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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

Shwedagon Pagoda consecrated

YANGON, 22 May — To hail the success of gold plate and Shwethingan offering ceremony for the Shwedagon Pagoda, a consecration and merit-sharing ceremony took place in the pagoda princint this morning.

First, 'soon', flowers and water were offered to the Padamya Myatshin Buddh Image. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and committee members, Chairman of the work committee Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers.

Next, wellwishers offered 'soon', fruits, flowers, water and light to the Buddha images kept at the pagoda. Then followed the consecration and merit-sharing ceremony. It was graced by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha totaling 108. It was also attended by Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha then consecrated the Shwedagon Pagoda and shared the merits gained. State Ovadacariya Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathaguru Bhaddanta Sobhana administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation, and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious matters. He said the Shwedagon Pagoda is the most glorious one of the Union of Myanmar. It is the historic pagoda to which Buddhist nationals from all corners of the country pay pilgrimage visits. That is why gold and Shwethingan have



Members of the Sangha led by State Ovadaçariya Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana recite Parittas.— MNA

always been offered to the pagoda since the time of ancient Myanmar kings to enable it to become sublime and glorious.

Similarly, under the aegis of the State it has been nearly six years since the Shwehtidaw, bronze plates and Shwethingan were offered to the pagoda in 1999.

The minister said the offering of gold and Shwethingans started on 1 January this year. To offer the Shwehtidaw, cash donations of over K 420 million were made from July to December 2004 and K 1,200 million from January to May 2005.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Now, the 10-year clean water supply project has entered the fifth year. It has covered 7,157 out of 8,042 villages, and it accounts for 89 per cent. So far, clean water has been supplied to 14,309 out of 23,225 villages across the nation. So, it accounts for 62 per cent.

(Page 7)

MAUNG BA PE (OKTHA)



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and congregation take Nine Precepts from the State Ovadaçariya Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 May, 2005

Stamp out machinations of destructive elements

The State Peace and Development Council, taking lesson from the experiences in the history, is striving its utmost for stability of the State, further cementing national solidarity and narrowing the development gap among national races after laying down the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein on 21 May attended the opening of Thanlwin Bridge (Tapar) on Kutkai-Tarmonye-Mongsi-Tarshwetan Road in Kutkai Township, Muse District, Shan State (North) and made a speech on the occasion.

He underscored the need for the entire national people with Union Spirit to make concerted efforts to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation, to ensure perpetuation of the Union, and to further strengthen national solidarity, making best use of development infrastructures already in place.

Nowadays, unprecedented progress has been made in various sectors of the Union including Shan State thanks to integrated and well-coordinated efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

To achieve similar progress, the government together with the people had to stamp out ism, discord and dissension sown by colonialists.

Still, the government is making all-out efforts to put an end to drug menace, evil legacy of colonialists, and development gap among national races in Shan State.

At such a time, neo-colonialists in collusion with internal and external destructive elements are making accusations and conspiracies to stoke hatred and dissension among national races and to cause disintegration of the Union.

It is incumbent upon the entire national people including those in Shan State based on Union Spirit to exercise a constant vigilance against and ward off such machinations.

We would like to call upon the entire national people to make concerted efforts in accord with the four-point people's desire in warding off a series of conspiracies of internal and external destructive elements.

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

Billboard hailing MWVO conference erected in Shan State (East)



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw unveils the billboard hailing Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference 2005 in Kengtung.—MNA

YANGON, 22 May — A ceremony to erect the billboard hailing Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference 2005 was held in front of the city hall of Kengtung yesterday morning.

It was attended by Patron of Shan State WVO Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and senior military officials, Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Shan

State (East) WVO Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and others.

The commander formally unveiled the billboard and the ceremony ended.

MNA

Deputy Transport Minister arrives back

YANGON, 22 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung arrived here yesterday evening after attending the 19th ASEAN Transport Senior Officials Meeting held in Vientiane in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 19 and 20 May.

They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, departmental heads and their families.

A total of 57 members including 52 transport senior officials from ASEAN-member nations and the five officials from ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Office in Japan attended the meeting.

At the meeting, matters related to the designating of transnational routes in the ASEAN region, Air Travel sector, reports on water, air and land transport sector, safety in transportation, the cooperation in the measures and the transport cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, China and India, were discussed and mutual agreements were signed.

Director-General U Hla Thuang Myint of Road Transport under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Than of the Public Works who attended the meeting together with the deputy transport minister, also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Lectures on national policy and State's seven-point road map

YANGON, 22 May — USDA CEC Member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave a lecture on the successful implementation of the national policy and the State's seven-point road map to over 100 trainees of the organizing course conducted by Pabedan Township USDA opened at BEHS No1 in Pabedan Township this morning. — MNA

Indian information delegation arrives

YANGON, 22 May — Under the bilateral cooperation programme on information between ASEAN and India, the India information delegation led by Director (News) Smt. Arvind M. Singh of Doordarshan News Agency of India arrived here by air this morning. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by departmental officials of Myanma Radio and Television.—MNA

Respect paying ceremony held

YANGON, 22 May — The old students of the University of Computer Studies (Yangon) held a ceremony to pay respects to the teachers at Universities' Dhammayon, Kamayut Township this morning.

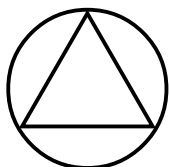
After paying respects, the students presented souvenirs to their teachers. Next, the rector of the university (Retd) Dr Kyaw Thein on behalf of the teachers gave advice to them. One of the old students, Aye Tun Lin spoke of holding the respect paying ceremony and of Pahtan books donation worth K 120,000 towards Insein Ywama Pariyatti Sarthintak.

MNA



A girl student presents a souvenir to a teacher at the ceremony to pay respects to the faculty of University of Computer Studies (Yangon). — MNA

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ASEAN Senior Officials consultation kicks off in Vientiane

BEIJING, 21 May — The 12th ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) Senior Officials Consultation Meeting kicked off on Friday in the Laotian capital of Vientiane, focusing on the regional and world security.

Shen Guofang, China's Assistant Foreign Minister, attended the consultation, together with other 23 senior officials or representatives from the 10-member ASEAN and neighbouring countries.

The participants held that the stability in the Asia-Pacific Region was still threatened by terrorism, cross-border crimes and other crises, noting that all countries in the region should further co-operation to safeguard

regional peace and stability.

Shen explained China's viewpoints on the regional situation, adding China, as a member of Asia, will further coordinate and cooperate with other members.

China will make concrete efforts to promote stability and prosperity in the region, the Chinese diplomat said at the consultation.

China will also cooperate with other countries to combat non-con-

ventional threats, he added.

The consultation was launched in 1994 as the biggest annual political consultation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

On Thursday's consultation of 10+3, namely, ASEAN countries plus China, Japan and South Korea, Shen said China supports the ASEAN to continue its leading role in the integration process of East Asia. As to the 9th East Asia Summit, which is slated to open in Kuala Lumpur in December, Shen said China fully respects ASEAN common understanding and the summit should help enhance common development and solidarity in East Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

Air India flight makes emergency landing at Mumbai airport

MUMBAI, 21 May — A Paris-bound Air India flight with 428 passengers onboard made an emergency landing on Friday an hour after it took off from the International Airport here following a technical snag, officials said.

The Mumbai-Paris-Newark flight took off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport here at 9 am but had to be recalled after a hydraulic leak was detected, an Air India spokesman told PTI.

The aircraft, with 428 passengers onboard, made a safe landing at the airport around 11.30 am

The aircraft had to dump fuel before the

emergency landing, which is the usual procedure in such cases, he said.

MNA/PTI

Indonesia, Malaysia to resume talks on water dispute

JAKARTA, 21 May — Indonesia and Malaysia will meet in Kuala Lumpur between 25 and 26 May to discuss water dispute off the Sulawesi Sea and other marine border issues, an Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Friday.

"The governments of Indonesia and Malaysia will hold the second meeting about the sea boundaries in Kuala Lumpur," said spokesman Jury Thamrin.

During the meeting, Indonesia will base its arguments on the international law as well as Malaysia's acknowledgement of its territorial rights, he said.

Both sides will also discuss border issues concerning the Strait of Malacca, Singapore and the South China Sea, he added.

The meeting is a follow-up of the agreement reached by both sides earlier in Bali. Both sides then agreed to settle their water dispute through diplomatic channel.

Tensions rose be-



Crocodiles lie near a pond on a crocodile farm in Phnom Penh on 20 May. A critically endangered species of harmless crocodile has been found in southern Laos, an international conservation organisation said.—INTERNET

Japan, Indonesia to work out measures to facilitate investment

TOKYO, 21 May — Japan and Indonesia agreed Friday to work out measures to facilitate Japanese investment in Indonesia after they conclude a bilat-

eral free trade agreement.

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa and visiting Indonesian Coordinating Minister for the Economy Aburizal Bakrie confirmed the need to map out ways to improve the investment climate in Indonesia after the two countries sign an FTA.

"We'd like to open up to everybody and we also expect Japan to open up to Indonesian products, especially agricultural products which are complementary to agricultural products in Japan," Bakrie told reporters at a Press conference.

Japan and Indonesia agreed that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will agree on the start of official FTA talks during Yudhoyono's planned visit to Japan starting at the end of May, Bakrie said.

If Indonesia concludes an FTA with Japan, it will be Indonesia's first such agreement. Jakarta expects expanded investment from Japan as the biggest benefit of an FTA, he said, adding that Japan aims to seal an FTA with Indonesia within two years.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to develop nuclear power plant by 2017

JAKARTA, 21 May — Indonesian State Minister for Research and Technology Kusmayanto Kadiman said Friday the government would develop nuclear technology by 2017 for various peaceful purposes, including power generation.

"The energy policy strategy is focused on the plan to develop a nuclear power plant by 2017," Kusmayanto was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying.

The plan, which did not specify a possible location for the plant, required a more detailed assessment, the minister said after opening a maritime industry exhibition in the

East Java capital of Surabaya.

When asked about the dangers of nuclear power, the official said any technology could pose dangers, which was why serious study and preparation were required.

"Even coal-fired power plants have the potential to explode," he said.

"About the location, the possibilities include Madura (East Java) or

Muria (Central Java), but if these proposals are turned down it will be no problem to move to earthquake-free Kalimantan," he said.

Kusmayanto said preparations so far were limited to studies involving universities, research and development agencies, the National Development Planning Board and related agencies.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists view a humpback off breaching the coast of Madagascar on 20 May, 2005.—INTERNET

US Army report details brutal death of Afghan detainees

WASHINGTON, 21 May — A US Army's criminal investigation report has detailed the brutal treatment of two Afghan detainees by US military interrogators, and their deaths under American military detention, *The New York Times* reported Friday.

The nearly 2,000-page confidential file, a copy of which was obtained by the newspaper, depicted young, poorly trained US soldiers in repeated incidents of abuse at the Bagram Collection Point, a detention facility some 70 kilometres north of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The harsh treatment, which has resulted in criminal charges against seven soldiers, went well beyond the two deaths of Dilawar and Habibullah, the two detainees, in December 2002.

Even when Dilawar, a 22-year-old taxi driver, was dying, his American jailers continued to torment him, the *Times* report said.

Dilawar was hauled from his cell at the detention centre in Bagram around 2 am to answer questions about a rocket attack on an American base. When he arrived at the interrogation room, an interpreter who was present said, his legs were bouncing uncontrollably in the plastic chair and his hands were numb. He had been chained by the wrists to the top of his cell for much of the previous four days.

At the interrogators' behest, a guard tried to force Dilawar to his knees, but his legs, which had been pummelled by guards for several days, could no longer bend. An interrogator told Dilawar

that he could see a doctor after they finished with him, but the guards were instructed only to chain the prisoner back to the ceiling when he was finally sent back to his cell.

Several hours passed before an emergency room doctor finally saw Dilawar, who was already dead by then. Army investigators later learned that most of the interrogators had believed Dilawar was an innocent man who simply drove his taxi past the American base at the wrong time, *The New York Times* report said.

In some instances, the harsh treatment was directed or carried out by interrogators to extract information, and in oth-

ers, it was punishment meted out by military police guards, testimony showed. Sometimes, the torment seemed to have been driven by little more than boredom or cruelty, or both, according to report.

Last October, the Army's Criminal Investigation Command concluded that there was probable cause to charge 27 officers and enlisted personnel with criminal offences in the Dilawar case ranging from dereliction of duty to maiming and involuntary manslaughter. Fifteen of the same soldiers were also cited for probable criminal responsibility in the Habibullah case.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝတ်စုံခွဲခွဲအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

SingTel pumps in \$252m in Bharti, puts off ADR issue

NEW DELHI, 21 May —Singapore Telecom (SingTel) has increased its stake in Indian telecom major Bharti Tele-Ventures, offering mobile services under AirTel brand, to 30.84 per cent by infusing 252 million US dollars.

SingTel's stake has gone up by buying shares worth 252 million US dollars in the unlisted Bharti Telecom which is the parent company of Bharati Tele-Ventures.

Meanwhile, the company has decided not to proceed with the proposed secondary overseas issue of up to 200 million equity shares due to lack of interest by shareholders.

"Bharti Tele-Ventures Limited (BTVL) had in July 2004 announced its intention to proceed with a sponsored American Depository Receipt (ADR) secondary offering of up to 200 million equity shares. The board of directors of BTVL has decided not to proceed with the proposed ADR due to lack of sponsorship interest by most of its principal shareholders," the company said in a statement. "SingTel's increase in stake is an expression of confidence in India, a growth story of Indian telecom and in BTVL — its performance, management team and its role in shaping the Indian telecom industry," a Bharti spokesperson said.— MNA/PTI



A fisherman checks out a fish pen on Manila Bay on 20 May, 2005. Fish farming activity at Laguna de Bay, one of southeast Asia's largest lakes, is to be curtailed to save the waters from worsening pollution, the environment department said.—INTERNET

Violence in Iraq cripples \$ 21 billion rebuilding effort

BAGHDAD, 21 May —Washington is far behind in plans to pump \$21 billion into Iraq's reconstruction, bogged down by guerilla attacks that have killed hundreds of contractors and diverted funds to security, a US official said on Saturday.

"There is a long way to go. We recognize a lot of work needs to be done," said William Taylor, the US official overseeing American rebuilding work in Iraq.

He told reporters it was still too early to predict when Iraqis will enjoy adequate electricity and other essential services — more than two years after the US-led invasion.

Relentless guerrilla attacks have killed 295 contractors for US projects alone since reconstruction began, said Theresa Shope, spokeswoman for the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office.

Violence has forced foreign governments and companies to pump money into security, draining budgets and

delaying rebuilding ventures after years of wars, United Nations trade sanctions and a state stranglehold on the economy.

Boosting the national electricity grid would help raise the spirits of Iraqis who have spent three straight summers battling stifling heat with erratic power for air conditioners.

But bloodshed has put a US plan to improve the electricity grid on hold, Taylor said.

The chaos has worsened since a new government promising stability was announced last month. Guerillas have killed more than 500 people with suicide bombings and other attacks, raising fears that the violence will erupt into a sectarian civil war.—Internet

Conjoined twin sisters successfully separated in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 May — A separation surgery on a pair of twin girls from Indonesia, who were joined at the abdomen and hip bone, completed successfully at Singapore's Gleneagles Hospital on Saturday evening.

It took 15 doctors more than 10 hours to separate the 15-month-old girls and rebuild their lower bodies. The operation began at eight o'clock (local time) in the morning. Doctors announced the success at a Press briefing held at the hospital after the completion of the surgery, saying that the girls are taken care of in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) since they are still in a dangerous situation.

What surprised them most was that separate set of organs, such as vagina and ovary, except anus were found when the twins were separated, which was different from what they had expected, doctors said. Each of the sisters got a leg as scheduled.

The parents of the twins told *Xinhua* that they are happy that the sisters can finally sleep in two separate beds and live independently. That is what they have dreamt of for more than one year since their daughters were born.

The family arrived in Singapore in February this year for test and evaluations of the sisters, and will leave the city state in three to five weeks, according to the parents. This is the fourth separation surgery conducted in the island state.

Doctors successfully separated a pair of 11-month-old girls from Nepal, who were fused at the head, in a marathon operation lasting four days in April 2001.

MNA/Xinhua



Subari (L) and Neng Harmaini, parents of 15-month-old Indonesian conjoined twins, stand beside their daughter Anjeli as she rests on her bed after undergoing a 10 hour operation at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore on 21 May, 2005.—INTERNET

India's leather export target set at \$4b 2010

NEW DELHI, 21 May — Growing at an annual 13-per-cent rate, the Indian leather industry aims at doubling its exports earnings to four billion US dollars by 2010.

"We have set an export target of four billion dollars in next five years," Vice-President of the Council for Leather Exports Sanjay Leekha told PTI here. At present, the Indian leather industry is valued at four billion dollars inclusive of the two-billion-dollar earnings from exports.

India accounts for a share of 2.32 per cent in the global leather trade, Leekha said, adding that the country has a huge potential in leather exports due to the abundance of raw materials as the country is the leader in cattle population in the world.

Today, Indian leather industry ranks eighth in the export trade of foreign exchange earnings of the country.

The value-added finished leather products constitute 80 per cent of the total export from the industry, which was a mere seven per cent in 1956-57.

Germany, Italy, USA, Britain, Hong Kong and Spain are the top export destinations for Indian leather and leather products.

The world trade in leather products is growing in view of the increasing demand for products made of leather, Leekha

said. "Italian and German shoe manufacturers are increasingly looking at India as their outsourcing hub," he said, adding a number of leading global shoe brands outsource from India. He said the domestic demand is also expected to rise with growing GDP, and consumption pattern particularly for products like footwear and leather goods.

India faces stiff competition from countries like China, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia in the international market as they have already emerged as major manufacturing nations.—MNA/PTI



Seoul National University professor Hwang Woo-suk abstracts an ovum from a cow's ovarium at his laboratory in Seoul recently.

INTERNET

African countries agree on fresh crackdown on illicit arms

NAIROBI, 21 May — Arms experts meeting in Nairobi have vowed to crackdown on all forms of illegal arms trafficking and announced plans to destroy huge volumes of arms catches seized in operations in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Sudan.

Speaking during the closing session of an African Governmental Experts Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nairobi Friday, Kenya's Senior Deputy of Police David Kimaiyo said the authorities were working jointly with Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda to ensure complete and holistic implementation of anti-arms trafficking through strict cross-border policing.

Kimaiyo said the Kenyan Government is

keen on helping war-torn nations which edging closer to peace to collect arms and destroy them.

African countries have stepped up pressure against the spread of the illicit arms with the set-

ting of the Nairobi Small Arms Secretariat, an institution set up by foreign ministers drawn from 11 East African countries to speed up the fight against the arms menace.

MNA/Xinhua



A pedestrian walks past a digital market screen in downtown Tokyo on 19 May, 2005. INTERNET

Bush's job approval rating down

WASHINGTON, 21 May — US President George W Bush's approval rating dropped to 43 per cent in a new poll released on Thursday, down from 46 per cent in February and 50 per cent in January when he began his second four-year term.

The US public were critical of Bush's job performance in many policy areas, but negative opinions of his handling of the economy and Iraq were doing the most damage to his overall approval rating, according to the poll conducted by the Pew Research Centre for the People and the Press.

Only 35 per cent of those surveyed approved of the President's handling of the economy, down from 43 per cent in February and 45 per cent in January. On the Iraq issue, Bush's approval rating slipped from 45 per cent in January to 40 per cent in February, and 37 per cent currently.

Positive opinions of his handling of foreign policy fell 10 percentage points, to 38 per cent, and his approval ratings on energy and social security stood at 31 per cent and 29 per cent respectively.

Fifty-seven per cent approved of Bush's job performance on handling terrorist threats, the only issue on which the President got positive marks from a majority of the public. The survey was conducted May 11-15 among 1,502 Americans, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

The most dangerous civilian job in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 May—It's one of the most dangerous civilian jobs in one of the world's most dangerous countries: translating Arabic for the US military in Iraq.

One by one, little noticed in the daily mayhem, dozens of interpreters have been killed — mostly Iraqis but 12 Americans, too. They account for 40 per cent of the 300-plus death claims filed by private contractors with the US Labor Department.

Riding in bomb-blasted Humvees, tagging along on foot patrols in Fallujah or dashing into buildings behind Marines, translators are dying on the job, but also facing danger at home: hunted by guerillas who call them pro-American collaborators.

"If the guerillas catch us, they will cut off our heads because the imams say we are spies," said Mustafa Fahmi, 24, an Iraqi interpreter with Titan Corp, the biggest employer of linguists in Iraq. "I've been threatened like fifteen times, but I won't quit. A neighbour saw me driving and said, 'I am going to kill you.'"

That fate befell Luqman Mohammed Kurdi Hussein, a Titan linguist and Iraqi Kurd captured by guerillas in October. A video of the 41-year-old's beheading was posted on the Internet.

Another Titan employee, Sudanese interpreter Noureddin Zakaria, was luckier. He appeared as a hostage on an Oct 30 broadcast by Al-Arabiya television, saying he had been captured in Ramadi. His kidnappers later released him.

In a more recent attack in Baghdad in late March, two carloads of guerillas gunned down five Iraqi women traveling home in a car from their jobs on a US base. All were killed, the Iraqi police reported, and at least one of them was a translator.

The efficiency with which guerillas hunted

down Titan contractors worries the US military. As militants killed them in growing numbers, usually in ambushes off base, the Army and others began housing Titan workers on military bases or in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone.

"There was a period when it seemed translators were being targeted on a daily basis," said First Sgt Stephen Valley, a US Army reservist who worked with Arab journalists in Baghdad. "There was virtually no way to protect these people."

Internet

Overseas sales of Huawei Technologies to record \$5b in 2005

SHENZHEN, 21 May — China's largest telecom equipment provider, Huawei Technologies, said Thursday that the company's overseas sales will reach five billion US dollars in 2005.

This would be the first time that Huawei's overseas sales will surpass domestic sales, said Fu Jun, spokesman with the company. Total sales will likely to reach 8.5 billion US dollars in 2005.

As one of the most successful telecom equipment suppliers in the world, Huawei reported annual sales revenue of 5.58 billion US dollars in 2004.

This is with a sharp rise of 45 per cent year-on-year, 2.28 billion US dollars or 41 per cent of which came from overseas markets.

Earlier, the company had set its goal of overseas sales for this year at four billion US dollars.

"The good sales record in the first quarter this year, however, have made us more optimistic," said Fu.

Huawei has been a global company for many years and has sold its products to more than 90 countries and

established cooperative relationships with more than 400 telecom operators.

Huawei Technologies is one of China's earliest investors in the third-generation mobile communication technology (3G).

Though the 3G market has not been launched in China, the company has applied its 3G technologies to many countries to build 3G network. Customer countries include Malaysia, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates and Thailand.

The company has started to sell its 3G terminals recently in Singapore, said Fu. More than 10 per cent of the company's total sales is spent on research and development, and it has set up research centres in the United States, Sweden, India and Russia. About 3 per cent of Huawei's sales revenue is used to improve its corporate management, said Fu.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan calls on Iran to reach accord with Europe in nuke talks

TOKYO, 21 May — Japan called on Iran on Thursday to reach an agreement with European countries in negotiations over its nuclear programmes during a series of talks in Tokyo among top officials, *Kyodo News* reported.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura urged Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh to "patiently" continue the talks with Britain, France and Germany toward an agreement, *Kyodo* said.

Aminzadeh, who is in Japan for regular vice-ministerial talks with Japan, was quoted as saying Iran hopes that it can reach a conclusion with the three European countries so that both sides would be "winners".

Iran and the three countries have been discussing since December how to reward Teheran for suspending its all nuclear enrichment programmes. Iran agreed to the suspension the previous month.

But the talks have become bogged down as Iran has recently expressed a

desire to resume part of its uranium enrichment programmes for peaceful purposes.

Aminzadeh also met with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanaka, who expressed concern about Iran's move toward possible resumption of the uranium programmes.

Aminzadeh signalled that it would be difficult for Iran to immediately accept the European demand as it calls for a complete dismantling of the uranium programmes including peaceful ones, according to *Kyodo*.

Tanaka expressed hope that foreign ministerial talks among Iran and the three European countries planned for next week will lead to progress over the issue, the news agency said.

MNA/Xinhua



Actors dressed as futuristic warriors help launch a new computer game in Beijing on 20 May, 2005. — INTERNET



S Korea's economic growth slows in first quarter

SEOUL, 21 May — South Korea's economy grew in the first quarter at the slowest pace in almost two years due to still weak private spending amid slowing exports, the country's news agency *Yonhap* quoted a statement from the Bank of Korea as reporting Friday.

The nation's gross domestic product (GDP), or total output of goods and services in a nation, increased 2.7 per cent in the first three months of the year from a year earlier, the slowest growth rate since the third quarter of 2003.

Asia's third-largest economy grew 0.4 per cent in the January-March period from the previous three months, when seasonal factors are taken into account, according to the central bank.

The bank's data showed that growth fell short of estimates by domestic and foreign financial institutions, which predicted Asia's third-largest economy gained 3.41 per cent in the first quarter. The GDP grew 5.5 per cent in the second quarter last year and 4.7 per cent and 3.3 per cent in the third and fourth quarters in 2004, respectively.

The central bank said growth fell sharply due to the extended New Year's holidays in January and February that reduced the number of working days. — MNA/Xinhua



Competitors run down China's Great Wall near Tianjin during a marathon on 21 May, 2005. The 6th Great Wall Marathon has attracted more than 750 marathon-lovers to gather at the Great Wall.

INTERNET

Sri Lankan Airlines to launch Beijing service next month

COLOMBO, 21 May — Sri Lankan Airlines, the national carrier of Sri Lanka, will begin thrice weekly services to China on 15 June, the official *Daily News* reported on Friday.

The flights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday will operate from Colombo to Beijing via Bangkok, said the paper. Sri Lankan Airlines will be initially focusing on the huge family travel and leisure market from China to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as providing the Chinese travellers with connections to the Middle East and Europe.

"Sri Lankan Airlines is covering not just Beijing but all of this vast country," Sri Lankan Airlines' Manager for China market Ajith Weerasekera was quoted as saying.

"This is a market with 1.3 billion people, 50 million of whom already use air travel. With its domestic products growing 9.5 per cent year on year, this is the market for the future, and we are entering it right on time," said Weerasekera.

An important aspect of the launch of flights to China was the signing of interline agreements with four airlines — Air China, China Eastern, China Southern and Dragon Air — that service 27 major cities throughout China, he said.

Sri Lanka hopes that the launch of services to Beijing will now add a modern cultural dialogue to the strong diplomatic and trade relations the two countries already enjoy.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to provide free interest loan for foreign employment

KATHMANDU, 21 May — The Nepali banks have come up to collectively help the rural poor who are willing to go for foreign employment by providing interest free loan, a banker said here on Friday.

"The banks will provide up to 50 million Nepal rupees (714,000 US dollars) of loan in total for the current fiscal year (16 July, 2004-15 July, 2005)," Basudev Ram Joshi, president of Nepal Bankers' Association, a

non-governmental organization, told reporters.

The bankers took the decision a few days ago following the request by the governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, he revealed.

"The Ministry of Labour and Transport Management had asked the governor to put the proposal to the banks," said Purusottam Ojha, acting secretary of the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Do utmost at opportune time in interests of State

Maung Ba Pe (Oktha)

Phway: Uncle! Is Uncle in?

Uncle: Ha, it is you two, sister and brother. Come in! You call on me, Phyu Phway and Ba Pe?

Phway: Yes we do. My brother is on leave and we come here to pay respects to you.

Pe: How are you, Uncle? I took a leave and have come home from Yangon. I haven't seen you long, and now we visit you to pay respects to you.

Uncle: I saw the annual work coordination meeting of the Development Affairs Department on TV. Is it held every year?

Pe: Yes, it is. Our ministry holds a meeting to review the development affairs tasks carried out in a year and to lay down future programmes for the next year. It was the 16th time.

Uncle: Very good idea! It's wise to find out strengths and weaknesses in the work and to lay down future plans for the next year. Regular feedback to adopt future programmes is the gateway to sustainable success.

Pe: You're right. That's why the urban and rural development tasks we are undertaking are making greater progress year by year. Now we've constructed more than 30,657 miles of urban and rural roads.

Uncle: That's great! You've achieved a significant success.

Phway: That isn't all. I've learnt the 10-year rural clean water supply project my brother is engaged in is also making a remarkable progress. Whenever my parents or I gave my brother a call, he was never in the office, someone else answered the phone and the answer was always the same — my brother was on a trip to Magway or Mandalay on duty.

Uncle: I've learnt a bit about that. It's the arid zone rural water supply project for arid zone, isn't it? I'm interested in that project. Tell me about it.

Pe: Yes, I will. As you know water is scarce in Myanmar's driest regions — Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions. Local people have to spend much time and energy to fetch a yoke of buckets of water, four or five miles far from their homes. The Head of State gave guidance

to the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on that case. According to the guidance, a 10-year plan was to be implemented to supply potable water to the regions in the arid zone, the first priority was to be given to the villages where there is no water except rain water, and the second priority to the villages where there is water but not enough for the whole year, and the last step to supply clean water to the villages. To be able to overcome the financial problem, he made all necessary arrangements to spend cash from the Development Affairs funds, the State, and wellwishers. Now, the 10-year clean water sup-

Now, the 10-year clean water supply project has entered the fifth year. It has covered 7,157 out of 8,042 villages, and it accounts for 89 per cent. So far, clean water has been supplied to 14,309 out of 23,225 villages across the nation, accounting for 62 per cent.

ply project has entered the fifth year. It has covered 7,157 out of 8,042 villages, and it accounts for 89 per cent. So far, clean water has been supplied to 14,309 out of 23,225 villages across the nation, accounting for 62 per cent.

Uncle: How encouraging it is! The Head of State gave guidance and provided necessary assistance. Indeed it was an effective encouragement to the officials concerned, and as a result they achieved success in a short time. And it is a milestone in the development of the nation. Very good! By the way, I've learnt that at the previous paddy harvest time, Ngwe Si of southern part of the village got timber and corrugated iron sheets from the Development Affairs Department to rebuild his house. Previously, he lived the whole life with a small bamboo hut. Now, he's got a fine wooden house, and he is very pleased with it

and he is boasting about it all the time. Under which project your Development Affairs Department supplied the materials to him?

Pe: It's a fruit of the rural housing project the Head of State initiated. In fact, it's virtually impossible for a rural folk to save money enough till he gets a wooden house roofed with corrugated iron sheets. So, most of the houses in rural areas are the ones roofed with thatches, covered with bamboo matting, and floored with bamboo.

That was why the Head of State adopted the plan in cooperation with related ministries to enable rural people to possess fine houses by spending just a small amount of money so as to raise their living standard. All necessary construction materials are sold at the prices fixed by the government. The Development Affairs Department gave all necessary assistance to them. So far, a total of 1,609 low-cost houses have been built in seven divisions.

Uncle: It's incredible such a great success has been achieved in the rural development project in the time of the Tatmadaw Government. Myanmar regained independence more than 57 years ago. Had the people made efforts at this rate since then, our nation would have been in the list of the top nations. What a pity, we Myanmar people have wasted a lot of time. Children, you've a golden opportunity of taking part in the nation-building tasks for the good deeds you performed in a past existence. So, I would like to urge you to make all-out efforts in carrying out the nation-building tasks at such an opportune time in the interests of the State. Then, you'll be rewarded for what you've done with pervasive delight one day. It is a priceless reward with sentimental value.

Pe: Rest assured for that, Uncle. We'll always uphold your advice. It took us quite some time to get here, and we've to return to the city. Excuse us! We pay respects to you.

Uncle: Well done, then, well done, well done!

Translation: MS

Nigeria enhances joint border patrol

LAGOS, 22 May — Two hundred officers and men singled out from Nigeria's police, Customs and immigration services are to participate in the enhanced joint border patrol operations started this week.

Emmanuel Ighodalo, a spokesman for the Nigerian Police Force, told a news conference Friday in the Nigerian commercial capital Lagos that the border patrol team was set up following a directive from the Nigerian Presidency.

The team would cover Seme and Idi Iroko borders on the southwest flank and Jiba-Katsina in the northeast, he said.

Ighodalo said each

patrol unit was expected to be headed by a deputy superintendent selected from the services.

Similarly, 18 new patrol vehicles, fitted with communication gadgets, had been provided to fit up with the team which "is also expected to augment the efforts of the patrol team," he said. Ighodalo explained that the operation was to curb criminal activities, such as human trafficking, smuggling and similar offences, adding that the arrangement would also foster better working relationships

among the services.

"We want to see ourselves as outfits meant to serve the country and Nigerians," he said, "and in doing this, we want to forge good collaborative efforts in giving quality service as individual services and collectively as a joint force."

According to Ighodalo, the operation had been launched on May 20 at the Seme and Idi Iroko borders in Lagos and Ogun states respectively, while that of Jiba-Katsina would take place on 26 May.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

Armed robbers raid bank, killing 4 in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 22 May — At least four persons, including two mobile policemen, have been feared killed in Port Harcourt, capital of Nigeria's southern state of Rivers when armed robbers raided a new generation bank, local newspaper *This Day* reported

Friday.

The bank robbery also left many other people seriously injured when the heavily-armed robbers numbering about five started shooting indiscriminately in order to gain entrance into the bank, said an eyewitness who refused to be identi-

fied.

According to the eyewitness, the armed robbers arrived at the bank at about 12 a.m. (1130 GMT) on Thursday in a minibus and held the environment hostage while they shot uninterruptedly for about thirty minutes.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior UN official to visit Cyprus to explore reviving talks

NICOSIA, 22 May — UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergast will visit Cyprus on May 30 to explore prospects for a new round of international effort to reunite the island.

During his four-day visit to Cyprus, Prendergast will meet with

Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and other political leaders on both sides to listen to the views of all parties on reviving reunification talks, the semi-official *Cyprus News Agency* reported from the UN Headquarters in New York. — MNA/hinhua

Shwehtidaw hoisted atop Muniramarune MyoU Pawdawmu Shwezedidaw in Maubin

YANGON, 22 May— Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 22 May attended the ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Muniramarune MyoU Pawdawmu Shwezedidaw in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division.

The commander, the ministers and wellwishers offered Shwekyathingan, emerald

bowl and fruits to Buddha images in the cave of the pagoda.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddammajotika Dhaja Wakema Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandavamsa invested the congregation with the Nine Precepts, and the commander and officials presented religious objects and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Nyaungdon Ponnamayama Zay-kyang Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merit gained.

After that, wellwishers led by the commander and the ministers enshrined the Buddha images. Afterwards, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers hoisted Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. Members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha image. The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu.

After the ceremony, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers offered soon to members of the Sangha.—MNA



Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Col Thein Nyunt sprinkle scented water to Seinbudaw. — MNA

4th ceremony of pouring water to Bo Tree held

YANGON, 22 May— The 4th ceremony to pour water to the Bo Tree in the precinct of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindamma Hill in Insein Township was held at the pandal in the precinct this evening.

Present on the occa-

sion were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department and departmental officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees and others.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

The deputy minister and party then poured water to the Bo Tree. The Wut associations recited the religious verses.

MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung donates offertories to a sayadaw.—MNA

Shwedagon Pagoda ...

(From page 1)

In addition, he said, well-wishers donated 11 viss of gold and 200,000 US dollars.

The minister said the success of the gold plate and Shwethingyan offering ceremony was due to supervision of the Ovadaçariya Sayadaws who gave Ovada and combined efforts of the State, social organizations and wellwishers.

Afterwards, the minister and officials offered alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Then, the ceremony ended with the three-time

recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu. MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates religious affairs.—MNA



Bo tree at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image being poured with water.—MNA

Fullmoon Day of Kason (Buddha Day)...

(from page 16)

The congregation took the Five Precepts from Theindawgyi Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Officials and wellwishers offered alms to members of the Sangha. Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. In the afternoon, wut associations recited religious verses. In the evening, officials made arrangements for pouring water to Bo tree for public and devotees. At Botahtaung Kyaikdae Park Pagoda, Fullmoon Day of Kason (Buddha Day) was observed at NanU Prayer Hall. Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters Captain Aye Pe and officials attended the ceremony. After the ceremony, they poured water to the Bo tree.

The 13th ceremony to pour water to Bo tree was held at Pitakat Taik of Foreign Missionary Division on Kaba Aye Hill.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko attended the ceremony. Next, the deputy minister and wife together with departmental officials poured water to Bo tree. Likewise, trainees led by Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasami (Magadi-Thazi) observed the Buddha Day on fullmoon of Kason at Maha Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill. Similarly, the water pouring ceremony at Bo trees were held at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda and Kyaikwaing Pagoda and Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) in Mayangon Township. Devotees and wut association members thronged Bo trees for pouring of water.

The 25th ceremony to pour water to Bo tree was held at Maha Nayaka Monastery and Bodh Gaya Maha Bo Tree on Kaba Aye Hill this morning. Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dawei Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinnabhivamsa administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation.

Next, Sayadaws consecrated the Bo sapling to be planted at the precinct of Nagayon Pagoda in Pale Myothit of Mingaladon Township.

Joint Secretary of SSMHC Dwipitakadhara Dwipitaka Kovida Kalewa Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Later, the congregation and Sayadaws poured water at the Bo tree.

Similar ceremonies were held at Mogaung Pagoda, Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Ngadatgyi, Chaukhtetkyi, Koedatgyi and Mailamu Pagodas. On the occasions, the congregations took the precepts from members of the Sangha. Wut associations recited religious verses and then poured water to Bo trees. — MNA



Shwedagon Pagoda packed with pilgrims on fullmoon day of Kason.—NLM

YANGONITES MARK BUDDHA DAY



Buddhists pour water to a Bo tree at Shwephonepint Pagoda. —MNA



Buddhists pour water to a Bo tree at Sule Pagoda.— MNA



Buddhists pour water to a Bo tree at Botahtaung Pagoda. —MNA



Buddhists pour water to a Bo tree at Kyaikwaing Pagoda.— MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko pour water to a Bo tree on Kaba Aye Hills. — MNA



*Buddhists pour water to a Bo tree at Shwedagon pagoda.
MNA*



Members of religious organizations pour water to a Bo tree at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda. —MNA



*Fullmoon Day of Kason in action at Kaba Aye Hills.
MNA*

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Commemorative Computer Arts Competition held

YANGON, 22 May — Organized by Yangon Division Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Illicit Trafficking, a computer arts competition at division level to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at University of Computer Studies on Parami Road, Hline Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division against Drug Abuse Control and Illicit Trafficking Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon) U Aye

Kyu, Rector of University of Computer Studies Dr Paik Tin, Vice-Chairman of Yangon Division CDACIT Police Col Aung Daing and members, local authorities, members of board of judges, faculty members and participants.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party encouraged the participants from basic education schools competing with the mottoes reflecting life without drugs.

Next, the rector of the University presented explanations on computer arts competition and participants to the commander and party. A total of 29 participants—11 high school students and 18 middle—competed in the competition.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party encourage to participants competing in the computer arts competition. —MNA

Commander inspects agricultural and construction work in Lashio

YANGON, 22 May — Accompanied by officials, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing visited the 100-acre plantation of soy bean, sunflower and maize of the camp commandant office of the command and left necessary instructions.

Next, he visited Lashio Degree College, Government Technological College and No 6 BEHS where short story, article, poem, cartoon, painting,

poster, and computer painting and poster competitions were being held to hail the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The commander also inspected construction of new office building of Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association. Later, he visited the opium-substitute honey orange plantation of the local battalion in Lashio.

MNA

North-West Command Commander inspects agricultural tasks in Dabayin, YeU

YANGON, 22 May — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye together with departmental officials inspected progress in cultivating summer paddy in Dabayin Township on 16 May morning and fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and party proceeded to YeU Township and also looked into the progress of cultivating summer

paddy.

Afterwards, the commander and party oversaw digging of Tainchaung drain section-2 in Shwebo Township.

The canal is 25,000 feet long and 20 feet deep. On completion, it prevents from floods of 500 acres of farmland.

The commander arrived at the Institute of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nyaungbintha village,

Shwebo Township, and he heard reports on the history of the Institute and its academic matters by the principal, and the commander fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and party proceeded to Zigonlay multi-purpose farm of North-West Command. In-charge of the farm reported on the tasks of breeding fish and pig to the commander and the commander gave necessary instructions.

MNA

CEC members open tubewells for sufficient water supply

YANGON, 21 May — USDA CEC members Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, together with Yangon Division USDA Joint Secretary U Tha Win, formally opened an 8-inch-diameter tubewell sunk in Trader Street in Ward 4 of

South Okkalapa Township by the Township USDA, this morning. Next, they accepted 1,019 membership applications of local people.

Thanks to opening the tubewell, 500 households of Ward 4 are supplied with drinking wa-

ter. The two CEC members inspected basic education schools.

Likewise, they attended the ceremony to open a 4-inch-diameter tubewell sunk by Dawbon Township USDA on 4th Street in Yamonna Road.

MNA



Yangon Mayor and party view distribution of water producing from an 8-inch-diameter tubewell.—MNA

Prize-presentation ceremony of Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held

YANGON, 22 May — The annual meeting and prize-presentation ceremony of Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held in conjunction with a cash donation ceremony at Ayeyawady Hall in Pathien on 19 May.

It was attended by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe

Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Lat, chairperson of the committee, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe and officials and members of social organizations.

The commander delivered a speech and Daw Tin Tin Lat explained functions of the association for the sectors of health, social and education.

Next, they presented awards to outstanding township associations.

At the cash donation ceremony, wellwishers presented K 7.7 million. Daw Tin Tin Lat presented K 2.6 million for the township associations and Head of Division Health Department Dr Than Aung K 2080000 for health care of the elderly persons in the townships.

Daw Tin Tin Lat also presented K 300,000 for the funds towards the division hospital.

MNA

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India says decision on expanding UNSC cannot be unanimous

WASHINGTON, 22 May — A decision on expanding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) cannot be a unanimous one because in that case no result would emerge, Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran has said.

"The decision on expansion cannot be unanimous because in that case no outcome would emerge on any issue", Saran told reporters recently.

Saran, who met American officials in the context of forthcoming visits to Washington by India's Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said "India would be quite satisfied with decisions by two-thirds majority at the UN".

He said that India did not have a "unifocal approach, looking solely at permanent membership". "We are looking at this in the broader context of reform of the UN," Saran said. The Foreign Secretary said he discussed the whole

gamut of UN reform with American officials.

"We are looking at a fairly broad range of reforms. We have had an initial exchange of views (with the US) on some of these issues."

Making a strong case for India's membership to the Council, Saran pointed out that the country has a longstanding record at the UN in terms of peacekeeping and a very dynamic economy.

"We believe we can bring our capabilities to bear in terms of the role the UN can play," he said. The Foreign Secretary said the US had not really given out what its own view was with regard of the Security Council, adding "Its main concern has been to make the UN much more effective."

American officials had not conveyed to him what their position was likely to be on the right of veto for the new permanent members of the Council, Saran said.

Foreign Secretary also cautioned against going by media reports on the US position, adding it was sending Shirin Tahir-Kheli, senior adviser to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on UN reform, to New Delhi to discuss the issue in depth.

Saran, who also held talks on bilateral, multi-lateral and regional issues with US officials, including Undersecretary for global affairs Paula Dobriansky and Undersecretary of State Nick Burns, said he was "highly satisfied" with the discussions.

MNA/PTI

Brazil, Argentina agree to deepen bilateral relations

BRASILIA, 22 May — Argentina and Brazil reached Friday an "ambitious" agreement to end differences that stressed their ties and drive the strategic cooperation between the two powers of South America.

According to the Brasilia Agreement signed by Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and his Argentine counterpart Rafael Bielsa, the two countries will deepen their cooperation.

The two foreign ministers said they will propose to their respective presidents "an ambitious programme to deepen, up-date and speed up the bilateral relations that will culminate in the signing of the specific protocols for diverse issues on November 30 of this year."

"Such protocols include strategic questions for both countries, in par-

ticular nuclear and space cooperation, productive integration, military cooperation, infrastructure, energy, and border cooperation," said a joint communique released by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

The agreement is the culmination of a series of goodwill gestures in the bilateral relations and came after a series of political and commercial differences between the two main trade partners of the Common Market of the South, which also groups Paraguay and Uruguay.

MNA/Xinhua

US firm to pay \$4.8m in fine for bribing Chinese employees

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — US officials on Friday fined a Los Angeles company 4.8 million US dollars in settling allegations that the firm bribed employees of Chinese hospitals.

In agreements reached with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the US Department of Justice, Diagnostic Products Corp has agreed to make total payments of approximately 4.8 million dollars to settle issues related to bribery allegations.

In the criminal portion of the settlement, Diagnostic Products Corp. will pay a two-million-dollar fine for violating anti-bribery provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars public companies from making improper payments to foreign officials.

In connection with a civil case filed by the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Diagnostic

Products will pay an additional 2.8 million dollars — representing its net profit in China during the period of the alleged misconduct, plus interest, according to the SEC.

The SEC alleged that from 1991 to 2002, Diagnostic Products and its wholly owned Chinese subsidiary, DPC (Tianjin) Co. Ltd or DePu, paid a total of about 1.6 million dollars to doctors and others who worked in

public hospitals.

DePu then recorded the illegal payments as legitimate sales expenses in its books and records, the SEC alleged.

In addition to paying the fine, DePu has agreed with the US Department of Justice to enter a plea of guilty to a violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act subject to the approval of the federal court to which the matter will be assigned.

MNA/Xinhua



Candles are lit in the garden of Vietnam's Buddhist Academy Institute in Hanoi on 22 May, 2005.— INTERNET

Agreement signed on education of Amazonic Indian children

LIMA, 21 May — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Finland signed here Friday an agreement to cooperate in the education of children from Amazonic Indian zones of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

The agreement, "Inter-Cultural Bilingual Education" in these three countries, establishes a financial contribution from Finland amounting to 6 million US dollars and technical assistance from UNICEF.

Information from the UN organization said that in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, the education systems had certain difficulties in coping with the "high levels" of educational exclusion in jun-

gle regions.

It was said that the "most serious" limits for the development of the intercultural bilingual education are the lack of trained teachers and adequate teaching materials.

The programme, led by the education ministries of the countries involved, is due to start in the second half of 2005 and will last for four years.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi PM denies terrorist threat from Turkey

ANKARA, 22 May — Visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said here on Friday that his country faced no terrorist threat from neighbouring Turkey.

Jaafari's remarks is contrary to the claims of the Iraqi Foreign Minister Hosiar Zebari who had previously stated that terrorist threats came from all of Iraq's neighbours, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Jaafari called on Iraq's neighbouring countries on Thursday to prevent foreign militants from crossing the border into Iraq.

The report quoted diplomatic officials as saying that Jaafari's visit to Turkey with six ministers, his first foreign trip since taking office early this month, shows the importance Jaafari attaches to Turkey.

Among the subjects discussed with Jaafari was the training of Iraqi security forces by Turkish police and military.

It is reported that Turkish authorities sent Jaafari a list of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) militants active in Iraq and reminded Turkey's concerns to Jaafari. — MNA/Xinhua

Finland accuses Russia of violating airspace

HELSINKI, 22 May — Finland on Friday accused Russia of repeatedly violating the Finnish airspace in recent months, while Russia denied the accusation.

Finnish President Tarja Halonen said the violation was a serious issue and hoped for a thorough investigation, local media reported.

Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen will raise the issue on his visit to Moscow scheduled for early June, said local daily *Helsingin Sanomat*.

Vanhanen told the Parliament that although Russian planes' infringement was not regarded as a deliberate provocation, "neighbours must be able to clear up these kind of things and get them off the agenda," he was quoted as saying by the *STT* news agency.

Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja said part of the infringement was believed to have been made by mistake, the *STT* reported. But Russia denied Finland' blames.

"Russian Air Force aircraft has not violated the airspace of Finland in the area of the Aland Islands," Alexander Drobyshvsky, the Russian Air Force's top spokesman, was quoted as saying by the *Interfax* news agency.

The Russian Defence Ministry also denied the allegations, saying Russia can provide Finland with documents on related movement of the aircraft if the Finnish side requests.

Militarily non-aligned Finland shares a border of about 1,300 kilometres with Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

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MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: ntpo@optinet.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box: 658
Yangon 23 May 2005

Colombian drug-dealer beaten to death in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 21 May—At least 12 people were found killed in a wave of violence across Mexico after police found Colombian drug-dealer Omar Gallego had been beaten to death here. The Federal District Attorney General's office said the authorities found Thursday evening the body of Gallego, 45, inside a Mercedes Benz van abandoned in a street south of this capital. With this death, the number of killed individuals related to organized crime in different parts of the country rose to 12.

Forensic experts said the luxury van in which Gallego was found dead had been parked for hours in the San Pedro de los Pinos neighbourhood, south of the city.

Gallego had been imprisoned for drug-trafficking in 1989 in this country.

The officials said "the cause of the assassination" is still under investigation.

Also on Thursday, the bodies of three women and two men killed by bullet and showing signs of torture were found in the northwest Sinaloa State. Local police said the deaths were results of a vendetta among drugpushers.
MNA/Xinhua

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(ခ) Newsprint Paper (48.8 GSM) ၁၇၅၀ တန် (28 " , 30")
(ဂ) WoodfreePaper(30") (80 GSM) ၅၀ တန်
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အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
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၁. Web Offset Ink
(a) Black 12000 Kg
(b) Yellow 1500 Kg
(c) Magenta 1000 Kg
(d) Cyan 793 Kg
၂. Shectfed Offset Ink (Process)
(a) Black 800 Kg
(b) Yellow 400 Kg
(c) Magenta 200 Kg
(d) Cyan 200 Kg
၃. Positive Plates & Chemicals
(a) 740x615x0.30 mm 300 Shts
(b) 635x745x0.24 mm 1000 Shts
(c) 1065x785x0.30 mm 150 Shts
(d) Positive Developer for above Plates
၄. Negative Plates & Chemicals
(a) 915x626x0.3 mm 1500 Shts
(b) 1035x740x0.3 mm 1000 Shts
(c) 650x550x0.3 mm 150 Shts
(d) 889x609x0.3 mm 500 Shts
(e) Negative Developer for above Plates
၅. Films & Chemicals
(a) OrthoFilms With Fixer Developer 22"x32"(50)Shts Packet 50 Pkt
(b) Image Setter Films With Fixer and Developer 30 Rolls
၆. Stitchin Wire (2 K2 Coil)
(a) 32 gauge 1500 Coils
(b) 24 gauge 300 Coils
(ခ) သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
၁. Web Offset Ink (Black) 45000 Kg
၂. Shectfed Offset Ink (Black) 1600 Kg
၃. Agfa Film (24" x 200") 45 Rolls
၄. Agfa Film (22" x 32") 90 Boxes
၅. P. S. Plate (889x586) 2600 Shts
၆. Wipe On Aluminium Plate (745x635) 240 Shts
၇. P. S. Developer 100 Litre
၈. Hlithodol 60 Boxes
၉. Coating(A+B) Set 160 Sets
၁၀. Developing Lacquer 160 Boxes
၁၁. A3 Toner 63 Boxes
၁၂. Gestetner Ink Tube 500 Boxes
၁၃. Rubber Blanket
(a) 676x545x1.95 mm 8 Shts
(b) 765x780x1.95 mm 8 Shts
(c) 675x645x1.95 mm 24 Shts
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Colombian Navy seizes one ton of cocaine

BOGOTA, 22 May — The Colombian Navy on Friday seized a ton of cocaine in Pacific coastal city of Tumaco in southwest Colombia, said an official. The drugs were hidden in two ships at a secret port on the outskirts of Tumaco, where the right-wing United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) operates, he added. He also said the government forces exchanged fires with the AUC paramilitaries at the scene, but he failed to mention if there were any casualties or detentions. The authorities seized 15 tons of cocaine in the same area a week ago, the biggest-ever seizure of drugs in Colombia. The authorities have seized 50 tons of cocaine this year. — MNA/Xinhua

မြည်တွင်း/မြိုင်ကို အားပေးပါ

Georgia, Russia to reach agreement on military bases

TBILISI, 21 May—Georgia and Russia are expected to reach an agreement on the deadline of Russian military bases' withdrawal from the country next week, Parliament Speaker Nino Burdzhnadzze said Friday.

The two former Soviet states will hold talks on the issue next Monday, Burdzhnadzze said at a Parliament meeting. He also said Russia's latest proposal "is more constructive" than ever before, so they will have a chance to strike a deal at the negotiation table. Burdzhnadzze's remarks came one day after Yuri Baluyevsky, Chief of General Staff of the

Russian Army, said the bases will be certainly withdrawn to Russian territory, yet some of the military equipment and property will be moved to neighbouring Armenia. The move "will help us to reduce the withdrawal period to four years," Baluyevsky said. Russia still has two military bases in Georgia after closing another two under an agreement

reached in 1999. Moscow has insisted it needs four years to complete the withdrawal while Tbilisi says it must be finished before January 2008.

Since the two sides had failed to reach any agreements before May 15, Georgia declared the Russian bases "in the state of demolition" as of May 16, which triggered a tough reaction from Moscow. —MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese worker working at a textile factory in Haikou on 20 May, 2005. —INTERNET

CPC official meets Peruvian popular action party delegation

BEIJING, 21 May—A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here Friday that China regards strengthening relations with Peru and other developing countries as an important basis for its foreign policy.

Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark during a meeting with a delegation from the Popular Action Party of Peru, which is headed by its leader Valentin Paniagua.

Li said China and Peru announced the establishment of an "all-round cooperative partnership" in early 2005. This signified that the relations between the two countries have entered a new stage of development.

Li said China is ready to join efforts with Peru to further deepen friendly cooperation in various areas and continuously add new impetus to Sino-Peruvian all-round cooperative partnership.

Li thanked Peru for supporting China on such issues as Taiwan, Tibet and human rights.

On the relationship between CPC and the Popular Action Party of Peru, Li said that the CPC is ready to strengthen friendly communications with the Popular Action Party and other political parties

in Peru. This will jointly push forward the extensive growth of the all-round cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Paniagua said both Peru and China are civilized countries with a long history. The people of both countries have reinforced and strengthened their traditional friendship during the past few years.

Paniagua said that friendly communications between the Popular Action Party of Peru and the CPC of China have already become a crucial factor to promote bilateral relations.

Noting that Peru is glad to see the huge achievements that China made in its reform and opening to the outside world, Paniagua wishes the Chinese people even greater achievements in the process of building their bright future and realizing the reunification of the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

East African labour ministers unveil plan to create jobs

NAIROBI, 21 May — East African ministers responsible for labour and employment have adopted an action programme to promote employment and poverty alleviation in the region, local officials disclosed on Thursday.

A statement from the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat said ministers — Juma Kapuya of Tanzania, Newton Kulundu of Kenya, Zoe Bakoko of Uganda and also Samia Suluhu of Zanzibar — also agreed to take measures to strengthen labour administration.

The ministers adopted the action programme at the end of the three-day EAC sub-regional ministerial conference on employment and poverty alleviation held in Zanzibar on May 16-18.

“The conference resolved to review the existing national poverty reduction strategy programmes with a view to include and prioritize employment issues and provide the necessary resources for the implementation of the policies within the budgets of the partner states,” said the statement.

According to the statement, the four ministers agreed to take measures

to harmonize the mandates of the ministries responsible for labour in the region in order to make them more effective in performing their role in employment and poverty alleviation.

“They resolved to intensify cooperation at the EAC regional level towards the achievement of the goals of full employment and poverty alleviation by harmonizing their employment policies, labour legislations and investment codes,” the statement said. Speaking during the meeting, EAC Secretary-General Amanywa Mushega urged the EAC states to make employment creation and poverty alleviation a major priority in the region.

Mushega said the EAC partner states should adopt effective policies and strategies and pursue common projects and programmes to attract investments and enhance employment in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

British scientists clone human embryo

LONDON, 21 May — British scientists have created a cloned human embryo for the first time, placing the country in the vanguard of a technology with the potential to cure conditions such as Parkinson’s, diabetes and paralysis, The Times reported on Friday.

The Newcastle University team produced three cloned embryos, one of which survived to the blastocyst stage of about 100 cells, at which stem cells can be collected. All these cells are clones of patients with Type 1 diabetes, spinal injuries or an immune system disease.

Genetic testing has confirmed that the cells would be immunologically compatible were they to be transplanted, but it is too early to attempt this safely, the newspaper said.

“We are bringing science a step forward towards the day when some of humankind’s most devastating diseases and injuries can be treated through the use of therapeutic stem cell,” the paper quoted professor Hwang, member of the team, as saying.

The development came as the South Korean researchers who pioneered human cloning last year announced breakthroughs that bring its medical promise

closer to reality.

These advances paved the way for using cloned embryonic stem cells — master cells that can form any tissue in the body — to create spare part tissue for treating disease.

The research has reignited controversy over the ethics of human cloning even for therapeutic purposes.

Critics said that the new research would assist efforts to produce a cloned baby as the methods involved are virtually identical. They also objected to the destruction of embryonic life and said that any form of cloning insults human dignity.

Other critics, however, said it would be immoral not to proceed. “To fail to develop therapies that would save 100,000 people is morally equivalent to killing 100,000 people,” the paper cited Professor Julian Savulescu, of Oxford University, as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

S African minister to visit China on job creation

JOHANNESBURG, 21 May — South African Labour Minister Mdladlana is to leave for China on Friday to discuss employment creation and coordination in international labour organizations.

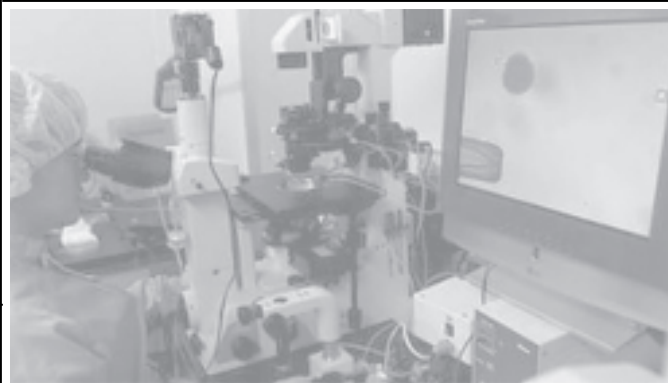
Page Boikanyo, spokesman for the minister said Thursday that Minister Mdladlana is to pay a visit to Beijing “with an intention of strengthening bilateral relations with his Chinese counterpart”.

The visit is taking place within the context of several memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries, which provide for continuous exchange visits at ministerial level as well as visits by senior officials and study tour groups in specialized fields.— MNA/Xinhua

UN appeals to combat food crisis in Niger

GENEVA, 21 May — The United Nations issued a flash appeal for Niger on Friday, asking for 16.19 million US dollars to combat the severe food crisis threatening the African country.

Immediate needs include food aid for some 3.6 million people in 3,815 villages, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement.— MNA/Xinhua



South Korean scientists who cloned the first human embryo to use for research said on 19 May, 2005. They have used the same technology to create batches of embryonic stem cells from nine patients.—INTERNET

Wen calls for overseas Chinese to promote peaceful reunification

BEIJING, 21 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called for overseas Chinese to promote China’s peaceful reunification here Friday when meeting with representatives attending the third fraternity conference of organizations of overseas Chinese.

“To realize the reunification and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation,” said Premier Wen, “is the shared aspiration and historical responsibility of Chinese people both at home and overseas”.

“Overseas Chinese have played a unique and important role in China’s reunification and modernization drives,” he added. The Chinese Premier also asked overseas Chinese to obey by the laws of their resident countries and to make their utmost efforts to promote China’s modernization drive, as well as to promote cultural exchanges all over the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese companies “make sacrifice” for world textile trade

BEIJING, 21 May — Chinese companies have to make sacrifice for the establishment of a new world textile trade order, the China Textile Industry Council said on Friday, following a government decision to raise drastically the export tariffs on some export textile products.

Sun Huaibin, spokesman for the Council, told Xinhua that the Council could understand the decision of the government though Chinese companies have to “make sacrifice” for it.

“China’s is a responsible country, and it is for the purpose of helping establish a new world textile trade order and ease the trade friction that the government made the concession,” Sun said.

“But our companies would have to make sacrifice for such a new trade order,” said Sun.

The Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, China’s Cabinet, announced it would raise the export tariffs on 74 sorts of textile products, with a 400-

per-cent hike for most of the products, beginning 1 June, 2005.

The tariffs on these products were imposed from 1 January this year.

Sun noted that the tariff hike would surely result in an increase of cost and decrease of profits for domestic companies. Some companies might sustain losses and textile workers might lose their jobs.

“This is what we don’t want to see,” said Sun.

According to the spokesman, the textile industry has a bearing on the life of tens of millions of low-income workers, and in Chinese factories, the average profit of a shirt is only 30-40 US cents. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korea to send 200,000 tons of fertilizer to N Korea

SEOUL, 21 May — South Korea plans to complete the shipment of fertilizer aid to North Korea by mid-June in consideration of the imminent rice-planting season, South Korean officials said Thursday.

In the just-ended working-level talks, South Korea pledged to give 200,000 tons of fertilizer aid to North Korea, as part of its implementation of an agreement with the latter Thursday, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported.

Chances are high that Seoul will provide additional fertilizer aid as the two sides agreed to con-

tinue to discuss the issue at the ministerial talks to be held in Seoul on June 21-24, the report said.

The (South) Korean National Red Cross will be responsible for purchasing and transporting the fertilizer. The first shipment will be made via an inter-Korean road along the west coast Saturday, and thereafter by road and sea routes simultaneously, the officials said. South Korea sent 155,000 tons of fertilizer in humanitarian aid to North Korea for the first time in 1999, and 200,000-300,000 tons annually in the following years, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Schalke, Bremen clinch Champions League places

BERLIN, 22 May — Schalke 04 and Werder Bremen clinched the two remaining Champions League places on the final day of the Bundesliga season on Saturday thanks to Bayern Munich's ninth successive victory over VfB Stuttgart.

Schalke secured the runners-up spot, 14 points behind Bayern, with a 3-2 win away to bottom club Freiburg. An Ebbe Sand strike and two Marcelo Bordon headers saw the Gelsenkirchen side home.

Stuttgart needed a home win over Bayern to be sure of keeping hold of third place but was overpowered by the champion, who closed out the season with a 3-1 win through goals from Michael Ballack, Hasan Salihamidzic and Roy Makaay.

Stuttgart's defeat opened the door for Hertha Berlin to take third place but the club from the capital missed out as it was held to a goalless draw at home to Hanover 96.

Werder Bremen, last season's double winners, duly took advantage with a 2-1 win away to Kaiserslautern.

Schalke, who finished with 63 points, gain direct entry to the Champions League, while Bremen, in third with 59, go into the final qualifying round.

Hertha finished fourth on 58, ahead of Stuttgart on goal difference, while Bayer Leverkusen took the third and final UEFA Cup qualification place with

a 5-1 win at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Schalke was far from convincing against Freiburg but got the win it needed thanks to Bordon's two classy headers in the second half.

Sand had put them ahead with a close-range finish early on, only for Aleksandr Iashvili to score on the rebound and draw level in the 11th minute.

Bordon, one of the outstanding defenders in the Bundesliga this season, put Schalke back in front in the 55th minute when he nodded in from a free kick and the Brazilian clinched victory with another header a minute from time after Roda Antar had equalized.

Bayern proved far too strong for Stuttgart. Ballack got a faint touch on a Sebastian Deisler free-kick for the opener in the 27th minute and Salihamidzic headed in the second three minutes later.

Makaay took his goals total for the season to 22 with the third in the 71st minute and Imre Szabics struck a late goal that was no consolation at all for Stuttgart. —MNA/Xinhua

Arsenal beat unlucky United to win FA Cup final

CARDIFF, 22 May — Arsenal won the FA Cup final 5-4 on penalties Saturday when they rode their luck to survive ferocious attacks by Manchester United.

Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira coolly converted the final spot-kick in front of the United fans after his teammate Jens Lehmann had saved a Paul Scholes penalty. But the Gunners, who finished the match with 10 men after Jose Antonio Reyes was sent off in extra time, were not the deserved victors of a game in which their arch-rivals made all the best chances and enjoyed no luck.

Inspired by teenage forward Wayne Rooney and winger Cristiano Ronaldo, United dominated throughout and Arsenal failed to create a single clearcut scoring chance.

"I think in the second half Manchester United played very well, and we had to drop deep and keep it tight. As long as nobody scored we were okay," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. "I'm very proud, we had to dig deep today, and we were a bit lucky, it's hard for the team that loses like that because it was a very intense game."

Arsenal's victory completed a disappointing season for United, for whom the build-up was overshadowed by the takeover of the club by American businessman Malcolm Glazer last week.

United manager Alex Ferguson, whose side finished third in the Premier League behind Chelsea and Arsenal, blamed his players' wayward finishing. "We are disappointed, we've missed chances all season, our goalscoring has let us down and we've only got ourselves to blame in a way,"



Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp carries the FA Cup after Arsenal defeated Manchester United in the FA Cup Final football match at the Millennium Dome in Cardiff, Wales. The teams tied 0-0 with Arsenal winning 5-4 on penalties. —INTERNET

he said. United had a Rio Ferdinand effort disallowed in the first half, Rooney hit the post and Ruud van Nistelrooy was denied by the crossbar in the dying minutes.

Ferguson's side also had two penalty appeals waved away in extra time, which ended moments after Arsenal's Spanish forward Reyes became the second player to be sent off in an FA Cup final.

MNA/Xinhua

Luxemburgo discontent with Lukewarm Madrid Derby

MARID, 22 May — Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo said their 0-0 home draw with Atletico Madrid lacked rhythm and intensity, looking like a friendly.

"The two teams thought it as a classical match, as nearly all is said in this tournament, but it was a boring match. Real needs motivation for the final game of the season against Zaragoza. Today it seemed as if we were playing a friendly match," Luxemburgo said after Saturday's game.

"I am disappointed at the result, for I think people would have been happy with a victory against Atletico," he added.

Ronaldo, who is seeking to become the Primera Liga top scorer, was replaced with 15 minutes to go.

"I am the Real Madrid coach and I am not interested in those things. I seek the best for the team," said Luxemburgo, explaining the substitution.

Atletico coach Cesar Ferrando said his team could have won in the second half. —MNA/Xinhua

Everton agrees with Tottenham for Davies move

LONDON, 22 May — Everton has agreed with Tottenham Hotspur over the transfer of Wales winger Simon Davies in a deal worth up to four million pounds (7.36 million US dollars).

"Simon has given this club great service but he was ready for a new challenge and we wish him all the best," Tottenham's sporting director Frank Arnesen told the club's official website on Friday.

The deal is subject to Davies, who has scored 24 goals in 154 appearances, agreeing personal terms. —MNA/Xinhua

Clijsters enters French open despite knee problem

PARIS, 22 May — Former world number one Kim Clijsters, a doubtful starter for the French Open because of a knee injury, said on Saturday she would definitely play in the Grand Slam tournament starting on Monday.

The Belgian, a runner-up at Roland Garros in 2001 and 2003, strained ligaments in her right knee in a warm-up event and had feared she might have to miss the highlight of the claycourt season for the second successive year.

"I'll try to play a good match in the first round," said the 21-year-old, who is seeded 14th and will

meet a qualifier in the opening round.

Her knee was taped for her practice session with France's Tatiana Golovin on Saturday.

"The last couple of days I've been building up my practice sessions," she said. "Today was the first time I actually played

some points. I was still a little shaky.

"I have to be careful and look after my body really well. Then, hopefully, I can build up my game and try to feel comfortable.

"It's a challenge but I'm going to go for it."

MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	S	T	O	R	M	Y	2	P	E	T	R	O	L
4	R	E	E	E	R	R	5	O					
7		N	E	F	A	R	I	O	U	S		V	
10	I	D	O	L	R		S		E	A	S	E	
13	A	S		F	L	O	O	D		C		L	
16	L	A	T	E	L	Y		N	E	A	R	L	Y
19		A		E				B		I			
22	C	A	L	L	E	R		R	A	I	S	E	D
25	O	G		T	E	N	O	R		T			E
28	S	L	I	P		N		T		L	A	M	P
31	T		A	U	T	O	M	A	T	O	N		A
34	R	E	M		W			T		O			R
37	R	E	T	A	I	N		E	X	T	E	N	T

Liverpool to play J-League clubs on summer tour

TOKYO, 22 May — English Premier League side Liverpool will take on J-League clubs Shimizu S-Pulse and Kashima Antlers on a pre-season tour of Japan this summer, organizers said here on Saturday.

Liverpool, who faces Italian powerhouse AC Milan in the final of the European Champions League in Istanbul next week, will play Shimizu at Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa on July 27 before facing Kashima at Kashima Stadium three days later.

Liverpool is among a number of top European clubs, including Premier League rival Manchester United, Spanish champion Barcelona and Italian giant Juventus touring Japan this summer.

MNA/Xinhua

Injured Joachim Johansson withdraws from French open

STOCKHOLM, 22 May — Sweden's highest ranked player Joachim Johansson has pulled out of next week's French Open because of an elbow injury, the Swedish news agency TT reported on Saturday.

The hard-serving, 22-year-old Johansson announced his decision at the World Team Cup in Dusseldorf where he has played for Sweden alongside Thomas Johansson.

Johansson was briefly in the top 10 earlier this year, winning titles in Adelaide and Marseille, and is currently ranked 12th.

His withdrawal means his compatriot Robin Soderling becomes the 33rd seed at Roland Garros.

Soderling was originally due to play world number one Roger Federer in the opening round but as a seed will instead face Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

Federer will face a qualifier or a lucky loser.

MNA/Xinhua

မိုးဦးကျွန်းနှင့် မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများအတွက် နှိုးဆော်ချက်

- မိုးဦးကျွန်းတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သော ရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားနေပါသည်။
(က) ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောင့်နှင့် ကာလဝမ်းရောဂါများ အပါအဝင် ဝမ်းနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် ရောဂါများ၊ အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါနှင့် သံကောင်း တွပ်ကောင်းရောဂါများ
(ခ) သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးနှင့် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါ
(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာခမ်းရောင်ဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အဆေးမိရောဂါ
(ဃ) မိုးဦးကျွန်းပြည်တွင်းရှိ လွိုင်လှိုင်ပေါလှသည့် အချို့စာတံ ဝါသော သရက်သီး၊ ပဲနုသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်မောက်သီး၊ မင်းဝှတ်သီး စသည် သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အနံ့၊ အရေ စသည်များကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မခြင် စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်ပေါက်ဖွား၍ ယင်ပေါများခြင်း။
(င) ရာသီဥတုအပြောင်းအလဲကြောင့် အပူရှိန်မြင့်၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
(စ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း။
(ဆ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့် အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့ အကျင့် အားနည်းခြင်း။
အောက်ဖော်ပြပါတို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ် တားဆီးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုက်တွန်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ခ) ယင်နားစားများကို မဆင်မခြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သန့်ရှင်းမှုများနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများ ကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုပြုလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။
(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲကြောင့် အပူရှိန်မြင့် သတိရှိပါ။
(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် မြင်း၊ ယင် နှိမ်နင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်း စုပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု မရပါ။
ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Kalam's visit to boost defence, space cooperation with Russia

Moscow, 22 May — Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's four-day visit to Russia, as part of his foundation tour, from Sunday would be instrumental in boosting bilateral strategic partnership in defence and space, Indian Ambassador Kanwal Sibal said here.

"The President in his earlier capacities has been closely linked with the Russian defence scientists. He is well aware of Russia's scientific and technological potential and during his talks with President Putin would help in boosting bilateral strategic partnership in defence and space," Sibal said briefing the Indian media ahead of the President's state visit to Russia.

The President will also visit Switzerland, Iceland and Ukraine.

During Kalam's Moscow talks, ideas about new Indo-Russian joint ventures in defence like the "highly successful" Brahmos cruise missile project, launched under the guidance of Kalam himself when he was the Prime Minister's Defence Adviser, would be discussed.

"India and Russia are confidently moving away from the buyer-seller relations in defence and through joint R&D, production and marketing projects Russia would remain India's major long-term defence partner," Sibal said.

During his visit, besides holding talks with President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday,

the President is also scheduled to visit NPO Mashinostroyeniye missile design bureau in Reutov Town, which is Brahmos partner in the joint venture, and meet his former Russian colleagues and friends. Kalam has also been closely associated with multi-role Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter project and will visit Sukhoi Aircraft Corporation in Moscow.

This would be the first state visit of an Indian President to the country in the last 17 years.

R. Venkataraman had visited the erstwhile Soviet Union to close a year long festival of India in 1988.

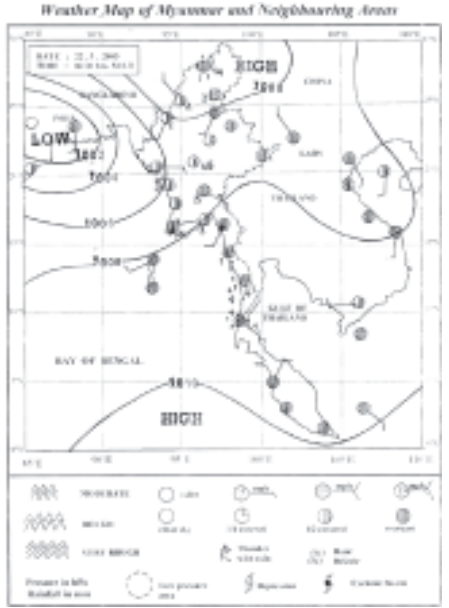
"This is a manifestation of the (high) level of our diplomatic ties and part of the intensification of high level political exchanges besides annual summits," Sibal said.

Kalam's Russia visit would also be the very first by the President of India after the Soviet collapse. The President is arriving in Moscow on Sunday afternoon and would meet with the local Indian community the same evening at a reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador. — MNA/PTI

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake intensity (5.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (850) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (05) hrs (33) min (50) sec MST on 22nd May 2005.



WEATHER

Sunday, 22 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, scattered in Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan, Rakhine States, Magway Division with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division nad weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (1.85) inches and Meiktila (1.77) inches. Day temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Magway and Bago Divisions, (10°C) above normal in Ayeayawady Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu and Magway (42°C) each. Maximum temperature on 21-5-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 22-5-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-5-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 21-5-2005 was (9.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-5-2005 were (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (4.57 inches) at Yangon Airport, (4.96 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (3.11 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (20:05) hours MST on 21-5-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is feeble in the South Andaman Sea and South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy in the North Andaman Sea and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 23-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Mon, Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Thunder conditions in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

Asleep in Jesus Noel Simons @ U Zaw Win Age (51) years

Noel Simons (a) U Zaw Win son of Reggie and Minnie Simons, beloved husband of Ohmmar Htun, beloved father of Tony and Faye, Brother of Reggie-Judy, Wendy-Chubby, Edith-James, Law Law-Victor, Betty-Bernie, Margaret, Jennifer-Aung Maw and Carol-Winston. Uncle of Jackie-Ko Pauk, James Jr, John-John-Trish, Candy, Desmond, Larron, Deanna-Gabriel, Debbie-Anthony, Cheryl Jean, Cheryl Anne, Pyhu Chaw-Chris and Hilary passed away peacefully on 22nd May 2005 at 182 Shwe Bontha Rd, Pabedan Township Yangon.

Funeral service will be held on 24th May at 9:00am at St John's Cantonment Church on Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road and thence to Yay Way Cemetery.



Monday, 23 May View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးတင်မင်္ဂလာနှင့်အရာတော်တရာကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာတော်များက အသံဇောတော်ပူရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ အဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတီက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ မဗ္ဗဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရမဗ္ဗဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂဗျူဟာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂဗျူဟာ
7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 4. Morning news
7:40 am 5. Nice and Sweet song

- 7:50 am 6. Song of national races
8:00 am 7. Cute little dancers
8:10 am 8. အဆိုပိုင်ခွင့်
8:20 am 9. ဓားငါးကတော့ရေလှေလှေတစ်စင်း
8:30 am 10. International news
8:45 am 11. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အစားအသုံးတရားနှင့်အညီအညွတ် ဝတ်စုံအင်္ကျီ (ရတနာအလှူ) (ရတနာ)
5:15 pm 6. Dance Variety
5:30 pm 7. မြန်မာ့ဂီတ တေးဂီတအလှူတော်
5:40 pm 8. မြန်မာ့စာ၊ မြန်မာ့စာ
5:50 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
6:05 pm 10. Discovery
6:10 pm 11. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခု၏ အသံ (အဆိုပိုင်-ဗျူဟာ)
6:30 pm 12. Evening news
7:00 pm 13. Weather report
7:05 pm 14. Musical programme
7:20 pm 15. Industrial Achievement
7:35 pm 16. Musical programme
8:00 pm 17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခု၏ အသံ (အဆိုပိုင်-ဗျူဟာ)
21. The next day's programme



Monday, 23 May Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Tell him
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Gottatell you
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music: In 100 year
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: Here we're at last
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-If we are only friends
-Send me the pillow that you dream on
-Look for a star
9:10 pm Article
9:35 pm Willow
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Fullmoon Day of Kason (Buddha Day) observed by pouring water to Bo trees

YANGON, 22 May — Today is Fullmoon of Kason (Buddha Day), one of the significant days of Buddhists. On that day, Buddhists performed meritorious deeds, especially going to the precincts of pagodas to pour water to the Bo trees.

At Shwedagon Pagoda, the Buddha Day was held this morning. Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees and members of the pagoda board of trustees poured water to the Buddha Image and the Bo tree.

On the occasion, the congregation paid homage to the Buddha image. Next, a layman recited religious Gathas. After reciting religious verses, members of the religious associations watered the Bo tree.

The precinct and platform of the pagoda were crowded with devotees and pilgrims from morning to evening.

Similarly, the ceremony to pour water to a Bo tree took place at the precinct of Maha Wizaya Pagoda on Dhamma Rekkhita Hill, here.

At Sule Pagoda, the Buddha Day on fullmoon day of Kason was observed this morning.

(See page 8)



Members of the Sangha, devotees and pilgrims pour water to a Bo tree at Botahtaung Kyaikdae-up HsandawU Pagoda.— NLN

Minister inspects jute and kenaf plantations

YANGON, 22 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected plantations of jute and kenaf near Yenangyaung village, Wataw

village-tract, Maubin township, Ayeyawady Division today and met with farmers.

After hearing a report by the Maubin Zone

Myanma Jute Enterprise, the minister instructed officials to give technological assistance to farmers for the extension of jute and kenaf plantations.

Farmers reported on production of 200 to 300 viss of jute per acre. The minister viewed thriving plantations of jute and kenaf and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The minister discussed with the local farmers for production of new quality paddy species and purchase of tractors for farm use.

Later, Maubin District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Sein Maung, Myanma Jute Enterprise Managing Director U Ye Phone Myint and Myanma Agriculture Service Managing Director U Ohn Than reported on arrangements for departmental assistance. —MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects kenaf plantations in Maubin Township.— AGRI & IRR

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(22-5-2005)

Bago	1.85 inches
Meiktila	1.77 inches

Agreement signed for implementation of Taungtha Knitting Factory Project

YANGON, 22 May — Myanma Textile Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 and China Worldbest Group Co Ltd (China) signed an agreement on implementation of Taungtha Knitting Factory Project at the Traders Hotel yesterday evening.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general and managing directors, Com-

mercial Attache of the Chinese Embassy Mr Tang Hai, CEO Mr Cheng Zhenghao, Representative of President Mr Jiang Chengxun and General Manager Mr Hu Wanshun of China Worldbest Group Co Ltd, officials and guests.

First, Myanma Textile Industries Managing Director U Oo Thien Maung and the Chinese CEO signed the agreement and exchanged the documents.

Next, the managing director explained facts about the project. The minister and party viewed samples of vest, T-shirt and sport shirt.

The knitting factory project is being undertaken on the 61.19 acres of land in Myauk village in Taungtha township, Mandalay Division. On completion of the project, the factory will produce 1.980 million of vests, T-shirts and sport shirts per year. — MNA



Myanma Textile Industries Managing Director U Oo Thien Maung and CEO Mr Cheng Zhenghao of China Worldbest Group Co Ltd exchange notes.— INDUSTRY-1