hong Kong and Macao, told the briefing that the programme "gained great support" from Macao's Tourist Office.

Manuel Antunes, director of the Tourist Office, said Macao continues to grow in stature as a top visitor destination and Visa has made it easy for tourists

to enjoy everything the city has to offer.

Visa card-holders who visit Macao and spend with their cards could get "Scratch Win Card" to gain prizes including mobile phones, hotel and dining vouchers, said Chan, the Visa manager.

The Visa customers could also get exclusive merchant offers as discounts and free gifts, she added.

Visa's overseas card-holders spent 300 million US dollars in Macao in 2004, a 33-per-cent year-on-year growth, Chan said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Bangladesh sign investment agreement

HANOI, 19 May — Vietnam's Prime Minister Phan Van Khai held talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Khaleda Zia here on Wednesday and witnessed the signing of a bilateral investment agreement, according to *Vietnam News Agency*.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister, who arrived here on 17 May for a three-day visit, discussed with Khai on measures to implement agreements in the areas of trade, investment, agriculture, industry, science and technology, education, culture, tourism and sports.

They agreed to strive to increase bilateral trade to 100 million US dollars by 2008, focusing on the pharmaceutical, garment, and leather industries, cement production, agricul-

tural machinery manufacturing, and wood furniture making.

They also agreed to consider incentives, particularly in the form of tariffs, for imports from each other and create favourable conditions for business circles of the two sides to conduct direct payments. Khai and his Bangladeshi counterpart reached an agreement on the necessary preparations for the first session of their Joint Governmental Committee on Economic, Cul-

tural and Sci-tech Cooperation in the near future.

Zia expressed the hope that Vietnamese investors would pour their investment into her country, especially in the areas of farm produce processing and agricultural machinery manufacturing. The two leaders agreed to boost cooperation in education, training, tourism and aviation, and to push up bilateral cooperation within the regional and international mechanisms. — MNA/Xinhua

Jia Qinglin calls for further development of China-Latam ties

BOGOTA, 19 May — Visiting Chinese top national adviser Jia Qinglin called here on Tuesday for further development of the relations between China and Latin America.

In a speech at the Colombian Congress, Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said the bilateral relationship is at the best period in history, facing a historical opportunity to be lifted to a higher stage. Seizing the opportunity and strengthening cooperation conforms to the fundamental interests of China and Latin America and is conducive to their bid to become winner of globalization and push globalization to the direction of common prosperity of different countries, with narrowing the north-south gap in particular, Jia noted.

In the speech entitled "Enhancing Mutually Beneficial Cooperation and Promoting Common

Development," Jia said the rapid progress in China-Latin American economic and trade relations fully demonstrated the complementarity of their economies, which means one's development is another's important development opportunity, he said.

Authoritative reports from international economic and financial organizations pointed out time and again that China's economic development is an important factor in the economic recovery of Latin America, Jia said. Jia stressed that the two sides are complementary rather than competitive in product structure, market and attraction of foreign investment, etc.

With the joint efforts, the prospect of economic and technological coope-

ration between China and Latin America will become even brighter, Jia said.

Both China and Latin American countries are developing countries, Jia said. With the international competition becoming increasingly fierce, the two sides should cooperate closely, tap the potential of complementarity, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, strive for a win-win outcome and jointly improve their situation in international competition.

China is willing, on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and common development, to constantly expand the economic and trade relations with Latin American countries including Colombia, Jia said.

MNA/Xinhua



Shovels remove debris of a demolished old building at a construction site to build new apartment complex on 19, May 2005 in Shanghai, China. China's investment in construction, factory equipment and other fixed assets grew 25.7 percent on-year in the first four months of 2005, a slightly faster pace than during the first quarter, the government said on Thursday. — INTERNET

Chinese Vice-Premier calls for active Sino-Japanese eco ties

NAGOYA, 19 May — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Wednesday stressed the significance of the Sino-Japanese economic relations and called to set up a bilateral free trade agreement for long-term and active ties.

The bilateral trade and economic cooperation plays an important role in the Sino-Japanese relationship. The cooperative ties have been tremendously fruitful thanks to the marriage between Japan's advantages in finance, technology, equipment and managerial experience and the extensive market and abundant labour force of China, Wu said at a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tokai Japan-China Trade Centre, an institution engaged in promoting bilateral economic exchanges.

Wu noted the economic ties are growing both intensively and extensively and developing into a win-win situation, which serve as an essential foundation for an everlasting bilateral relationship. Stressing there are more reasons for cooperation than for competition

in the future, Wu brought forward a six-point proposal: First, Speeding up the building of the Sino-Japanese free trade agreement; second, actively pushing forward with the energy cooperation in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit; third, strengthening dialogue on strategies in various sectors, such as steel, shipbuilding, information technology, software; fourth, cementing technological cooperation featuring more technological transfer from Japan and joint research and development; fifth, expediting Japan's investment in backwater areas in China; last, expanding cooperation of middle- and small-sized enterprises.

Wu, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday on an eight-day visit, also met with Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa

and Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawa.

Wu commented at the meetings that economies of both countries are complementary. However, the cooperation is contained as the overall bilateral relationship is confronted with serious difficulties.

She said one of her purposes for the visit is to materialize the consensus reached last month by the leaders of the two countries on maintaining a stable and healthy bilateral relationship.

Agreeing with Wu, Nakagawa said up to 20,000 Japanese firms are running business in China, which just demonstrates the importance of the economic cooperation. Kitagawa promised that Japan will make substantial efforts to facilitate the bilateral exchanges as the ties are very significant. *MNA/Xinhua*

Asia Pacific in dire need for infrastructure investment

BANGKOK, 19 May — The Asia-Pacific Region is in dire need for investment in both social and physical infrastructure, the United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said here on Wednesday.

The region needs more than 200 billion US dollars per year, which far exceeds the available resources of around 50 billion US dollars for all purposes, said ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su. Desperately-needed investment include those for the region's massive infrastructure projects such as the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asia Railway. An additional 18 billion US dollars and a cost of 2.5 billion US dollars will be respectively required just to finance priority programmes of the above two projects.

The costs of regional connectivity infrastructure such as Internet connections, cabling and broadband are also substantial, he said. The financing situation in the region is exacerbated by declining investment from the private sector. According to a recent study by World Bank, Asia Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, private investment in infrastructure is one-fourth of the levels prevailing before the 1997 crisis. This has

created a large financing gap. Kim told reporters at the end of the 61st Commission Session of ESCAP held here from 12 to 18 May. The commission session was aimed at finding ways to create financing for development, while delegates from about 60 ESCAP members gathered for the six-day meeting.

The meeting, however, failed to reach consensus over the establishment of an ESCAP-proposed Asia investment bank, due to disputes among members. Some are afraid that functions of the proposed bank will duplicate with the existing Asia Development Bank.

Even so, Kim said the UN institution will continuously study the possibility, with next year's commission session still focusing on the same topic of financing for development. He also called on governments to take measures to increase foreign direct investment to the region.

"We must harmonize bilateral trading arrangements and free trade agreements with multilateral trading arrangements," he said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

UN unveils reforms to strengthen accountability, ethics

UNITED NATIONS, 19 May — Hit by scandals like the oil-for-food scam and sexual abuse by peacekeepers, the United Nations has unveiled reforms to prevent such incidents from recurring and to "strengthen accountability, ethical conduct and management performance" in the world body.

The reforms include protection of whistleblowers, a demand repeatedly made by the staff, uniform acceptable behaviour by peacekeepers and expansion of programme of financial disclosures by top officials.

The UN has said it plans to implement most

of the reforms in the next couple of months and is also appointing a committee to help strengthen accountability and oversight which the Volcker panel, investigating charges of corruption in the oil-for-food programme, had identified as "weak spots". *MNA/PTI*

Italy to cut growth forecast

ROME, 19 May — Italian Economy Minister Domenico Siniscalco admitted on Tuesday that the government's growth forecast for 2005 would have to be cut but he denied that public deficit was spiralling out of control.

The government had until recently defended its estimate of 2.1 per cent growth for 2005, but it seems impossible because the Italian economy continued to shrink in the last quarter of 2004 and the first of this year.

"The annual figure will probably require a downward revision," he told the Parliament, declining to offer a new figure on the grounds that the picture would be clearer after second quarter figures became available.

Siniscalco spoke to the Parliament in the midst of widespread concern over the Italian economy and state accounts. Confindustria, the powerful industrial lobby,

insists that the Italian economy is in recession and that GDP will rise only 0.3 per cent this year, against the government's forecast of 2.1 per cent.

Confindustria also says the budget deficit could reach 4.5 per cent of GDP without correction, well over the 3 per cent limit required by Europe's Growth and Stability Pact. Premier Silvio Berlusconi has admitted the economy is "at risk of stagnation" but avoided the word "recession". Siniscalco stressed that even if the economy shrank another 0.6 per cent in the remaining three quarters of 2005, the public deficit would still stay below 3.75 per cent. According to national sta-

tistics bureau Istat, the economy contracted by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter, after shrinking 0.3 per cent in the previous three months. "Even if there is negative growth, the public accounts for the first five months don't appear in any way critical," the minister said. "I don't think things have slipped out of control."

The government is scheduled to meet unions and employers on Thursday to try to hammer out a joint response to the economic problems. Last week it pushed through the parliament a package of measures aimed at boosting Italy's economic competitiveness. *MNA/Xinhua*

Prodi appeals for dialogue to solve China-EU problems

BELING, 19 May — Romano Prodi, former president of the European Commission said here on Wednesday that he hopes the European Union (EU) can solve the divergence with China through dialogue instead of containment.

Prodi made the remark on a China-European panel held at the China Foreign Affairs University.

The EU is threatening to restrict textile import from China, alleging its growth has been too fast after quotas were eliminated on 1 January according to World Trade Organization agreements.

The EU should adopt the policy of "contact" rather than "containment" in dealing with problems with China, he said. China is emerging fast not only as a "big market", but also a "strong competitor", he said.

"China and the EU are not linked by markets, but because of the political conditions of the world," Prodi said.

The EU has two reasons for establishing relations with China, he said. "One is that China is of economic interest to us, the other is the EU likes a multi-polar world."

Prodi said the EU should face cordially the complementary competition relations between the EU and Chinese economies. Bilateral cooperation is in the interest of both sides as China has always pursued the way of peaceful development and maintained a rapid economic growth.

Both China and the EU need patience to cope with issues such as textile trade and the Renminbi, the Chinese currency, exchange rate, Prodi added.

"In the long term, the cooperation between us will push forward world peace and stability," Prodi said. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-EU diplomatic ties. Former German Defence Minister Rudolf Scharping, chairman of the China Reform Forum Zheng Bijian and president of CFAU were also present on the forum. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A float in the shape of a giant catfish with a stone on its head is pulled by shrine parishioners during a parade to mark the Kanda festival in Tokyo recently. — INTERNET

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EU to launch formal consultations with China on textile imports

BRUSSELS, 18 May — The European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said here on Tuesday that the EU would launch formal consultations with China for T-shirts and flax yarn imports. These are two of the nine categories of textile imports from China currently under investigation, which was launched on April 29 by the EU's executive body, the European Commission.

"In view of the seriousness of market disruption in these categories, formal consultations need to begin immediately," Mandelson told a Press conference. "Only if China does not take effective action will the Commission propose temporary limits on the growth of Chinese exports in the categories concerned in 2005," he added.

Mandelson's proposal still needs the nod from the European Commission and EU's textile committee, comprising of 25 EU member states. Mandelson believed this process could be completed before the end of May. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE & REVENUE
 INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
 INCOME TAX DIRECTORATE
 NOTICE FOR FILING OF RETURN OF INCOME**

1. All Co-operative societies which have been assessed to tax under the Income Tax Law and those Co-operative societies having income amounting to Kyats 30001 and above during the income year 2004-2005 are also required to file the return of income, duly filled-in and signed by the chairman or the secretary of the society concerned, in the respective Township Revenue Offices not later than 30 June 2005. Moreover, Companies, Joint venture enterprises and other taxpayers who are covered by the Income Tax Law are also required to file the return of income, duly filled-in and properly signed in the respective Township Revenue Office not later than aforesaid date.

2. Persons having income amounting to Kyats 30001 and above solely under the head "Salaries" during the income year 2004-2005 are not required to file the return of income in respect of their salary income as the tax had been paid thereon by way of deduction at source. However, the employer is responsible for furnishing the Annual Salary Statement in the respective Township Revenue Office not later than 30 June 2005.

3. Prescribed forms of return of income and Annual Salary Statement are available free of charge at the Township Revenue Offices. The Return can be filed in the person or sent by registered post. A receipt will be issue by the Township Revenue Office concerned in case the return is filed in person.

4. Further information can be obtained from Township Revenue Offices and Companies Circle Tax Office.

(Thein Naing)
 Director Income Tax Directorate

**Ministry of Industry (1)
 Myanmar Ceramic Industries
 192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road,
 Yangon, Myanmar**

INVITATION TO TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Ceramic Industries for the following gas burning equipment which is to be used at Cement Factory. Tender forms and detail information are available on payment of Kyats 3000/- (three thousand only), at Myanmar Ceramic Industries, Planning Department within Office Hour, starting from 19th May' 2005. Closing Date of Tender is 9th, June 2005 (Thursday), 15:00 Hour Myanmar Standard Time. Please contact Phone No. 562036, 566074 for detail information.

1. Gas Burner - 1 set

**Managing Director
 Myanmar Ceramic Industries**

Greece to promote use of Internet

ATHENS, 18 May — Greece has to ensure direct access and cheap connection to the Internet for its citizens, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said on Tuesday.

"We need to act quickly and to close the gap from other advanced countries in new technologies in the telecommunications sector," said the Prime Minister, addressing an event held at the Athens Metro Station in Syntagma to celebrate the World Telecommunications Day.

"Our aim is to guarantee all young people

equal access to modern tools of knowledge," he stressed, underlining that the sector of telecommunications is a determinative and especially important one, both for economic growth and for improving competitiveness, and for increasing the rate of employment.

Karamanlis, accompanied by Transport and Communications Minister Mihalis Liapis, visited the exhibition site showing the evolution of telecommunications from ancient times till nowadays.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအားပေးပါ

**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF FORESTRY
 MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE**

DATED. 19-5-2005.

SEALED TENDER NO. 01/ 2005-2006 (MUSE)

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL HOLD A SEALED TENDER SALE AS FOLLOWS.

COMMODITY : TEAK CONVERSIONS
 QUANTITY : ABOUT ((1239.9495)TONS
 DATE : 6-6-2005 (MONDAY)
 TIME : (12:00) NOON
 PLACE : ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, MUSE, DISTRICT FOREST DEPARTMENT, MUSE.
 EARNEST MONEY : US\$ 10000

PLEASE CONTACT THE MARKETING UNIT(2) OF THE EXPORT MARKETING AND MILLING DEPARTMENT OF THE MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF FORESTRY
 MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE**

DATED. 19-5-2005.

SEALED TENDER NO. 01/ 2005-2006 (MUSE)

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL HOLD A SEALED TENDER SALE AS FOLLOWS.

COMMODITY : TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS
 DATE : 6-6-2005 (MONDAY)
 TIME : (12:00) NOON
 PLACE : ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, MUSE, DISTRICT FOREST DEPARTMENT, MUSE.
 EARNEST MONEY : US\$ 10000

PLEASE CONTACT THE MARKETING UNIT(2) OF THE EXPORT MARKETING AND MILLING DEPARTMENT OF THE MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

WHO launches new global partnership

GENEVA, 18 May — A new global partnership that will work to improve public health decision-making through better health information was launched Tuesday at the annual conference of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Health Metrics Network (HMN) is a partnership comprises countries, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, foundations, global health initiatives and technical experts.

"In some areas of the world, even basic facts such as person's birth, their death and cause of

death are not recorded," WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook told reporters here.

"HMN will work to close this gap by helping countries improve their ability to gather this vital health information. Accurate data is critical to identifying problems and implementing effective solutions for people's health," he added.

According to the WHO, HMN brings together health and statistical constituencies to build capacity and expertise for strengthening health information systems so local, regional and global deci-

sion-makers have quality data on which to base decisions to improve health.

HMN will meet its objectives through a range of activities. Low- and middle-income countries will be eligible to apply for grants of up to 500,000 US dollars for health information system strengthening and can call upon HMN partners for technical assistance.

By 2011, HMN expects that at least 80 countries will be able to report on agreed, standardized global health goals and indicators in a timely and sound manner.

MNA/Xinhua

WFP warns aid for refugees threatened by lack of fund

GENEVA, 18 May — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned Tuesday that food supplies for 2.2 million refugees are now threatened by the lack of donor support. WFP now urgently needs 315 million US dollars to meet the needs of 2.2 million refugees living in camps, and 75 per cent of this sum is required for Africa alone, the UN agency said in a

Press release.

WFP has already been forced to reduce food rations for refugees in Africa. Without new contributions, the organization said, it will have to resort to more cuts. "Refugees are among WFP's most vulnerable beneficiaries and have been hit hard by shortfalls," said WFP Deputy Executive Director John Powell, who is in Geneva to discuss funding

with officials of the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

WFP assists refugees and returnees in collaboration with UNHCR through 25 operations worldwide.

"Many of the refugees rely almost entirely on food aid for their survival," said Powell. "They are frequently confined to camps where arable land, if available, is scarce and employment opportunities are limited." — *MNA/Xinhua*

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A hair model participant displays his hair-style for photograph during the 2005 hair and Make-up trend competition in Manila on 18 May 2005.

INTERNET

Telephone service expansion programme benefits more Chinese farmers

HEFEI, 18 May— Gu Jizhu, an orchid grower living deep in the mountainous areas of Jinzhai County, east China's Anhui Province, used to suffer a lot for being unable to sell his products at good prices due to limited market information caused by a lack of means of communication.

Gu's bitter experience has been put an end to until recently when his home was installed with a fixed telephone line.

Via the newly installed phone service, he got to know that one potted orchid could fetch a price of 80 yuan (about 9.64 US dollars) at the county seat of Jinzhai, instead of 20 yuan (about 2.41 US dollars) per

orchid, a price he previous sold.

"I decide to take all my orchids to the county seat and sell them there," he said. "This way, I will at least earn an extra 1,000 yuan (121 US dollars) once." Gu is not the only beneficiary of China's campaign launched last year to promote the local economy through bringing all its rural villages under dialing service

cover. Residents of Dongli Village in Shucheng County, also in Anhui Province, where telephone service was just made available last year, have earned an extra 800,000 yuan (96,386 US dollars) from selling chestnuts and tea at favourable prices with timely market information obtained via new phone service extended to their homes.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven die from heat wave in Andhra Pradesh, India

NEW DELHI, 18 May— At least seven people have died in Andhra Pradesh, India, in the heat wave sweeping across the province with temperatures in several towns touching nearly 45 degrees Celsius, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

Nizamabad in Telangana region was the hottest place in the province recording a temperature of 45.5 degrees Celsius Monday. The temperature in Nalgonda in the same region was 44.8 degrees Celsius followed by Ramagundem (44.3) and Medak (44.2).

While six deaths were reported from the coastal district of East Godavari, one person died in Hyderabad, capital of the province, officials said Tuesday. The capital recorded 43.3 degrees Celsius, the highest so far this season.

Hyderabad Meteorological

Director G Sudhakar Rao said the rise in temperature by three to four degrees in the state was due to dry northwesterly winds from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan blowing across the state.

Though the province escaped intense heat con-

ditions due to unseasonal rains in the first week of May, the sudden rise in temperature has spread panic. More than 1,500 people died due to the heat wave in 2003 in the province while more than 1,000 died in 2002. No deaths were reported last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Fairy tale wedding in Hong Kong Disneyland

HONG KONG, 18 May—A romantic dream for many young couples to be prince and princess or to get married in a fairy tale castle will come true, Hong Kong Disneyland announced here on Tuesday.

Don Robinson, Managing Director of Hong Kong Disneyland, told reporters that Hong Kong Disneyland now welcomes couples to celebrate their nuptials in Disney style with a personalized Fairy Tale Wedding.

He said Hong Kong Disneyland has so far received about 1,000 inquiries from couples interested in holding a fairy tale wedding. However, Robinson said couples with intentions to get married in Hong Kong Disneyland are still in the stage of consultation and the date of the first fairy tale wedding has not yet been decided.

Before the romantic and unforgettable Disneyland wedding, cost is the most practical problem for new couples to consider.

According to the package samples sent out by Hong Kong Disneyland, the price for a wedding banquet in the fairy tale world is around 10,000 Hong Kong dollars per table and the minimum requirement will be ten tables.

To common Hong Kong people with an average salary per month around 10,000 Hong Kong dollars, a romantic wedding in Disneyland is still a dream.— MNA/Xinhua

Study of breast cancer drug halted after causing deaths

WASHINGTON, 18 May—A study to test a combination of two chemotherapy drugs in treating breast cancer was halted after leading to the death of two patients, French researchers reported on Tuesday.

The tested medication were standard intravenous drug doxorubicin plus a newer drug called docetaxel. Researchers want to see if combining the two frequently used breast cancer drugs can have better effects as shown by previous similar tries, according to the

researchers who wrote in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The combination, which was too toxic, can increase risk of severe and life-threatening complications, concluded the researchers from the Huguenin Cancer Centre,

Saint-Cloud, France.

The report said 627 women ages 18 to 70 participated in the study aimed to prolong their life for at least five years. All of the participants had a high risk of cancer recurrence.

The study was halted about three years after it

started in 1999, because of the subsequent two deaths and a high rate of complications including low white-cell counts with fever, which is a life-threatening condition coming as a result of weakened body's ability to fight infection.—MNA/Xinhua

Germany to set up heatwave alert system

BERLIN, 18 May— German meteorologists will launch a heatwave alert system in a couple of weeks to prevent the recurrence of the 2003 tragedy in which thousands of elderly people died of scorching weather.

Under the system to be put in place in June, warnings will be faxed to nursing homes, advising them to shade the rooms of residents and ensure patients increase their fluid intake, the German news agency of DPA reported Tuesday.

"If the warnings get through, we'll be able to significantly reduce the number of heatwave

deaths," said Klaus Bucher, a specialist in medical meteorology at the German Weather Service in the southern German city of Freiburg.

The system tracks temperature, humidity and sunshine in every district of Germany.

"It will calculate thermal strain which is not the same thing as tempera-

ture," Bucher was quoted as saying.

"Generally, the warnings will go out when the perceived temperatures reaches 32 degrees Celsius," he added.

Up to 15,000 elderly and weak people in France and 1,000 others in Germany did not survive the heat in the summer of 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Uzbek Mukhamed-Said works at a vegetable stand at a Moscow market, on 17 May, 2005. He says he moved to Moscow from Uzbekistan.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Beckham admits disappointment instead of failure

MADRID, 19 May — Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham said the runner-up in Primera Liga should not be considered as a failure for his team but he is somewhat disappointed.

"Rather than calling it a failure, I'd call it a disappointment, for this season we were the best team in the second part," said Beckham in an interview with Radio Onda Cero.

The England captain said he enjoys his life in Madrid, adding: "I'd like to retire in Real Madrid. I have two more years to serve out my contract and I want more."

Beckham accepted the apologies of Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o after his insult against Real Madrid during the

celebration of winning the league title at Camp Nou Stadium, saying the Cameroonian "was impressive as a player and as a person".

Portuguese star Luis Figo has been left out by coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo in recent games, but Beckham said Luis Figo and himself are not incompatible in the pitch.

"I believe Figo and I can play in the same lineup as we've done on some occasions, but this is not my decision (to leave out him)," said Beckham.

MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea in chase for Eto'o

LONDON, 19 May — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho is lining up a 30-million-pound chase for Barcelona superstar Samuel Eto'o, according to local media reports on Wednesday.

Mourinho is desperate to strengthen his strikeforce for next season's assault on a Premiership and Champions League double. And he sees African Player of the Year Eto'o, 24, as the perfect replacement for flops Didier Drogba and Mateja Kezman.

The player's lawyer, Jose Maria Mesalles, has already been in contact with Blues officials. Mourinho has authorized Chelsea to offer 24-million-pound plus William Gallas and one more player from the Stamford Bridge squad.

Eto'o will be paid 6 million pounds a year, with his 115-thousand-pound a week salary making him the second best-paid player in England after Frank Lampard.

MNA/Xinhua

Fired Chinese coach accuses players of match fixing

BEIJING, 19 May — Chi Shangbin, fired on Tuesday as head coach of defending China Super League champions Shenzhen Jianlibao, accused on Wednesday the club's key players of fixing league matches this season.

"In our defeat to Sichuan Guancheng, one of our players told a Guancheng defender after we got a corner: 'Don't bother to mark me, I will never put the ball into the goal. You should mark our foreign teammates,'" said Chi at a news conference. But Chi admitted that he has no evidence to bring the players to justice. "But their performances have proved that."

The defending champions are languishing at the bottom on China Super League standings with four draws and five losses.

MNA/Xinhua



CSKA Moscow's players celebrate with the trophy at the end of the UEFA cup final football match Sporting Lisbon vs CSKA Moscow, at the Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon. Moscow won 3 to 1.—INTERNET

Beijing sets up Olympic broadcasting committee

BEIJING, 19 May — The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) set up a broadcasting coordination committee to ensure the successful broadcasting of the world's premier sporting event.

The BOCOG Olympic Broadcasting Committee, headed by BOCOG executive vice-president Jiang Xiaoyu, is composed of representatives from concerned government departments, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information Industry, the Customs, State Administration of Taxation and China Central Television.

"The committee will work with different government departments to formulate favourable policies for the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co. Ltd.," said Jiang.

The Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co. Ltd. (BOB), a joint venture between the IOC Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) and BOCOG, will serve as the host broadcaster of the 2008 Olympics and 2008 Paralympics.

"As the Olympics is currently the most widely covered sporting event in the world, with the highest number of TV viewers, a successful broadcast is a prerequisite for staging a successful Olympics," added Jiang.

It is estimated that during the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics, more than 4 billion people will watch the games worldwide.

BOB will be in charge of producing international TV and radio signals for the Games and important side events, constructing and operating the International Broadcasting Centre and other venues, and providing other relevant broadcasting services to the rights-holding broadcasters of the Games.—MNA/Xinhua

Van Bommel signs for Barcelona

BRUSSELS, 19 May — PSV Eindhoven midfielder Mark van Bommel has signed a three-year deal with Barcelona, the Dutch champion said on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old had said he would leave PSV when his contract expired at the end of the season and was expected to join the Spanish champion.

Dutch international van Bommel will be officially presented in Barcelona after the Netherlands' World Cup qualifiers against Romania on June 4 and Finland four days later.

Barcelona confirmed the signing on their website, saying the deal had been kept quiet until after they had won the Primera Liga. The Catalan club secured their first league title in six years last Saturday.

Van Bommel will add depth to Barca's midfield, linking up with Portugal international Deco and Spain's Xavi.

Frank Rijkaard's side suffered a string of injuries this season which threatened to undermine their title challenge with the versatile Gabri, Edmilson and midfielder Thiago Motta sidelined with knee ligament problems.

Mexican international Rafael Marquez, who has played much of the season in midfield, will be free to return to his more natural position in defence.

Van Bommel's arrival restores Barca's strong links with the Netherlands as he teams up with compatriots Giovanni van Bronckhorst and coach

Rijkaard.

Several Dutch players left Barcelona last season with Patrick Kluivert, Philip Cocu, Michael Reiziger, Marc Overmars, and Edgar Davids all moving to other clubs.

MNA/Xinhua



PSV Eindhoven midfielder Mark Van Bommel has agreed a three-year deal with Barcelona.—INTERNET

Raul calls Barcelona "fair winner" for league victory

MADRID, 19 May — Real Madrid captain Raul Gonzalez on Tuesday called Barcelona "fair winners" for their league victory and admitted his team "made mistakes we have to solve now" to look forward to winning titles next season.

"They always contest for the titles. After many years without winning anything now they have a great team that will be reinforced in the coming season. It will be a dangerous team both in Spain and Europe," said Raul.

He said he was disappointed in analyzing the season, acknowledging that it is already two years for Real without titles.

"It always is a disappointment not to win with this club. Yet I think it is worth saying we have played well in the last matches," also said Raul.

"Now it is time to rest and start the next season from zero to have chances to win titles," he said, "as this year we only had minimum hopes."

Raul said that the cause to lose this league was "the irregularity of the beginning" of the season.

For the next season, he said he was certain about coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo remaining at the head of the club, yet he did not say anything about the need to modify the roster. —MNA/Xinhua

England calls up Knight, Richardson for US tour

LONDON, 19 May — Midfielder Kieran Richardson and defender Zat Knight have earned their first call-ups for England for this month's tour matches against the United States and Colombia.

Fulham's Knight replaces Birmingham City's Matthew Upson, who withdrew with a hernia, while Manchester United's Richardson comes in for Manchester City's Shaun Wright-Phillips (knee).

They will join the squad in Manchester later on Tuesday before flying to Chicago, where England play the US on Saturday before facing Colombia in New Jersey on Tuesday.

The US is using the game as a warm-up ahead of World Cup qualifiers versus Costa Rica and Panama in early June, while Colombia is doing the same before facing Peru and Ecuador.

Knight, 25, has been a regular starter for Fulham all season, while Manchester United midfielder Richardson, 20, has been on-loan at West Bromwich Albion since January and helped them stay in the Premier League on the last day of the season.

Knight joins the squad after

Tottenham Hotspur's Michael Dawson, who was on stand-by, also pulled out with a calf injury.

MNA/Xinhua



Mexican team Chivas' Francisco Palencia celebrates his goal against Pachuca during their Libertadores Cup soccer match at the Hidalgo Stadium in Pachuca City, Mexico, on 18 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Caps presented to trainees of Nurse and Midwifery Training School in Myitkyina

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to present nurse caps to first-year trainees of Nurse and Midwifery Training School was held in conjunction with the concluding ceremony of the training course at the school in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 13 May morning.

Principal Daw M Nang Kham reported on training courses. Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave a speech.

Next, the principal presented nurse caps to 60 trainees. Head of Kachin State Health Department Dr Maung Maung Myint awarded prizes to outstanding trainees.

Afterwards, Dr Maung Maung

Myint and officials accepted K 5 million for the training school donated by Kachin State Peace and Development Council through the commander; K 2.5 million by Northern Command through Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun; K 1 million by Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee through Daw Tin Tin Nwe, wife of the commander; K 1 million by Kachin State Organization for Women's Affairs through Daw Tin Tin Htay, wife of the Commissioner of the state; and K 4.6 million by wellwishers.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Myitkyina Air Base Brig-Gen Zaw Tun, authorities, training instructors and guests.

MNA

Forestry Minister attends ceremony to honour victorious athletes



Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents prize of honour to swimming team through Deputy General Manager U Sein Whet.— FORESTRY

YANGON, 19 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the ceremony to honour victorious athletes of the Ministry of Forestry, who took part in local/international tournament in 2004-2005, held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road this evening.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, managing directors and officials and guests.

Minster Brig-Gen Thein Aung made a speech and presented prizes of honours to the best of the year award winner bowling athlete Ma Khin Than

Htwe and best team award to the swimming team through Deputy General Manager U Sein Whet.

Afterwards, directors-general, managing directors and officials presented prizes of honours to the athletes who won the victory in the tournaments.

Next, on behalf of victorious athletes, bowling player Ma Khin Than

Htwe expressed thanks. After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the athletes and hosted a dinner. In 2004-2005, the athletes of Forestry Ministry secured 89 gold, 84 silver and 87 bronze in the local tournament and one gold, three silver and one gold, three silver and five bronze in the international tournament.

MNA

Vietnamese Ambassador calls on Information Minister



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung. —MNA

YANGON, 19 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar Mr

Tran Van Tung at his office at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-

General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Acting Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Col Aung Nyein,

MNA

Paingkyon TV retransmission station airs programmes

YANGON, 19 May—For extension of broadcasting TV programmes, the construction of TV retransmission station in Paingkyon, Kayin State was completed on 14 May. Programmes of Myanmar Television have been on the air beginning 15 May, it is learnt. —MNA

Aerial view of the newly-opened Pulp Plant (Thabaung) of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries near Hlaygyit Village in Thabaung Township. — MNA

