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Wednesday, 1 June, 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

A & I Minister inspects research divisions

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited Ingabo palm oil research division in Kyaikto Township, Mon State on 28 May, where he heard a report on plantations of oil palm, and production of palm oil presented by officials.

The minister spoke of the need to run the oil mill at the division at full capacity, to increase production, to plant more oil palm to supply enough raw material for the mill, and to produce pedigree strains.

The following day, the minister inspected applied research division of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise near Hpa-auk village in Mawlamyine Township. Experts explained the plantation of hybrid species, distribution, and research work on plantation of edible oil crops and rubber, and production of raw materials for rubber factories. Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the experts should strive to help exceed the state's agricultural targets.

He then observed the research programme on pest control, tissue culture, cross-breeding of oil palm, production of quality strains, soil testing, and rubber products. The research division has been striving to distribute adequate number of saplings to rubber growers and oil palm growers and to produce quality strains.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects production of cross-bred oil palm at the applied research division in Mawlamyine. — A&I

INSIDE

The information is very important for researchers to evaluate current status of crocodiles in Myanmar and carry out a proper management for them. (Page 7)

SEIN SEIN THEIN (DAGON UNIVERSITY)

World No-tobacco Day 2005 observed



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, MWAFF President Daw Than Than Nwe, MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win and guests study the booths at World No-tobacco Day 2005 Ceremony. — HEALTH

YANGON, 31 May —The World No-tobacco Day 2005 was observed at the International Business Centre here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, vice-presidents, general secretaries and officials of Health Department, professors, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long, members of National Smoking Control Committee, Chairmen of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Medical Academy, officials of non-governmental organizations, UN Agencies and international organizations.

In his address, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the World No-tobacco Day has been observed in the country since 1989. The Ministry of Health carried out health education activities educating people that smoking can harm health, social and economic aspects. In order to avoid the danger of smoking, the ministry has launched anti-tobacco campaign.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 1 June, 2005

Serve the interests of the nation and the people conscientiously

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a national force that always upholds "Our Three Main National Causes" and plays a pivotal role in developing and modernizing the nation. This being so, members of the Association are constantly trained in such a way that they will be able to do more for peace, stability and development of the Union.

Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 7 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the training school of USDA in Hmawby Township on 30 May. The concluding ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the trainees to serve the best interests of the nation and the people conscientiously by making the most of the opportunity time for rapid development and the good leadership of the government. Now is the time when the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are working hard in concert for all-round development of the State. The fruits of their united endeavours can be obviously seen in education, health, transport, economic and social fields.

While the entire national people are working for the good of the nation, the lackeys of neo-colonialists, destructive elements within and without the nation, pessimists and some foreign media are always plotting to undermine the interests of the nation and the people by broadcasting and carrying fabricated stories. Therefore, we should keep constant vigilance against and ward off their machinations and sabotage.

USDA members are required to make an analytic study of the past and present international and domestic affairs. The Union Solidarity and Development Association regularly conducts courses on Myanmar affairs and international studies to enable its members to be able to do so. Therefore, we would like to call on USDA members to conscientiously serve the interests of the nation and the people by making constant study of domestic and international affairs and by putting their knowledge into practice.

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

Chinese Sayadaw and disciples leave

YANGON, 31 May— A Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhists Association Presiding Sayadaw of Linkwam Temple The Most Ven Master Sheng Hui left here by air this morning.



Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhists Association Presiding Sayadaw of Linkwam Temple The Most Ven Master Sheng Hui being seen off at the airport on their departure for home. — MNA

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Religious Affairs, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Department for Promotion and

Propagation of the Sasana, pro-rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi, departmental heads and officials from Chinese Embassy. MNA

First four-monthly meeting of MAPT held

YANGON, 31 May — Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Commerce held the first four-monthly meeting (2005) and prize-presentation ceremony for fiscal 2004-2005 at the conference hall of MAPT on Bogyoke Aung San Road this morning.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, advisers, directors-general, managing

directors, general managers, state/division managers, officials and guests.

First, the deputy minister delivered a speech and MAPT Managing Director U Min Hla Aung explained matters related to the prize presentation.

Later, the deputy minister and officials presented prizes to the outstanding staff.

MNA

Translation manuscript award contest

YANGON, 31 May — Manuscripts have been invited for the year 2004 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award competition. A Brief History of Globalisation by Philippe Legrain has been prescribed for the translation manuscript award contest (2004). And the book is available at 70 kyats per copy at the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop of No 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon.

Forms with rules and regulations on the contest are also available at K 30 at the Sarpay Beikman Editorial Section. Those from other towns can get the forms at K 40 or 40-kyat stamps.

Those from other towns can send money order worth K 110 for the prescribed book and manuscripts are to be sent not later than 30-9-2005.

MNA

Macadam road inaugurated in Myaungmya

YANGON, 31 May — A macadam road linking Pyin Village in Myaungmya Township and Patheingyi Road was put into service this evening in the presence of Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint.

Myaungmya Township DAD spent over K 8 million on the macadam road which is 5255 ft long

and 12 ft wide. The road will benefit over 6,000 people in seven village-tracts.

Member of the Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council U Aye Han and Executive Officer of Myaungmya Township DAD U Myint Aung formally opened the road.

MNA



Development Affairs Department Director-General U Myo Myint attends the opening of Pyinywa rural gravel road in Myaungmya township. —MNA

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GREEN CITIES
PLAN FOR THE PLANET!
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
5 JUNE 2005

ကမ္ဘာပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့
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Nepal to promote tourism by mountaineering

KATHMANDU, 31 May— The Nepali Government is committed to making the country an exemplary destination for sustainable tourism development by promoting mountaineering, a government official said here on Monday.

Mountain climbing in Nepal has aroused curiosity around the world after the golden jubilee celebrations of the summit of the world's highest peaks, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Buddha Raj Bajracharya told reporters.

Nepal has eight of the 14 peaks around the world above 8,000 metres and therefore the best destination for adventure tourism and mountaineering, the minister said.

As the government

has adopted a policy to celebrate Golden Jubilee Anniversary of ascending on the Himalayan peaks above 8,000 metres high, the Golden Jubilee of Mt Qomolangma (8,848 metres) and Mt Cho-Oyu (8,201 metres) were celebrated successfully in May 2003 and October 2004, respectively.

The celebrations for the world's third highest peak Kanchenjunga and fifth highest peak Makalu have been concluded respectively earlier this month, the min-

ister said.

According to Bajracharya, some 28 per cent of the tourists are coming to Nepal for trekking and mountaineering every year.

This year, a total of 22 teams have received permission to climb Mt. Qomolangma, and another 33 teams to climb other peaks in Nepal, he said.

The country earned 110 million rupees (about 1.57 million US dollars) last year from 13 such teams, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

China steel exports drop in April

BEIJING, 30 May — Statistics from the China General Administration of Customs show that the country's billet export declined by 40 per cent in April after the abolition of the export tax rebate policy for the industry.

According to a report in the Beijing-based *Economic Information Daily*, the country exported 800,000 tons of billet last month, a drop of 660,000 tons compared with March.

Meanwhile, steel exports also decreased to 2.07 million tons in April, 140,000 tons less than the previous month, as the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation decided to slash the

export drawback rate for steel from 13 per cent to 11 per cent starting on 1 May, the report said.

The move aimed to discourage exports to ensure the domestic demand for steel.

However, due to the rapid increase of billet exports in the first quarter, China's billet exports still stood at 3.67 million tons in the first four months of this year, 3.2 million tons more, or up 676.4 per cent, compared

with the same period last year.

Steel exports amounted to 7.26 million tons, representing a year-on-year increase of 196.2 per cent.

Both the steel price and exports dropped following the Chinese Government's series of macro-control measures to ensure a "soft landing" of the overheating economy, which grew 9.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

MNA/Xinhua



China's top legislator arrives in Malaysia for official visit

PENANG (Malaysia), 30 May — Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, arrived here on Saturday, beginning a four-day official goodwill visit to Malaysia.

Malaysia is the last leg of Wu's four-nation Asia-Pacific tour, which has also taken him to Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. China and Malaysia are close and friendly neighbours, and the friendship between the two peoples dates back to ancient times, Wu said in an arrival statement.

"In recent years, our all-dimensional friendly relations and cooperation featuring good-neighbourliness and mutual trust have developed smoothly," Wu

said. "We enjoy frequent exchanges of high-level visits, increasingly active exchanges at different levels and fruitful cooperation in various areas."

He said China and Malaysia maintain good cooperation and coordination in both international and regional affairs, including productive cooperation in promoting the development of relations between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

MNA/Xinhua

Chairman of Standing Committee of the People's National Congress of China, Wu Bangguo (L), and Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi pose at Badawi's office in Putrajaya outside Kuala Lumpur on 30 May, 2005. INTERNET

Ten British soldiers face war crime trials

LONDON, 30 May — Up to ten British soldiers were under investigation for alleged war crimes over the death of an Iraqi civilian in British military custody, *The Sunday Telegraph* newspaper here reported.

The soldiers, including a decorated colonel, two Intelligence Corps interrogators, and seven Queen's Lancashire Regiment members, could face prosecution under the International Criminal Court Act, the paper said.

An Army doctor with the rank of major is also under investigation for "neglect" and "failure to carry out a duty" in relation to the death, the paper added.

All the alleged offences are due to the death of Baha Musa, a hotel receptionist arrested in Basra in September 2003. He died the next day in a local British Army headquarters. A postmortem examination showed strangulation marks, a broken nose and three broken ribs.

If prosecuted, it will be the first time that British soldiers have been tried under war crime legislation enacted in 2001, which resulted from Britain backing the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the report said.

Up to now, more than 50 British soldiers are being investigated for alleged crimes committed during and after the Iraqi war. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Air Force aircraft crashes in eastern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May — An Iraqi Air Force aircraft crashed northeast of Baghdad close to the Iranian border on Monday with four US military personnel and an Iraqi on board, the US military said in a statement.

Sources said the aircraft went down during a sandstorm near the town of Khanaqin shortly before noon (0800 GMT). It was not immediately clear if the aircraft was a helicopter or fixed-wing plane.

The US military said forces in the area had secured the crash site. It did not say whether those on board had survived.

"They are at the site now trying to ascertain what the situation is," a spokeswoman for the US military in Baghdad said.

"We don't yet know what caused the aircraft to go down. It's all under investigation."

More than a dozen US helicopters have been brought down in Iraq over the past two years, either by insurgent ground fire, bad weather or malfunctions.

Last week, an OH-58 surveillance helicopter was shot down by small arms fire near the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, killing both people on board. — Internet



Local residents look at a vehicle destroyed in a suicide attack against police in the southern Iraqi town of Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad on 30 May, 2005.—INTERNET



Kenichiro Sasae (L), head of the Asia and Oceania Bureau at Japan's Foreign Ministry, and Nobuyori Kodaira (C), head of Japan's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, leave a hotel in China's capital Beijing on 31 May, 2005.

INTERNET



China establishes protection zone for wild rice

NANNING, 30 May — China has established a protection zone for wild rice, said to be the largest of its kind in the world, in Yulin in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Chen Chengbin, a researcher with the Guangxi Autonomous Regional Academy of Agricultural Science, said the protection zone covers approximately 42 hectares, with 11.09 mil-

lion samples of wild rice resources.

As the ancestor of modern cultivated rice, wild rice is under key state protection in China. Wild rice provides an important materials basis

for the study of biotics and breeding because it contains many fine genes characterized by high yield, high quality, cold-resistant and drought-proof functions and the capability to resist pests and insects.

Wild rice is also of strategic importance in guaranteeing grain safety, said Chen, who is in charge of the protection zone.

Using the genes of wild rice, Yuan Longping, dubbed the "father of hybrid rice", developed the world's first male sterile line of rice in 1970 and completed three male sterile lines of cross-bred rice in 1973.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam wishes closer ties with Indonesia

HANOI, 31 May— Vietnam hopes to unceasingly consolidate and boost multi-faceted cooperation with Indonesia, said Vietnamese top leaders while meeting with visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday.

At the meeting, General Secretary of the Central Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nong Duc Manh, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Van An stressed that the bilateral ties between the two countries should be strengthened, especially in the context that the world situation complicatedly develops as currently.

Vietnam's consistent stance is to beef up the traditional cooperation with Indonesia for mutual benefits of the two countries' people, as well as for the peace, stability, and development of the region and the world, they noted, adding that Vietnam's party, state and people always support Indonesia's independence and territorial integrity. The two countries should also discuss measures to foster their cooperation, especially in the fields of economy, trade, culture and education, and more closely work together in combating transnational crimes, terrorists and pirates, they added.

On his part, Susilo affirmed that Indonesia always attaches importance on boosting cooperation with Vietnam and believed that the bilateral relations will smoothly develop.

The Indonesian President wishes to promote cooperation with Vietnam in the fields of investment, trade, tourism, culture, education, security and defence. — MNA/Xinhua

Spain's largest tourism group to invest in China's hotel industry

BEIJING, 30 May — "As the biggest Spanish tourism group, our Global Company planned to invest in China's booming hotel industry," said Juan Jose Hidalgo, president and chairman of the company here on Sunday.

He said that China's rapid economic development and increasing visit of business travellers, as well as the opportunity to host Olympics and the World Expo, already attracted attention of the world hotel industry.

So far, there are over 800 star-rated hotels in Beijing and the number will keep on rise. Global planned to manage 100-plus hotels in the world in three years, including some

hotels in China.

The group aimed to provide customerized services for Spanish-speaking guests.

Hidalgo is also the President of Air Europa. His company opened the first direct flight between China and Spain on 23 May. It now operates four flights from Spain to Beijing and Shanghai per week, and plans to increase flights next spring.

MNA/Xinhua

790 to attend Congress of Chinese Young Pioneers

BEIJING, 30 May — A total of 790 delegates are expected to attend the forthcoming Fifth National Congress of the Chinese Young Pioneers, according to the National Committee on the Work of Young Children.

Of the 790 delegates, 50 per cent are members of the Chinese Young Pioneers while the number of assistants is 158, or 20 per cent, and the number of volunteer assistants is 29, or 3.7 per cent.

Seven are representa-

tives of children from families of rural transient workers in cities.

Over 150 correspondents from over 60 domestic media organizations will come to cover the congress, including 40 young reporters from the China

Children's News.

A special web site has been created by the organizer of the congress, which is to publish information and data about the congress.

MNA/Xinhua

Bombers target Iraq police, up to 30 dead

BAGHDAD, 30 May — Two suicide bombers blew themselves up Monday in a crowd of police officers south of Baghdad, killing up to 30 people and wounding dozens, and an Iraqi aircraft with four Americans and an Iraqi on board crashed in eastern Iraq.

Also Monday, US forces mistakenly detained a Sunni political leader on the second day of an Iraqi-led security sweep in the capital.

The Iraqi aircraft carrying four US personnel and one Iraqi crashed sometime before noon during an operational mission, the military said in a statement, but it did not say what type of air-

craft was involved or whether those on board had died.

US-led coalition forces had secured the area where the aircraft went down in the eastern province of Diyala and the crash was "under investigation," the military said. It also said the crash was reported to a joint communication centre in the town of Khanaqin, near the border with Iran.

Internet

British soldier killed in Iraq

LONDON, 30 May — One British soldier was killed near the southeastern Iraqi town of Amara when forces were attacked, the British Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

"There has been a hostile action against British troops ... which has resulted in a fatality," said a ministry spokesman.

The incident is under investigation but it appears to have been the result of an explosion, he added.

Meanwhile, Britain's Sky News television reported that the incident was a roadside bomb attack on a convoy near Amara.

Guerillas in Iraq have stepped up attacks on US and Iraqi troops since a new Iraqi Government was announced in April, killing over 600 people.

Britain, a staunch US ally on Iraq, is now positioning about 9,000 troops in Iraq, and more than 80 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police check a driver's identification papers at a checkpoint in Baghdad's Sadr City on 30 May, 2005.

INTERNET



Top Chinese leaders show concern over orphans, disabled kids

BEIJING, 30 May— Writing a letter to an orphan school and chatting with children with hearing problems, top Chinese leaders Wu Bangguo and Wen Jiabao expressed their sincere concerns about children ahead of International Children's Day.

Their actions have revealed the government's high regard for children, and they both called for the whole society to take concern for orphans and disabled kids.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress or China's highest parliamentary body, wrote a letter to north China's Liaoning Orphan School, addressing the school's 40 years founding anniversary, which falls on 25 May.

"The country's, the society's, teacher's and schoolmate's love will provide the parenthood you lack," Wu said in his letter.

"You should study hard and serve society in the future."

"Can you hear me, little friends?" Premier Wen asked a group of deaf children aided with audiphones.

"Yes," these children answered eagerly.

He then turned to the teachers and said, "I can see they are quite confident, thanks to your considerate treatments and instructions."

This was the scene at the China Rehabilitation Research Centre for Deaf Children when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited on 27 May to mark the upcoming Children's Day.

"Children are the people deserving most concern from the society, especially those who are disabled and having difficulties," the Premier said.

"I didn't bring any gifts to the kids, because I think what they need are not expensive toys, flowers or cakes, they need a vivacious childhood, and the teachers here have offered them this most precious gift," Wen said.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to hold motor rally for anti-smoking campaign

KATHMANDU, 30 May—Nepal will hold a national motor rally as part of the country's campaign to discourage people from smoking, organizers said here on Sunday.

The rally, to be held on 4 June to mark the World No Tobacco Day, will cover a 100-kilometre distance around the Kathmandu Valley, said Diwakar Karmikar, president of Rotary Clube of Bagmati, a non-governmental organization in charge of the event.

Participants of the activity will distribute anti-smoking pamphlets and posters in the valley and all participating vehicles are required to carry "Quit Smoking" slogans.

About 100 motors, with driver and navigator will take part in the rally, and the participation fee will be donated to the country's Cancer Relief Society, said Karmikar.

MNA/Xinhua



The Monju nuclear reactor in Tsuruga, Japan, seen on 30 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Indian President visits Iceland

REYKJAVIK, 30 May — In an effort to give a major boost to Indo-Iceland relations, President A P J Abdul Kalam arrived here Sunday on a three-day state visit, the first ever by an Indian leader.

The Indian President, upon his arrival at the Keflavik International Airport, was received by Secretary-General in the Office of Iceland's President Stefan L Stefasson after which he was presented with a guard of honour.

The President left immediately from the airport to begin his official visit during which two bilateral agreements — Air Services and opening up of a Resident Mission here — were likely to be signed.

The high-level delegation of the President was also likely to be joined by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Praful Patel who would be inking the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for paving the way to begin direct services between the two countries.

MNA/PTI

India, Switzerland agree on joint space research programme

ONBOARD PRESIDENT'S AIRCRAFT, 30 May— India and Switzerland have agreed on a joint space research programme in which New Delhi will also offer its satellites to Swiss researchers.

The joint research programme envisages use of space technology for peaceful purposes, including to predict avalanches, President A P J Abdul Kalam told reporters on completion of state visits to Russia and Switzerland.

India has also offered its satellite launchpads to place Swiss satellites into orbit, he said.

"When I first handed over three-dimensional stereo-mapped photographs of the Alps mountains he (Swiss President

Sameul Schmid) was very impressed," Kalam said.

He said after his four-day visit to Switzerland, cooperation in the field of science and technology would be intensified and trade ties further improved.

"We have also sought cooperation from Switzerland in training Indian personnel in disaster management," he said.

On Switzerland remaining non-comittal in its support to India's bid for a permanent seat in

the UN Security Council, he said "they have their own stand. They want the reforms of the UN to begin first."

Kalam is on a four-nation visit to Russia, Switzerland, Iceland and Ukraine.

Kalam said ties between India and Russia, which have already been strong, would be further strengthened following his visit to that country.

He said, during his Russia visit, the two countries identified five areas for cooperation which include forecasting earthquakes, cooperation in nano-science, mathematics and laser science technology, and trade.

India has also offered to cooperate in oil exploration while Russia has offered its expertise in nuclear power generation.

MNA/PTI



Chinese salesclerks clean the windows of a display showing Chinese made clothings in Beijing, on 31 May, 2005.

INTERNET

China "strongly" opposes EU's decision on textile imports

BEIJING, 30 May— The Chinese Government is "firmly" against the European Union's decision to impose quotas on imports of two categories of Chinese textiles, a spokesman with the Ministry of Commerce said here on Sunday.

The EU move, based only on a three-month data collection, cannot be termed as an "accurate judge and a correct decision", said the spokesman Chong Quan.

"The decision would not only serve as a wrong trade protectionist signal to the European textile firms, but also hurt the interests of the Chinese textile producers, which should be enjoyed by them in accordance with the global trade rules," he said.

The spokesman said that China hoped that the current trade disputes between the EU and China

could be solved through consultations.

"China, as a member of the World Trade Organization, has already adopted a series of measures to try to ensure the smooth development of the world textile trade following the lift of the global trade quotas on textiles on 1 January", Chong said.

The European Union (EU) on Friday asked the Chinese authorities for formal consultations on two categories of textiles and clothing products — flax yarn and T-shirts.

The EU's move would

trigger an urgency procedure, which requires China to limit exports of textile or textile products in these categories to a level no greater than 7.5 per cent above the amount that entered the EU market during the period from March 2004 to February 2005.

The European Commission said the request is made after a thorough and fruitful telephone discussion between EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai.

MNA/Xinhua

EU ranks Bangladesh among top 20 "IT" outsourcing destinations

DHAKA, 30 May — The European Union (EU) has ranked Bangladesh among the top 20 IT outsourcing destinations, though the country's small businesses are handicapped by inadequate policy support, legal framework and infrastructure, local newspapers reported here Sunday.

This was revealed at the dissemination programme of a project — Development of Small Business ICT Strategies in Bangladesh — organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat, reported *The Daily Star*.

The project is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and has documented the opportunities and gaps existing in the country's

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

Detailed dissemination of the project was provided by Ram Venuprasad, adviser (Enterprise Development) to Special Advisory Services Division, Commonwealth Secretariat. Venuprasad said the objective of the project is to assess the potential of the ICT sector

and develop it, focusing on small businesses, as a source of economic activity in Bangladesh.

The Commonwealth Secretariat launched a four-day training programme with a series of five specialized modules for stakeholders from the ICT sector in Dhaka on Saturday, reported *The Financial Express*.

MNA/Xinhua



Japan Airlines (JAL) Boeing 747 jumbo jet is parked among other Boeing and Airbus planes at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

China, Japan cooperate in verification of environmental signs

BEIJING, 30 May— China and Japan have agreed to cooperate in the verification of environmental signs marked on exported goods of either country.

An agreement was signed here Friday by the environmental verification centre of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China and the environmental association of Japan.

Under the document, each of the two signees will accept applications for verifying an environmental sign delivered by applicants from the other country.

This is the third such agreement signed by China with other countries, following the similar agreements signed with Australia and South Korea.

According to an official with the SEPA, since China resumed its diplomatic ties with Japan in 1972, the bilateral trade has increased by 160 folds, to top 168 billion US dollars in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



The silhouette of two workers frame an ice replica of the Eiffel Tower while working on another replica of the London Bridge on display at the Harbin Ice Wonderland exhibition which goes on for three months, on 30 May, 2005 in sunny Singapore.—INTERNET

Indonesian President visits Vietnam

HANOI, 30 May— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono arrived here Saturday night for a three-day visit to Vietnam, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday.

Susilo is scheduled to hold talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Duc Luong, and meet with Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Van An and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nong Duc Manh,

mainly to discuss issues on strengthening cooperative relations between the two countries. The visit is Susilo's first trip to Vietnam since he took office last October. Trade volume this year between the two countries is expected to exceed 1 billion US dollars reached last year.

Susilo came to Viet-

nam after concluding his trip to the United States on Friday, where he discussed with US President George W. Bush about bilateral economic relations and some other issues of mutual concerns.

After Vietnam, the Indonesian President will travel to Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand seeks for extended fishing deal with Indonesia

BANGKOK, 30 May — The government of Thailand is negotiating with Indonesian authorities to extend a concessionary deal in which Thai trawlers are allowed to fish in the Indonesian waters, a government official said.

The talks are underway between the Thai Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Foreign Affairs and the Indonesian Ministry of Marine and Fisheries Affairs on the extended deal, under which Thai trawlers will be allowed to continue to fish in the Indonesian territorial waters, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Sitdhi Boonyaratpalin

was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Saturday.

Under the deal, called the "Arrangement on the Utilization of Part of the Total Allowable Catch in the Indonesia, EEZ," signed between the Thai and Indonesian fisheries departments in September 2002, 309 licensed Thai trawlers are allowed to fish in the Indonesian special eco-

nomie zone.

The concessionary contact will expire on 14 July. "Some trawlers who have already been extended the licence for another one year will also be allowed to fish in the Indonesian territorial waters until the term ends," he said.

The Thai authorities hope that the deal will be extended in one form or another before 14 July," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Pharmacies to join anti-smoking campaign in Thailand

BANGKOK, 30 May — More than 200 pharmacies in Thailand will join an anti-smoking campaign to be launched next week to help people to quit smoking. The campaign, jointly initiated by Smoking and Health Foundation (ASH) and the Pharmacies' Network, will kick off on Tuesday to mark the World No Tobacco Day.

Pharmacies can play an active role in helping people to stop smoking because they are close to the community and are accessible to all, Katha Bunditanukul, president of the Community Pharmacies' Foundation, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying on Sunday. In the upcoming campaign, participating pharmacies will display "Smoke-Free Pharmacy" stickers in their stores and give advice to customers on how to quit smoking.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepali journalists visit Tibet

KATHMANDU, 30 May — An eight-member journalist delegation left here Saturday for Lhasa, the capital city of China's Tibet Autonomous Region, for an eight-day sight-seeing and fact-finding visit.

This is the first time for the Chinese Embassy in Nepal to organize such a journalist delegation to visit Tibet, Shan Xiaotong, Third Secretary of the embassy, told *Xinhua*.

As a part of the celebration of golden jubilee of China-Nepal diplomatic relationship, the journalists from Nepal Television, *The Rising Nepal* daily, *New Nepal* Post magazine and China

Radio International (CRI) Kathmandu Office will visit Lhasa, Naqu and some other areas in the region.

"The delegation will go to temples, museums, schools for sight-seeing and fact-finding in order to improve their understanding on the social, economic, cultural, religious, educational sectors in China's Tibet bordering Nepal," Shan said.—MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to build three grade AIDS prevention, control network

BEIJING, 30 May— Beijing will build an AIDS prevention and control network, covering the entire municipality, said Vice-Mayor Niu Youcheng over the weekend at the 2005 municipal health work conference.

The three grade network includes the municipal and district disease prevention and control mechanisms, the community health service centres and the sanitation stations in townships and villages.

The Municipal Health Bureau Director Jin Dapeng said Beijing will prioritize the building and reconstruction of 1,486 sanitation stations in the rural areas.

At the same time, Beijing will intensify AIDS-related education in 11 districts and counties, together with 20 communities this year.

The official said all the second level and top level hospitals in Beijing are ordered to establish HIV virus checking centres. —MNA/Xinhua

Crocodiles conservation at Main Ma Hla Island

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)



Baby crocodiles resting at the corner of nursery tank.

Conservation problems concerning biodiversity have been widely publicized and the majority of countries in tropical Asia are exerting efforts to manage and conserve this resource. Economically important group of animals with similar problems have been largely ignored in the past century. In terms of human exploitation, the most important brackish water species in tropical Asia are river terrapins and crocodiles. In February 2005, lecturers of Dagon University and myself travelled to the town of Bogalay and adjacent islands to conduct biological survey in the proposed protected area. On the first day of our trip when we arrived at Main Ma Hla Island, we observed the waterway of Bogalay River. We

made contact with the officials of the Saucuary under the Forest Department.

Myanmar Crocodile Breeding Project is a



Tagging made on a crocodile.

model one of the department. Besides establishing sancutries and a captive, breeding-programme, it provides for a training centre for the personnel of the Wildlife Conservation Programme. We found that a

major problem preventing the enforcement of the laws protecting endangered species of crocodile in Asia was that few wildlife officials could identify the species involved. Here education in reptile identification is needed to promote the work.

From the standpoint of public co-operation, education is also necessary. A crocodile fisherman is far more likely to abide by the law if he understands that

conservation and laws and how they can benefit. Media, environmental education units in Universities curriculum and on-site visits to villages in key areas should all be utilized to get the message across. Not all of the techniques and actions mentioned will be suitable in all societies or for all species.

Each country needs to decide which actions are most suitable to their situation. It must be reemphasized, how-



Baby crocodiles resting at the corner of nursery tank.

(Forest Department) held discussion with us ecology, looked at the conservation status and concluded with review of existing and needed conservation action to maintain these brackish resources.

Their research programme on crocodiles in Main Ma Hla Island using tagging and Global Positioning System was done. Current results seem unable yet to describe entirely the migratory routes and geographical distribution. The Forest Department and WCS team have ini-

only place of Myanmar with an operating management programme for the brackish water crocodiles.

On return from this journey, we appreciated the young generation for their conservation efforts in Main Ma Hla Island. We collected the relevant information on the population statistics and comprehensive biological information such as migration, growth, mortality and other relevant facts that can be derived from tagging pro-



Refuge for crocodiles.

ever, that time may be very short for the brackish water animals, unless some effective conservation action is taken. Asia will have lost a unique and potentially very important resource. U Tun Tun Lwin

initiated these conservation works in this region. Crocodiles must be carefully managed if they are to be maintained as an important resource. Presently, this Main Ma Hla Wildlife sanctuary is the

programme. The information is very important for researchers to evaluate current status of crocodiles in Myanmar and carry out a proper management on them.



Main Ma Hla Island wildlife sanctuary.

Yanong Command Commander, Mayor oversee measures for beautifying and greening of Yanong City

YANGON, 31 May — Chairman of Yanong Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yanong Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yanong City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials concerned oversaw measures for beautifying and greening of Yanong City, proper drainage, upgrading of roads and fulfilled the requirements this morning.

First, the commander and mayor arrived at Thirimingala Housing in Ahlon Township and checked measures for proper drainage on either side of Strand Road,



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect the tarmacking of Bayintnaung Road in Hline Township. — YGN COMMAND

tarmacking of road near Htidan Housing, Kyimayindine Township and Bayintnaung road in Hline Township, dredging of silt and garbage along Kha-yanhaung creek near the junction of Kyaikwaing Pagoda road and

Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township and tarmacking of Kyaikwaing Pagoda road by means of heavy machinery. Next, the commander and mayor gave instructions to officials on constant measures to be taken

for dumping of garbage, proper drainage and dredging of drains in co-operation with social organizations and towns dwellers and tarmacking of roads meeting the set standard and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Shan State (South) War Veterans Organization Preliminary Conference (2005) held



Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint addresses the preliminary conference (2005) of the Shan State (South) War Veterans Organization. — MNA

YANGON, 31 May — Shan State (South) War Veterans Organization Preliminary Conference (2005) took place at the city hall of Taunggyi this morning.

Present were Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee member Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Patron of the organization Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Shan State (South) War Veterans Supervisory Committee Chairman Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein, officials and departmental staff.

Meeting Chairman Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered a speech. Next, well-wishers donated K 12.6 million to the supervisory committee.

The sectors of national politics, national defence, security, economy, social and welfare were discussed were discussed. Later, the conference laid down five future work programmes, passed three resolutions, approved one matter and put six matters on record. The meeting ended with the chanting of slogans.

MNA

World No-tobacco Day...

(from page 1)

Beginning 2000, No-Tobacco Project was undertaken in accord with the guidance of National Health Committee.

Under the leadership of WHO, member countries drafted international convention on control of tobacco and its products for four years. They unanimously approved the convention at the 56th WHO Conference held in May 2003. Myanmar signed the convention on 23 October 2003 and approved it on 20 April 2004. The WHO noticed Myanmar's efforts on control of tobacco and smoking and presented the 2004 World No-Tobacco Day Award to the Ministry of Health of

Myanmar. It is a milestone in the health history of Myanmar. After realizing the danger of tobacco and its products, smoking rate in Myanmar dropped. The motto for 2005 World No Tobacco Day is "Health Professionals against To-

bacco". The minister urged the health professionals to take part in anti-tobacco campaign.

Next, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra spoke on the occasion. Myanmar Music Asiayon presented educative song in commemora-

tion of the World No Tobacco Day. The minister and the guests viewed educative booths. After the ceremony, symposium on tobacco and health professionals was held. Resource persons submitted their papers and those present took part in the discussions.—MNA



Ambassador appointed to Malaysia

YANGON, 1 Jun — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Aung, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia. — MNA

Ambassador appointed to Republic of Singapore

YANGON, 1 Jun — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Myint, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Pyu period artefacts unearthed in Mongmao



Pyu period gold Buddha statues in Mongmao. — CULTURE

YANGON, 31 May—U Tin Myint, 31, of Mongmao Village in Myitha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, unearthed Pyu period gold Buddha images, silver pagodas and silver Buddha images on Sheihaung hill in Mongmao on 27 May 2005.

The artefacts he unearthed are 11 gold Buddha statues, a Buddha with its head cast with gold and its body, alloy, two silver Buddha statues gilded, four silver cetis, and five silver objects. He handed over the religious objects to the Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) through respective township/district/division Peace and Development Councils. The department confirmed that these date back to Pyu period.

Mongmao was one of the Pyu period cities that was civilized before Christ. Previously, only a silver Buddha image had been unearthed in the town. In appearance, the craftsmanship of the objects is a little similar to that of the artefacts in Hanlin, Sri Khattaya and Pyu periods.

The findings indicate that Buddha Sasana has flourished in Myanmar since the early Pyu period, and the gold and silver items in that period were exquisite. In addition, there was cultural interrelation between Tagaung, Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Khattaya cities, and Buddhism has flourished in the nation ever since. — MNA



Pyu period silver cetis and Buddha statues unearthed in Mongmao.—CULTURE

Nurse trainees from Hpa-an Nursing Training school visited the New Yanong General Hospital. Medical Superintendent Daw Hla Kyin and Matron Daw Khin Ti briefing the trainees on functions of the hospital on 31-5-2005. — MNA

Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association hold 70th meeting



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the 70th banking meeting. — MNA

YANGON, 30 May — Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee for Myanmar Banks Association of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held its 70th meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning, with an address by Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein

Swe, Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry, officials of State-owned banks and private ones.

During the meeting, the minister delivered an address. In his address he said now 2004-2005 fiscal year passed and 2005-2006 fiscal year has

just arrived. Banks are to carry out banking services through harmonious efforts, taking lessons from previous experiences, to definitely follow laws, rules and regulations, to keep funds of the State systematically.

Officials of State-owned banks and private ones are to take measures to offer banking services precisely.

MNA

Minister inspects development tasks in Pantanaw, Myaungmya, Einme

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 28 May inspected the two-mile long earth road in Pantanaw Township. Pantanaw Township Development Affairs Department constructed the road at a cost of K 14.3 million.

The minister called

on officials concerned to upgrade the road to macadam road.

Afterwards, the minister and party also inspected the construction Khattiya primary school building and provided the necessary assistance.

He met with officials of Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Department the next day at the office of

Myaungmya Township DAD. At the meeting, the minister discussed with the officials regional development tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister yesterday met with officials of Einme Township DAD and called on them to make efforts for rural area development tasks with added momentum.

MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects Khattiya earth road in Pantanaw Township.

PBANRDA

Friendly volleyball match held



Brig-Gen Myo Myint watches the friendly volleyball match. — MNA

YANGON, 31 May — The friendly volleyball match between Yangon Command volleyball team and Indian Army volleyball team took place at the National Indoor Stadium 1, Thuwunna, this evening.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Tatmadaw volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo

Myint, Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Principle of Defence Services Self-Defence and Sports Institute Col Htain Lin and military officers, officers concerned of the Ministry of Sports, military attaches from foreign embassies and others. Later, Brig-Gen Myo Myint cordially greeted managers,

coaches and players of the two sides. Next, Myanmar damsels presented the banquets to the players. The players of the two sides exchanged gifts and the friendly volleyball match followed.

After the match Chairman of Tatmadaw volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint presented a trophy to Indian volley-

ball team. Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials had a group photo taken together with managers, coaches and players of the two volleyball teams.

MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects...

(from page 16)

Minsu Village, where he was conducted by Managing Director U Aye Mauk round the construction site. The minister held a meeting with the officials at the venue. On completion of the project near the Shweguigi Pagoda between Minsu and Inyaung villages in Kyaukse Township, it will be able to produce 14 items of enamel ware, and 34 items of household steel ware. — MNA

Forestry Minister...

(from page 16)

At the opening ceremony of the factory, the minister unveiled the signboard and inspected the production process of the factory. The minister also called for increased production of marketable products and attended to the needs.

At the opening ceremony of the Wood-based Industry of Seinyadana Wut-hmon Co Ltd in Thadapin Village, Hmawby Township, the minister also unveiled the signboard of the industry and inspected the production process. Finished products of the industry will be exported to Italy, Germany, England and European countries. — MNA

Forestry Ministry team wins Federation Cup

YANGON, 31 May — Forestry Ministry team won Federation Cup tennis championship held at Theinbyu Tennis Court here yesterday.

Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented the championship trophy to the minis-

try team. Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin who is the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee also presented prizes to YCDC and Industry-1 Ministry teams.

In the B level matches, YCDC won the first prize, Winner A, the second prize, and the Win-

ner B and the Champion, the joint-third prize.

The mayor and Dr Zaw Tun, patron of MTF, presented K 4 million to the federation. The Federation President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar) presented gifts to Kayan team of Yangon South District.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects wood-based products at the wood-based industry of Sein Yadana Wut-hmon Co Ltd on 31-5-2005. — UM FCCI

Health education talks conducted



MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint delivers a speech at the health educative talks to mark World No-Tobacco Day. — MNA

YANGON, 31 May—The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized health educative talks to mark World No-Tobacco Day at the Early-Childhood Development Centre of the MMCWA at the corner of Thanthumar Road and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, specialists, teachers, students and guests.

The vice-president delivered a speech.

Deputy Director of the Health Department of the Ministry of Health Tobacco-Free Project Manager Dr Daw Nyo Nyo Kyaing gave talks on “Consequences of Smoking”, and Assistant Manager of Preliminary Oral Health Project under the Ministry of Health Dr U Ko Ko Maw, on “Oral Health and Smoking of Consumption of Tobacco”.

MMCWA CEC Member Leader of Educational Group Daw Aye Aye presented gifts to the presenters.

MNA

Do-kyeywa Journal in circulation

YANGON, 31 May—Volume 2 No 11 of the Do-kyeywa Journal has been in circulation with a view to satisfying the reading public in the raining season.

Included in the journal are stories, poems, knowledge on Dhamma, facts on agriculture, characteristics of

birds, summer paddy of Malit Village and other interesting literary works.

Contact may be made to the journal at No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon (Tel 371342 or 252452 or 379768) for advertisement and manuscripts.

MNA

Number of Indonesian air passengers predicted to decline in 2005

JAKARTA, 31 May — Due to the prevailing high prices of aviation fuel, the Indonesian National Air Carriers Association (INACA) expects this year’s number of domestic airline passengers to decline by up to 15 per cent.

“We project that there will be a 10-per-cent to 15-per-cent decrease in the number of domestic passengers this year from around 25 million last year,” INACA Secretary-General Tengku Burhanuddin was quoted on Monday by the *Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

Tengku said the prevailing high price of aviation fuel “avigas” and “avtur” would eventually force more domestic airlines to curtail their operations.

“As more airlines cut back flight frequencies and routes, they will serve fewer passengers,” he said. According to state oil and gas company PT Pertamina, the price of avtur currently stands at 73 US dollars to 75 dollars per barrel.

Pertamina spokesman Muhammad Harun said that the possible price hike in avtur was projected by stakeholders.

The high price of avtur, which mirrors global oil prices, has even forced two airlines to ground some of its fleet. Budget carrier StarAir currently operates only four of its seven airplanes serving seven cities — Jakarta, Sura-baya, Medan, Balikpapan, Manado, Denpasar and Pekanbaru.

StarAir will even suspend its operations altogether starting in early June due to heavy burden of operational costs, of which 53 per cent is spent for fuel.

MNA/Xinhua

USDA Basis Organizational Course concludes

YANGON, 31 May — Basis Organizational Course No 19 organized by Mayangon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded this morning at the township USDA office.

Central Executive Committee Member of USDA Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung ad-

ressed the concluding ceremony.

Afterwards, the Minister and CEC member of Yangon Division USDA and an official presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Yangon West District USDA CEC Member U Nay Win presented completion certificates to the trainees.

MNA

HK supports “World No Tobacco Day”

HONG KONG, 31 May — In support of “World No Tobacco Day” on May 31, the Department of Health of Hong Kong launched an activity titled “I Love Smoke-free Wong Tai Sin” here on Monday.

The three-day activity aims to raise public awareness of the hazards of smoking.

A spokesman of the department said it was an established fact that active smoking and second-hand smoking were both hazardous to health.

“Second-hand smoke has been classified as Grade 1 Carcinogenic Substance. Evidence showed that long-term inhalation of second-hand smoke will dramatically increase our chances of suffering from deadly illnesses,” the spokesman said.

As part of the activity, the department has held a series of anti-smoking exhibitions in Lung Cheung Mall at Wong Tai

Sin District and pamphlets and souvenirs will be distributed to the public.

“Let’s strive for a smoke-free Hong Kong,” the spokesman said, appealing to people to take part in the activity.

MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong man caught with heroin at Cambodia’s airport

PHNOM PENH, 31 May — A man of Hong Kong was arrested at Phnom Penh International Airport for trafficking heroin, local media reported on Monday.

Chung Kwok Hung, 47, was detained on Saturday night when airport security found 3.1 kilos heroin attached to his thighs. He was about to board a flight to Hong Kong at 7 p.m. when he triggered an alarm at one of the airport’s metal detectors, according to *The Cambodia Daily*.

A subsequent check uncovered four plastic bags hidden beneath his trouser legs. The suspect is being held at the Central Security Department of the Ministry of Interior for questioning.

MNA/Xinhua

Construction of Pampawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) under way

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected road and bridge repair work along Yangon-Pathein road today.

At Pampawady River Bridge Project (Myinkaseik), the minister inspected the progress in implementing the project on both banks.

At the briefing hall, he heard a report on salient points of the project. The minister made arrangements to facilitate work.

A bailey typed bridge, its main structure will be 540 feet long linked with two 360-foot approach roads on both Myaungmya and Pathein banks. The motor road on it will be 20 feet wide flanked by three-foot pedestrian lanes. It can withstand up to 60 tons. All the piers have been erected on Myaungmya bank. Three piers have been completed on Pathein bank. Of the six spans of the bridge, five have been completed. Engineers are striving to complete the bridge soonest. — MNA

Minister meets staff under Ministry of Mines

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint this morning met the staff of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Mines at the Thiriyadana Hall of the ministry and gave necessary instructions.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry, staff and others.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein made a speech.

Next, the respective heads of department re-

ported on work being carried out for efficient use of fuel, extended production, education, health and social matters of the staff. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint underscored the need for the staff to make relentless efforts to meet the targets of the 2005-2006 plans, to be skillful and highly qualified in discharging their duties, to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to try their utmost to hit the targets of the ministry, realizing the goodwill of the State.

MNA

EU still hopes to reach deal with China on textile disputes

BRUSSELS, 31 May — The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU), said on Monday that it still hopes to reach an amicable deal with China to solve the current textile disputes.

“We still keep our willingness to seek an agreement with China on textiles,” European Commission spokeswoman

Claude Veron-Reville told *Xinhua*.

She said the EU was aware of a decision made by the Chinese Government to abolish export tariffs on 81 types of clothing and textiles from June 1. “We are still looking into it,” she said.

Veron-Reville insisted that the EU had figures on the surging imports of textiles from China and the consequence to the European market was “negative”.

The EU on Friday asked Chinese authorities to hold a formal consultation on two categories of Chinese textiles and clothing. — MNA/Xinhua

Andromeda galaxy 3 times bigger than previously thought

LOS ANGELES, 31 May — The Andromeda galaxy, our nearest major galactic neighbour in the universe, has a rotating nebula of stars three times bigger than previously measured, US astronomers said Monday.

The findings reveal that we know less about our galactic neighbour than thought, according to Scott Chapman, a researcher from the California Institute of Technology who presented the results of a survey of Andromeda's stellar motions at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Chapman is in a team of astronomers using the Keck telescope to measure speeds of 5,000 stars in the outskirts of Andromeda. They were surprised to find that these fringe stars are actually rotating as if they were part of the galaxy's nebula. Their paths had been expected to be more random.

"Finding all these stars in an orderly rotation was the last explanation anyone would think of," Chapman said in a statement released

during the meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The implication is that the nebula is 220,000 light-years in diameter, instead of the earlier estimate of 70,000 to 80,000 light-years. In the cosmos, that means Andromeda stretches out over the length of 12 full Moons. This periphery of Andromeda is faint, accounting for about 10 per cent of the light from the galaxy. Still, there are millions of stars presumably orbiting in this outer region.

By looking at separate components of a galaxy, one may try to piece together how the galaxy is building up over time. The central area of a spiral galaxy is believed to have formed in the first place, with the rotating nebula coming later. The type and orbit of stars in certain regions provides

a kind of fossil record for the evolutionary history.

Andromeda is an "ideal laboratory" because it is so close, and yet it is outside our galaxy. In our own galaxy, it is very hard to study this evolution because the observers are stuck in the middle of it, said Chapman. Yet this "laboratory" is full of puzzles as to how it came to be. Besides Andromeda's newly found size, researchers are scratching their heads over the fact that the outer rotating stars are arranged into about 20 identifiable clumps.

This would imply that they were formed out of the merger of smaller galaxies with the main galaxy. But rotating nebulae and clumps are not compatible in galaxy formation models, scientists argued.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to further trilateral relations with China, India

Moscow, 31 May — Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko vowed on Monday that his country would promote further trilateral relations with China and India.

The forthcoming meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Chinese and Indian counterparts, Li Zhaoxing and Natwar Singh, will bring the trilateral relations to a new level, said Yakovenko.

The meeting, which has been slated in the far-eastern Russian port city of Vladivostok on Thursday, will be their first three-way summit.

The meeting will be aimed at strengthening their cooperation in energy and other issues and "will help maintain stability and promote prosperity in the region," the *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted Yakovenko as saying.

"Moscow, New Delhi and Beijing have close stances on many vital international issues and all support a multipolar system of the world

order," the Russian diplomat said.

"The trilateral relations will not be directed against anybody, but in the interests of the three countries' peoples," he said. Foreign ministers of

the three countries have held talks earlier, but those meetings were on the sidelines of the United Nations general assembly or other international conferences.

MNA/Xinhua

COMESA regional bloc to form security forces

KIGALI, 31 May — Experts at the 6th peace and security meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have agreed to set forces that would maintain peace and security in the member states.

The African Standby Brigade (ASB) forces will work hand in hand with the African Union forces to ensure peace in the region, said Rwandan Foreign Minister Charles Murigande on Monday.

"Some member states still have conflicts and the ASB forces would intervene and maintain security," Murigande said while citing countries like Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan.

"Security should be the paramount of any African Government for the accessibility of trade and development," COMESA Secretary General Erustus Mwecha told reporters on the sideline of the peace and security meeting, which did

not indicate how many troops each member state will contribute to the ASB forces.

The peace and security meeting ending here Monday will prepare the foreign ministers drawn from all the 19 member states for further discussion on ways of attaining the ASB forces.

COMESA member states are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe."

The annual summit of COMESA trade bloc will be held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, on 2-3 June.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Georgia ready to sign framework treaty

Moscow, 31 May — Visiting Georgian Foreign Minister Salome Zurbishvili disclosed on Monday that Russia and Georgia might sign a framework treaty at the summit of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be held in Kazan, Russia, on 27 August.

"A framework treaty may be signed by the presidents of Russia and Georgia in Kazan on 27 August as part of the CIS summit," said Zurbishvili in an exclusive interview with *ITAR-TASS* news agency on Monday.

Both sides are working on the treaty, the Georgian Minister said, "We believe that this document will open new opportunities in bilateral relations. This is, primarily, related to the withdrawal of Russia's bases from Georgia's territory."

Zurbishvili expressed hope that Russian President Vladimir Putin will come to Tbilisi after the framework treaty is signed. "But we should agree on this," she added.

The Georgian Foreign Minister, who arrived in Moscow on Monday for a brief visiting, held a meeting with her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, and signed a joint statement voicing that Russia will complete the closure of its two military bases in Georgia during 2008.

MNA/Xinhua

Israeli President starts visit to Germany

BERLIN, 31 May — Israeli President Moshe Katsav arrived in Berlin Monday for a three day state visit, marking 40 anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.

After a meeting with Katsav, German President Horst Koehler said Israel and Germany will strengthen bilateral exchanges of science and culture as well as youth exchange with "a fund for the future". — MNA/Xinhua



A Nissan car factory in Utsunomiya seen on 30 May, 2005. — INTERNET

UN official seeks possible resumption of Cyprus talks

NICOSIA, 31 May — UN Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Sir Kieran Prendergast arrived in Cyprus on Monday, seeking possibilities for resumption of negotiations on Cyprus.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival on the island where he will stay until 2 June, Kieran underlined that it is not a question of setting a date for the resumption of the talks, but examining whether the criteria and the requirements are met.

He said that he will stress the responsibilities lying on the parties to pursue a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue. "UN respects the outcome of the referendum here. Primarily therefore this means that I am here to listen to both sides," said Kieran. Efforts to reunite the island failed in April 2004 as the Greek Cypriots rejected the plan put forward by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a referendum. The Turkish Cypriot side, however, gave a green light to it. — MNA/Xinhua

Obesity becomes public health problem in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 31 May — Obesity is a great public health problem in South Africa, with 23 per cent of men and 57 per cent of women being overweight, Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said on Monday.

Physical inactivity and unhealthy eating were the cause of obesity, the minister said in a media statement.

Seventeen per cent of adolescents were found to be overweight in the Youth Risk Behaviour Survey conducted in public schools in 2002, with 25 per cent of South African adolescents watching television for more than three hours a day. Girls were found to be at a greater risk for physical inactivity than boys, according to the survey.

The Health Department highlighted these concerns at the National Move for Health Day activities in Alexandra, Johannesburg. The campaign encourages good nutrition, regular physical activity, combating misuse of alcohol, tobacco control, and safe sexual behavior.

The campaign has been launched in seven provinces already, with the department ensuring that physical activity is a big component of the programme.

MNA/Xinhua

CBRC official warns of risks in loans for real estate

BEIJING, 30 May— An official from China's banking watchdog on Saturday warned of potential risks in hefty amounts of loans for real estate.

Real estate ranked the 4th place among the ten industries that contributed most to non-performing loans at state banks in 2004, according to Yan Qingmin, a deputy department chief of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC).

Loans extended to the real estate sector reached as much as 2.6 trillion yuan (314 billion US dollars) in the first quarter of the year, including 800 billion yuan (96.6 billion dollars) used for property development.

Much of the real estate loan lacks liquidity, posing a big threat to the stability in China's financial market, he pointed out at a local forum.

Clients even use falsified documents to get mortgage loans, which should be put under "close supervision", he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia agrees to write off Syria's \$9.8b debt

DAMASCUS, 30 May— Russia on Sunday agreed to write off 73 per cent of Syria's debt, or 9.8 billion US dollars.

Russia made the decision while signing an agreement to settle Syria's overall debt of 13.4 billion US dollars to Russia.

The agreement, signed by finance ministers of both countries, said that Russia writes off the debt on condition that Syria repays 1.5 billion dollars out of the rest amount of 3.6 billion dollars in hard currency within the subsequent 10 years.

As for the other 2.1 billion dollars, it will be converted into the Syrian currency and used for purchase of Syrian goods as well as for Russian invest-

Annan visits S Sudan, pledging UN support to peace

KHARTOUM, 30 May— The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited southern Sudan on Sunday, where he pledged UN support to Sudan's comprehensive peace, the SUNA news agency reported.

During his meeting with local officials in Juba, capital town of Behr-el-Jabel State, Annan said the UN supports the implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed by the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

The UN chief listened to local officials' reports on security and humanitarian situation in southern Sudan and the preparations necessary for the CPA implementation.

He then travelled to Rumbek Town, the current administrative centre of SPLM, and met with the SPLM Leader John Garang.

During the meeting, Annan said his visit to Rumbek came in the framework of the UN support to Sudan's peace process and inspecting the conditions of the citizens under the auspices of peace.

He stressed the need to implement the CPA and seek an atmosphere conducive for making the best out of it, urging the SPLM

to cooperate with the UN mission in Sudan under Jan Pronk, Annan's representative in Sudan.

While meeting with members of Sudanese National Constitutional Review Commission, who were assigned to review the interim Constitution of Sudan, Annan said Naivasha protocols and the CPA have formulated a roadmap to help solve the Darfur conflict.

He affirmed the need to seek a political solution to the Darfur crisis toward a comprehensive peace in

Sudan. Annan urged the international community to lend necessary support to people in southern Sudan who "face tragic conditions".

Annan arrived in Sudan's capital of Khartoum on Friday on a three-day visit. He met afterwards with Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Othman Ismail, during which he confirmed progress in the security and humanitarian situation in Sudan's war-torn western Darfur region. —MNA/Xinhua

Russia stands for barring new challenges on basis of NNPT

MOSCOW, 30 May— Russia's position is that all the new challenges to the regime of nuclear non-proliferation can and should be removed only on the basis of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT), the Russian Foreign Ministry stated in a Press release, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported on Sunday.

The ministry statement issued following the seventh UN conference to review the NNPT operation reads that "Based on the results of the conference, one can come to a fundamental conclusion, which is shared by everybody. This conclusion is that new challenges facing the nuclear nonproliferation regime that have

emerged recently can and should be dealt with primarily on the basis of the NNPT."

As many as 152 NPT signatory-nations and 129 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and observers attended the UN session, which ended in New York on 27 May.

Russia regards the

treaty as a major component of the international security system which proved its efficiency in preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons over the past 35 years, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the UN conference has made, on the whole, an objective and balanced analysis of the Treaty's operation in the main areas: non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 9,000 Zambians trained to ease HIV/AIDS impact

LUSAKA, 30 May— A company in Zambia's Copperbelt Province has trained more than 9,000 people with various skills in dealing with HIV/AIDS in an effort to ease the impact of the disease which has been obsessing the poor South-Central African country, local media says.

The company, Asset Holding Company for Municipal Mining Services (AHC-MMS), initially intended to reach 1,900 people but received far more response than expected, the *Zambia News Agency* cited AHC-MMS public relations officer Grace Mikunga, who was attending the 48th Agricultural Show in Kitwe on Sunday, as saying.

The 9,000 people were divided into 40 groups and they will help in promot-

ing voluntary counselling and testing, utilization of condoms and non-discrimination of HIV/AIDS at working places, said Mrs. Mikunga, adding that the company has applied for nearly half a billion kwacha (about 100,000 US dollars) from Community Response for AIDS to fund them.

Official data shows that one in every five adult Zambians has HIV or is living with AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

IEA expert says China not sole impetus to soaring oil price

SHANGHAI, 30 May— Though a major oil demander, China should not be taken as the sole factor pushing up global oil prices, said an oil expert from the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) in east China's Shanghai Municipality on Saturday while attending a local forum.

Last year's explosive demands for oil worldwide helped bring global oil prices to a record high, said Lawrence Eagles, head of the IEA's oil market division, disagreeing at the accusation that China should be held individually accountable for the price hikes.

The oil analyst attributed China's increasing demands for oil to fast economic development and called for a more facilitating attitude worldwide to-

ward China's growing opulence.

He said China's per capita oil consumption was far less than that of the developed nations such as the United States, Japan and Germany as well as some developing peers, describing the skyrocketing oil demands last year as a "universal" phenomenon.

According to the oil expert, China's oil demand is decreasing and should not arouse panic in 2005. —MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan Army ready for Somali, Darfur deployment

KAMPALA, 30 May— Ugandan Army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza Sunday said the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has completed their training and are now ready for deployment to Somalia and Darfur region in Sudan for peace mission operations.

The spokesman was quoted by Radio Uganda as saying that the team's departure had been delayed by the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). —MNA/Xinhua

Bomb hoax warning returns Gulf Air Flight to Cairo

CAIRO, 30 May— Gulf Air Flight 070 returned to Cairo International Airport on Sunday 70 minutes after it took off because of a bomb alert which turned out to be a hoax.

The airline's office in Bahrain had received a phone call that a bomb was planted in the plane, Egypt's official *MENA* news agency said.

Cairo airport authorities were put on alert, and upon the plane's return all its 229 passengers disembarked and the aircraft was thoroughly searched, but no bomb was found. —MNA/Xinhua

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Switzerland non-committal on support to India's UNSC bid

BERNE, 30 May — Switzerland was recently non-committal on supporting India's candidature for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council saying it would first like to see the procedural changes in selecting the countries to the forum.

Addressing a joint Press conference with India's President A P J Abdul Kalam after delegation-level talks here, Swiss President Samuel Schmid said while his country favoured enlargement of the UNSC but before that "we have to see the progress in the procedure of appointment of countries to the Council".

Schmid, while appreciating Indian democracy and the growth during the last few years, said once the progress on the procedural reforms was made, it would decide on which country it should support for the UNSC. Switzerland has been maintaining distance from the any such country which is a nuclear power and not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

India, on the other, has been claiming representation to the United Nations Security Council saying that it represented one-sixth of world's population.

The Indian side also presented a draft agreement of G-4 countries for restructuring the United Nations to which the Swiss side said that it would go through it before giving its opinion.

While making their opening remarks, Schmid said both the nations nurture good bilateral ties which would be further intensified.

Kalam said while the two countries shared perfect relations, the trade ties between the two countries were far below normal which needed to be boosted.

To a question whether the Swiss Government would like to sign a legislation to prevent money laundering by terrorist outfits in Switzerland, Schmid said "we are committed not to allow anyone misuse our soil. We have tough legislations to deal with money laundering."

He was replying to a question whether Switzerland

would be willing to sign an agreement similar to that with the US under which Washington is immediately notified of any money laundering by terrorist outfits meant for spreading violence on American soil.

"We always notify member states in case of any such money laundering was noticed in this country," he said.

Kalam, in his speech, also appreciated the neutrality of Switzerland. Both sides also took note of the visa regimes of their countries and said it would take some time to liberalize the policy.

During bilateral discussions, the two sides agreed to give boost to cooperation in the fields of Information Technology, bio-technology and nano-technology.

The Indian side also offered outsourcing research and development to its scientific experiments keeping in view the huge manpower resources of India.

In his inaugural Press statement, Kalam said the talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding during which "we covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also held a detailed exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

"During the talks we condemned the growth of terrorism and religious extremism, which threatens international peace and security. We reiterated that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds, whether political, ethnic, religious, or any other," Kalam said.

The President also extended invitation to his Swiss counterpart to pay an official visit to India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, Kalam said.

MNA/PTI

Afghan Govt to complete disarmament programme within weeks

KABUL, 30 May — Afghan Government would conclude the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme within the next three weeks, Defence Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

"The DDR programme is going to be completed by the end of Afghan month Jawza or June 21," Zahir Azimi told journalists at a news conference here.

Under the UN-backed nationwide programme, launched in October 2003, so far 56,907 former combatants had been disarmed and among these over 48,000 had returned to normal life, the spokesman said.

"These people have turned in 32,500 pieces of different weapons to the government," the spokesman added.

Commenting on collecting heavy weapons, the official noted that 9,085 pieces of heavy weapons including tanks had also been collected and moved to safer places.

The next phase of DDR which includes collecting hidden arms from irresponsible armed men and locals, the official added would begin from eastern Nangarhar Province next Tuesday.

However, he failed to give the exact figure of irresponsible armed men still carrying lethal arms in the post-conflict nation where police and national Army are still under formation process.

Thousands of pieces of different kinds of arms and tons of ammunitions have been left over from the past 2.5 decades of war and civil strife in this war-plagued country. "No one will be allowed to carry on arms illegally and the government is firm to collect the last arm from the last irresponsible armed man," said Azimi. — MNA/Xinhua

Afghanistan launches campaign to fight narcotics

KABUL, 30 May — A counter-narcotics campaign has been carried out by Counter Narcotics Police (CNP) in all the provinces of Afghanistan, officials have announced.

"We will destroy all the poppy land during this three-step campaign, and help to supply other livelihood alternatives for local farmers as well," Minister of Counter Narcotics Habibullah Qaderi and Deputy of Interior Ministry on Counter Narcotics Daoud Daoud announced Saturday in Afghanistan's northeastern province of Badakhshan during their visit there.

"The campaign will be held in different provinces according to different weather. CNP will go to some northern and southern provinces early because

of their warmer weather and early cultivation, and the cleanup will extend to other provinces later," Qaderi was quoted Sunday by local independent newspaper *Arman-e-Millie* as saying.

The counter narcotics campaign in Badakhshan will be carried out from this week, and CNP will begin the clean-out in different districts respectively. The government has supplied 15 million US dollars for the local farmers to take other life alternatives instead of poppy cultivation.

MNA/Xinhua

President urges Mozambicans to defeat country's poverty

MAPUTO, 30 May—Mozambican President Armando Guebuza on Sunday urged the Mozambican people to do all in their power to defeat the country's absolute poverty.

Speaking at a rally in Xai-Xai, capital of the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, Guebuza said in order to remove the obstacles that hold back the country's development, the government needed the support of all Mozambicans. The Mozambicans must also fight to remove the obstacles that get in the way —

such as the spirit of apathy and drift, red tape, corruption, crime and endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. — MNA/Xinhua



Newly crowned Miss Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova of Canada makes a Thai traditional greeting to photographers after the Miss Universe 2005 beauty pageant at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Some of Bulgaria's flood-hit areas declare emergency

SOFIA, 30 May — Heavy rains have swept across Bulgaria over the past days, with some areas of the hardest-hit central-east part having declared emergency, Bulgarian media reported Saturday.

Torrential rains began to slam Bulgaria on Wednesday, with the rainfall in some areas of the central-east part hitting a 30-year high.

The heavy rains caused mountain torrents in central Lovenchi, swamped 10 villages, cut off power and displaced 500 families in Osem and Vit, and cut road links north Ruse.

In southeast Smolian, egg-size hailstones destroyed large areas of crops and damaged many houses.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket hits Kabul, no casualties

KABUL, 30 May — A rocket hit Afghan capital on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Around 1:30 am local time, a blast was heard near the headquarters compound of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a local police officer told *Xinhua*.

"I saw the fire, it must be a rocket," said the witness outside the compound, but he was not sure if the rocket landed inside the headquarters.

The roads to the compound were blocked by armoured vehicles, while ISAF soldiers were patrolling the streets.

It is the second time that Afghan capital came under rocket attacks this month.

MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Ronaldo out of national team

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 May— Real Madrid striker Ronaldo was left out of the Brazilian national team for Confederations Cup and the Germany 2006 World Cup South American tournament, Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said on Monday.

The player arrived Sunday in Brazil and had formally requested to be allowed just to play the two matches of the qualifying tournament without participating in the Confederations Cup.

Brazil will play against Paraguay on June 5 and against Argentina on June 8 in World Cup qualifiers.

Ronaldo had claimed the need to take vacation, as the pre-season work of his team, Real Madrid, starts only a week after the end of the Confederations Cup.

Reports said Ronaldo, who split with his sentimental partner a month ago, would be trying to rescue his relationship.

On Monday Parreira said Ronaldo would no longer be summoned to the qualifying tournament nor to Confederations Cup, and that he will be replaced in the first competitions by Sao Paulo's Grafite, and in Germany by Julio Baptista of Spain's Seville.

Brazil team web site quoted Parreira as saying: "Ronaldo claimed particular problems that prevent him from dedicating time to the national team. Then the technical commission decided to release him from his commitment." — MNA/Xinhua



Spain's Tommy Robredo returns the ball to Russia's Marat Safin during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros Stadium, on 30 May, 2005 in Paris. Robredo won 7-5, 1-6, 6-1, 4-6, 8-6. —INTERNET

Luxemburgo says "the balance has been good"

MADRID, 30 May — Brazilian Venderlei Luxemburgo, coach of Real Madrid said the balance of his team is just "good", as no title was one this season. "Real Madrid always has to win. We were in three competitions (the league, the UEFA Champions League, and the King's Cup) and we have not won anything. We'll have to wait for next season," he said.

Luxemburgo congratulated FC Barcelona for the championship although, in his opinion what comforts him is that his team "had a better goal difference, in spite of the defeat in Santiago Bernabeu Stadium".

About the game, the Brazilian coach said Real Madrid and Real Zaragoza "went to the pitch with a good attitude among their players".

Victor Munoz, the coach of Real Zaragoza said "We've played with Real Madrid as equals, with offensive players and we've been about to succeed."

"In the second half we've gone for the second goal, because with the 1-1 draw to that moment, it was evident that whoever scored again was going to win," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Larsson stays with Barcelona

STOCKHOLM, 31 May— Sweden international Henrik Larsson has decided to stay with Spanish champions Barcelona for at least one more season.

The 33-year-old was offered to extend his contract until June 2006 after he tore the cruciate ligament in his left knee during the 3-0 win over Real Madrid in November.

"It's a flattering offer and I've decided to accept it," Larsson told local paper *Helsingborgs Dagblad* on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Uruguay applauds Forlan as Spain top scorer

MONTEVIDEO, 31 May— The Uruguayan national soccer team applauded Diego Forlan who won the title of top-scorer of the Spanish League.

Head coach Jorge Fossati said during the preparation for the coming qualifiers versus Peru and Venezuela, Uruguay were very happy when the Villarreal striker and Uruguayan international scored the title-winning goal. Forlan has boosted the morale of the national team prior to the qualifiers, said Fossati.

MNA/Xinhua

Rijkaard makes positive evaluation of season for Barca

MADRID, 30 May— Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard, from the Netherlands, made use of the end of the last match to make a balance of the whole season, he considered as successful because "a great happiness has been given to the fans with the championship".

The match versus Real Sociedad did not have a great importance, thus, in his Press conference he applauded the work done by his players.

"I think these are games that could occur in the middle of a season. Certainly there have been few occasions but my team was very organized and did what it had to do. With a little more aggressiveness we could have scored," said the Dutch coach.

Jose Maria Amorrortu also made a rapid overview of his team Real Sociedad's trajectory to highlight that Real Sociedad "has overcome hardships and has proved its cohesion", and said that his players have paved the way for the future with the present work and their youth. Amorrortu also recognized the work of Bittor Alkiza as he retires, saying "everyone will remember him".

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya's prolific striker Oliech to play against Guinea

NAIROBI, 31 May— Kenya's prolific striker Dennis Oliech will after all play for the East African nation's soccer team, Harambee Stars against Guinea in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday, soccer authorities said here on Monday.

There were fears that Oliech who was nursing an injury may not make the Kenyan team to Conakry.

The possibility of Oliech missing the crucial Conakry tie would have denied coach Mohammed Kheri his most potent attack option, a fact he has acknowledged.

According to Kheri, Oliech has indicated he would arrive in Kenya early Tuesday ready for the match against Guinea.

"Oliech said it was a minor injury and now he has recovered. We are expecting him to arrive here on Tuesday from Qatar where he is based," Kheri said by telephone.

The striker is a key part of the Kenya squad and is the leading scorer in the African qualifying groups with six goals.

"Oliech is our top scorer and he is very important to our plans," Kheri said.

Foreign-based Kenyan defenders Musa Otieno and Zablon Amanaka have

arrived here for next weekend's 2006 combined Africa Cup of Nations/World Cup 2006 qualifier match Otieno, the long serving Kenya team captain turns out for South Africa's Cape Sanlan, while the youthful Amanaka is based in Bosnia.

Sweden-based MacDonald Mariga and Pascal Ochieng who plays in Tanzania, were due in Friday.

The bulk of the national team players are home-based, but national coach reckons that he needs the services of at least six key foreign-based players.

Players of the Harambee Stars are now in training at the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi.

Kenya will play Guinea 4 June in Conakry before hosting Morocco in Nairobi on 18 June.

The Harambee Stars are currently on nine points from five matches in Group Five three points behind leaders Morocco, who have played one more game.

MNA/Xinhua

Henry, Forlan win Golden Shoe

LONDON, 31 May — Arsenal striker Thierry Henry and Villarreal's Diego Forlan share the Golden Shoe this season, awarded to the top scorer in the European leagues.

Forlan scored twice on Sunday in a 4-1 defeat of Levante to join Henry on the 25-goal mark.

Henry becomes the first player to win the award two years running and the sixth to win the award twice.

Following are the leading rankings for the Golden Shoe, after the completion of the major leagues:

Player,	Team	Goals	Value	Total
1. Diego Forlan,	Villarreal (Spain)	25	2	50
1. Thierry Henry,	Arsenal (England)	25	2	50
3. Cristiano Lucarelli,	Livorno (Italy)	24	2	48
3. Samuel Eto'o,	Barcelona (Spain)	24	2	48
3. Marek Mintal,	Nuremberg (Germany)	24	3	48
6. Fatih Tekke,	Trabzonspor (Turkey)	31	1.5	46.5
7. Alberto Gilardino,	Parma (Italy)	23	2	44
8. Ricardo Oliveira,	Real Betis (Spain)	22	2	44
8. Roy Makaay,	Bayern Munich (Germany)	22	2	44
10. Dirk Kuijt,	Feyenoord, (Netherlands)	29	1.5	43.5

Note: A player's league goals are multiplied depending on the "value" of their league.

Only the leading five countries in the UEFA rankings are given a multiple value of 2. — MNA/Xinhua

West Ham promoted to Premiership

LONDON, 31 May— West Ham United charged back to the English Premier League on Monday when they beat Preston North End 1-0 in the Second Division playoff final in Cardiff.

Striker Bobby Zamora got the winner for the east London side from Matthew Etherington's left wing cross 12 minutes into the second half with his 13th goal of the season.

"It's a dream come true for me," said Zamora, a lifelong Hammers fan, while the club's relieved manager Alan Pardew told Sky Sports: "I'm chuffed for this lot (the fans)".

West Ham, who lost the playoff final to Crystal Palace at the Millennium Stadium last year, return to the top flight of English football two years after being relegated.

MNA/Xinhua



The Cleveland Cavaliers will make Mike Brown the second-youngest coach in the National Basketball Association next week, according to US media reports, putting him in charge of stars like 20-year-old All-Star forward LeBron James, pictured. —INTERNET

မိုးဦးကျနှင့် မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများအတွက် နှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ မိုးဦးကျရာသီတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သော ရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားလာနိုင်ပါသည်။
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(ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုပြုလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။
(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု၊ အပူအအေး အပြောင်းအလဲကို သတိရပါ။
(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် မြင်း၊ ယင်း နှိမ်နင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်း စုပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Indonesia restarts nationwide unleaded gasoline campaign

JAKARTA, 31 May — The Indonesian Government has restarted a nationwide campaign promoting the use of unleaded gasoline, imploring suppliers to introduce the fuel to outlets across the country by the end of the year, a local newspaper reported on Monday.

The programme was an earlier initiative of the Megawati Cabinet in 2003. However, problems modifying oil refineries in West Java and Central Java to increase the production of unleaded gasoline meant that the fuel is currently available only in Greater Jakarta, West Java's Cirebon, Bali and the Batam islands, accounting for about 25 per cent of the country's gasoline demand, said The Jakarta Post. Most retailers in these areas sell unleaded gas at the same price as leaded fuel.

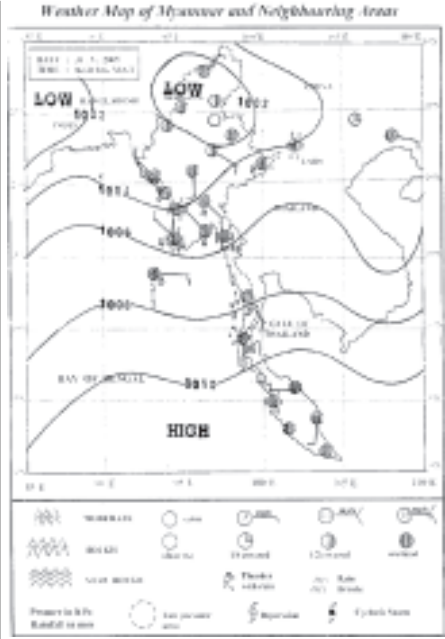
But with the work at the other oil refineries set for completion in July, the availability of unleaded gas is expected to increase greatly this year. Announcing the move on Sunday, State Minister of the Environment Rachmat Witoelar cautioned that a major obstacle to realizing the programme lay in the funding.

"We call for all stakeholders, such as (state oil and gas firm) Pertamina, to make this

programme a success. It may well be expensive to carry out this programme, but the health costs and the damage to the younger generation and to children are far higher. We shouldn't take (leaded gasoline) for granted," Rachmat said.

It is estimated the government would have to pay an extra 10 per cent in subsidies or around 10 trillion rupiah (1.06 billion US dollars) to producers to provide a nationwide supply of unleaded gasoline.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 31 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours. Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic areas. Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, isolated in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions with locally heavyfall in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated heavyfall in Mon State, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gyobingauk (4.84) inches, Dawei (3.78) inches, Theinzayat (3.74) inches, Kawthong (3.39) inches, Bago (3.07) inches, Thaton (2.60) inches, Yay (2.44) inches, Pyay (1.65) inches, Hpa-an (1.54) inches and Taunggyi (1.13) inches. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Northern Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division, (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (9°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature were Monywa and Myingyan (44°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-5-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 31-5-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-5-2005 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 30-5-2005 was (2.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-5-2005 were (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.23 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.16 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (8.35 inches) at Yangon Airport, (7.87 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (3.94 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph from Southwest at (20:35) hours MST on 30-5-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Sea, East Central Bay and South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight off and along Rakhine Coast and moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-6-2005: Partly cloudy.

New rainfall record

(Issued at 11:30 hrs MST on 31st May, 2005) The amount of rainfall 123 mm (4.84 inches) observed at 09:30 hrs MST on 31st May 2005 in Gyobingauk is the 24 hrs new maximum rainfall record of the station for the month of May during last (20) years. The former record of the station was 95 mm (3.74) inches on 19th May 2002.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 21:00 hours MST on 30th May, 2005) An earthquake of slight intensity (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter in Myanmar water about (76) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (20) hrs (10) min (54) sec MST on 30th May 2005.



Wednesday, 1 June Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: All for love-O Town Perspectives
8.40 am Music: Love is blind-ATC
8.45 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: -Right now -Atomic Kitten
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: -If you love me-Roman Keating News/Slogan
1.30 pm Lunch time music
1.40 pm -Heaven by your side- A, -The day you, want away -M2M -Truely madly deeply-Savage Garden -Lover's moon -Glen Fray
9.00 pm Variations on tune -Will you still love me tomorrow
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Music at your request -Love is a wonderful life -Martica -If you ask me to-Celine Dion -Never gonna give up -Rick Astley -Show me the way-Styx
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 1 June View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးတင်စွာ: တွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိညာသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 5. မြူးမြူးကြဲကြဲယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
8:10 am 6. အရေးပိုင်ပိုင်
8:20 am 7. ကတင်ဘီးလင်းရေလှောင်တစ်

- 8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Let's Go
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အစောဆုံးအထူးအထူးအထူး ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှင့် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်ပေး)
5:15 pm 6. Song of national races
5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
5:40 pm 8. Classical Song
5:50 pm 9. "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လှုပ်ငန်းတွင်" (အကယ်ဒမီစိစိစိစိ၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းစောထွန်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)
6:00 pm 10. ရွှေမိန့်လှောင်အာပီအီအစဉ်

- 6:10 pm 11. Discovery
6:15 pm 12. မူလနှင့်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြပေ
6:30 pm 13. Evening news
7:00 pm 14. Weather report
7:05 pm 15. Musical programme
7:20 pm 16. Strong and healthy Myanmar
7:35 pm 17. Musical programme
7:45 pm 18. အရှေ့-ဥရောပလူငယ်အားကစား ဖြိုင်ပွဲတွင် မြင်းလှံစတီ ပြသပိုင်
8:00 pm 19. News
20. International news
21. Weather report
22. ဒွါသမအကြိမ် (၁၂)ကြိမ် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ "ရာမယထာဝရတော်ကြီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ" (ပထမဆုံး) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း) (ပထမပိုင်း)
23. The next day's programme

Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 31 May— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspected the production process at Textile Factory (Sagaing) under the Myanmar Textile Industries in Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, on 29 May.

Next, he inspected the quality of the cotton harvested from Monywa, Myingyan and Aunglan townships, local and foreign-made spare parts, and gave instructions on awarding outstanding employees.

He also viewed land preparations for growing cotton on the 192.61-acre plot at the cotton farm, Sagaing flour factory No 1 and noodle factory in Sagaing.

In the evening, he in-

spected Sagaing Garment Factory under the Myanmar Textile Industries.

Yesterday morning at the pharmaceutical factory (Inyaung) project site being implemented by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, the minister heard the report of Managing Director U Myint Oo on progress of the construction of the disposable syringe factory project and buildings, and installation of machines in the factory.

He instructed the officials to ensure completion of the projects ahead of schedule, and to meet layouts of the buildings with GMP system.

The minister in-

spected renovation of ancient pagodas and construction of the buildings

in the factory compound. Afterwards, the minister inspected the enamel

and steel ware factory project (Minsu) being implemented by the

Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in (See page 9)



Minister U Aung Thuang views production process at the Myanmar traditional weaving work in Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Township.— MNA

Forestry Minister inaugurates wood-based industries



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally unveils the signboard of No 6 Furniture Factory in Wataya Industrial Zone. — MNA



YANGON, 31 May — No 6 Furniture Factory in Wataya Wood-based Industry Zone in Shwepyitha Township and Wood-based Industry in Hmawby Township were opened this morning in the presence of Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

No 6 Furniture Factory is a joint venture of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Phyo Sithu Trading Co Ltd.

(See page 9)

Ministry of Cooperatives holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 31 May— The work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Cooperatives was held at the meeting hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street here yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general of the Cooperative Department, the director-general of the Cottage Industries Department, the managing director of Cooperative Import and Export Enterprise, the chairman of the Central Cooperative Society, officials, the principals of the Cooperative Degree College and colleges and

others. Minister Col Zaw Min made an opening speech. He said that the heads of state/division cooperatives departments and officials concerned are

to take steps for significant progress of production sectors such as agricultural, industrial and fish and meat sectors and export sector, minimizing loss and wastage, reduc-

ing expenditures, to observe discipline and to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts to boost the net production of cooperative industries.

Next, officials con-

cerned presented works carried out in their respective sectors.

In response to the reports, the directors-general and managing director gave supplementary

reports. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Col Zaw Min. —MNA



Minister Col Zaw Min addresses the coordination meeting of the Ministry of Cooperatives. — MNA