

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 35

14th Waxing of Kason 1367 ME

Saturday, 21 May, 2005

National unity further cemented despite all divisive attempts SSNA Brigade-19 unconditionally exchange arms for peace



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspect arms handed over by SSNA brigade 19. — MNA

YANGON, 20 May —The Brigade-19 of Shan State National Army (SSNA) led by U Gon Khay who had returned to the legal fold since 1995, unconditionally exchanged arms for peace in Nampaung Village, Lashio Township this morning, attended by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of SPDC Office, departmental heads, social organizations, over 5,200 local people, 325 SSNA members including Commander of Brigade-19 of SSNA U Gon Khay, Deputy Commander U Kham Shan, commanding officers (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents clothes and other assistance to U Gon Khay. — MNA

INSIDE

The people and the Tatmadaw will have to ward off the atrocious acts of the terrorists and to crush them with harmonious efforts.

(Page 6)

AUNG THU MOE (MYINGYAN)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 May, 2005

Actively take part in nation-building endeavours

The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is taking systematic measures for all-round development of health, education, social, economic sectors of children and mothers after forming the education group, the health group, the economic group, the social group, etc.

The aim of the MMCWA is to improve the health, education and social standards of children and mothers. The MMCWA members are striving for successful realization of that objective. The realization of that objective amounts to laying an infrastructure for improvement of socio-economic life of the people.

As relentless efforts are being made for increasing the number of permanent members of the association in townships, there are over 240,000 permanent members as well as some 420,000 ordinary members totalling over 660,000 as of 2004.

To turn 10 per cent of the township population into permanent membership, efforts are to be made to form the maternal and child welfare association (branches) in wards and villages.

As members of township MCWAs in Yangon Division actively took part in nation-building endeavours in 2004, Yangon Division MCWA was awarded the first prize by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the MMCWA has laid down future tasks to be implemented in 2005. The first task calls on all the MCWA members to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-step Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

That is why the MCWA members are to strive for national development enhancing the socio-economic life of children and mothers, to actively take part in successful realization of the seven-step Road Map that guarantees perpetual existence of the Union and ensures higher national prestige and integrity.

This being so, at a time when efforts are being made for all-round development of the State, all the MCWA members upholding the fine traditions are to actively take part in the task by doing their bit with the national outlook.

Entries invited for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest 2005

YANGON, 20 May— Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest 2005 invited entrants to participate in five genres—collected poems, novel, collected short stories, treatises and research. Manuscripts are to be submitted to Sarpay Beikman not later than 30 September, 2005. Award winning manuscripts will be announced at the end of this year and the prize presentation ceremony will be held in 2006. Application form for entrants are available at Chief Editor, Secretary of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutinization Committee, 529, Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman. Applications for those of other towns are to take out an application per K 40 for postal charge.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

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

Preliminary Conference of Bago Division WVO 2005 held



Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko addresses the Preliminary Conference of Bago Division War Veterans Organization 2005.—MNA

YANGON, 20 May — The Preliminary Conference of Bago Division War Veterans Organization 2005 took place at Thiri Oktha hall Bago Division WVO in Bago on 19 May.

It was attended by Patron of Bago Division WVO Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Vice-Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar WVO Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, the Chairman of Bago Division WVO Supervision Committee, military officers, departmental heads, division/district WVO executives and social organizations.

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko made an opening

speech and presented K 51.5 million for Bago Division WVO to Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Bago Division WVO Lt-Col Thein Lwin.

Next, the report on the preliminary conference of Bago Division WVO 2005 was read out. Afterwards, those present read the reports on five future tasks of the preliminary conference of Bago Division WVO 2005, the national and political sector, the State's defence and security sector, economic sector, social welfare and tasks for public interests. Later, the meeting decided three matters, approved one matter and put record on three matters at the preliminary conference 2005 and the conference ended with chanting of the slogans.—MNA

Transport Minister attends 61st Annual Meeting of ESCAP

YANGON, 20 May — The 61st Annual Meeting of United Nations Asia and Pacific Region Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP) was held in Bangkok, Thailand. The ministerial meeting was held from 16 to 18 May and the senior officers meeting from 12 to 14 May.

The Myanmar delegation was led by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe. Delegates from 62 countries attended the meeting.

On 17 May, leader of the Myanmar delegation Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivered an address on progress of social and economic development of Myanmar. Furthermore, a paper of Myanmar on tsunami and prevention against natural disasters was submitted.

On 19 May, the minister and party arrived back here by air. The minister was welcomed back by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials. Members of the



Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivers an address at the 61st Annual Meeting of United Nations Asia and Pacific Region Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand.

TRANSPORT

delegation who attended the senior officials meeting also arrived back.

MNA

Mines Minister receives Korean Ambassador

YANGON, 20 May — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Ju Heum at the ministry of mines on Kanbe Road this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials. — MNA

Follow-up news

YANGON, 20 May — The correct names of the wellwishers in the news of presenting cash assistance for the stipend carried in the dailies issued on 20-5-2005 are Managing Director of Dhana Aung Co Ltd U Soe Thein and wife Deputy Director Daw Khin Cho Ohn of the Attorney-General's Office. — MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears Special Appeal cases

YANGON, 20 May— The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Myint Thein sitting at Court room No (1) this morning, delivered judgement of five Special Civil Appeal cases and one Special Criminal Appeal case, also heard three Special Criminal Appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2005.

MNA

China, Bangladesh open first direct flight

BEIJING, 19 May — The China Eastern Airlines opened a direct flight between Beijing and Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, on Wednesday, the first of its kind since the two countries signed bilateral civil aviation contract in 1980.

The Beijing-Kunming-Dhaka flight with a one-way distance of 3,545 kilometres lasts 5.5 hours. It is available at 10:50 am in Beijing on every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Before reaching Dhaka, it will stop over at Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Boeing 737 and 767 aircraft have been designated to fly the route. The airlines began market and field investigations on the new air route in late March and reached an agreement with Bangladeshi side in April.—MNA/Xinhua

Children's film festival to showcase best world entries

KOLKATA, 19 May — From the Oscar winning 'Finding Nemo' to Shabana Azmi's 'Makdee' and Satyajit Ray's much acclaimed 'Hirak Rajar Deshe' (In the Country of Diamond King), children can feast on 16 celluloid greats from across the world at a film festival beginning 23 May here and dedicated to them.

The five-day fifth international children film festival will have entries from Malaysia, France, Spain, Russia, USA, India, China, Czech Republic and Israel.

The country's oldest film club Cine Central would organize the festival along with the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre at the latter's Bharatiyam Complex on free entry.

Cine Central general secretary Sadhan Chakraborty said the festival would provide a panorama of world cinema for children during their summer holidays.

Malaysian entry Cheritera, French films Day Off, Kirkou and the Witch, The Class Trip, Spanish films Don Quixote, El Dosque Animado, Russian films Golden Horns, Morozko, Father Frost, Chinese film Lotus Lantern and Czech entry Three Nuts for Cinderella would be on show.

A series of short Israeli films — Pepe's Watch, Personal Goals, Bedouin Sand, The Other Cheek and Small Change — would also be screened, Chakraborty added. — MNA/PTI



Bihar may be new tiger trouble spot

NEW DELHI, 19 May — Bihar in northern India may bring in more bad news when India begins its elaborate tiger census in a few months. The state's officials are struggling to account for missing big cats, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The Valmiki national park in West Champaran District has reported an alarming drop in tiger population after its own census last month.

"The tiger number in the sanctuary is not encouraging, but this isn't the final number. We have to look into it again," BA Khan, chief of local wildlife conservation, said and declined to provide statistics.

Official sources, however, put the number of tigers in the park at about 35, compared to 52 counted in 2003 and 56 a year earlier.

A team from the forest department would visit the park by the month-end to study the new count. To conduct the census, officials sought help from villagers and cattle grazers living around the sanctuary to learn about spots frequented by tigers and their watering holes.

The tiger population at the Valmiki reserve is said to have fallen drastically in the last five years.

In 1990, the sanctuary was estimated to have had 80 tigers and 31 leopards.

India, once considered the home of the big cat, has an estimated 3,500 tigers. The Project Tiger programme started in 1970s was credited with arresting the decline till media reports this year pointed to fewer or rare sightings of the animal in several parks, especially Sariska and Ranthambore in Rajasthan.

Indian central government recently admitted that poachers might have wiped off the entire tiger population in Sariska.

MNA/Xinhua

China, India to reopen Stilwell Road via Myanmar

BEIJING, 20 May — China and India are working on plans to reopen the Stilwell Road through Myanmar which would reduce the distance between the two countries from 6,000 kilometres to just 1,300 kilometres, the state media reported on Wednesday.

The Stilwell Road, a strategic supply route between Assam and China's Yunnan Province via Myanmar built in the World War II by Chinese and American troops, will soon reopen.

Yunnan Province, which benefits greatly from trade with India, has played a vanguard role in the rebuilding of the Stilwell Road.

An Indian survey team arrived in Tengchong in Yunnan Province for a field investigation on the entire length of the road to be commenced this month, the official Xinhua news agency reported from the provincial capital, Kunming.

Yunnan and Assam have agreed to begin a joint exploration on the Stilwell Road at the end of this year, it

quoted a senior official with the Yunnan Provincial Council for Promoting Trade with Foreign Countries as saying.

According to the latest field investigation, the section from Ledo in India to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province on the Stilwell Road is only 1,300 kilometres. The current trading route to ship most of India's export to China, by contrast, is as long as 6,000 kilometres, going around the Malacca Strait and the Indian Ocean before reaching China's eastern coast.

If the Stilwell Road is reopened, it will be the most convenient land route between China and India and turn Southeast Asia into a key trading hub.

MNA/PTI

Meningitis claims two more lives in India

NEW DELHI, 19 May — A meningitis outbreak in the capital claimed two more lives on Wednesday, taking the death toll to 28, while 10 new cases were reported.

"Two more deaths are confirmed," a Municipal Corporation of Delhi official told local reporters.

Three people had succumbed Monday to the deadly disease that hit the capital over a fortnight ago. The total number of cases reported in the capital has gone up to 323. — MNA/Xinhua



An Indian doctor tests the blood of a suspected bacterial meningitis patient at the Hindu Rao Hospital, in New Delhi. An outbreak of bacterial meningitis in New Delhi has left at least 28 people dead in the past three weeks, a municipal health office spokesman said. — INTERNET

Vietnam busts up heroin trafficking ring

HANOI, 20 May — Vietnam will shortly prosecute 31 local people who trafficked and transported hundreds of cakes of heroin (1 cake weighs 0.35 kilos) from its provinces bordering on Laos and Cambodia to its southern Ho Chi Minh City.

The biggest batch of heroin transported by the 42-member ring, which was cracked down by the city's police in June 2004, included 60 cakes

worth more than 100,000 US dollars, according to local newspaper Youth on Thursday.

The ring sold heroin to wholesalers traders in Ho Chi Minh City, who would resell the drug to distributors in the city and some surrounding provinces. The local police are trying to arrest the remaining 11 ring members.

Another big drug trafficking ring was cracked down in 2003.

Twenty-two out of 60 ring members, who trafficked and transported over 3,000 cakes of heroin and 535 kilos of opium across borders into some Vietnam's northern localities, will be prosecuted in the coming time.

The country detected 12,068 drug-related crimes, seized 239.4 kilos of heroin, and arrested 18,260 involved people last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese Emperor Akihito plants rice seedlings in a rice paddy at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 18 May, 2005. The Emperor will harvest the rice in autumn for use in religious rites at the palace. —INTERNET

Vietnam signs deal for first oil refinery construction

HANOI, 19 May — Petro Vietnam, a state-owned oil and gas corporation, has signed an engineering procurement and construction contract (EPC) with a four-party consortium led by France's Technip Conflexip for construction of main components of the Dung Quat oil refinery, *Vietnam News* reported on Wednesday.

The scope of works in the EPC inked on Tuesday includes two packages totalling 1.6 billion US dollars. The overall estimated cost for the refinery in central Quang Ngai Province has escalated to 2.5 billion dollars from an initial 1.3 billion dollars. The refinery, with an annual processing capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil, will help meet Vietnam's demand for high-quality products such as unleaded petroleum A90, 92 and 95, kerosene, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas. When the refinery becomes operational, expected in the next few years, it will meet 40 per cent of the local demand for petroleum.

The French-led consortium which signed the EPC includes Malaysia's

Technip Geoproduction, Japan's Japan Gasoline Corp and Spain's Technicas Reunidas. The consortium will take 44 months to complete works under the contract.

With no oil refineries, Vietnam now has to export crude oil and import petroleum products. It shipped abroad 6.1 million tons of crude oil valued at nearly 2.3 billion US dollars in the first four months this year, down 6.1 per cent in volume but up 45.3 per cent in value against the same period last year, according to the country's General Statistics Office. In the period, Vietnam imported roughly 4 million tons of petroleum products worth nearly 1.5 billion dollars, posting increases of 4.9 per cent and 36.3 per cent respectively. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Municipal officials work in the emergency operation room of the Tokyo metropolitan government headquarters as Japan conducted drills on 19 May, 2005 in preparation for the possibility of a major quake hitting the capital during the morning rush hour.—INTERNET

EU helps China train 14,000 experts in village affairs

BEIJING, 19 May — The co-director of the EU-China Training programme on Village Governance said Wednesday that the programme has made a "significant first step" in training more than 14,000 Chinese Government officials since May 2001.

"This might appear a modest achievement if measured against the needs in the country, but it is significant when seen as a first step in a cascading process through which participants in the programme training courses are transmitted skills and tools ...down to the village level," said William Massolin.

He said at the ongoing National Conference on Village Self-Governance that the programme has been working closely with the key institutions in charge of village governance at the central level by providing financial and technical support in the past four years.

It has also helped to create a strong pool of trainers at the central and provincial levels and developed training manuals on village elections, village governance, transparency in village affairs and democratic decision-making, he said.

"It has been a priority of the pro-

gramme to develop training materials and conduct courses, ..., which are of crucial importance to ensure the strengthening, over the long-term, of village self-governance," he said.

The EU-China Training programme on Village Governance is a five-year cooperation between the Chinese Government and the EU Commission, with the Ministry of Civil Affairs acting as executing agency on the Chinese side.

The main objectives are to facilitate long-term cooperation and understanding between China and EU, to enhance understanding and observance of the law among Chinese villagers, their elected representatives and rural officials and to promote village self-governance.

Li Xueju, Chinese Minister of Civil Affairs, said at the opening ceremony of the conference that the programme is, so far, China's largest cooperation project with a foreign partner.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်သနားအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Pakistan, Britain ink MoU on defence collaboration

ISLAMABAD, 19 May — Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to increase defence collaboration between the two countries, officials said.

The MoU would help to open up new avenues in the area of defence cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, a Defence Ministry statement said.

It would facilitate the procurement of defence equipment and transfer of technology, it said.

It was also agreed to hold counter-terrorism workshops and seminars so as to benefit each other's experience.

Both sides agreed to hold joint exercises, exchange observers and jointly fight the war on terror.

Besides the MoU, the two sides also signed the minutes of the 7th meeting of Pakistan-Britain defence cooperation forum.

MNA/Xinhua

India received \$3.75b in foreign investment in 2004

NEW DELHI, 19 May — India received 3.75 billion US dollars of foreign direct investment in 2004, taking the cumulative inflows from July 1991 when the country opened up its economy to 32.69 billion US dollars, official data showed here on Wednesday.

The figures, however, only include inflows on account of equity component of foreign investment, and exclude other investments, such as reinvested profits that form the international norms.

According to the annual report of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment for India with a 31.23-per-cent share, followed by the United States with a 20.15-per-cent share.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese mountaineers climbing toward summit of Mt Everest

QOMOLANGMA BASE CAMP, (Tibet), 20 May — A team of 22 Chinese women mountaineers, working to re-measure the height of Qomolangma, also known as Mount Everest, left the base camp Thursday to head for the summit.

They will first climb to a camp at 7,028 metres above sea level before finally hiking to the summit Sunday or Monday, said Zhang Jiangyuan, the leader of the group. According to China's first measurement in 1975, the peak is 8,848.13 metres above sea level.

"Time for the final ascent depends on weather conditions," said Zhang. The second group of mountaineers will set off towards the 7,028-metre-high camp Friday. They are expected to reach the summit a day after the first group, Zhang said. The ascent of the mountain, which straddles the border of China and Nepal, was originally scheduled for 5 May but has been repeatedly delayed because of poor weather conditions. The peak has seen frequent heavy snows and strong winds since early May. Mountaineering experts say the turbulent weather is rare in recent years. — *MNA/Xinhua*

General says Iraqi police force slow to develop

WASHINGTON, 19 May — Iraq's police force has not developed as quickly as US commanders had hoped, the top American general in the region says, raising questions about how soon American forces can begin returning home. General John Abizaid, chief of US Central Command, said the slow progress of Iraqi police is delaying improvements in the country's overall security, forcing Iraqi military units to perform internal security functions.

A fully developed Iraqi security force is key in determining when US troops can turn over security operations to Iraqis and return home, Pentagon officials have said repeatedly.

Of the police, Abizaid said, "I don't know how much I would say time-wise they're behind, but they are behind."

Internet



A baby gorilla is back with her mother following an emergency medical procedure to treat a rare bone disease, according to Franklin Park Zoo officials, on 19 May, 2005 in Boston. —INTERNET



Fifteen-month old Indonesian conjoined twins Angeli and Angie are held by their father Sobari in this undated photo. Singapore surgeons will perform separation surgery on Saturday on a conjoined girls fused at the stomach and hips, their father Sobari said on 19 May, 2005 in Singapore. —INTERNET

Thai anti-car theft police accused of involving in smuggling vehicles

BANGKOK, 20 May — A total of 108 police from Bangkok's anti-car theft division have colluded with Malaysian gangsters in smuggling automobiles, said the police inspector-general Seripisut Temiyavej.

The 108 policemen involving in car smuggling ranged from non-commissioned officers all the way up to major-general, *Bangkok Post* on Thursday quoted Seripisut as saying.

The gang of police had conspired with car thieves in Malaysia to smuggle 42 stolen vehicles into Thailand over the past two months, he said.

Malaysian thieves handed the vehicles to members of the police gang, who then parked the vehicles at different locations. Later, they "found" the vehicles and seized them as smuggled cars.

Those cars were then handed over

to the Customs Department which eventually put them up for auction. The same group of police had their associates bid for the vehicles, which they then sold for a profit.

Seripisut blamed those police actions as serious legal violations and said their cases were destined for the National Countre Corruption Commission.

Bangkok Post also quoted anonymous police source as saying that Seripisut's action followed a search by Bangkok police at the residence of one of his close friends, where more than 80 cars were parked and were suspected of being stolen. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China outlines its work agenda for developing western regions

BEIJING, 19 May — Rural affairs, infrastructure and ecological development, cultivation of specialty industries, as well as a boost of social causes will be the main tasks of this year for the country's campaign to develop the vast western regions, according to the third plenary session of the leading group for development of western Chinese regions with the State Council held on Tuesday.

Premier Wen Jiabao, who chaired the meeting, told participants to "carry out and implement in an unwavering manner" the strategies and arrangements laid down by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council about exploring the western regions. "It is imperative to develop west China in the light of scientific concept of development and advance the work in a down-to-earth manner," said the Premier.

Participants agreed that since the campaign was launched five years ago, strides had been made, notable results had been produced in this regard, with the presence of an unprecedented promising prospects in economic and social developments of western regions.

Nevertheless, many problems and difficulties still remain in developing the country's western regions, so it will be an arduous task with a long process to develop the west, said the participants.

Education will be given priority for development, and substantial efforts should also be made to popularize the nine-year compulsory schooling among youngsters, including the implementation of a policy of exempting rural poor students from tuition fees, according to participants.

In the meantime, greater efforts should be made to prevent infectious and endemic diseases, while it is also necessary to step up the construction of a public health service network in rural areas, they said. Moreover, the western Chinese regions were asked to expedite pace of reform and opening up to the outside world, to solve problems cropping up in the development process via reform measures, to seize the time to work out an overall plan regarding development of the western regions for the 11th Five-Year-Plan period (2006-2010) and to improve the development of human resources and legal construction.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Mega kitchen makes waves in Bangalore

BANGALORE, 19 May — Culinary culture in this capital of South India's Karnataka State may not be the same now that a unique mega eatery with the state-of-the art kitchen established that has made a sensation among the peers and the plebeians alike.

The lone outlet "Nammora Hotel" caters to the food needs of thousands of people daily dishing out a variety of tastes, including South Indian and North Indian dishes.

Setting a new trend in the catering industry, it has earned a niche for itself as centralized food production unit.

The brain child of a handful of people, who had vast pool of experience in the hotel industry led by Srinivas Rao, saw the establishment of this multi-cuisine vegetarian food manufacturing unit which has given a new dimension to catering industry, particularly in bulk vending sphere. According to Nammorra

Hotel CEO Krishna Hegde, who had a successful stint as chef in the Middle East and European countries, the idea of serving hygienically prepared food for people at affordable rates struck a group of three individuals.

The Mysore-based Central Food Technologies Research Institute (CFTRI) officials, who visited the hotel, have appreciated the infrastructure created and hygiene maintained.

But resources were a major constraint, he said. Though the idea had initially won appreciation from many investors they tried to tap, several of them later quietly withdrew from the scene, expressing doubts over the venture's success.

But the determination and readiness to face even the worst loss made them to push through the project, managing finances with great difficulty, Hedge says,

— *MNA/PTI*

Officer guilty of sending arms from Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 May—A military judge Thursday found an Air Force officer guilty of illegally shipping a small arsenal of automatic weapons and hundreds of other war souvenirs home from Iraq.

Major Gregory McMillion stood at rigid attention with his two military lawyers as Col. Ronald Gregory read his verdict in the judge-only court-martial.

The proceedings then moved into the penalty phase with the prosecution presenting four character witnesses before court recessed for the day. Defence character witnesses will testify Friday.

The 44-year-old McMillion faces anything from no penalty to a prison term of eight years.

Prosecutors said McMillion is a gun and military paraphernalia enthusiast who tried to use his deployment to stock his personal collection.

— *Internet*

Shanghai to erect more public sculptures

SHANGHAI, 19 May — Shanghai will erect an additional 30 to 50 public sculptures by 2010 in the key districts of the municipality, said sources with the just-concluded Shanghai Sculpture Construction Conference.

The overall sculpture development plan of the city has passed approval by the municipal government and has been put into effect. And the municipal urban planning bureau has publicized the timetable for the city's sculpture construction.

Some 30 key sculpture projects are expected to be launched, including 10 in the municipal areas and 20 in the suburban counties and districts.

The Shanghai Pudong International Airport, the Shanghai Sculpture Park and other key sites will all erect sculptures, the source said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US soldiers examine a destroyed vehicle after a roadside bomb explosion in Baghdad on 18 May, 2005. —INTERNET

Tatmadaw and people will crush all enemies, while living in unity and amity

Aung Thu Moe (Myingyan)

At the 60th anniversary to mark the end of World War II, the President of Germany said that because of the rule of nazism, WWII broke out in which many human lives were lost, adding that over two million Jews were also slaughtered. As a German citizen, he was ashamed of the wrongdoings, the President said. At this age of globalization and global village, the civilized world is against the acts of armed hegemonism.

When the then Government of South Africa led by de Klerk and the ANC leader Nelson Mandela were in the process of holding on-going peace talks, over 30 ANC members were murdered. As the murder upset the ANC members, they demanded to end the on-going peace talks and return to the armed struggle line.

But Mandela flatly told his men that he felt grievance and sympathy for the murdered ANC member as his own relatives, but there was no question of the ANC reverting to the armed struggle line.

The ANC was looking forward to working for the success of the peace talks, declared Mandela, a far-sighted leader. Because of his truthful stance, South Africa was able to restore peace and start the successful nation-building tasks within a short time.

In the field of social science, it is said, "Only the total peace is conducive to the social development, and on the other hand, terrorism (armed confrontation) will hamper social progress.

Armed terrorism will turn the world back to the age of savages.

Thanks to its endeavours, the Tatmadaw Government has been able to build trust with the 17 armed groups that have eventually returned to the legal fold, and has restored peace in the whole nation. Now the entire people of Myanmar are

happy to witness the start of the endeavour to develop human society with total peace in the country.

Meanwhile, terrorists blew up bombs on 7 May to murder innocent people and to frighten them with the envious intention of eroding the political and economic stability and the peace, progress and prosperity the nation and the people are enjoying. In reality, it was an outdated and barbarous act. In

All the persons who want to make every development come to a halt for not having the role of the key player, thinking that the loss of public lives and property is a political gain for them, and dreaming of a situation in which the people suffering more and more will rise up against the government, are terrorists who are totally against and jealous of the peace, prosperity and progress the nation and the people are enjoying at present.

the end, the policy of armed struggle line and terrorism the multi-coloured insurgents had followed for over 40 years met its downfall, because of the failure to win public support. Everyone who uses brutal tactics to gain political success will surely face public opposition.

The people will support only the endeavours for transition to discipline-flourishing democracy which cover the task of strengthening the democracy foundation in political, economic and social

sectors, developing the national entrepreneurs, workers, peasants, implementing the industrial and agricultural projects to increase productivity, and the uplift of the political, economic, social, health, education and cultural sectors.

Because of the Middle East crisis, there are daily killings between members of the two opposing sides. The leader of a Middle East country once said that at every hour of a day, all in the region were worried of being hit by a sniper bullet or blown up by a bomb. He continued to say that all should collectively find a way out of the terrible situation. The regional peoples should not let their posterity suffer the same evil fate as theirs.

All the persons who want to make every development come to a halt for not having the role of the key player, thinking that the loss of public lives and property is a political gain for them, and dreaming of a situation in which the people suffering more and more will rise up against the government, are terrorists who are totally against and jealous of the peace, prosperity and progress the nation and the people are enjoying at present.

In this regard, the people and the Tatmadaw will have to ward off the atrocious acts of the terrorists and to crush them with harmonious efforts.

The strength of the people is also that of the nation.

In this regard, people are requested to help safeguard the nation and the race by informing the nearest security personnel or organization soonest about any suspicious looking object or unusual condition as an inborn duty.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 20-5-2005.

ဥကင်နေသောရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများမဖမ်းရန် ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂/၉၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကဆုန်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်ချောင်း အင်းအိုင်များတွင်ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီထောင်ပေါင်းများစွာသော ပုစွန်များလည်း ပေါက်ဖွားလာတော့မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည်ဝနေသော ပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပုစွန်သားလောင်းများ မပေါက်ဖွားနိုင်တော့ဘဲ ချိုးပြုန်းတီးရာလည်း ရောက်စေပါသည်။ ရေချိုပုစွန်များ ပေါများကြွယ်ဝလာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကင်နေသောရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမိပေးမှသာ ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအားမြင့်မားလာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည်ဝနေသော ပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း၊ သတ်ဖြတ်ခြင်း၊ သယ်ယူခြင်း၊ သိုလှောင်ခြင်း၊ လက်ဝယ်ထားရှိခြင်း၊ အရောင်းအဝယ်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်းများမပြုလုပ်ရန် မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန ၎င်းလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနမှ အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာ အမှတ် ၁/၉၂ ဖြင့်တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါတားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုလုပ်ငန်းဥပဒေပုဒ်မ ၄၂၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၅ ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားစွဲဆို အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်များ ရေရှည်တည်တံ့စေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကင်ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲနေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမိပေးကြပါရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Mr Chang Rae Kim and Mr Tai Heon Kang of Daewoo International Corporation & KCOMS Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea sign the contract on establishment of basic information and advanced communication services system in Myanmar, at Traders Hotel, Yangon on 20-5-2005.—MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

**၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ (၁၇)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ
ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၃၁၀၆)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။**

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူများ ပညာပေးဟုသတတိုးပွားစေရန်
ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကိုပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန
ခရိုင်မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Matters coordinated to ensure smooth and secure transport

YANGON, 20 May — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport held its coordination meeting at the office of the All-bus Lines Control Committee in Tamway Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by Committee Chairman

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, military region and station commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, committee members, local authori-

ties and officials.

First, the commander delivered a speech and officials reported on measures being taken for ensuring smooth and secure transport in Yangon division. Later, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the commander.

MNA

Measures on Organizing Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida honouring ceremony coordinated

YANGON, 20 May — The coordination meeting on holding the 57th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida honouring ceremony was held at the Ministry of Religious Af-

airs this morning. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung gave a speech. Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the cer-

emony Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on progress of preparatory work.

Officials reported on their respective sectors.

MNA

Internal Revenue Department holds coord meeting



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the coordination meeting. — MNA

YANGON, 20 May — The meeting to review tax collection of Internal Revenue Department for 2004-2005 financial year and the meeting on revenue collection matters for 2005-2006 financial year

were held at Internal Revenue Department on Pansodan Street this morning.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered a speech.

Also present were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, departmental heads and officials.

Revenue collection of states and divisions and future plans will be discussed tomorrow. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivers a speech at the meeting. — MNA

CEC member tours Sagaing Division

YANGON, 20 May — USDA CEC member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to recount excursion experience of USDA youths at Yan Gyi Aung Hall in Shwebo on 18 May.

Youth from Shwebo District who visited Kayin and Chin States, Bago, Mandalay and Magway Divisions recalled their experience.

Next, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the workshop on public relations and information management.

On 19 May, the CEC member met with secretaries of Sagaing Division and eight district USDAs. Next, he accepted K 650,000 for the association donated by ChaungU USDA.

MNA

NCCWC meets with alternate chairmen of NC Plenary Session

YANGON, 20 May — The National Convention Convening Work Committee and alternate chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention held a discussion at Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this morning.

Present were Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chair-

man Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaug Nyunt, members of the Work Committee and members of the Panel of Chairmen.

Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the discussion. Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint acted as master

of ceremonies. Chairman U Aung Toe gave a speech.

Vice-Chairman U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaug Nyunt discussed matters related to the National Convention.

Participants took part in the discussions.

Later, Chairman U Aung Toe gave the concluding remarks.—MNA

Coord meeting of alternate Chairmen of NC Plenary Session held

YANGON, 20 May — Alternate Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention held a coordination meeting at Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this morning.

Member of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presided over the meeting. Also present were members of the

Panel of Chairmen U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip Sam (a) U Philip Sam, U Law Hsin Kwam, U Kyaw Din (a) U Thay Yei, U Kyi Tint, U Bo Thein and Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha), Joint-Secretary-1 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Dr U Thaug Myint, members U Ba Han and U Hsan Tun, Director of the Work Com-

mittee Office U Than Aung and officials.

They discussed compilation of the Panel of Chairmen's notes concerning 8 delegate groups' proposals related to the sharing of power in executive and judicial sectors submitted to the National Convention held from 17 February to 31 March 2005.

MNA



NCC Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe gives an introductory speech at the coordination meeting of the alternate chairmen. — MNA



The coordination meeting of the alternate chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention in progress. — MNA

Witnessing that the government and local administrative bodies were expanding the scope of regional development undertakings to raise the living standard of the people, the SSNA members felt uneasy

(from page 1)
U Sai Hsaung, U Sai Tun, U Sai Taw, and U Sai Chan, U Lwe Maung and party of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 SSA, U Ma Htu Naw and party of Special Region-5 KDA, U Sai

Mon and party of Mongpan People's Militia Group, U Law Mar and party of Monghin/Mongha People's Militia Group and U Kan Na and U Aik Mone who had returned to the legal fold.

Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presided over the ceremony. Nampaung Village USDA members, Shan nationals Ma Nan San Twam Kham and Ma Nan San Nwan Nge acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the ceremony and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered a speech.

He said that the ceremony was pleasant, auspicious and honourable not only for the nationalities of Nampaung region, Lashio Township, but also for the entire people of the nation as eternal peace and stability, the basic requirement for national development, can be restored. From a foreign nation, Sao Hkam Hpa, a son of Nyaungshwe Sawbwa Sao Shwe Thaik, an-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Deputy Commander U Kham Shan of SSNA Brigade No 19. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presents provisions to SSNA Brigade -19 through Commander U Gon Khay and Deputy Commander U Kham Shan.—MNA

From a foreign nation, Sao Hkam Hpa, a son of Nyaungshwe Sawbwa Sao Shwe Thaik, announced the establishment of Shan State provisional government and the Shan State. At the time, the SSNA brigade 19 has stood witness to the national unity and denounced Sao Hkam Hpa's acts by making the unconditional exchange of arms for peace. The people will have to live in unity as long as the world exists. They should not be deceived by the ones who are lying as if they are going to serve the public interest more than the government, which is like the parents of the people.

announced the establishment of Shan State provisional government and the independent Shan State. At the time, the SSNA brigade 19 has stood witness to the national unity and denounced Sao Hkam Hpa's acts by making

the unconditional exchange of arms for peace. The people will have to live in unity as long as the world exists. They should not be deceived by the ones who are lying as if they are going to serve the public interest more than

the government, which is like the parents of the people. The commander honoured U Gon Khay and his deputy commander U Kham Shan, and COs U Sai Hsuang, U Sai Tun, U Sai Taw and U Sai Chan and others for

(See page 9)

SSNA Brigade-19 led by U Gon Khay unconditionally exchanges arms for peace at a ceremony held in Nampaung village, Lashio Township.—MNA



The unexceptional exchange of arms for peace of SSNA Brigade 11 led by U Kan Na, which took place on 12 April 2005, was the very pioneering act not only for the remaining SSNA members but also all the remnant peace groups that still hold arms



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and dignitaries attend the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace. — MNA

(from page 8) organizing all their men to unitedly return to the legal fold. He said he made a sincere request to all the remaining brethren who are still

stand of the people and their comrades and to change their course to the eternal peace.

As a commander, he heartily welcomed the brigade members and

National Army (SSNA) U Gon Khay, Deputy Commander U Kham Shan and CO U Sai Hsaung presented arms to SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and commanding officers U Sai Tun, U Sai Taw and U Sai Chan to SPDC Member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

Arms handed over by Brigade-19 of SSNA are one 60 mm mortar, six RPGs (82), one RPG (625), three RPGs (5), six M 79 launchers, two spars guns, 21 M 23 machine guns, one AK 47, one of M 61, one M 16 A1, six BA 63, 51 M 16, one M 14, 58 M 22, 13 M 21, four carbines, four M 20 pistols, three 9 mm pistols, two .38, pistols, one revolver, one five-bore gun, one pistol and one home-made gun totalling 190 guns, 115 shells, 7663 rounds of

The local elders are happy as all the members of the SSNA brigade-19 led by U Gon Khay and U Kham Shan have unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, after realizing people's stance.

ammunition, 102 mines, 162 shells and 25 assorted communication devices.

Next, Commander U Gon Khay of Brigade-19

guages. (The speech of U Gon Khay is reported separately.)

Next, Commander U Captain Moon Pha of Brigade-19 of SSNA

ported separately.) Shan national U Sai Kyu gave a welcoming speech in both Myanmar and Shan languages. (The speech of U Sai



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepts arm from commanding officer U Saing Chan of SSNA Brigade-19.—MNA

holding arms due to certain reasons including doubts and extreme racism to study the true

pledged to provide all necessary assistance for them. Next, Commander of Brigade-19 of the Shan State



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents gifts to commanding officer U Saing Tun of SSNA Brigade-19. — MNA

of SSNA explained the purpose of exchanging arms for peace and spoke words of thanks in both Myanmar and Shan lan-

expressed thanks in both Myanmar and Shan languages. (The speech of Captain Moon Pha is re-

Kyu is reported separately.) Shan national U Sai Mon delivered a (See page 11)

The locals honour the spirit of all the men of the brigade for making the noble decision to serve the interest of their own region and people. U Sai Kyu wished U Gon Khay and all his men enjoy progress and a pleasant life.



All need to safeguard, protect the motherland...

(from page 16)

The conditional exchange of arms for peace of SSNA Brigade No 11 led by U Kan Na, which took place on 12 April 2005, was the very pioneering act not only for the remaining SSNA members but also for all the remnant peace groups that still hold arms.

Again on 29 April, Palaung State Liberation Army led by U Aik Mone unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, and that marked the dawn of peace for the entire nation including Shan State.

While they were thinking of giving up the armed insurgency because there emerged a ray of sunshine

for lasting peace and local people enjoyed development and peace, expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa announced the formation of so-called Shan provisional government to secede from the Union. Indeed, it was just a horrifying act designed to deal a shattering blow to peace and stability that had been restored in Shan State and to drive a wedge and to incite bloody conflicts among the brethren living in Shan State. SSA members will never support such an evil act. Regarding the announcement, they issued their attitudes.

National race armed groups should have quitted acts of threatening and oppressing the people, and now is the most opportune time for them to discard armed struggle line and to build peace for enabling local people to fully enjoy the fruitful results.

With alien instigations and incitement, fugitive Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices are making attempts to secede Shan State from the Union while internal and external destructive elements are resorting to wicked means to destroy the nation and the people. Thus, all need to safeguard and protect the motherland from such acts in cooperation with the government.

The entire people from respective regions in Shan State are protesting against the acts of the renegades. It is unwise that the remaining armed groups stick to armed struggle line with doubts and suspicions to the government. And it is time they remedied their misdeeds. In conclusion, he expressed his thanks to the government and local people who warmly welcomed the members of SSNA Brigade No 19. — MNA

Unconditional exchange of arms for peace of U Gon Khay of SSNA Brigade-19 will contribute not only to the group's development but also to that of Nampaung region itself



U Sai Mon of Manpan-Naunglaing region of Lashio District, Shan State (North).

MNA

YANGON, 20 May — The following is a translation of the speech of national race leader U Sai Mon of Manpan-Naunglaing region of Lashio District, Shan State (North).

He said that he and commander of Brigade-19 of SSNA U Gon Khay had a close relationship

like brothers for many years. U Gon Khay realized that extortion of money becomes a burden to the people. Furthermore, he acknowledged unconditional exchange of arms for peace of U Kan Na of SSNA Brigade-11 and U Aik Mone of PSLA.

After witnessing the warm welcome extended by the Government to these groups and immediate regional development tasks that followed. U Gon Khay discussed with him that his men would like to exchange arms for peace unconditionally.

U Sai Mon added that he told U Gon Khay that his group could not serve the interests of the people while holding arms but instead his men would be burden to the people. Therefore, unconditional exchange of arms for peace will benefit not only SSNA Brigade-19 but also local people.

He said that Commander of SSNA Brigade-19 U Gon Khay and he called on Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on 17 May 2005. At the call, U Gon Khay reported to the commander that his men would like to unconditionally exchange arms for peace. The commander heartily welcomed the news, and said that the command

and the Government will welcome U Gon Khay and members of Brigade-19 of SSNA, and will carry out development tasks not only for the group but also for local people. The commander explained to him that the Government is providing assistance to U Kan Na of SSNA Brigade-11 and U Aik Mone and group that had exchanged arms for peace unconditionally, and that the Government is undertaking improvement of education, health and transport sectors with momentum. Now, development tasks are in progress in SeU region and Palaung region.

Unconditional exchange of arms for peace of U Gon Khay of SSNA Brigade-19 will contribute not only to their development but also to that of Nampaung region itself.

If the remaining armed groups exchange arms for peace unconditionally, Shan State can restore peace and stability and enjoy fruitful results of development.

In conclusion, he urged all armed national race groups to exchange arms for peace unconditionally for serving the interests of the people.

MNA

Dream has come true. U Gon Khay and U Kham Shan of SSNA Brigade-19 and his men unconditionally exchanged arms for peace



Shan National Ma Nan San Hwan.

MNA

YANGON, 20 May — The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Shan national Ma Nan San Hwan.

She said that she was born and brought up in Nampaung Village and today is the happiest day in her life. Like her the entire national people including her friends, brethren, parents and relatives are also pleased and delighted.

In the past, she said, young women of Nampaung region had to lead a miserable life, let

alone for enjoying peace and stability. In the days of her parents, local people were not able to pursue education due to lack of peace and stability in the region.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, she passed the Tenth Standard Examination with the emergence of Nampaung Basic Education High School. Fortunately, she had an opportunity to pursue higher education with the emergence of the Lashio Degree College, she stressed.

She said that the number of well-educated persons and degree holders in the region has increased as the degree college, the technological college, the computer college and the nursing training school emerged in Lashio.

Various taxes on paddy, cows and buffaloes had to be levied. When the local people become prosperous through their farming undertakings, they had to pay extortion money to the insurgents and they had, in the long run, been in despair.

Moreover, the local people had been in a state of anxiety as their children were forced into recruitment. Those with high financial position sent their children to towns and cities for formal education and those who are needy had to send their children to the monastery. The increased number of children in the monasteries has led to a shortage of food. To satisfy the need, the Sayadaws of the

monasteries, on behalf of the local people, had to write and make request to the head of the region, the commander.

Meanwhile, the local people had to pay the insurgents if they were not able to satisfy the latter's recruitment. Those who were not in a position to pay have to be at the mercy of the insurgents and being subjected to torture.

At this juncture, we dreamed that how nice it would be if the armed group in the region unconditionally exchange arms for peace like other armed groups.

Now, our dream has come true. U Gon Khay and U Kham Shan of SSNA Brigade-19 and his men unconditionally exchanged arms for peace and made up their mind to take part in regional development tasks together with the local people. She, on behalf of the local people, would like to express thanks for the occasion.

Those who unconditionally exchange arms for peace today will soon reunite with their families or loved ones in a happy manner.

She also thanked those present on the occasion including local authorities.

She wished the national brethren who had been in a state of misery to enjoy pleasure and delight, to possess a happy day soonest and to regain a happy family life.—MNA

The unexceptional exchange...



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing addresses the ceremony.—MNA

(from page 9)
welcoming speech and expressed thanks for the development of Nampaung region in both Myanmar and Shan languages.

(The speech of U Sai Mon is reported separately.)

Shan national Ma Nan San Hwan delivered a welcoming speech and

expressed thanks for the development of Nampaung region in both Myanmar and Shan languages.

(The speech of Ma Nan San Hwan is reported separately.)

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented clothes and gifts to Commander U Gon Khay and Deputy Com-

U Sai Shan.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented 150 bags of rice and 100 viss of edible oil to Commander U Gon Khay and Deputy Commander U Kham Lyan.

Later, the ceremony concluded, and the Secretary-1 and party inspected the arms and ammunition handed over by

Members of SSNA Brigade No 19 attending the ceremony.—MNA



Ma Nan San Twan Kham acts as MC together with Ma Nan San Nwan Nge.

MNA



mander U Kham Shan and commanding officer U Sai Hsaung.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also presented gifts to Commanding Officers U Sai Tun, U Sai Taw and

SSNA Brigade-19 and clothes and provisions presented by the State.

Then the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted the group members and local people. — MNA

The provisions and clothes provided by the State and North-East Command for members of SSNA Brigade No 19.

MNA



Arms and ammunition handed over by members of SSNA Brigade No 19.—MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်မာ့စေ့စပ်ရေးရာ
 ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့်
 ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းတို့တွင် အထူးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော စက္ကူများ
 ဝယ်ယူရန် တစ်ခါ ဝေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့စေ့စပ်ရေးရာ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေး
 လုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းတို့တွင် အသုံးပြုရန်
 လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက္ကူများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

(က) ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်း
 (၁) Newsprint Paper (48.8 GSM) ၁၇၅၀ တန်
 (28 1/4", 30")
 (၂) WoodfreePaper(30") (80 GSM) ၅၀ တန်

(ခ) သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
 (၁) Newsprint Paper (30")(48.8 GSM) ၁၈၀၀ တန်

၂။ တင်ခါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂၇-၅-၂၀၀၅)ရက် (၁၆:၃၀)မှာရိတွင်
 ဝိတိပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ခါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ
 လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ စွဲသုံးများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထွက်ရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
မြန်မာ့စေ့စပ်ရေးရာ
 အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
 ဖုန်း-၂၅၅၆၂၅၊ ၂၅၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၅၅၆၄၅

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CARAKA JAYA NIAGA III-4 VOY NO (—)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CARAKA JAYA NIAGA III-4 VOY NO (—) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-5-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: TRANSWORLD LOGISTIC PVT
 LTD, INDIA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (705)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (705) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-5-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

450 kilos of narcotics seized in eastern Iran

TEHERAN, 19 May— Iranian anti-drug police seized over 450 kilos of illicit drugs in the eastern province of South Khorasan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday. IRNA quoted local police officer Mansour Sabagh as saying eight drug traffickers and distributors were arrested. Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, which links drug pro-

ducing countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Gulf states, Central Asia and Western Europe. According to official statistics, there are at least two million drug addicts in Iran. The country also accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

MNA/Xinhua

Ford launches conservation, environmental grants in China

BEIJING, 19 May—Ford Motor China launched its 2005 Conservation and Environmental Grants here Wednesday, calling attention to water resources.

Pollution and unreasonable use of water resources have made the challenge even greater to a country constrained by a short supply of water resources already. The Chinese Government has put on top of its agenda the prevention and treatment of water pollution.

The Ford Environment Grant echoes that call by focusing on the protection of water resources and water life and fostering the sustained utilization of water resources. "Environmental crisis is not a problem of the future, but of the present," said Wang Yuqing, deputy director-general of State Environment Protection Administration, "Water pollution prevention is crucial to the health and safety of people and is a top priority on Chinese Government's environmental protection work agenda." —MNA/Xinhua

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ (Sealed Tender) များခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့ရေနံဓာတ်ုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း လက်အောက်ရှိ ဓာတ်မြေ
 ဩဇာ စက်ရုံများအတွက် စက်အရံပစ္စည်းများကို အမေရိကန်
 ဒေါ်လာ (US Dollar)/ယူရို (EURO) ဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါ၍
 ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ (Sealed Tender) များပေးသွင်းရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်
 ပါသည်။

၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့် စက်အရံပစ္စည်းများနှင့် ယင်းတို့၏
Specification များ/တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို မြန်မာ့ရေနံဓာတ်ုဗေဒ
 လုပ်ငန်းရုံးချုပ်၊ အမှတ်-၂၂၈၊ ပြည်လမ်း (မင်းရဲကျော်စွာလမ်းနှင့်
 ပြည်လမ်းထောင့်) ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာနတွင် (၁၆-၅-
 ၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့နံနက် ၈ နာရီ မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း လာရောက်ထုတ်ယူ
 နိုင်ပါသည်။

**ဦးဆောင်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး
 မြန်မာ့ရေနံဓာတ်ုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း။**

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

Commemoration of ancient Chinese seafaring hero held in Fuzhou

FUZHOU, 19 May— China held a forum Tuesday to commemorate its ancient seafaring hero Zheng He in Fuzhou, capital city of east China's Fujian Province.

More than 300 domestic and overseas scholars participated in the forum and reviewed the contributions of Zheng, a great Chinese navigator who made seven ocean voyages 600 years ago.

The scholars agreed that Zheng's voyages are greatly important to the Chinese and world navigation history. They are not only a part of cultural heritage for China, but also a marked step in world civilization.

With the theme of "Loving Peace, Neighbourly Friendship and Development through Cooperation", the five-day forum is designed to publicize Zheng's great contributions to the world navigation industry and to all mankind and for promoting cooperation and exchanges between China and other countries in the world by carrying on

Zheng's spirit of loving peace, bravery and diligence.

From 1405 to 1433, during the Ming Dynasty, Zheng He (1371-1435) travelled to more than 30 countries in Asia and Africa, travelling more than 100,000 kilometres. At its peak, his fleet comprised more than 300 ships manned by about 27,000 sailors, a number unrivalled in the world at that time.

According to some scholars, Zheng is believed to be the first man to blaze a direct sea route linking the Indian Ocean with the west. Zheng's voyage was 87 years earlier than Columbus' discovery of the Americas

and 114 years earlier than Magellan's round-the-world voyage.

2005 is the 600th anniversary of Zheng He's first voyage, and the Chinese Government has set up a special office headed by the Ministry of Communications to organize series of activities to mark Zheng's contribution to the history of navigation.

Besides the seminar, other activities including lectures on oceanography, international academic conferences and an International Expo on Navigation and the Ocean will take place this year, said sources with Chinese Ministry of Communications. —MNA/Xinhua

လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကင်းနိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) ကြေညာချက်

၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကင်းနိုင်ငံခြား ဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) နှင့် ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့၊ TOPA 21st Century Language School တို့မှ ပေါင်း၍ ရန်ကင်းနိုင်ငံခြား ဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် ဂျပန်ဘာသာစကား (Basic Course) အထူးသင်တန်းအမှတ်စဉ် (၂၅) ကိုဖွင့်လှစ်ပါမည်-

(က) ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့၊ TOPA 21st Century Language School မှ လာရောက်ပို့ချမည်။

(ခ) အချိန်ပြည့်သင်တန်း ရက်သတ္တ (၁၀) ပတ် နာရီပေါင်း ၂၀၀ နာရီ

(ဂ) ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ စွန်လ (၆) ရက်နေ့ ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်။

(ဃ) အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းစာမေးပွဲကို (က) အဆင့်မြင့်အောင်မြင်သူများ (သို့မဟုတ်) တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း စာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။

၂။ အသေးစိတ်ကိုရုံးချိန်အတွင်း လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကင်းနိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) တွင် စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
 ဖုန်း - ၅၄၄၇၇၁ လိုင်ခွဲ- ၁၂၃

Chinese, Palestinian leaders hold talks

BEIJING, 19 May— Chinese President Hu Jintao and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas agreed during their talks on Wednesday afternoon to jointly develop all-round friendly and cooperative cooperation between the two countries and actively push forward the Middle East peace process.

During their talks in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday afternoon, Hu and Abbas exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues concerning the Middle East in an extensive way.

Hu said the Chinese people and government will always firmly support the just cause of the Palestinian people. It is the existing policy of the Chinese Government to develop a long-term, friendly and cooperative relationship between

China and Palestine, Husaid.

The Chinese President set forth several suggestions on further expansion of bilateral links. On the political front, Hu said China and Palestine should promote friendly contacts on all levels and in various aspects through enhancing exchanges of visits by high-ranking officials and exchanges among political parties. On the economic front, the two countries should share a vision to jointly explore new ways

and forms of expanding mutually beneficial cooperation, Hu said. He added that the two sides should further extend the area and enlarge the scale of economic cooperation so as to bring about substantial benefits to the people of both countries.

Hu also said the two countries should step up exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture, education and public health. The two countries should also increase personnel exchanges and enhance mu-

tual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Abbas said the Palestine-China friendship has withstood the test of time and the ever-changing international situation and taken a deep root in the hearts of the people of both countries. He thanked the Chinese people and government for providing political support and economic assistance to the Palestinian people in their struggle for national liberation and independence. —MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Bank robber shot after taking hostages in US

WASHINGTON, 19 May — A bank robber was shot by police on Wednesday after he took some people hostage at a bank in the central US state of Kansas, authorities said.

The man, 44, held up a bank in Olathe and took at least six people there hostage and ordered them to strip down to their underwear, news reports quoted local law enforcement officers as saying.

Later, the man took the six people, including four women and two men, into a minivan, and forced one of them to drive to an airport some 3 kilometres away. He was shot by police when he got out of the minivan and appeared to be trying to get away by a small plane.

The man, who was in critical condition, was taken to a hospital by helicopter and money was found from the minivan, the reports said.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport looks at the surface of an outcropping, protected by a steel net and embankment, at Okinotori island, about 1,700 km (1,056 miles) south of Tokyo in the Pacific Ocean on 20 May, 2005. —INTERNET

Germany to reinforce battle against terrorism

BERLIN, 19 May — Germany will strengthen its campaign against terrorism which has posed a major threat to the country's domestic security, Interior Minister Otto Schily said on Tuesday.

The plot to attack visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi last December showed that Germany is one part of the world's dangerous areas threatened by terror, said the minister at a Press conference.

He also expressed his concern over the growth of the neo-Nazis and rightist movement.

According to an annual report released by the German Domestic Security Agency to the Press, neo-Nazi crimes increased in Germany last year although the overall number of right extremists dropped.

There were 12,051 right extremist crimes reported in 2004, compared with 10,792 in 2003. Violent neo-Nazi crime cases also increased from 759 in 2003 to 776 last year, the report said.

Members of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), a right-wing extremist party, also went up from 5,000 in 2003 to 5,300 in 2004. The number of neo-Nazis rose to about 3,800 last year from 3,000 in 2003. "It must serve as a warning to all of us that the number of neo-Nazis in Germany in 2004 rose more than 25 per cent from the previous year," said Schily. "The (NPD) party leader describes the super-criminal Hitler as a great statesman," he noted. In 2003, the German Government sought to ban the NPD in the country, but its effort failed in the constitutional court.

MNA/Xinhua

Costa Rican police seize 435 kilos of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 19 May — The Costa Rican police seized 435 kilos of cocaine hidden in a truck in Laurel de Corredores in the south of the country, local media reported Wednesday.

The drugs were found Tuesday evening in a vehicle driven by a 26-year-old man, identified as Carballo Lopez with Nicaraguan identification documents, according to Interior, Public Security and Police Minister Rogelio Vicente Ramos.

The driver was under investigation by the local criminal court and could face up to 20 years in jail if convicted, the minister said.

According to other reports, the truck had a Salvadorean licence and was headed for El Salvador from Panama.

This was the second largest seizure this year. On 23 April, the police seized 2,548 kilos of cocaine in an operation.

MNA/Xinhua

E3 video game expo opens in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES 19 May — More than 1,000 computer and video games and related products will make their debut at Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) 2005, which opened here on Wednesday, organizers said.

The video game show, one of the world's largest, attracts over 400 leading interactive entertainment companies from about 80 countries, according to the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), the trade association that represents US computer and video game publishers.

The firms will exhibit new technologies and products for computers, video game consoles,

handheld systems and the Internet. "The more than 1,000 products debuting at E3 2005 are examples of the innovation and creativity that will drive industry growth in the coming year," said Douglas Lowenstein, president of the ESA, adding that the show is the premiere product launching pad for the global interactive entertainment industry.

Overall, more than

5,000 products will be shown at over 50,000 square metres of space at the Los Angeles Convention Centre, with the top five categories falling into action and adventure games (19 per cent), role playing games (13 per cent), sports and driving games (11 per cent), child and family games (6 per cent), and strategy games (5 per cent).

MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine tightens security for Eurovision 2005 song contest

KIEV, 19 May — The Ukrainian capital of Kiev beefed up security on Wednesday for the 50th Eurovision song contest.

According to Ukraine's Interior Minis-

ter Yury Lutsenko, the main roads in Kiev were closed, with more than 4,000 police officers stationed in downtown areas.

A new metal fence has been installed around the

recently refurbished Palace of Sport, the concert hall hosting most of the Eurovision events, with more than 2,000 police officers guarding the building. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese man walks past a billboard promoting wild animal protection in Beijing, on 20 May, 2005. — INTERNET

South Africa makes massive education shake-up

JOHANNESBURG, 19 May — The South African Government is to introduce tough measures designed to shake education in the country to the core, according to a report published here on Wednesday.

The frontpage report in local daily *Star* said that in terms of a plan unveiled in Parliament by Education Minister Naledi Pandor, the government plans to: Drastically reduce the powers of school governing bodies, loosening their grip on school policies; Give the minister powers to determine whether a school can charge fees; and Move indigenous languages from the fringes and give them equal status with English and Afrikaans.

The South African public education system accommodates more than 11.6 million school learners, 463,025 university students. There are 26,489 primary, secondary, combined and intermediate schools, with 340,000 educators.

Pandor made it clear on Tuesday that the government wants to rein in school governing bodies, which had "made public schools their personal property".

There were "powerful people" on school governing bodies who held the keys to the Freedom Charter's promise that "the doors of learning and culture shall be opened", Pandor said.

"These bodies tend to be very selective in opening the door to some and keeping it closed to others," she said during debate on her department's budget in Parliament.

The South African Schools Act would be amended to give "a fresh, positive mandate" to governing bodies, which currently had the power to set admission policies at their schools, determine what language or languages would be used in school and set school fees.

Pandor said most governing bodies had done well, but there were some which were not playing along with the government's intentions to transform and ensure access to education. — MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

S P O R T S

Nontaya keeps lead in golf tournament in Thailand

BANGKOK, 20 May — Player Nontaya Sri-sawang has kept her advantage after two rounds at the third leg of the All Thailand Golf Circuit Golf Tournament in the country's eastern Chonburi Province, local newspaper reported Thursday.

Nontaya shot a one-under-par 71 Wednesday to stay three under 141 for the competition and had her lead cut down only one stroke.

Followed in the second spot was national junior golfer Porn-anong Petlum, from Chaiyaphum, who shot a three-

under 69 for a total of two-

under 142. Meanwhile, Suthira Chanachai moved up to the third place wounding up at three over 145, said the *Bangkok Post* newspaper. In the men's category, Warut Chomchalaem carded an even par 72 but still managed to maintain his three-advantage over Kwanchai Tannil who shot a 71.

The outstanding amateurs of the tournament, the country's third-leg qualifying competition, will be able to play in the finals in Chiang Rai Province at the end of the year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Ferguson says Glazer's desire under Manchester United

LONDON, 20 May — Alex Ferguson broke his silence on Malcolm Glazer's takeover of Manchester United on Thursday, saying the American business tycoon will get an idea of what Manchester United are all about in the FA Cup final on Saturday.

The United manager said the club's new owner will be watching on television when The Red Devils defend the FA Cup against Arsenal at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Ferguson also stressed a desire that both Glazer and son Joel learn to understand the fabric of the Old Trafford club.

Although the United supporters are expected to be dressed in black as a sign of mourning, and will chant in protest against the American business tycoon, Ferguson thinks Glazer will get a taste for the identity of Manchester United.

"I don't know if they [the Glazers] will be there but they will be watching from the States, I'm sure of that," he told the LMA's official website.

"It will give them an idea of what Manchester United is and when, hopefully, they see our fans celebrating and see the atmosphere of that, it will be wonderful."

Ferguson also issued a warning to Wayne Rooney to stop practising his cannonball shots in training.

"When he goes onto that training field, the first thing he does is get a ball and batters it into the net," he continued.

"And it batters over the top of my head. One of these days he will hit me — and he will get killed.

"[Seriously], I always felt this was a player that could reshape our future and that is the way it is looking at the moment."

— *MNA/Xinhua*

ITF official visits Nigeria for promotion of Wheelchair Tennis

LAGOS, 20 May — Mark Bullock, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Development Officer for Wheelchair Tennis, arrived in Nigeria on Thursday for a five-day visit.

Segun Oguntade, secretary of the Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF), told reporters that the ITF official would assess facilities for wheelchair tennis in the country to effectively evaluate how the ITF could foster the development of the sport in the most populous African country with a population of over 130 million.

Bullock would also hold a workshop for Nigeria's technical officials of wheelchair tennis during his five-day inspection tour.

Bullock is scheduled to leave Nigeria on May 23 for Tanzania. Wheelchair tennis is new in Nigeria which was introduced into the West African country in 2004.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Maradona to host weekly TV programme

BUENOS AIRES, 20 May — Argentine legend Diego Maradona announced on Wednesday his plans for hosting a weekly television show which is scheduled to begin airing on Argentine television in the coming months.

"We are going to invite Pele and we're looking to have Ronaldo on," he said. "I'm going to invite whoever expresses interest in coming on the programme. The idea is that the guests come on the show and open themselves up and say whatever they feel."

Other potential guests include players from the

Italian national team and Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos, Maradona said.

Maradona is combining with one of Argentina's leading television producers to put on the show, which will be called "The night of No. 10", a reference to his uniform number he wore while playing.

The 44-year-old

Maradona is also considering a return to soccer for the first time since his retirement in 1997.

Argentine club Boca Juniors has offered him a job as talent scout at the team where he starred during the 1980s and 90s. But he has yet to publicly comment on whether he intends to accept the offer.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Hewitt pulls out of French Open

PARIS, 20 May — World number two Lleyton Hewitt has pulled out of the French Open after fracturing a rib in a fall this month, organizers said on Thursday.

Australian Hewitt sustained the injury at his Sydney home two weeks ago, forcing him to delay a planned comeback at this week's World Team Cup in Germany.

The former world number one will be replaced by a lucky loser in the draw for the claycourt Grand Slam, which starts on Monday.

"I have decided to take doctors advice and not play next week as returning too early runs the risk of prolonging my recovery period," Hewitt said in a statement.

"This is obviously disappointing but I am taking a longer term approach. My sights are now firmly set on the forthcoming grasscourt season starting with Queens and then Wimbledon, building up to our tough Davis Cup tie against Argentina in Sydney."

The former Wimbledon champion, whose fiancée Bec Cartwright is expecting a child later this year, has twice reached the quarterfinals in Paris, in 2001 and last year.

Hewitt, who was already struggling with a toe problem, has not played since losing to Roger Federer in the final at Indian Wells in March.

Australia's top-ranked female player, Alicia Molik, has returned to training after being forced to pull out of the French Open.

Molik was sidelined for five weeks with a middle-ear infection but has begun her preparations for Wimbledon, where she could be a genuine contender.

Another player, American Taylor Dent, also pulled out of the French Open on Thursday, because of an ankle injury. He will also be replaced by a lucky loser.

The French Open draw takes place on Friday. World number one Federer will be the top men's seed with American Andy Roddick taking over from Hewitt as the second seed.

The seed numbers at the French Open follow the ATP and WTA rankings. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Kenya to field 20 runners in Dar marathon

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 20 May — Kenya is to field 20 of its runners in the inaugural Dar-es-Salaam international marathon and three-time Boston marathon winner Cosmas Ndeti will lead the Kenyan squad.

Some 5,000 professional and amateur runners from around the world are expected to participate in the Dar marathon race slated for 24 July, according to race coordinator John Manyama.

Foreign runners are also expected to come from such marathon-loving countries as Ethiopia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Switzerland.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (L) appears with television host Marcelo Tinelli during the Channel 9 show 'Showmatch' in Buenos Aires on late 18 May, 2005. — *INTERNET*

Benitez targets "best" tag

LONDON, 20 May — Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez has targeted the position of "best" in Liverpool, saying he wants to become the most successful manager in the club's history. Benitez said he hopes the first of his trophies will come with a win over AC Milan in the Champions League final on 25 May.

"I was at Extremadura, Tenerife and Valencia and we had the best statistics in the history of each club," he said. "I have done it at three clubs. Now I will try and do the same here. It will be very, very difficult I know because the history of this club is so big."

Benitez, 44, has set himself a major task considering the exploits of the club's former managers in Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan, who made Liverpool into one of the most successful teams ever both domestically and in Europe.

"I have 20 years of my life as a manager yet and I have four more years left on my contract here and that is a lot of time," added Benitez.

"I am very confident and I want to win things. I know there are good teams in Europe and here, but if you don't believe in yourself, it will be impossible."

The Reds boss has cited the win over AC Milan's fellow Italian club Juventus as helping instill a belief among his players that they could win the club's fifth European Cup. And he says comments from the Milan camp describing Liverpool as fortunate to be in the final are not proving an extra spur to win at the Ataturk Stadium in Istanbul. He said: "It's not important what people say about us. We will just work really hard at our preparation and game plan and not listen to anyone from outside. "What is said doesn't motivate me, I don't need any more motivation. I already have a lot of it."

— *MNA/Xinhua*

မိုးဦးကျနှင့် မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများအတွက် နှိုးဆော်ချက်

- မိုးဦးကျရာသီတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သော ရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားလေ့ရှိပါသည်။
(က) ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှော့နှင့် ကာလဝမ်းရောဂါများ အပါအဝင် ဝမ်းနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် ရောဂါများ၊ အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါနှင့် သံကောင်း တုပ်ကောင်ရောဂါများ
(ခ) သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးနှင့် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါ
(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာစေးချောင်းဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အဆေးမိရောဂါ
၂။ ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့် အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ
(က) မိုးဦးကျလာပြီးဖြစ်၍ လျှင်လျှင်ပေါလာသည့် အချိန်တွင် ပါသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်ဇောက်သီး၊ မင်းပုတ်သီး စသည် သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အနှံ့၊ အစေ့ စသည်များကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မခြင် စွန့်ပစ် ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်းပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တွင် ယင်းပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တွင် ဖြစ်ပွားခြင်း။
(ခ) ရာသီဥတုအပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရုံခြင်း၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
(ဂ) မိုးရွာပြီး ရေတင်း၊ ရေပတ်သဖြင့် ရေအိုင်၊ ရေကန်၊ ရေကန်ပြင်ပ ရေမြောင်းပိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချိုနွမ်းပိတ်ပေါင်း ထူထပ်၍ ဖြစ်ပွားခြင်း။
(ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရုံခြင်း၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
(င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း။
(စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့် အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့ အကျင့် အားနည်းခြင်း။
၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါတို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ် တားဆီးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုက်တွန်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ခ) ယင်းနားစားများကို မဆင်မခြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဂ) စားကြင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုပြုလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားပါ။
(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲကို သတိရှိပါ။
(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ခြင်း၊ ယင်း မှီခိုနေရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်း စုပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။
ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Coffee prices go up in Vietnam

HANOI, 20 May — Coffee prices in Vietnam have reached their highest levels in the past five years, according to Vietnam Coffee and Cocoa Association (VICOFA) on Thursday.

The purchase price from farmers was 951-995.6 US dollars per ton and 1,027 US dollars at wholesale agencies on Tuesday. It reached 1,058-1,090 US dollars per ton on the coffee trading floor.

The rise is due to the deadline in coffee output because of drought in the central highland region, the largest producer in the country. Local experts expect the prices to stabilize at these high levels or even go up further in the coming months.

Meanwhile, global coffee prices were plunging with futures prices on the New York market Tuesday stood 1,113 US dollars per ton for July robusta coffee, 21 US dollars below the previous day's closing, said the report. Some Vietnamese coffee traders plan to import coffee if domestic prices continue to rise, as prices in Indonesia and Singapore are lower than in Vietnam.

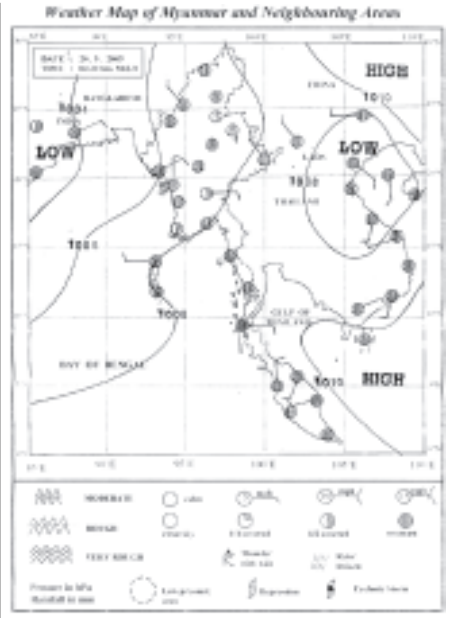
MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian manufacturing sales up in March

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 May — Malaysia's manufacturing sales value for March 2005 increased to 39.4 billion ringgit (10.36 billion US dollars), up 16.9 per cent over that in the same month of last year, the Department of Statistics said on Wednesday.

The department said in a statement released here that the March 2005 figure was also an increase of 16.2 per cent or 5.5 billion ringgit (1.44 billion US dollars) from the 33.9-billion-ringgit (8.92-billion-US-dollar) sales value recorded in February 2005.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 20 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest Monsoon was advancing into Taninthayi Division. Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, isolated in Rakhine State, Mandalay, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yamethin (2.17) inches and Taunggyi (0.98) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan and Kayin States, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions. (8°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (4°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, (44°C), Magway and Aungmyan (42°C) each and Hinthada (41°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-5-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 20-5-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-5-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 19-5-2005 was (9.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 20-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (2.84 inches) at Yangon Airport, (3.46 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (1.89 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (00:30) hours MST on 20-5-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is feeble in the South Andaman Sea and South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy in the North Andaman Sea and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-5-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon and Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-5-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for third weekend of May 2005: During the coming weekend, likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon Division and possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 21 May View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်အောင်ဇံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ ဟိမိဋ္ဌကရ၊ ဓမ္မသဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ မိမိတ္တသာရာ အိပ်သ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. သတ္တသတ္တပဟံနေတော်မူခန်း (ဣန္ဒြေအေးလေးသားပုဇော်၍၊ ပြည် သီဆိုပုဇော်သည်)
8:00 am 5. Nice and sweet song
8:15 am 6. ရွာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံစံ
8:30 am 7. International news
8:45 am 8. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV

- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
11:15 am 2. Musical programme
11:30 am 3. News
11:40 am 4. Games for children
12:05 pm 5. Round up of the week's TV local news
12:55 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "စောရီစောနှင့် မိစ္ဆာစွမ်းစား" (အပိုင်း-၄)
1:35 pm 7. ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တံတား
1:45 pm 8. "ကံ-ကံ၏အကျိုး" (ကျေးဇူး၊ ရီဇယား၊ ဓမ္မသဏ္ဍာနီ၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်နိုင်နင်းနိုး)
2:20 pm 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
2:25 pm 10. Dance of national races
2:35 pm 11. ဘော်ဘော်ရေလှောင်တံစံ
2:45 pm 12. International news
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use

- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အစားသင့်တော်သည့်အရေ ရရှိခြင်းသဖြင့် သင်္ဃန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်ဆောင်ပြု) (သဗ္ဗာ)
5:15 pm 6. ဇောသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်
5:25 pm 7. မြေပြင်ဖြည့်သည့်ကျေးဇူးအတု
5:40 pm 8. ကဆုန်လပြည့်နေ့စားများ
5:55 pm 9. ဆိုင်းအရုံ ရှေ့ပုံပြခန်း
6:15 pm 10. Musical programme
6:30 pm 11. Evening news
7:00 pm 12. Weather report
7:05 pm 13. Discovery
7:10 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ရဲ့အမြင်အာရုံစိတ်ရဲ့တစ်ဖက်" (အပိုင်း-၂၃)
7:45 pm 15. ရွှေသံရည် မြန်မာပြည်
8:00 pm 16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း ၄၂)
20. The next day's programme



Saturday, 21 May Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Bop Bop baby
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: -Let's dance
8:55 am National news/Slogan
9:05 am Music: Dance
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Music: Love at first sight
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Request -Everyday I love you -Rhythm divine ASEAN review -News
9:00 pm Article
9:10 pm Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -Myanma jade trade till 1938
9:30 pm Souvenirs -Gimmie a little kiss -Born to be lucky
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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

All need to safeguard, protect the motherland from acts of fugitive Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices who are making attempts to secede Shan State from the Union with alien instigations and incitement



U Gon Khay. MNA

YANGON, 20 May—*The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Commander of SSNA Brigade-19 U Gon Khay.*

He said that he joined the MTA led by U Khun Hsa in 1979 to follow the armed struggle line. In 1996, U Khun Hsa and his followers returned to the legal fold, and so did SSNA members including him to build confidence with the government.

Throughout the period of the armed struggle line, SSNA members together with U Khun Hsa and members did nothing beneficial to national people and brethren in Shan State. But, he said, they collected extortion money from the people to survive and to rise up against the government and to commit destructive acts.

Regarding the armed insurgents as its family members and showing benevolent attitude to them, the gov-

ernment not only forgives their misdeeds but undertakes regional development tasks and provides assistance for the national race armed groups. However, they still entertains doubts and suspicions to the government. The government is implementing its drive to ensure development of all regions of the nation, irrespective of race and creed. As a result, the regions where peace and stability has been restored, enjoy rapid development. Yet, the regions where armed insurgents reign lag behind in development.

Witnessing that the government and local administrative bodies were expanding the scope of regional development undertakings to raise the living standard of the people, they SSNA members felt uneasy. It was a long time, the members had not dared face the people and the government and reviewed their acts.

(See page 10)

By unconditionally exchanging arms for peace and making eternal peace with State, all the group members will lead a life side by side with the people



Moonpha with the rank of Captain of Brigade-19. MNA

YANGON, 20 May—*The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Captain Moonpha of Brigade-19 of SSNA.*

He said their armed group with narrow-minded attitude had been rising up against the State for a long time, leading the region to the backwardness in all sectors such as social, education, health and transport.

Although the group had returned to the legal fold, it continued extorting money and collecting taxes from the local people. Consequently, only the people had to suffer from such kinds of difficulty, he added. He said by unconditionally exchanging arms for peace and making eternal peace with the government, all the group members will lead a life side by side with the people.

However, he said, there are still remnant armed groups in Shan State, and they are committing destruc-

tive acts. Again, Renegade Sao Hkam Hpa appointed himself as president and announced the independence of Shan State. And he is attempting to harm the interests of the local national people and the region.

That is why, Captain Moonpha said, entire local populace and the armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are denouncing the acts of fugitive Sao Hkam Hpa.

All in all, he said, he would like to urge the peace groups of Shan State and those of other states to unconditionally exchange arms for peace like Brigade-19 since it was the desire of the people.

He said he very much thanked the national people and the government for welcoming the members of Brigade-19, and that he would never commit such destructive acts.—MNA

Peace, stability, rule of law key to regional development



U Sai Kyu a local of Nampaung. MNA

YANGON, 20 May — *The following is a translation of the address delivered by U Sai Kyu at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace.*

U Sai Kyu said, he has been living in Nampaung during his entire life of 58 years. As a local elder he has bitter personal experiences of the armed insurgency. Some of the village elders lost their lives because of the misjudgement of the lawless armed bands. However much they knew the mistakes of the armed groups, the village elders dared not tell the truth. The elders had to knowingly ignore the sufferings of the locals just for their own survival. And when a son was born, the parents' happiness was overwhelmed by their high anxiety about their offspring being recruited forcefully into an armed band. Sometimes, locals had to flee their native land leaving behind all their possessions because of the armed conflicts. He said he had visited

some other places as a pilgrim or on business, and found that mostly those regions were enjoying greater development than his. The key to regional development is the prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law. He has come to believe that his region will be developing like others if there is no armed insurgency in it. All the locals have also come to understand that because of the armed insurgency the development pace of their region was slow despite the favourable conditions. The local elders are happy as all the members of the SSNA brigade-19 led by U Gon Khay and U Kham Shan have unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, after realizing people's stance. The locals honour the spirit of all the men of the brigade for making the noble decision to serve the interest of their own region and people. He wished U Gon Khay and all his men enjoy progress and a pleasant life.—MNA