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Thursday, 26 May, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

USDA basic organizer course concludes

YANGON, 25 May —Pabedan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded its basic organizer course (9/10) this afternoon at Basic Education High School-1, with an address by USDA Secretariat member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Also present were executive of Yangon Division USDA U Min Thein, secretaries of Yangon West District and Township USDAs, and members of 11 Ward USDAs and trainees.



Secretariat member U Aung Thaung delivers an address at the Basic Organizer Course (9/10) of Pabedan Township USDA. — MNA

The minister presented gifts to outstanding trainees. Secretary of Pabedan Township USDA U Aung Naing presented certificates to the trainees. Joint-Secretary U Myint Khaing also presented cash donation to Headmistress Daw Tint Tint Hlaing of the school. MNA

Alternate Chairmen of National Convention Plenary Session meet

YANGON, 25 May — The Alternate Chairmen of the National Convention Plenary Session held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the National Convention Convening Work Committee in Kyaikkasan Grounds this morning.

Member of the alternate chairmen of the NC

Plenary Session U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) presided over the session. It was attended by Members of the Alternate Chairmen of the NC Plenary Session U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam, U Law Hsin Kwam, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yai, U Kyi Tint, U Bo Thein, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) and Dr Myat Myat

Ohn Khin.

At the session, they discussed compilation of Chairmen's study concerning 8 delegates groups' proposal related to the sharing of the executive and judicial powers submitted to the National Convention held from 17 February to 31 March, 2005.

MNA



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

U Nyunt Maung Shein presents credentials to D-G of UN in Geneva

YANGON, 26 May — U Nyunt Maung Shein, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Geneva, presented his Credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations Mr Sergei A Ordzhonikidze at Geneva on 9 May 2005. — MNA

INSIDE

The strength of local donors can be boosted, and their strength will help cement national unity and foster Union Spirit. I wish others in the whole nation follow the example of the donation ceremony held in Asin village in Mon State.

U MAUNG MAUNG SOE TINT
(Page 7) (RETIRED AMBASSADOR)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 May, 2005

Root out the danger of narcotic drugs once and for all

Narcotic drugs pose a grave threat not just to the people of the Union of Myanmar but to the entire mankind. Therefore, the government of the Union of Myanmar is fighting the menace of narcotic drugs as a national duty through various ways and means.

The Union of Myanmar is fighting the danger of narcotic drugs by forming the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and by developing two strategies and three tactics. The government has been implementing the 15-year plan composed of three 5-year plans since 1999. At the same time, cultivation of opium-substitute crops and development work for border areas and national races are being carried out.

Members of the Tatmadaw took part in phase 1 to 12 of Operation Moe Hein, phase 1 to 8 of Ngayepan Operation, phase 1 to 4 of Operation Taungyanshin and Operation Taunghteikpan, and fought against the danger of narcotic drugs, risking their lives and limbs.

In reality, the danger of narcotic drugs is the evil legacy of colonialists. The Union of Myanmar is staging an all-out fight against it, enlisting its own national forces and cooperating with neighbours and other nations in the region. The danger of narcotic drugs is the problem facing most of the countries in the world and this calls for cooperation among nations.

The preliminary meeting of the Second ASEAN-China Drug Elimination Conference and the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Drug Abuse Control Cooperation were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 19 May, and it was attended by a Myanmar delegation. At the meeting, cooperative measures on the sub-regional action plan for the region to become a drug-free zone, technical assistance of UNODC, financial assistance of donor nations and cooperation between six MoU-nations were discussed. Myanmar, China and Thailand are working together for higher living standard of national races in the border areas and for regional development.

Myanmar is making great strides in her efforts for cultivation of opium-substitute crops. Poppy cultivation dropped by 34 per cent in 2004 if compared with that in 2003.

The 2005 US Report on Narcotic Drugs showed that production of opium in Myanmar has dropped to 292 tons, down from 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 percent drop.

We are convinced that the government of the Union of Myanmar will go all out to win the battle over the danger of narcotic drugs in cooperation with the entire national people and with her neighbours and other nations in the region.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်မေလ အတွက် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) (၂၉-၅-၂၀၀၅)ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လအတွက်

(၁၂-၆-၂၀၀၅)ရက်နေ့ နှင့်

(၂၆-၆-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

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

*Minister for Sports
Brig-Gen Thura Aye
Myint presents prize
of honour to President
of Myanmar
Hockey Federation
Brig-Gen Myo Myint
at 15th anniversary
of the federation at
Traders Hotel on
24-5-2005 evening.*

NLM



Pakistani delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 25 May — Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department, Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry and officials saw off the Pakistani good-

will delegation led by Lt-Gen (Retd) Mr Javed Hassan, Principal of Pakistan Administrative Staff College, at Yangon International Airport, this afternoon.

This morning, the delegation members visited Shwedagon Pagoda. Lt-Gen (Retd) Mr Javed Hassan and party signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda.

MNA



Pakistani goodwill delegation led by Principal Lt-Gen (Retd) Mr Javed Hassan of Pakistan Administrative Staff College being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Reminder to offshore and coastal trawlers

YANGON, 25 May — With a view to taking preventive measures against the depletion of fish and prawn resources in the Myanmar fishing zone, the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has issued reminders to offshore and coastal trawlers to avoid fishing from 1 June to 31 August when fish and prawn reproduce themselves.

The trawlers are not allowed to carry out fishing in A-20 block in Rakhine fishing area, B-15, B-20, C-3 and C-4 blocks in Ayeyawady fishing area, D-23, D-28, E-11 and E-17 blocks in Mon and Taninthayi fishing areas. —MNA

12 girls — human-trafficking victims — handed over to families in Tachilek

YANGON, 25 May — Shan State (East) Organization for Women's Affairs held a ceremony to hand over 12 girls — human-trafficking victims — to their families, at the meeting hall of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Tachilek on 19 May morning.

Leader of the nurturing and resettlement subgroup Daw Kyi Kyi Mya of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation spoke on the occasion. Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye explained the purpose of handing over the girls to

their families.

Chairperson of Shan State (East) OWA Daw Aye Aye Than, Daw Ei Kalya Moe of UNIAP and Daw Marlar San of World Vision gave words of encouragement to the girls.

On behalf of 12 girls, Nang Kyan expressed gratitude. On behalf of the parents of the girls, U Sai Kyaw, father of Nang Kyan, and U Sai Kyan, father of Nang Taung, thanked MWAF, local authorities and social organizations for their efforts to hand over 12 girls to the families.

MNA

MWJA CEC meeting held

YANGON, 25 May — The Central Executive Committee's meeting 5/2005 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association took place at Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) who presided over the meeting made a speech. Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) submitted reports on implementation of the previous meeting's resolutions.

Next, group leaders briefed the participants on their sectors.

At 3.30 pm, the meeting ended with remarks by the meeting chairman.

Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung) and officials.

MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was
20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

Wu Yi calls for united efforts for Asian boom

TOKYO, 24 May — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Monday called on Asian nations to take on responsibility for achieving development and prosperity in the region by bringing forward targets and priorities.

It is the historic time for Asia to attain peace and development, despite numerous challenges ahead, Wu Yi said at a lecture sponsored by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc.

All Asian nations are obliged to take responsibilities for building an Asia enjoying peace, stability, development, prosperity and harmony, she said, adding that it is necessary in the way toward an Asia community to establish principles and goals bearing characteristics of this region, besides drawing lessons from outer areas.

To that end, Wu brought forward five proposals: first, building up the Asia awareness and reinforcing cooperation. Only by joining the regional economic integration process, can individual nations attain progress, can they see the regional prosperity and revitalization come true and the

vigor remain perpetual.

Second, boosting political mutual trust and taking consideration of concerns of each other. Asian countries should live in harmony on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. They are supposed to solve the historic issues and on-going frictions in a proper manner to build a suitable condition and atmosphere for international cooperations. In addition, dialogues and communications in all sectors are required to cement the social foundation for cooperation.

Third, updating security concept to maintain peace and stability, which means replacing the Cold War thinking with fresh security views featuring mutual trust and benefit, equality and cooperation. The countries should settle their disputes through dialogue.

MNA/Xinhua

President says S Korea to enhance competitiveness

SEOUL, 24 May — South Korea is trying to enhance its competitiveness through decentralization and deregulation with the aim to make the government more innovative and reform markets, said South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Tuesday.

Roh made this remarks when he was delivering a welcoming speech to the UN-South Korea hosted "Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government" on Tuesday morning.

"The aim of our government innovation is building an effective, transparent and decentralized government which serves and is with people," Roh introduced.

The South Korean President said, in order to realize above goals, his administration set up the Presidential Committee on Government Innovation & Decentralization in his so-called "Participatory Government".

Roh pointed out his government has focused on establishing a system for government administration to enhance effectiveness and predictability in the management of social conflict and national crisis situa-

tions. "The decentralization initiative has also been yielding real results, not just slogans. A total of 656 functions of the central government has been transferred to the provinces, while the relocation of central government ministries and public agencies to provincial areas is being pushed with strong resolve," he said.

Aside from the government's innovation ef-

forts, South Korea is also seeking a more transparent and fair market system and greater deregulation so foreigners can easily invest in the country, he said.

"We have also made a great leap in building a transparent society devoid of corruption," Roh said. "We no longer have the linkage of corruption between politics and business," he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A car is gutted by fire following a car bomb against an Iraqi police convoy in Baghdad on 25 May 2005. — INTERNET

Nepal to build 2nd int'l airport

KATHMANDU, 24 May — Nepal will build second international airport at Bhairhawa City, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu, within three years, a senior official said here Sunday. "The government started land pooling for the Gautam Buddha International Airport," Buddhi Raj Bajracharya, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, told reporters.

The government will initiate development programme in Lumbini, the birth-place of Lord Buddha, which is only 30 kilometres from Bhairhawa City, Bajracharya noted, adding, "People will find it a different place after one-year construction there".— MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao meets leading officials of Japanese ruling parties

BEIJING, 24 May— Chinese President Hu Jintao met with the secretaries-general of Japan's two ruling parties here on Sunday, calling on the two countries to work for long-term healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

Strengthening dialogue and communication between ruling parties of the two countries has a positive impact on improving and promoting China-Japan relations when the two countries are facing difficulties in their relations, Hu stressed during the meeting with Takebe Tsutomu of the Liberal Democratic Party and Fuyushiba Tetsuzo of the Komei Party.

Hu also serves as general secretary of the Central Community of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

"Both the CPC and the Chinese Government attach great importance to China-Japan relations and sincerely hope that the two countries can coexist peacefully, be friends from generation to generation and conduct mutually-beneficial cooperation for common development," he said.— MNA/Xinhua

Nine US soldiers killed in two days in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 May — A car bomb exploded Tuesday near a Baghdad junior high school for girls, killing six people, and nine American troops were killed in two days of guerilla attacks in and around Baghdad, the military said.

In the last two days, the military announced that 14 American troops have been killed since Sunday. Those reports came as guerillas carried out a string of explosions, suicide attacks and drive-by shootings around the country that also killed 49 Iraqis.

At least 620 people, including 58 US troops, have been killed since 28 April, when Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his new Shiite-dominated government. Washington hopes his government will eventually train police and an army capable of securing Iraq, allowing the withdrawal of coalition troops.

In Tal Afar, where two car bombs Monday killed at least 20 people, there were various reports that militants were in control and that Shiites and Sunnis were fighting in the streets. One police official said the city was experiencing "civil war." Journalists were blocked

from entering the city of 200,000.

Three US soldiers were killed Tuesday in central Baghdad when a car bomb exploded next to their convoy at about 1:30 pm, said military spokesman Sgt David Abrams.

About a half-hour later, a US soldier sitting in the back of a Bradley fighting vehicle at an observation post was shot to death by gunmen in a passing car, Abrams added.

The military also announced that a Marine was killed Monday during an attack on Camp Blue Diamond, an American base in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. The Marine's name was not released.

Four soldiers were killed Monday after they were attacked in Haswa, 30 miles south of Baghdad, the military said. The soldiers were assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force.—Internet.



Map locates Haswa and Baghdad, Iraq, where US soldiers were killed on 24 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Drive safely

S Korean PM meets Chinese senior official on bilateral ties

SEOUL, 24 May—South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hai-chan met with Hua Jianmin, State Councillor and Secretary-General of the State Council of China on Monday afternoon, and the two exchanged views over bilateral relations.

Hua firstly conveyed friendly greetings and good wishes of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Lee, according to a news release issued by the visiting Chinese delegation.

Hua arrived here earlier Monday for a four-day official visit to South Korea. During his stay here, Hua will lead the Chinese delegation to an international conference — “The Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government” on Tuesday.

“The Sino-South Korea ties developed very well, there are much exchanges between senior officials of the two countries, as well as much exchanges and cooperation in various fields,” the

news release quoted Hua as saying during the meeting with Lee.

The Chinese senior official said besides the meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun in Moscow earlier this month, several other visits are to be made by leaders of the two countries later this year. “We believe those high-level exchanges will do good to the development of the Sino-South Korea relations,” said Hua.

Hua also reiterated the stance that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the Sino-South Korea ties and will make effort along with South Korea to make the Sino-South Korea

comprehensive cooperation partner relationship develop healthily and steadily.

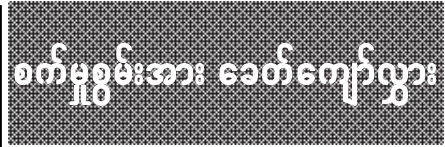
The Chinese senior official stressed that China is willing to “become a good neighbour and a good partner” of neighbouring countries and is trying hard to build an amicable, tranquil and prosperous neighbourhood in the region.

For his part, the South Korean Premier took note that since the establishment of Sino-South Korea diplomatic ties 13 years ago, the bilateral ties between South Korea and China have developed smoothly.

Lee said the continuous high-level visits by leaders of the two countries, the continual development of bilateral exchanges in economy and trade as well as the frequent exchanges of personnel of the two countries all fully embody the Sino-South Korea comprehensive cooperation partnership relationship, said the Press release.

Lee also expressed hope that his official visit to China in coming June will bear good result. Hua and Lee also exchanged views over international and regional issues of mutual concern.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam’s cashew nut export to rise this year

HANOI, 24 May — Vietnam is expected to export 500 million US dollars worth of cashew nuts this year, posting a year-on-year increase of 14.7 per cent.

The anticipated rise is attributed to high export prices of semi-processed cashew nuts, which now stand at 5,100-5,200 US dollars per ton, according to the country’s Ministry of Trade on Monday.

Vietnam, the world’s second biggest cashew exporter after India, is intensifying trade promotion in both traditional and new markets such as China, the United States, Holland, Russia, Australia, Japan and the Middle East.

The country, which exported 105,000 tons of cashew nuts valued at 436 million US dollars last year, shipped abroad 27,000 tons of the product worth 129 million US dollars in the first four months of this year, posting year-on-year increases of 7.2 per cent and 44.3 per cent, respectively.

In 2004, Vietnam had some 277,400 hectares of cashew trees with an output of 204,000 tons, and 80 nut processing plants. — MNA/Xinhua

BBC management asks for talks amid strike

LONDON, 24 May — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) which saw thousands of its staff on a 24-hour strike on Monday has called on unions for talks amid severe disruption of its TV and radio programmes, especially live shows.

BBC said some 38 per cent of the staff due to work on Monday joined the walkout over plans to cut 3,780 jobs in the next three years, whereas unions put the figure at 55 per cent.

The company’s broadcasting union said up to 15,000 of the 27,000- strong work force were taking part. Unions threaten further strikes unless “meaningful negotiations” are offered.

The unions said the job cuts and plans to privatize parts of the corporation were “savage” and would “decimate programmes [and] devalue the BBC”.

Mark Thompson, BBC’s director-general who announced the cuts in March said the staff-trimming was necessary to prepare the corporation for a hi-tech future and invest more in programmes.

He said BBC service offered on Monday was “better than we thought”.

“Clearly we’re sorry that some services have been affected and licence fee payers have received a less good service from the BBC than they would expect,” he said.

“All of our networks are on the air, the disruption has been less than we thought and over 60 per cent of staff have turned up for work as normal.”

A BBC statement added: “The BBC believes the best way forward is for unions to return to the table. We apologize to viewers and listeners for any disruption.”

tion.”

The BBC has offered to “talk” with and “consult” unions about the changes. But unions feel “consultations” give them little say — and are demanding to take part in “proper negotiations”, without which they are planning a 48-hour strike on 31 May.

National Union of Journalists general-secretary Jeremy Dear said: “We’ve dealt a major blow in the fight to save the BBC from Mark

Thompson’s savage cuts.” Thompson has said he would be “happy to sit down and listen to the unions and listen to staff and discuss whether there are ways of mitigating that number (of job cuts)”, but added that he would be “surprised if we could significantly shift that number.”

In his views, the disruptions were a “price worth paying to secure a strong BBC in the long term”.

MNA/Xinhua



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (R) shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi prior to their talks at a hotel in Tokyo on 24 May, 2005.—INTERNET

US-Syria relations deteriorate over Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 May — US relations with Syria are on a downward slide, reduced to “diplomatic contact” in which the Bush administration demands tightened borders to keep guerrillas from spilling into Iraq.

Diplomatic relations have not been officially severed, but the US ambassador, Margaret Scobey, has not been at her post in Damascus since she was recalled for consultations after the assassination of Rafiq Hariri, a former Lebanese prime minister, in Beirut in mid-February.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has steadily stepped up her rhetorical attack, from saying Syria was not doing enough to guard the border with Iraq to accusing it of permitting insurgents to stage their operations from Syria.

Syria’s ambassador to Washington, Imad Moustapha, told The New York Times last week that Syria had halted military and intelligence cooperation

with the United States.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday the two nations continue to have diplomatic relations. But he said he would not describe the relationship as an active one.

“We have diplomatic contact in Damascus, and have some diplomatic contacts in other places,” he said. “You know, here and there, we see them, but I think the important thing is Syrian behaviour.”

On that front, Boucher said it was not clear whether Syria had withdrawn all its intelligence units from Lebanon while pulling out its troops. All were ordered out by the UN Security Council.

Internet



A boy stands next to his older brother laying in a hospital bed at the Yarmuk hospital in Baghdad, following a car bomb in Mahmudiyah, on 24 May, 2005.—INTERNET

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Int'l forum on better governance kicks off in Seoul

SEOUL, 24 May— The Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, hosted by the United Nations and South Korea, kicked off its four-day meeting Tuesday here with participation of more than 5,000 delegates from 140 countries.

The opening ceremony of this year's forum with the theme, "Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance", was held at Convention Hall at COEX (Convention and Exhibition) Centre in southern Seoul on Tuesday morning.

Attending the ceremony were distinguished guests including South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmonov, South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Roh Moo-hyun and UN Under Secretary-General Jose Antonio Guterres made welcoming address and congratulatory address, respectively, at the ceremony.

Lula, Thaksin and other 5 state leaders, UN and OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) made keynote speeches at the ceremony.

Meanwhile, renowned scholars and officials from well-known international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme,

World Bank and Transparency International are present at the ceremony.

Top-level participants will hold in-depth discussions on sub-themes at five plenary sessions of the first two days of the meeting.

There will be nine lower-level workshop sessions for more detailed talks on ideas presented at the plenary sessions on the third and last day of the meeting, according to the schedule of the conference.

Sub-themes include government innovation and governance, democratic governance and social integration, market economy and corporate governance and local governance and participatory democracy.

Hua Jianmin, State Councillor and Secretary-General of the State Council, lead the Chinese delegation to the forum. Hua is scheduled to make a speech in the first session on Monday afternoon on "China's effort to reinvent its government and make it more transparent in the process of reform and opening-up."

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Indonesia hold joint military exercise

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 May— A joint military exercise between Malaysian and Indonesian troops would enhance cooperation to tackle cross-border crime like smuggling and sea piracy, an Army chief said Monday.

It would also help foster closer rapport and understanding between Malaysia and Indonesia, Deputy Chief of the Malaysian Army Lieutenant-General Muhammad Ismail Jamaluddin said at the official launch of the exercise in Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah State in east Malaysia.

The exercise is the latest edition of the exercises under the Malindo Series which have been conducted by the armies of the two countries since 1972. The current exercise, divided into two phases, would end on 31 May, he added.

The first phase involves war games and operational planning and implementation while the second phase will include field manoeuvres in Kota Belud, Sabah's interior, according to the Deputy Army Chief.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Deputy Army Chief

Lieutenant-General Endang Suwarya said the joint exercises would increase the professionalism of the two armies.

The holding of the joint exercise is an indication of improvement in the relations of the two Armed Forces following a sea incident in which Malaysian and Indonesian Navy vessels brushed against each other in the Sulawesi Sea last month.

The dispute erupted after Malaysia's oil company, Petronas, awarded oil exploration rights to Shell in two exploration blocks in the Sulawesi Sea.

Jakarta protested against the move, claiming that the resource-rich area in question was within Indonesia's territorial waters.

The top leaders of the two countries have agreed that the dispute should be resolved through peaceful ways.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepali Govt sets up economic reform committee

KATHMANDU, 24 May— The Nepali Government has constituted a high level committee for economic and financial sector reforms with the objective of regularly monitoring and evaluating the implementation and progress of the reform programmes, the Finance Ministry said Monday in a statement.

The committee will implement and monitor programmes like the financial sector reforms project, poverty minimization loan assistance as well as the work execution agreement with the public corporations, privatization and dissolution of corporations under the public sector management. The committee is under the convenorship of Finance Minister

Madhukar Shumsher JB Rana. The vice chairman of the National Planning Commission, the governor of Nepal's Central Bank and Chief Secretary of the government are members of the committee.

It was constituted as per the commitments made in a special programme issued by a meeting of the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, held under the chairmanship of Nepali King Gyanendra, the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua



A US Army Humvee burns after a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 24 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Rocketing ticket sales turn "Star Wars III" into hit

BEIJING, 24 May— A Warner cinema in Guangzhou is expected to pocket the highest box office income ever as the "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith" is drawing a large audience in the south China metropolis.

"It is expected that box office receipts will total 2 million yuan (240,000 US dollars), a record high since the cinema was opened early this year," Monday's *China Daily* quoted Ye Xueying, deputy general manager of Guangzhou-based Warner Jinyi International Cinema, as saying.

Ye said almost all seats had been occupied since the film's debut on midnight May 19. "We opened two halls with 1,000 seats in total for the new episode's premiere", he added.

Tickets sold before the film opened made more than 200,000 yuan (24,000 US dollars).

Ye's cinema is not alone. Many others in Guangzhou, capital of

Guangdong Province, are also expecting to receive a high box office revenue for the sci-fi saga.

At Shiyigong Cinema, one of the city's oldest, an audience of nearly 1,500 watched the premiere, and tickets were selling for 20 yuan (2.4 US dollars) each.

By Sunday, tickets valued at 1.6 million yuan (181,000 US dollars) had been sold, *China Daily* quoted sources with the Guangzhou Zhujiang Cinema Circuits.

The newspaper said "the real blockbuster of the year has arrived", quoting Ye Xueying who estimated total box office revenue in Guangzhou alone would top 8 million yuan (960,000 US dollars).—MNA/Xinhua



Kalam says "Russia is a real friend"

Moscow, 24 May— Describing Russia as a "real friend", President A P J Abdul Kalam has said that a resurgent Russia and India can work together for a better life for their people.

"Resurgent Russia and resurgent India can

work together to make the life of their people better.

We are closely cooperating in various fields. Both countries are in a win-win situation," Kalam, who is on a four-day visit to Russia, said.

"Russia is a real friend, a friend in trouble and a friend in happiness," the President said addressing the members of the local Indian community on Sunday night at a reception hosted by India's Ambassador Kanwal Sibal.

MNA/PTI

Apple Computer Inc has been in talks that could soon lead to a decision to use Intel Corp chips in its Macintosh computer line, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on 23 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Nepal, Bangladesh sign air agreement

KATHMANDU, 24 May— Nepal and Bangladesh will have multi airlines operating flights between the two countries under the Air Services Agreement (ASA) reached here Monday at the end of a two-day bilateral meeting between the two governments.

Under the deal, private sector airlines of Nepal and Bangladesh will now onwards have the permission to operate flights between the two countries, the Nepali Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation said in a Press communique.

The number of seats will reach 7,000 by 2010 in the Kathmandu-Dhaka route with an increase of 700 seats per year from the present 3,500 per week, and specified airlines will be permitted to transport 250 tons of cargo per week from the two points.

Nepali airlines will also have the permission to operate flights to Chittagong besides Dhaka, and Ban-

gladeshi airlines will be permitted to operate flights if any other international airport opens in Nepal.

A new provision of code sharing has been included in the present amendment. Airlines of both countries will have code sharing for 600 seats annually and will increase 100 seats per year until 2010.

Nepal presently has bilateral agreements with 35 countries. Its air agreement with Bangladesh was signed in 1976 starting a weekly flight from Kathmandu and Dhaka. This is the first review meeting after the signing of the ASA by the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

China's fishery lost \$130m due to pollution in 2004

BEIJING, 24 May—Chinese fishery lost 1.08 billion yuan (130 million US dollars) in 2004 due to water pollution, 370 million yuan more than the previous year, according to a report the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Environmental Protection Administration released here Sunday.

The 2004 China Fishery and Ecological Environment Report shows that 941 pollution accidents occurred in 2004 in the country's fresh water fishing areas and the total polluted area was 211,000 hectares, causing direct economic losses of 190 million yuan.

Seventy-nine accidents in the sea fishery areas resulted in the pollution of 28,000 hectares

of sea water and an economic loss worth 890 million yuan, says the report.

Despite the serious pollution in some areas, the entire situation did not deteriorate from the previous year, it says.

According to the report, the main pollutants are found containing elements of nitrogen, phosphorus, oil and copper.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese ancient jade research body set up

BEIJING, 24 May—China Society for the Study of Ancient Jade, with a membership of collectors and researchers of old jade wares, was established in Beijing on Sunday.

Hou Yancheng, president of the society and a well-known collector, said at the opening ceremony that society is expected to help train those who are interested in ancient jade and promote and monitor the country's ancient jade market.

The newly-established society is a specialized branch under the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce. It has opened four regional centres in Shenyang, Anyang, Changzhou and Guangzhou. Collection of ancient jade relics by individuals has been banned in China for decades because the field used be monopolized by the government. In 2002, the government lifted the ban and currently, collectors of ancient jade account for one-third of the country's 68 million collectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh's trade deficit increases

DHAKA, 24 May—Bangladesh's trade deficit shot up by 71.27 per cent in the first eight months (July, 2004 - February, 2005) of the current fiscal year, compared with the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

Latest official figures put trade deficit at 2.12 billion US dollars in February, up 35 per cent from January in which the deficit was 1.2 billion US dollars, the daily *New Age* reported on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua



China to promote int'l publication of Chinese literary works

HANGZHOU, 24 May—China has decided to launch a long-term programme beginning this year to introduce 100 outstanding modern Chinese literary works to overseas readers, sources with the Chinese Writers Association said here on Sunday.

At the on-going third Writer's Festival in Zhejiang Province, East China, Chen Jianguo, the association's vice-chairman, said the titles will be selected through negotiations among the association, book authors and foreign publishers.

The programme will help promote Chinese books and publishing internationally and introduce more Chinese books to other parts of the world, Chen said.

In 1980s and 1990s, the Beijing-based Chinese Literature Press had pub-

lished Panda Book series, similar to Penguin Books, in English, French and German.

Panda Books publishes modern and classic Chinese fiction and poetry from famous Chinese writers, including Wang Meng, Chen Jianguo, Jia Pingwa, Liang Xiaosheng, Shu Ting and Chi Li. The books were often given as gifts from Chinese to foreign friends.

The new project will be market-oriented, Chen said, it is a renewed attempt to boost literary exchanges between China and overseas.

Chinese literary works have been attracting the attention of more and more foreign publishers in recent years.

In 2004, a total of 26 Chinese writers took part in the Salon du Livre Paris, an annual March event dedicated to book trade. These writers are virtually all of China's most famous and important authors, including Yu Hua, Mo Yan and Su Tong. The works of 21 of them have already been translated into French. About 15,000 copies were sold during the six-day event.—MNA/Xinhua



Neng Armaini cuddles with her 15-month-old daughter Anggi, one of two Indonesian girls born attached at the stomach and hips on 24 May, 2005, in Singapore. — INTERNET

More than 10,000 schools in China are bilingual

BEIJING, 24 May—More than 10,000 elementary and middle schools in the country teach in both Chinese and ethnic languages, according to the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC).

Twenty-one ethnic languages are used in these bilingual schools, which enroll more than 6 million students in areas dominated by ethnic minorities.

Many teachers have been trained by the government for this purpose, the SEAC sources said.

According to official figures, China publishes more than 3,500 kinds of minority language textbooks every year, totalling more than 100 million copies.

The government has launched a pilot programme for remote-teaching in rural areas. A special fund of 10 million yuan (about 1.2 million US dollars) has been allocated by the central government to make discs for bilingual teaching in minority-domi-

nated areas.

Beginning in 2004, a number of universities have launched a programme to recruit postgraduate students from 11 provinces and autonomous regions in the western region of the country in order to foster high-level professionals for these poverty-stricken areas.

Last year, 2,500 postgraduate students from the western region have entered these universities. By 2007, the figure is expected to top 5,000, with a total of 15,000 postgraduates studying in these universities.—MNA/Xinhua



Hollywood stars Hillary Swank, left, and Morgan Freeman pose for the media at a Tokyo hotel on 25 May, 2005 during a press conference, promoting for Clint Eastwood's 'Million Dollar Baby' which won Academy Awards in February. — INTERNET

Dawn at Asin village

U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Retired Ambassador)

The early morning sun had made Asin village looked more beautiful and pleasant. And the meritorious deeds a native donor and family and two charity teams were making there for three days from 20 to 22 March were auspicious as the dawn itself. The native, U Than Shein, owner of Myat Thura Co Ltd, arranged a programme for a social organization to provide health and education assistance to Asin village in Ye Township, Mon State.

The social organization, the Myanmar Border Development Association, presented novels, journals and magazines totalling over 600 for the village library at the donor's office on 22 March. The association also provided 522 pieces of spectacles and 78 sets of contact lenses for the village. The provision of books together with spectacles and lens was a most appropriate act.

U Than Shein and Chairman of Village Peace and Development Council U Maung Myint accepted the gifts.

Senior military officers, social organization members and local authorities attended the ceremony together with the villagers who were in need of spectacles. At the ceremony, a member of the association said, "As the libraries give light of knowledge to the people, the Information Ministry has been playing a leading role in implementing the programme to set up libraries in the whole nation. We all welcome the programme with great pleasure." He also urged rural people to enhance their reading power.

While showing the visitors a brick house where the library will be opened, the village chairman U Maung Myint promised to organize the villagers to promote their reading power.

U Than Shein made arrangements for the association members and physicians to leave Yangon for the village on 19 March. I was also included in the association members who visited the village. The 30 physicians included in the health team conducted health and optical care services for the village 12 hours daily during the three days. The doctors set up two temporary operation theatres one for eye operations and the other for general operations.

In the theatres, the specialist surgeons were busy operating one patient after another the entire day.

The strength of local donors can be boosted, and their strength will help cement national unity and foster Union Spirit. I wish others in the whole nation follow the example of the donation ceremony held in Asin village in Mon State.

Doctors were also conducting surgical operations on cleft lip and cleft plate patients. A team of anaesthetists were also busy working in the two operation theatres.

At the optical operation theatre, specialist surgeons were conducting operations on the patients and putting contact lens on their eyes. Other eye surgeons were conducting eye test on patients and technicians were providing spectacles to them. My daughter was documenting the whole activity with a video camera and providing health care for the patients together with the health staff. The doctors also opened a temporary health care centre for outdoor patients at the village primary school. Dentists were providing all kinds of oral health care for the patients, while physicians at the

centre are treating men, women and children suffering from various disorders. All the doctors were providing health care serves for a large number of people with much patience and goodwill. It was a pleasant scene for me to see villagers with eye disorders were wearing spectacles or with contact lens. All the doctors were real professionals of their respective branches of medical science. During the three-day visit, the doctors provided health care for over 3,000 rural people free of charge.

We thanked the groups that are providing daily meals and other necessities for our two teams comprising over 70 persons. I honour them for their goodwill services.

The sponsors U Than Shein and wife Daw San San Win spent over K 10 million to make arrangements for the whole programme of the health and education teams to visit the village, to donate books and to conduct health care services there. The couple are humble persons, always happy to serve others in person. I have witnessed many kinds of donations, but not the one like this in Asin village, where health and education services were rendered at the same time. I wish other Myanmar people make such donations in the whole nation. It is also a kind of social donation that has helped implement the five rural development tasks of the Government. The strength of local donors can be boosted, and their strength will help cement national unity and foster Union Spirit. I wish others in the whole nation follow the example of the donation ceremony held in Asin village in Mon State.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 25.5.2005.

NASA's spacecraft "Voyager" reaches edge of solar system

LOS ANGELES, 25 May — After about 28 years of flight, the *Voyager 1* spacecraft has entered the solar system's last frontier on the verge of interstellar space, scientists at US space agency NASA said on Tuesday.

The spacecraft, launched in 1977 and more than 13 billion kilometres away from the Sun now, is entering a vast, turbulent expanse where the Sun's influence ends and the solar wind crashes into the thin gas between stars, according to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"*Voyager 1* has en-

tered the final lap on its race to the edge of interstellar space," said Edward Stone, *Voyager* project scientist at the JPL, which built and operates *Voyager 1* and its twin, *Voyager 2*.

In November 2003, the *Voyager* team announced it was seeing events unlike any in the mission's history. The team believed the unusual events indicated *Voyager 1* was approaching a strange region of space, likely the beginning of this new frontier called the termination shock region. But other scientists disputed it was just approaching the region.

The termination shock is where the solar

wind, a thin stream of electrically charged gas blowing continuously outward from the Sun, is slowed by pressure from gas between the stars.

At the termination shock, the solar wind slows abruptly from a speed that ranges from 1 million to 2.4 million kilometres per hour and becomes denser and hotter.

But in fact, scientists do not know where the edge is. They assume it moves, as changes in the speed and intensity of the solar wind force the boundary in and out. Now they believe that *Voyager 1* has at last entered the heliosheath, the region beyond the termination shock.—MNA/Xinhua

Differences between G-4, Coffee Club over UNSC seat remain

UNITED NATIONS, 25 May — A meeting of G-4 countries, including India, and the 'Coffee Club', called by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in an effort to narrow down their differences on the expansion of Security Council, appeared to have been a futile exercise with the two sides failing to find a meeting ground.

Pakistan and Italy-led Uniting for Consensus (UFC), also known as Coffee Club, maintained its position that there should be broadest possible agreement on the modalities of expansion of the Council, to which Indian Ambassador Nirupam Sen responded

by saying that G-4 was trying to achieve exactly that.

But he rejected the suggestion that consensus essentially meant an agreement between G-4 and the Coffee Club.

Consultations with the UFC, he was quoted as saying by diplomats attending the meeting, were only one element in the process of discussions with member states to achieve broadest possible agreement.

Making a point that G-4 would not get veto power, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said that without that, the balance of power cannot be changed.

Sen agreed and pointed out that was ex-

actly the reason G-4 are seeking powers equivalent to those enjoyed by the current five permanent members.

At one stage, diplomats say, G-4 challenged their counterparts in the Coffee Club to bring forward a resolution but one of their representatives said they had no plan to do so.

However, after the meeting, Akram said UFC plans to produce a paper by the weekend which will call for addition of ten non-permanent members who could seek re-election but maintain that there should be no expansion in the permanent categories.

MNA/PTI

Industry-2 Ministry reviews work

YANGON 25 May — The Ministry of Industry-2 held a work coordination meeting this morning at the ministry, with an address by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin.

The minister said that the ministry should play a key role in the Government's industrial development drive. Officials are urged to minimize wastage and apply thrifty methods in striving to meet the targets set for fiscal 2005-2006. Based on the experi-

ences gained in the previous fiscal year, they should make efforts to boost production and distribution.

Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw presented the work programmes of the industries to meet their targets.

The director-general of Myanmar Industrial Planning Department and managing directors of the industries also took part in the discussions.

The minister and



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin speaking at the coordination meeting of Ministry of Industry-2.—INDUSTRY-2

the deputy minister presented stipends for children of the staff through officials. —MNA

Work coord meeting of Finance and Revenue Ministry continues



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — F&R

YANGON, 25 May — The second day for second work coordination meeting 2005 of the ministry of Finance and Revenue, continued at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue

Maj-Gen Hla Tun. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, directors-general, managing directors and general man-

agers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials. At the meeting, the minister gave necessary instructions after hearing the reports on future plans and progress of work.

Later, the deputy

minister fulfilled the requirements after hearing the reports on banking services.

Next, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister for Finance and Revenue.

MNA

Training and competition of athletes inspected

YANGON, 25 May — Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Sports and Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, viewed tentatively selected marksmen in training for their preparations to participate in the XXIII SEA Games to be held in the Philippines from 27 November to 5 December 2005, at Okkalapa Shooting Range in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

The minister heard reports on training for the shooters and tasks to be carried out by officials of the Ministry of Sports and officials and coaches of Myanmar Shooting Federation. The minister met with the shooters and instructed them to practise intense training with lofty aims observing the disciplines.

In the afternoon, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the 36th Inter-State/Division A-Class Boxing Championship, at Aung San Gymnasium.

First, previous year's champion Yangon Division handed over the shield to the minister.

Afterwards, the minister presented first and second prizes to Naw Mu Chay (Kayin State) and Wah Wah Win (Mandalay) in the women's 50-kilo class respectively; and President of MBF U Win Myint, first and second prizes to Nilar Kyaw (Mandalay) and Shwebo Mary (Sagaing) in the women's 52-kilo class.

A total of 16 state and division teams are taking part in the championships which will last till 3 June.

MNA

CPT Ministry holds coord meeting

YANGON, 25 May—The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs held a work coordination meeting at the ministry in Ahlon Township this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, the managing director of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, the general managers, heads of department, state/division managers, the director-general of the Directorate of Telecommunications and directors.

The minister delivered an introductory speech and dealt with the functions. Next, the managers gave an account of work progress and future plans and targets. The heads of department gave supplementary reports.

The minister gave instructions and made concluding remarks.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivers an address at the coordination meeting of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.—COMMUNICATIONS

Home Affairs Minister receives Governor of Yunnan Province

YANGON, 25 May — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received the delegation led by Mr Xu Rongkai, Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China at the ministry at the corner of Industry-1 Road and Saya San Road on 23 May.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi. At the meeting, matters related to enhancing cooperation in security and drugs elimination were discussed.

MNA



Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo meeting with Governor of Yunnan Province of the PRC Mr Xu Rongkai and party. —MNA

Information Minister urges officials to print school exercise books as scheduled

YANGON, 25 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Photolitho Press on Ngadaty Pagoda Road in Bahan Township this morning.

ing and Publishing Enterprise.

At the briefing hall of the factory, factory manager U Hlaing Win Khaung presented reports to the minister and party on history of the factory, strenght of service personnel, two Toshiba 4-Unit Rotary presses, two Sonal Sheetfed presses, print-

printing of private orders. Next, Acting Managing Director Col Aung Nyein and officials gave supplementary reports.

With respect to the reports, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave instructions on summoning of officials to coordinate so as to complete printing of exercise books as targeted within one month, measures to be taken for private order meeting the set standard in order to generate more income for the State.

He highlighted that officials are to lay emphasis on maintenance of presses, to print exercise books at full capacity, to carry out tough security measures at the factory, to supervise fire prevention systematically and to make field trip down to grassroots level.

Next, the minister and party checked printing of exercise books by means of Euromatic presses and Toshiba 4-Unit Rotary presses and maintenance in the factory.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to GTC Press at Aung San and inspected electrical maintenance at 2-Unit Rotary Offset made in Germany, where they were conducted round by factory manager U Kyaw Kyaw and officials.

In response to the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements. — MNA



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects GTC press in Insein Township.—MNA



They were welcomed by Acting Managing Director Col Aung Nyein, factory manager U Hlaing Win Khaung and service personnel of Print-

ing of periodicals, printing of 100-ton of exercise books by means of three Euromatic presses whose capacity is 3,600 exercise books per hour and

Egyptian delegation leaves

YANGON, 25 May — The Egyptian delegation led by Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt Mr Ezzat Saad Sayed left here yesterday.

During their stay in Myanmar, Mr Ezzat Saad Sayed called on Minister

for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Education U Than Aung. Moreover, Egyptian delegation discussed bilateral relations and cooperation with Myanmar officials led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu.

Director-General of the MOFA U Nyan Linn, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Myanmar Mr Mohamed Mohamed Minessy and officials saw off the Egyptian delegation at Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Photolitho Press in Bahan Township. — MNA

Indian information delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 25 May — The visiting Indian information delegation led by Managing Director (News) Smt Arvind M Singh of Doordarshan news agency of India left

here for home by air this morning.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director U Win Kyi of Myanmar Radio and Television

(Television/English) of the Ministry of Information, departmental officials and officials of the India Embassy to Myanmar.

MNA

Teaching aids for blind and deaf children

YANGON, 25 May — Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min this afternoon called for more production of teaching aids for blind and deaf children in his concluding remarks at the meeting on production of teaching aids for the blind and deaf children held at Myanmar Education Research Bureau here.

Those who participated in the 6-day meeting have produced the teaching aids such as VCDs, tapes and books which are useful to the blind and deaf children.

After the meeting, Deputy Director of Myanmar Education Research Bureau Daw Khin Myo Kyu handed over the document related to the teaching aids to Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Tin Nyo. — MNA

Egyptian delegation arrives in Gaza

GAZA, 25 May — An Egyptian security delegation arrived here Monday afternoon to mediate disputes between the ruling Fatah movement and the Islamic militant group Hamas, a senior Palestinian official said.

Ibrahim Abu Najja, head of the highest follow up committee for Islamic and national factions, said the delegation will meet members of the committee, faction representatives and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) officials. The delegation, headed by Mustafa al Beheiri, a deputy to Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, will help rearrange the internal Palestinian situation and reinforce national unity, Abu Najja told Voice of

Palestine. Egyptian diplomatic sources said the visit comes at a Palestinian request to help end disputes between Fatah led by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas, a radical militant group with a surging street popularity. Three Palestinian civil courts ruled to annul results of the May 5 municipal elections in some areas of the Gaza Strip. Hamas rejected the ruling as "a burglary of Hamas victory". —MNA/Xinhua

China, Australia sign three cooperation documents

CANBERRA, 25 May — China and Australia on Tuesday signed three documents on cooperation in science and technology and other fields.

An agreement on scientific and technological cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Education of China and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

The second document is about an IAM (integrated access module) project and was signed between Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and Australia's company OPTUS.

China's Datang Corporation and Australia's

Hydro Tasmania inked a framework agreement on cooperation on a wind power project.

The signing was witnessed by Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, and Australia's Senate President Paul Calvert and David Hawker, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Wu is on an official good-will visit to Australia, part of his current four-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

MNA/Xinhua



Principal Lt-Gen (Retd) Mr Javed Hassan and party of Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC) visit Shwedagon Pagoda. (News on page 2)

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and party discuss cooperation and friendly relations between two countries with Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and party. (News on page 9)—MNA

Philippines rules out return of US military bases

MANILA, 25 May — The Philippine Government on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of letting part of the US forces based in Okinawa to transfer to the Philippines.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said in an official paper on updated Philippine-US relations overview that although Manila wants closer US military engagement in Asia in response to the growing regional security threats, it has ruled out the return of American bases to the country.

The paper was apparently published in response to reports that US and Japan are discussing the possibility of moving some US military bases from Okinawa to another country of the region, possibly the Philippines.

This is also reportedly part of Washington's global defence posture being worked out by the Pentagon.

But both US Embassy here and US Deputy Sec-

retary of State Robert Zoellick who visited Manila early this month refused to comment on the reports.

The Philippine Senate abolished in 1991 the country's basing treaty with US, ending a 93-year presence of US military bases in the Philippines.

The Philippine paper on its relations with US said the Philippines encourages a more active US presence in the region, but a revived basing agreement with Washington is not being considered.

It also said that to meet the global challenges on security, the Philippines is stepping up its defence cooperation with the US, in particular concerning the 10-year Philippine Defence Reform (PDR) programme formerly known as Joint Defence

Assessment.

"PDR is a key bilateral instrument for keeping Washington engaged, for building a stronger alliance, and for enhancing the capabilities of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to address current and emerging threats," said the paper.

The PDR, a programme of the Philippine-US Mutual Defence Board, is a Philippine-led, US-assisted programme aimed at addressing short-term operational requirements and long-term reforms in the AFP.

Total US military assistance to the Philippines in 2004 amounted to 62.18 million US dollars. In turn, the Philippines' counterpart funding of the PDR added up to 17.54 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Desalination plant opened in Kavaratti

KAVARATTI (Lakshadweep), 25 May — The world's first-ever desalination plant that can produce potable water from sea water, at barely 6-8 paise per litre, was declared open here Monday by the Indian Government.

Dedicating the plant, that can produce 100,000 litres of potable water per day to the nation, Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal and Power Minister P M Sayeed said such plants would be established in all the coastal areas and islands of the country, including Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The 50 million rupees plant is based on a technology called Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) that has been developed by the scientists at the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, an institute under the Department of Ocean Development.

"Though experi-

ments on this technology have taken place in many parts of the world, India is the first country, which has established a plant based on this as a permanent facility," Sibal said.

The plant represents use of technology for the benefit of common man, he said adding technology and social development should go hand-in-hand.

MNA/PTI

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
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(၃၁-၅-၂၀၀၅)

World No-Tobacco Day

(31-5-2005)

ဆေးလိင်ဆေးရွက်ကြီးဆန့်ကျင်ရေး၊

ကျန်းမာရေးပညာရှင်များ

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Health Professionals against Tobacco

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Turkish President to open transnational oil pipeline

ANKARA, 25 May — Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer left on Tuesday for Azerbaijan to attend the ceremony to mark the first oil flow from the beginning point of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline.

“The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, which we consider as a bridge connecting our neighbours with the West, constitutes a concrete example of regional cooperation in the Caucasus and Caspian basin,” Sezer told reporters before he flew to Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

“Turkey has pioneered this Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, which is one of the most important part of the East-West Energy Corridor. The fact that 95 per cent of the pipeline has been constructed so far is Azerbaijan’s, Georgia’s and Turkey’s success as well as the partners of the project,” said Sezer. Sezer added that

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline will not only contribute to securing energy distribution in Western markets, particularly Europe, but also reduce the hazardous burden on the Turkish Straits.

It is reported that 440 kilometres of the 1,774-kilometre Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline pass through Azerbaijan, 260 kilometres through Georgia, and the rest 1,074 kilometres through Turkey.

About 50 million tons of crude oil to be brought from mainly Azerbaijan via Georgia to Turkey will be transported to world markets from Turkey’s Ceyhan town.

MNA/Xinhua

OECD urges Italy undertake structural reforms

PARIS, 25 May — The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Tuesday warned Italy on economy contracting and public deficit excess and urged Rome to undertake structural reforms.

In its twice-yearly economic outlook, the OECD said that Italy’s gross domestic product (GDP) will contract by 0.6 per cent in 2005 and grow by 1.1 per cent in 2006.

“Activity is projected to strengthen towards end-2005, reflecting a renewed upturn in world trade, improving labour productivity, and tax cuts,” it said, noting “the key problem in Italy is productivity growth, which has been at best flat since 2001.”

The OECD foresaw the Italian public deficit for 2005 at 4.4 per cent, far beyond the ceiling of 3 per cent limited for the euro area, and warned that “in the absence of new initiatives, the deficit is set to rise further in 2006, reflecting the complete phasing out of one-off measures” such as asset sales. “Structural reforms are needed to address the underlying causes of poor competitiveness,” the OECD said. — MNA/Xinhua

Turkish PM to pay official visit to Kazakhstan

ANKARA, 25 May — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan will leave for Kazakhstan on a two-day official visit on Wednesday, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday.

Erdogan will meet with his Kazakh counterpart Daniyal Akhmetov and the Senate Chairman Nurtay Abykaev on Thursday, said the report.

The two sides will sign several agreements to strengthen bilateral ties, it added. Erdogan will also go to Kazakhstan’s Almaty

city and open the Silk Road Turkish Export Products Train Fair with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Friday.

The Turkish Prime Minister will return home the same day after meeting representatives of Turks dwelling in Kazakhstan.

MNA/Xinhua

Greek Cabinet adopts farm bill to spur agricultural growth

ATHENS, 25 May — Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and his Cabinet on Tuesday approved a farm bill that aims to spur growth in the sector and align with the European Union’s new common agricultural policy.

The wide-ranging legislation is destined for Parliament in coming weeks.

“It will support young farmers, reduce bureaucracy and deal with farmers’ day-to-day problems,” said Agricultural Development and Foods Minister Evangelos Basiakos, the architect of the bill.

“A series of moves contained in the (ruling) New Democracy Party’s manifesto will be implemented that target growth of the agricultural economy,” Basiakos told reporters. Among innovations in the bill are

short-term, interest-free loans to aid operational spending for young farmers in mountain and deprived regions of the country, and medium-term lending in the same categories for the acquisition of key equipment and machinery.

Interest-free loans will also be awarded for the purchase of farmland. In other categories, a loan-subsidy of 70 per cent is to be offered.

In addition, the bill will legally sanction the creation of agricultural development centres around the country that the government has be-

gun to set up in line with EU policy from 2007. Falling under the jurisdiction of central regional authorities, the centres will provide scientific, professional, technical and technological support for farmers, the minister said. A new institution to arise will be a farm imports control authority to track products as they enter Greek borders until they reach store shelves in order to protect both consumers and the national market.

“The service’s task will be to collect data and complaints on a daily basis concerning imported

agricultural goods from all Customs entry points around the country,” the minister said. In addition, financial, growth and tax incentives will be offered to farm cooperatives wishing to merge, in order to make the sector viable.

MNA/Xinhua

New OAS chief pledges to strengthen organization

SANTIAGO, 25 May — New Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) Jose Miguel Insulza said here Tuesday that he will work for “more stable democracies that work better” in the regional organization.

“The main challenge is trying to make OAS having more prestige and becoming a top-of-the-line institution, and this means to have it involved in global issues,” he added.

Insulza, who on Tuesday left his post as Interior Minister of Chile, said his mission at the front of the inter-American organization will be “attacking the major problems of governance that exist in our region.”

By doing that, the democratic governments will be more stable and will work better in providing more security and welfare for the people, Insulza said.

Insulza, who is to be sworn in Thursday, ruled out that his nationality might be an obstacle to his work. All countries have their different problems and are closer to one than to another, “but the secretaries have to know when to keep distance from this issue, and this is attained through good teams,” he said in relation to criticism from Peru and Bolivia to his candidacy, stressing that he will form a good team.

Insulza admitted that his duty “will be difficult, complex and not appreciated,” specially at the beginning, but he is still confident that he will be able to do a good job, with a good team “to cope with the crises, on the one hand, and governance, on the other.”

MNA/Xinhua

New Norwegian UN force proposed

STOCKHOLM, 25 May — Norway’s political party Labour Party wants to set up a new Norwegian military unit earmarked for UN assignments, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on Tuesday.

There are today few Norwegians serving with the UN forces, while several Norwegian contingents are serving with NATO or under US command.

At the beginning of the 1990s, Norway had around 2,000 soldiers serving with the UN peacekeeping forces.

Today this has been reduced to less than 50.

The opposition Labour Party’s MP Marit Nybakk said she wants a unit of professional soldiers for the use of the United Nations only.

She said the reason for this is that the peacekeeping opera-

tions are often more difficult and tougher than other assignments.

“We therefore need a force of high quality that is well trained, both physically and mentally, ethically and culturally. We do not send conscripts on foreign missions,” Nybakk said to NRK.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan names ex-Portuguese PM new chief of UN refugee agency

UNITED NATIONS, 25 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan named on Tuesday former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a term of three years effective from June 15.

Guterres will replace Ruud Lubbers, former Dutch premier, who was forced to resign from the top post of the Geneva-based UN refugee

agency in February over a sexual harassment scandal.

Guterres, 56, is currently president of the Socialist International, a worldwide or-

ganization of 166 social democratic, socialist and labour political parties. He was prime minister of Portugal from 1996 to 2002.

MNA/Xinhua



Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt Mr Ezzat Saad Sayed being seen off at the airport on 24 May. — MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS WASTE OIL PURCHASE AND REMOVAL

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited ("MICCL") hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to purchase and remove an estimated 12,000 litres of waste oil per month for one year from our Mine Site in Monywa, Myanmar. The waste oil will typically be contained in 200-litre drums.

Interested bidders may contact our office where a complete set of bidding documents can be obtained on payment of Kyats 5000/- from the following address during office hours between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from 1st June 2005.

Bids should be on company's letterhead and signed by the authorised person. Bids should be submitted in duplicate in sealed envelopes addressed to:-

MICCL

Bidding Documents – Waste Oil Purchase and Removal

70(I) Bo Chein Street

Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon

(Tel: 95-1-514194-7, Fax: 95-1-514208)

Bids will be closed at 16:30 hours on 10th June 2005.

GENERAL MANAGER
MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER
COMPANY LIMITED

Thousands of Dominicans remain evacuated after heavy rains

HAVANA, 24 May — Some 2,000 families remain evacuated on Monday in central, northwest and northeast Dominican Republic due to the overflowing of rivers and streams after three weeks of intense rains.

According to reports from Dominican capital Santo Domingo, over 1,000 families have been evacuated in Santiago de los Caballeros Province from the spilling of Juaniquito and Gurabo rivers.

A similar situation occurred at San Francisco de Macoris, with the overflowing of Mamey River.

MNA/Xinhua

All is not well with Indian national parks

RANTHAMBORE (Rajasthan), 24 May — Describing the disappearance of tigers as a matter of national concern, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said "all is not well" with the way the national parks are being managed, as he held discussions with wildlife officials and experts over the problem.

Singh, who is here to take stock of the situation relating to the status of tigers in the country, said the animal was a part of our national heritage and all major steps have to be taken to preserve and protect them.

"All is not well with the way we are managing our national parks," he told the meeting.

"Disappearance of tigers is a matter of national concern," Singh said.

At the meeting at-

tended by 20 wild life officials and experts, the Prime Minister said "the coming generation will never forgive us if we do not take steps to protect tigers."

He said it was a national task to preserve and protect tigers. In this effort, Singh said, involvement of communities living in national parks was of vital importance.

The Prime Minister, who will tour the Ranthambore national park on Tuesday, was given an assessment by the wild life officials and experts about the reasons for reduction in tiger population.

The extended meeting identified population pressure, growing tourism, shortage of forest guards and presence of ill-equipped and ill-trained guards as some reasons for the dwindling tiger population, Junior Minister for

Environment and Forests Namo Narayan Meena told reporters after the meeting.

Meena said the Prime Minister told the meeting that his government was committed to addressing all problems which have caused dwindling of tiger population. The meeting was also attended by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and other state government senior officials.

Asking the experts and officials to form strategies to address the problem, he said the government would provide all possible help including financial assistance and amendments in law if required.

An assessment of a Supreme Court-confirmed independent monitoring committee was also placed at the meeting.

MNA/PTI

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

INVITATION TO TENDER TRANSPORT OF DIESEL TO MINE SITE

MICCL invites applications to Tender for Transport of Diesel from interested parties. The transport of diesel will be from Yangon to Mine Site, which is on the west bank of Monywa Township. The transport handling would be around 9000 tonne of Diesel Fuel by barge.

1. Diesel from Yangon to Mine Site by barge.

Interested parties may contact our office where a complete set of bidding documents can be obtained on payment of US\$ 200.00 (in FEC) during office hours between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. from 1st June 2005.

Bid should be on Company's letterhead and signed by the authorized person. Bids should be submitted in duplicate, in sealed envelopes addressed to:-

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited
70(I), Bo Chein Street

Pyay Road, Hlaing Township

Yangon, Myanmar

Phone: 951-514145/514195/514196 and

Fax: 951-514208

Bids will be closed at 16:30 hours on 10 June 2005.

General Manager

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited

Wu Bangguo urges to strengthen trade coop with Australia

SYDNEY (Australia), 24 May — China and Australia should take a strategic view of their trade and economic cooperation and act in the principle of mutual benefit for win-win results, China's top legislator Wu Bangguo said Monday.

China and Australia enjoy a strong economic complementarity and a huge potential for cooperation, Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, told a forum on closer trade and economic links between the two countries.

"What make us more gratified is that, the two sides need each other more as their common interest expands and their enthusiasm for closer and high-

quality cooperation increases," said Wu, who is currently on an official good-will visit to Australia, the second leg of his four-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

"The prospects for unprecedented expansion of bilateral economic cooperation are unfolding right before our eyes. Let us view and develop this cooperation from a strategic height, adhere to the principles of mutual benefit for win-win results, give scope to our respective advantages, expand the areas and modalities of cooperation, so as to bring China-Australia trade and economic cooperation to a new high," he said.

Wu made a three-point proposal for further boosting bilateral trade

and economic cooperation. First, bilateral cooperation in the energy and mineral resource sectors, a key area of China-Australia economic cooperation, should be deepened and both sides should strive for mutually beneficial and win-win results, he said.

"Strengthened China-Australia cooperation in energy and mineral resources serves the shared interest of the two countries. We should go for a strategic cooperation in this respect and build a long-term and stable partnership for win-win results," he said.

Secondly, mutual investment should be stepped up and enterprise cooperation enhanced,

Wu said. "We should... further expand our direct investment... develop new areas and modalities of investment.

"Closer enterprise cooperation should become a priority in efforts to deepen China-Australia economic partnership, he said, adding that China will encourage its enterprises to invest in Australia and it also welcomes active participation by Australian enterprises in China's efforts to develop its Western region and reinvigorate its old industrial bases in the Northeast.

Thirdly, the environment for cooperation needs to be improved and greater scope should be given to existing mechanisms. — MNA/Xinhua

World's 1st int'l institute on environmental problems set up

LANZHOU, 24 May — The world's first international institute designed specifically to address creeping environmental problems was set up on Monday in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province.

The major purpose of the institute is to provide comprehensive assessment on environment for policy and decision makers, giving them the information needed to address the problems, said

Michael H Glantz, a meteorologist from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research of the United States, who brought forward the concept of creeping environmental problems in 1999.

"People seldom pay attention to the slow changes taking place under our feet or above our head until they become hazardous one day," said Dr Glantz, who came to attend the international symposium on arid cli-

mate change and sustainable development that opened Monday in Lanzhou.

"Our study helps the government to make preparations and early warnings to reduce or avoid losses brought by environmental crisis or natural disasters," said Dr Glantz, who is also the director of the capacity building centre under the institute.

Besides Dr Glantz, the institute also will

gather more than 20 other scientists on hydrology, geography, social science and economics to study slow-developing environmental problems, said Ye Qian, assistant president of the Chinese Meteorological Sciences Academy, also one of the initiators of the institute.

The institute will also submit its study result to different governments, said Ye.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran, Spain sign tourism cooperation deal

TEHERAN, 24 May — Iran and Spain have signed a tourism cooperation deal to attract more Spanish tourists to the Islamic Republic, the official IRNA news agency reported Sunday.

Under the agreement, the two countries will launch a programme to encourage more Spaniards to choose Iran as their travel destination.

Sharing related statistics and information, inviting a Spanish media

delegation to visit Iran's tourist attractions, exchanging lists of travel agencies and hotels are among the main points of the programme.

The deal was signed on Saturday by Deputy Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization for tourism affairs Ali Hashemi and Secretary-General of Tourism Department of Spanish Ministry of Trade and Tourism Raymon Martinez Ferril. — MNA/Xinhua

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WHO approves new international health regulations

GENEVA, 24 May — The annual assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) approved here Monday a new set of regulations on national and international response to disease outbreaks.

"This is a major step forward for international health. These new regulations recognize that diseases do not respect national boundaries. They are urgently needed to help limit the threats to public health," WHO Chief Lee Jong-wook said at the World Health Assembly.

While the original regulations agreed in 1969 were designed to help monitor and control six serious infectious diseases — cholera, plague, yellow fever, smallpox, relapsing fever and typhus, the new

rules cover a broader range of public health emergencies, including some emerging diseases, according to the WHO.

"The need for new rules and operational mechanisms ... has been most clearly shown during the recent outbreaks of SARS in 2003 and avian influenza in 2004-2005," the Geneva-based agency said in a statement.

Under the revised regulations, countries have much broader obligations to build national capacity for routine preventive measures as well as to

detect and respond to public health emergencies of international concern.

The routine measures include public health actions at port, airports, land borders and on means of transport.

The new rules also stipulated that the occurrence of a list of diseases such as smallpox, polio and SARS must be reported to the WHO.

The regulations will formally come into force two years from the date on which they were approved by the assembly.

MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong ranks among world's top 10 tourist attractions

HONG KONG, 24 May — Hong Kong has ranked the world's seventh tourist attraction with over 21.8 million visitor arrivals in 2004, according to the statistics from the World Tourism Organization.

The large number of tourists visiting Hong Kong last year, which could be attributed mainly to individual visitors from the Chinese Mainland, has made the city one of the world's 10 top tourist attractions, the *Sing Tao* newspaper reported on

Sunday. The WTO statistics also show that China's Mainland beats Italy, ranking the fourth with over 41 million tourists arrivals.

The Palace Museum and the Great Wall in Beijing are more attrac-

tive to tourists than Italy's Uffizi Gallery and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

France was still the hottest scenic place with 75 million tourist arrivals last year, followed by Spain and the United States, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



A farmer walks water buffalo through rice paddies in Sanya, southern China's Hainan island on 24 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Macao on alert of dengue fever

MACAO, 24 May — Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) is to step up its campaign against outbreak of dengue fever, local media reported on Monday.

The *Macau Post* quoted Tong Ka Io, director of Macao's Disease Control Centre, as saying that the authority will be in a hard bid to raise public hygiene awareness and to intensify the eradication of mosquitoes.

The official reportedly

urged local residents to get rid of stagnant water pools where the dengue fever-transmitting mosquitoes could breed.

Southeast Asia is currently facing a serious dengue-fever threat. Cases have been reported in Indonesia, Vietnam,

Thailand and Singapore.

Tong told the newspaper that Macao recorded a number of "imported" dengue fever cases over the past years. In 2001, some 1,400 residents came down with the fever in the region with a population of 450,000.— MNA/Xinhua



An Internet cafe set up for the Athens Olympics. Greeks will for the first time be able to name their Internet sites with letters from the Greek alphabet, the country's telecommunications authorities (EETT) said. — INTERNET

Indonesia to extend visa-on-arrival facility to 16 countries

JAKARTA, 24 May — The Indonesian Government will give visa-on-arrival facility to 16 countries in a bid to attract more foreign tourists, local media Monday quoted an official from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as saying.

Marketing deputy of

the ministry Udin Saifuddin said that among the countries are China, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland and Austria, but he declined to mention the other eight countries.

Now, the policy of extending the facility to a

number of countries has been discussed.

We expect within the next 3 or 4 months, possibly in September, the government policy will be issued, Udin who was quoted by the Media Indonesia as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Mental disorders caused by drug abuse rise in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 24 May — Tanzania's major state hospital has warned that mental disorders caused mainly by drug abuses are on the rise in the east African country.

At least two new psychiatric patients are now admitted into the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar-es-Salaam alone each day compared with one patient a month in previous years.

Gad Kilonzo, a psychiatrist at the state hospital, also attributed the increase of mental disorders to such other causes as frustrations, economic crises and increased contacts with people from different cultures. The specialist urged the public to act firmly so as to stem drug abuses. — MNA/Xinhua

"Discovery" being prepared for Thursday rollback to hangar

WASHINGTON, 24 May — NASA said Monday technicians are preparing to roll space shuttle *Discovery* back to the Vehicle Assembly Building on Thursday.

The move was delayed from Tuesday so that engineers at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida can examine if *Discovery* has cracks on the landing gear similar to the one found last week on the shuttle *Atlantis*.

The rollback comes days after a second fueling test on *Discovery*. On Friday, *Discovery* and its external tank successfully passed the test, during which NASA engineers further checked on the performance of liquid hydrogen sensors and a liquid hydrogen pressurization valve that did not work properly in the last test in April.

In the VAB, NASA said *Discovery* will replace its external fuel tank as early as June 7 with a safer model that was origi-

nally planned to be attached to *Atlantis* on the next mission. A new heater will also be added to the new tank to prevent ice buildup.

Inspectors reported minimal ice formed on the tank during the April test. Any ice breaking off the tank during liftoff could do bigger harm than foam if it smacked into the shuttle.

The external fuel tank has undergone many design changes after the *Columbia* tragedy in February 2003, which was blamed on a suitcase-sized insulation foam that fell off the tank during liftoff and harmed the shuttle's wing, leading to the shuttle's disintegration during re-entry.

MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Real Madrid deny purchasing 49% of Beijing Guoan

MADRID, 25 May— Real Madrid ruled out Tuesday afternoon having purchased 49 per cent of the stock of Chinese soccer club Beijing Guoan.

"Real Madrid have declared it has not bought shares from any team" said the club through an official communique in regards to the version about the ownership of Beijing Guoan.

Nonetheless, "Real Madrid want to indicate that the club and prestigious Citic Group (Chinese industrial consor-

tium that owns Beijing Guoan), for months, have negotiated a collaboration agreement aimed at developing the Real Madrid brand name in the People's Republic of China and to have a collaboration to develop professional soccer in that country," said the communique.

MNA/Xinhua



Mexican team Chivas goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez celebrates his team's goal against Pachuca during the second half of their Libertadores Cup soccer match at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara City, Mexico, on 24 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Marquez to coach Mexican children

MEXICO CITY, 25 May— Barcelona player and winner of the Spanish league, Mexican Rafael Marquez, will coach local children during July in soccer lessons.

Officials of Atlas soccer club and of the foundation said the player has informed Tuesday that the former champion of the French league with Monaco will share with some 600 children from six to 12, his experiences and secrets of the sport.

The minors will receive instruction on ball control, conduction, reception, and tips to be good central defenders.

The representative of the Rafa Marquez Foundation said the aim of the seminar is to approach the Mexican player with children and gather resources for charity and shelters for minors.

Between July 9 and 14, the sessions will be divided into three stages and 600 children will participate, at a cost of 73 dollars apiece.

MNA/Xinhua

Eto'o fined 12,000 euros for songs against Real Madrid

MADRID, 25 May— The Competition Committee of the Spanish Soccer Federation has decided Tuesday to fine with 12,000 euros on Cameroonian striker of Barcelona Samuel Eto'o for the songs he sang against Real Madrid during the celebration of his team's victory in the local league.

Eto'o sang on several occasions "Madrid, cabron, saluda al campeón" (Madrid, bastards, hail the champion!) last May 16 at Campo Nours Stadium, during the celebration of the championship won by his team.

The player now has ten working days to appeal.

The cited committee said that "the reiteration of the phrase, its contents, the context when it was pronounced, the team against which it was aimed -the traditional rival of Barcelona, allow to consider that such expression is addressed by Article 101.1.d of the federation statutes," regarding declarations that incite violence. — MNA/Xinhua

Stroke poses new threat to health of Thais

BANGKOK, 25 May — Stroke has posed a new threat to people in Thailand due to its serious consequences, Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanakul warns.

In an address to mark the World Stroke Day on Tuesday, Suchai said stroke is becoming a serious health problem, which often results in paralysis or chronic disabilities.

It is also the third leading cause of death worldwide, he was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

Triggered by interruption of blood supply to any part of the brain, stroke symptoms can be muscle weakness, numbness, an inability to speak or swallow, leading to loss of consciousness and death.

In 2002, 5.5 million people were killed by stroke around the world, three million of whom were women.

In Thailand, 150,000 people are disabled by stroke each year, or one every four minutes.

The treatment costs at least 15 billion baht (357 million US dollars) per year, with 18 million Thais considered at risk of disease.

To cut the number of stroke sufferers, the Public Health Ministry has organized a series of events this week to promote stroke prevention campaign across the country.

Expected to save 75,000 people from stroke annually and up to 75 billion baht (1.8 billion US dollars) in public money, the campaign will last until 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Injured Agassi out, Safin, Sharapova advance in French Open

PARIS, 25 May— The second day of the French Open on Tuesday was marked by the tragic departure of eight-time grand slam winner Andre Agassi who made his second consecutive first round exit at Roland Garros.

Whereas Agassi's younger fellow American Andy Roddick booked easy win, breazing past French wild card Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 and third seed Marat Safin jumped to a winning start in his seventh appearance here, pushing aside Dutchman Raemon Sluiter 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Safin's Russian country woman Maria Sharapova, seeded second, had to overcome a set deficit before winning 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Agassi choked back his tears after losing to Finland's qualifier Jarkko Nieminen.

Agassi was leading 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) in his record 58th appearance in a Grand Slam before his back pain flared up to force him barely limping through the last two sets, losing 6-1, 6-0.

"I didn't want to walk off. I just didn't want to do it. It's something that needs to be addressed because I can't be out there like that. I literally hurt," said Agassi, 35.

Agassi said he put his hopes in some pain-killing injection before he can consider Wimbledon.

"I know that last time I took an injection, it helped for a few months. But I didn't play three out of five on clay. I'm going to probably get another one and

hope the three out of five on grass is different," said the 1999 French Open champion.

Australian Open champion Safin, bidding to become the first man in 13 years to hold the first two legs of the Grand Slam, did not show a big margin between he and his 86-ranked opponent in the match of two hours 33 minutes at Suzanne Lenglen court.

Safin hit 50 winners while committing 57 unforced errors to Sluiter's 31 and 51 respectively.

"I'm just really happy that I pass the first round. To pass through, it's a tough match," said Safin, 25, facing Czech qualifier Lukas Dlouhy, who beat Swedish Thomas Enqvist 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

Two former champions Juan Carlos Ferrero and Justine Henin-Hardenne also made progress into the round of 64.

Henin experienced ups and downs in her opening match at the French Open before the Belgian former world number one booked a 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 win over Spain's Conchita Martinez.

Henin rushed to the first set win in 22 minutes but was met with strong resistance right from the second set, where the two players had to exchange advantage about a dozen times before Henin nailed the opening game. —MNA/Xinhua

Int'l conference on Olympic Truce opens in Olympia

ATHENS, 25 May— Greek Alternate Culture Minister Fani Palli-Petralia stressed on Tuesday that Olympic Truce and peace are very important to the world.

Inaugurating a conference as a unique opportunity to show the aspiration of peace from all over the world.

"For the first time representatives of the political and sports world from embattled regions of the planet will sit at the same table and will speak about peace," Petralia said.

"Local conflicts, violence, terrorism and the international conditions of insecurity prevailing in the world today in general bring the Olympic Truce to the forefront once again, rendering it not merely useful but necessary and well," she added.

The minister also announced her proposal on the Olympic Truce conference taking place at Ancient Olympia on an annual basis.

Petralia further referred to the government's plans for Ancient Olympia, saying that "the government's desire in post-Olympic Games Greece is for Ancient Olympia to emerge as the centre of post-Olympic Games utilization, while the benefits from the Olympic Games must be capitalized to enable the Olympic memory to remain alive."



Vince Spadea of the US returns a backhand during his match against Spain's Albert Costa in the first round of the French tennis open at Roland Garros Stadium on 24 May, 2005. Spadea beat Costa 6-4 7-6 6-2.—INTERNET

Mideast to pump in \$84b in 5 years to develop oil sector

DUBAI, 25 May— Arab oil producers were expected to pump nearly 84 billion US dollars in investment in five years to develop their oil and gas sector and more than 500 billion US dollars over the next three decades.

Abdul Aziz Al Turki, Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said gas projects alone were forecast to attract in excess of 230 billion US dollars as Qatar and other key Gulf oil producers were pushing ahead with mega LNG ventures.

MNA/PTI

MNA/Xinhua

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 - (ဂ) ကုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာဆေးရောင်ဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အအေးမိရောဂါ
- ၂။ ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့် အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ
- (က) မိုးဦးကျွန်းမြစ်၌ လှိုင်လှိုင်ပေါလာသည့် အချို့ဓာတ် ပါသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်ဓာတ်သီး၊ မင်းဂွတ်သီး စသည့် သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အနှံ့၊ အစေ့ စသည်များကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မခြင် စွန့်ပစ် ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်ပေါက်ဖွား၍ ယင်ပေါများခြင်း။
 - (ခ) ရာသီဥတုအပြောင်းလဲမှုများကို စားသုံးခြင်း။
 - (ဂ) မိုးရာဇာဓိပေါက် ရေတင်၊ ရေပိတ်ခြင်း ရေအိုင်၊ ရေဖွတ်မြစ်၌ ရေမြေရှင်းပိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချူနွယ်ပိတ်ပေါင်းထူထပ်၍ ဖြစ်ပေါက်ဖွားခြင်း။
 - (ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရှိန်ခြင်း၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
 - (င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း။
 - (စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့် အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့အကျင့် အားနည်းခြင်း။
- ၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါလိုက် လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကျင်းပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ် တားဆီးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုက်တွန်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
- (က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - (ခ) ယင်နားစားများကို မဆင်မခြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - (ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - (ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
 - (င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ကျင့်လှမ်းနာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
 - (စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
 - (ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။
 - (ဇ) ရာသီဥတု၊ အပူအအေး အပြောင်းအလဲကို သတိရှိပါ။
 - (ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ဖြစ်၊ ယင် နှိမ်နင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်း စုပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
 - (ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
 - (ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။
- ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန**

Nigeria, UNICEF work together to improve girl's education

ABUJA, 25 May — The Department for International Development (DFID) of Nigeria and the UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF) are working together to improve girls' education project in the west African country, a senior official said here on Monday.

At a news briefing in the capital Abuja, Nigeria's National Coordinator of Education For All (EFA) Amina Ibrahim said the initiative was informed by the need to close the disparity in primary education between boys and girls in the most populous African country, especially in the northern part of the country.

"There is wide disparity in education access for boys and girls in the north," she said.

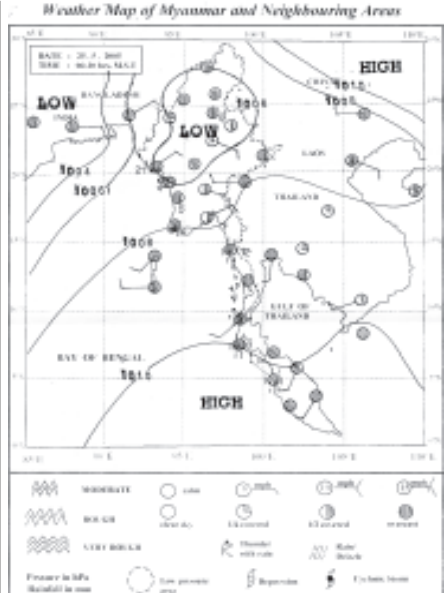
"We hope that with the support provided by these agencies, we will go a long way toward achieving gender parity in the next 2 years to 3 years," she explained.

She pointed out that the gap in primary education access between the north and south was very wide with as much as 42 per cent of children of primary school age not having access to educa-

tion. According to her, the Nigerian Government, the states and agencies have identified the problem and issues on both the demand and the supply side.

"We have now come up with a girls' education project to address the problem toward achieving this vital agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," she stressed.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 25 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon (1.34) inches, Kyauktaw (1.30) inches, Myaungmya (0.91) inch and Sittway (0.83) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State and Magway Division, (10°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (44°C) and Magway (43°C).

Maximum temperature on 24-5-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 25-5-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-5-2005 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 24-5-2005 was (7.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 25-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and (0.24 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (5.04 inches) at Yangon Airport, (5.62 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (3.35 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (11:20) hours MST on 24-5-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-5-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Thursday, 26 May Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Everything my heart desires
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: I've got my eyes for you
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: Angle
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: Don't close your eyes
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Could this be love
- The one you love
- I know what love is
- Tell me one more time
- Love takes time
- Always
- 9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- The image that brings peace and prosperity to the world
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Pourri
- High quality gas flow found in test well in S-W China
- Nepal celebrates golden jubilee of Mt Makalu
- El Salvador to set up bio diesel plant to cope with high oil costs
- 1700 year-old fort discovered in E China province
- 9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- I remember... Erril
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Thursday, 26 May View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာဟော နာယကဆွေအင်္ဂုဏ်တော်ဆောင်ရွက် အဘိဓမ္မဟောပြောရန်၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မသဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဓာရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မသဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိန္ဒာ အိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူ အပိသော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet songs
- 7:50 am 6. Dance of national races

- 8:00 am 7. အတီးမြိုင်မြိုင်
- 8:10 am 8. Dance variety
- 8:20 am 9. ကချင်ပြည်နယ်မှီးကောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am 10. International news
- 8:45 am 11. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အစားအသုံးအကျင့်အပြစ်များ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနက် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:15 pm 6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm 7. တေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်
- 5:35 pm 8. "နင်းကြည့်စမ်းပါ"

- (မင်းအုတ်စိုင်း၊ ညီဘွား၊ ခင်စိုးစိုင်း) (ဂါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုတ်စိုင်း)
- 5:45 pm 9. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm 10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောစွမ်းပြိုင်စီမံလမ်းစဉ်ရေးရာ
- 6:15 pm 11. သက်တောရောင်သံစဉ်
- 6:30 pm 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းစဉ် "ချစ်သောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၃၃)
- 7:35 pm 15. လူငယ်တွေ့ဆုံပွဲနှင့် နီးနား ဓလေ့ပွဲ (၄၆) (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 7:45 pm 16. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. Myanmar movie: "အချစ်ကို ဈေးဖွားခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ရန်အောင်၊ လူမင်း၊ ထွန်းခိုင်၊ မိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ) (ဂါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)
- 21. The next day's programme

Progress of work explained at coord meeting of Construction Ministry

YANGON, 25 May — The Ministry of Construction held its coordination meeting at the head office of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, this morning.



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivers an address at work coordination meeting.— MNA

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun spoke on the occasion. Superintending Engineers of States and Divisions explained progress of work, allotment of budget, use of heavy machinery and construction materials and tasks to be done. Later, the minister gave necessary instructions to those present.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein and departmental heads.

MNA

Environmental Conservation Committee meets

YANGON, 25 May — Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Forestry and Chairman of Environmental Conservation Committee, this morning delivered an address at the committee's coordination meeting at the Ministry of Forestry.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made a supplementary speech.

Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses at Environmental Conservation Committee Meeting. — MNA

briefed those present on the plans for environmental conservation. Deputy ministers and officials participated in the discussions.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung gave the concluding remarks.— MNA

Governor of Yunnan Province and party leave

YANGON, 25 May — The 22-member goodwill delegation led by Mr Xu Rongkai, Governor of Yunnan Province of the Peo-



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin sees off Chinese goodwill delegation at Yangon International Airport. —YCDC

ple's Republic of China left here for home by air this morning.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary U Myint Aung, Joint-Secretary U Tin Soe and committee members, departmental heads, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and families from the embassy.

MNA

Poster contest postponed to 27 May

YANGON, 25 May—The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorative poster contest is put off until 27 May. So, it will be held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township from 1 pm to 4 pm on 27 May.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(25-5-2005)

Pyapon	1.34 inches
Kyauktaw	1.30 inches
Myaungmya	0.91 inch
Sittway	0.83 inches