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Thursday, 2 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

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Italian President

YANGON, 2 June— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Italy which falls on 2 June 2005. —MNA



Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a trophy to mark friendly soccer match to an official of Indian Defence Services football team. — MNA

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys Myanmar-India friendly football match

YANGON, 1 June — Myanma Tatmadaw football team and Indian Defence Services football team held a friendly soccer match for the second time at Aung San Stadium, here, this evening, attended by Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, Chairman of Defence Services Volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Chairman of Defence Services Football Committee Col Htein Lin, senior military officers,

officials of the Ministry of Sports, military attachés of foreign missions, officials of the Indian Embassy, Tatmadawmen and their families, members of Myanmar Police Force, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society and students.

Together with chairmen of football committees from both countries, Maj-Gen Myint Swe greeted
(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys friendly soccer match between Myanma Tatmadaw football team and Indian Defence Services football team at Aung San Stadium. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 June, 2005

Preserve ancient cultural heritage as national duty

The State Peace and Development Council has been implementing political, economic and social objectives for all-round development of the nation. One of the social objectives is "uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character". The State Peace and Development Council has taken all necessary measures to realize this objective.

The People of Myanmar, with their own national culture and character, have lived in their own sovereign nation throughout history except a period of more than 100 years under the British colonial rule. The study of historical evidence and invaluable cultural heritage has proved this fact. Ancient cultural heritage of a nation shows a long and grand historical background of its people. As we can preserve our cultural heritage, we have been able to exist proudly as a people and a nation for thousands of years.

Fossilized remains were unearthed in Pondaung region where anthropoid primates lived and at the same time, thousands-year-old ancient cities such as Tagaung, Hanlin, Sri Khittaya and Bagan were excavated and preserved. Human remains were unearthed in Hanlin, Shwebo District, as recently as March and April. The remains were supposed to have been those of Pyu people who lived in stone age and bronze age about 5,000 years ago.

In addition to the remains, earthenware, brassware, stone beads and stone and iron weapons were also found. These objects are the proof that ancestors of Pyu people had lived in stone age, iron age and ancient city states. On 27 March also, Buddha statues and cedis made of silver were found in the ancient city of Mongmao, Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division. They are of early Pyu age and of superb craftsmanship. Therefore, it can be said that Buddhism has flourished in Myanmar since that time.

At a time when the government is trying to strengthen our national identity by excavating and preserving our cultural heritage, we would like to urge the entire national people to cooperate with the government and fully participate in this task.

Service Book available

YANGON, 1 June — Copies of the Service Book are available at Sarpay Beikman book shop beginning today.

Ministries, enterprises and departments may contact the manager, sales division, at 529, Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman, Yangon, or dial 381448 or 249031 to buy the copies. Payments can be made by cross cheque or in cash.

Individuals need to show their identity cards to buy the book at the shop.

The book is published by Sarpay Beikman of Publishing and Printing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information.

MNA

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

Home Affairs Minister receives UNHCR Head

YANGON, 1 June — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Head of UNHCR Mr Sivanka Dhanapala at the ministry at the corner of Industry-1 Road and Saya San Road at 4 pm yesterday.

At the call, it was also attended by directors-general under the ministry. — MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Head of UNHCR Mr Sivanka Dhanapala. — HOME AFFAIRS



Myanmar, Thailand sign MoU on hydel-power projects

YANGON, 1 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for

Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut this morning arrived back here from

Thailand after attending the signing ceremony of MoU between Myanmar

and Thailand on the development of hydel-power projects on Thanlwin and Taninthayi rivers.

Director-General of the Department of Electric Power Dr Thein Tun and Director-General of the Hydro Electric Power Department U Win Kyaw also arrived back on the same flight.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials.

MNA



Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Military Code of Conduct Competition held



Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein views participation of officers and other ranks in Military Code of Conduct Competition at Ministry of Defence. — MNA

YANGON, 1 June — Military Code of Conduct Competition organized by the Ministry of Defence was held today at Konmyinthathar here. A total of 174 officers and other ranks took part in the competition which was divided into four categories.

Commandant of the Camp Commandant's Office Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and officers supervised the competition. — MNA

CSSTB Chairman inspects CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 1 June — Civil Service Selection and Training Board-Chairman Dr Than Nyun, accompanied by CSSTB Member U Hla Myint Oo, Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi and Col Kyaw Zan Hla of the Civil Service Affairs Department, yesterday arrived at Central Institute of Civil Service-CICS (Upper Myanmar) and met with the Rector and officials of the CICS.

At the meeting, Dr Than Nyun gave instruction on training and management affairs of the institute. Next, they inspected the construction of the buildings at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar).

MNA

Follow-up news

YANGON, 1 June — In the news of Pyu period artefacts unearthed in Mongmao carried the dailies issued on 1st May, it is learnt that there were four gold Buddha statues and two silver Buddha statues in the specific postures. — MNA

China, Malaysia relations bound to embrace even better future

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 May — With concerted efforts, the China-Malaysia relationship based on traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation is bound to embrace an even better future, visiting top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo said Monday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, made the remarks when delivering a speech titled "Deepening Good-neighbourly Friendship in A Joint Effort for Asian Prosperity", in Kuala Lumpur.

Recalling a long history of the profound friendship between the two close neighbours, Wu said that 600 years ago, Zheng He, a Chinese envoy in the Ming Dynasty, made seven expeditions to the seas to the

Southwest of China and landed in Malacca for five times, leaving many well-known stories in the annuals of China-Malaysia friendly relations. Leaders of the older generation from both countries realized the normalization of China-Malaysia relations 31 years ago in light of the fundamental interests of the two peoples and the long-term strategies of the two countries, he said, adding that Malaysia became the first country in the Association of South-East

Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish diplomatic relations with China, thus not only ushering in a new phase in China-Malaysia friendship, but also creating favourable conditions for the development of China-ASEAN relations.

"Over the past 31 years since mutual diplomatic recognition, China-Malaysia friendship has stood the test of time and international vicissitudes, becoming a common asset of our two peoples," Wu said.—MNA/Xinhua



Nepali King to attend 2nd South Summit in Doha

KATHMANDU, 31 May — Nepali King Gyanendra will lead a delegation to attend the Second South Summit, or the summit of the Group of 77, to be held in Qatar's capital Doha on 15-16 June, *The Himalayan Times* newspaper reported on Monday.

The King is expected to leave here on 13 June, while Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey will leave on 12 June to attend the ministerial meeting to be held two days prior to the summit, the independent English-language daily quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

Even though members of the Nepali delegation have not yet been finalized, the ministry is doing necessary preparations, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The official refused to disclose if the King is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with the heads of state and governments on the sidelines of the summit.

Leaders from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean will participate in the summit to review the develop-

ment challenges facing their countries, to put in place a general system of trade preference among developing countries by 2006 and to craft a unified position on strengthening the United Nations during the forthcoming 60th session of the UN General Assembly.—MNA/Xinhua

US toll mounts in Iraq Anti-US fighters staging about 70 attacks daily in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May —US troops in Iraq lost 77 men in May — the highest death toll since January—with the US military admitting that daily attacks have doubled in recent weeks.

The latest casualty was in Ramadi, where the US Central Command said a Marine assigned to the 5th Marine Regiment was killed in action on Monday by enemy small-arms fire while conducting combat operations.

The latest spree of violence put an end to a brief lull when attacks on US forces had waned after the 30 January elections in Iraq. The death toll in May was the highest since 107 Americans were killed in January.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Boylan, a US military spokesman in Baghdad, said anti-US fighters were staging about 70 attacks across Iraq per day.

"There was a lull in attacks after the elections," Boylan said.

"There was a period of time right after the election until the beginning of April or middle of April that we actually saw them dip into the low 30s."

In the recent spike in violence, fighters also have aggressively targeted Iraqi security forces. Boylan said more than 600 Iraqis were killed or wounded in May.

Boylan attributed the rise in US deaths in May to several factors.

May was a record month for car bombs used by fighters. US forces also suffered losses in offensives against the fighters such as Operation New Market in the western town of Haditha and Operation Matador around the western town of al-Qaim.—Internet

Chananporn Rosjan of Thailand is awarded the best costume award during the Miss Universe 2005 pageant in Bangkok, on 31 May, 2005

INTERNET



Vietnam to slash navigation fees

HANOI, 31 May — Navigation fees in Vietnamese waters will be lowered to regional levels from next year, local newspaper *Vietnam News* on Monday quoted the country's Navigation Department as saying.

The fees, which include pilotage, anchorage and security for ships, will be fixed at the same levels as in Thailand, a country with the same natural conditions as Vietnam. The fees in Vietnam are now 15-20 per cent higher than in neighbouring countries due to its long and complex water passages.

MNA/Xinhua

Platinum business credit card for SMEs launched in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Singapore's United Overseas Bank (UOB) and Visa International launched here on Monday a platinum credit card for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), according to a statement by the bank.

"The SME sector represents a huge growth opportunity of nearly 100 billion US dollars in Singapore. Our data shows that the average annual spend on a Visa Business Card is three times as high as a classic consumer card," Michael Cannon, general manager of Commercial Solutions for Visa Asia Pacific, was quoted as saying.

The UOB Visa Platinum Business Card, the first of its type in Southeast Asia, will give SMEs more financial flexibility on their business expenses by offering an interest rate of 8 per cent per annum. Card members may also make use of a sophisticated management information system to track their spending patterns so as to better manage and control their finances.

Apart from centralizing all their business spending on a single card, card members can enjoy various platinum privileges and benefits as well when they dine, entertain or travel, for business.—MNA/Xinhua



Filipino fish port workers carry a huge yellow fin tuna as they prepare to weigh the fish in General Santos City, in southern Philippines on 31 May, 2005. — INTERNET

China expects rise in summer grain output

BEIJING, 31 May — China will expect a rise in the output of summer-harvested grain crops this year if no natural adversities occur in the next 15 days, says a report released by the Ministry of Agriculture here Monday.

With winter wheat entering its harvest season, early rice has already been seeded in the south, northern China's spring sowing comes to an end, and the harvest of summer grains crops across the country has been going on as scheduled. The task of stabilizing China's grain supply is "challenging but possible", says the report.

The official report attributed the good prospect to numerous factors, including enhanced fiscal support and production guidance from the governments at various levels and agricultural departments as well as the utilization of agro-technology.

For instance, government subsidies to wheat

growers has been raised from last year's 100 million yuan (12.09 million US dollars) to one billion yuan (120.92 million US dollars) this year. Meanwhile, the number of subsidized regions has grown from last year's six provinces to the year's 11 major production bases.

As more farmers turn to wheat growing in 2005, the report predicts that the acreage under winter wheat to be harvested this summer will be at least 670,000 hectares more than in 2004, the first ever increase in seven consecutive years.

According to the ministry, a total of 130,000 agro-technicians have been dispatched to rural areas

so far, helping more than 13 million farmers to make better use of fertilizer. The year's acreage sowed to top-quality winter wheat is also expected to reach 10.7 million hectares, up 18.5 per cent over last year.

Given that the yield of summer grain crops is only one-fifth of China's annual grain production, the report acknowledged, to alleviate China's grain supply shortfall, early rice and autumn grain crop still play a crucial role.

An emergency notice, issued earlier this month by the ministry, requires all local governments to step up support and guidance to farmers engaged in grain production.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan calls a halt to Japanese encephalitis vaccinations

TOKYO, 31 May — Japan's Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry asked municipal governments across the country on Monday to stop recommending vaccinations for minors against Japanese encephalitis after a case of suspected serious side effects.

The ministry issued the rare instruction as a female junior high school student in east Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture fell into critical condition after receiving an inoculation against the disease last year.

According to the ministry, the student was diagnosed as suffering acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, known as ADEM, a disease causing a nerve disorder, and doctors suspected it was a side effect of the vaccination.

The student's symptoms were so serious that she needed respiratory aide.

The ministry's decision is also based on the fact that the number of Japanese encephalitis patients has been reduced to 10 or less a year, and in some years the number of those reported suffering ADEM and other side effects have outnumbered patients.

More than four million young Japanese annually receive the vaccinations

under municipal recommendations.

Children have been recommended to receive it three times between six months and seven-and-a-half years of age. They are then to get another between the ages of nine and 12, and the last one at the age of 14 or 15. ADEM causes brain and spinal cord damage, which brings about headaches, sensory disruption, impaired consciousness and paralysis.—MNA/Xinhua

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British troops on patrol in the southern town of Basra in Iraq on 29 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Two suicide bombers kill 20 Iraqis south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 31 May — Two suicide bombers blew themselves up among a crowd of Iraqi police in Hilla City, south of Baghdad, on Monday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 35 others, police said.

The attack took place at 9:15 am (0515 GMT) in Hilla, some 100 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The first suicide bomber blew up his explosive belt at a medical centre in the city where Army recruits and civil service applicants were queuing for medical checkups.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to spend big on population control quality

HANOI, 31 May — Vietnam plans to pour some 3.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (221.5 million US dollars) into curbing population growth and improving population quality from 2006 to 2010.

The money will be mainly used to ensure that each couple to have no more than two children so that the population will remain stable at around 88 million by 2010 at the latest, according to the country's Committee for Population, Family and Children on Monday.

In the 5-year period, Vietnam, whose population growth stood at 1.38 per cent last year, has targeted to lower the growth to between 1.1 per cent and 1.14 per cent, increase the percentage of people using modern contraceptive methods to 70 per cent, and remarkably reduce abortion rates.

Under a recent resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam, its population should grow gradually, and then remain stable at 115-120 million in mid-21st century. The resolution stresses that state cadres and party members must be good examples in following population policies and family planning, as well as persuading local people to do the same.

MNA/Xinhua

Nine killed in two aircraft crashes in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 June — Four US and four Italian airmen and an Iraqi were killed in separate aircraft crashes in Iraq, officials said on Tuesday, but there was no indication guerrillas downed them.

In Baghdad, Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari condemned the arrest by US troops of a senior Sunni politician on Monday. He said he had demanded an explanation from the top American general in Iraq for the 12-hour detention, which the military called a mistake.

The arrest of Mohsen Abdul-Hamid, leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party, threatened to further strain relations between Iraq's Sunni Arab and Shiite communities at a time when some have expressed fears of a slide toward civil war.

Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has said he wants to sow sectarian conflict in Iraq, sent a message to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden saying he had suffered only "minor wounds," denying reports he was seriously hurt, according to an audio tape attributed to him.

A six-seater Iraqi Air Force plane crashed about 150 km (90 miles) north-east of Baghdad on Monday, killing four US Air Force personnel and an Iraqi pilot, Iraq's Defence Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said he believed the plane came down in a sandstorm, but the US military said the cause was being investigated.

Overnight, an Italian military helicopter crashed outside the southern city of Nassiriya as it returned from Kuwait.

The two pilots and two gunners were killed. The cause of the crash was unknown, but it was believed to be non-hostile.

Three military aircraft have now crashed in Iraq in the past week. On 26 May, militants shot down a US observation chopper as it flew over Baquba, just north of Baghdad.—Internet



An Indonesian boy receives a polio vaccine in Jakarta on 31 May, 2005.

INTERNET

China, Chile pledge to further bilateral ties

BEIJING, 31 May — Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong told visiting Chilean Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker on Monday afternoon that the Chinese Government is ready to further strengthen Sino-Chilean ties.

In their meeting, Zeng spoke highly of the development of Sino-Chilean relations. He noted that among South American nations, Chile is the first to forge diplomatic ties with China, the first to render support to China's resumption of its lawful seat in the United Nations, the first to recognize China's full market economy status and the first to start free

trade negotiations with China.

Chile is also the first Latin American nation to sign bilateral agreement with China on its admission into the World Trade Organization, he added.

The five "firsts" demonstrated the continuous growth of Sino-Chilean relations, he said.

He said the two countries kept frequent high-

level visits in recent years, adding that the bilateral trade progressed rapidly. Besides, China and Chile cooperate closely with the other in international affairs.

Last year, Chinese President Hu Jintao paid a successful visit to Chile, Zeng said. The heads of state of the two countries reached consensus on the establishment and development of the

"long-term, stable, equal and mutual-beneficial" cooperative partnership between China and Chile, he said.

Walker highly appreciated China's achievements in economic and social development, and Chilean-Chinese cooperation in either bilateral or multi-lateral fields.

The friendly cooperation between China and Latin American countries also witnessed vigorous growth, he said, adding that Chile is willing to actively promote the relations between Latin America and China.

Zeng and Walker also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Walker arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a three-day official visit as guest of his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to have closer relations with Italy

DHAKA, 31 May — About 1,500 skilled Bangladeshi workers are likely to go to Italy this year under various categories, a Bangladeshi high official said.

Nearly 100,000 Bangladeshis now live in Italy, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, who just concluded his 10-day tour of the European countries, was quoted as saying by *The New Nation* on Monday.

"If they import goods from Bangladesh for their own consumption, it will be a large quantity of exports," he said.

Italian businessmen have shown their keen interest to invest in Bangladesh in hometextile, light engineering, leather, tourism, agriculture, medicine, power and computer software development sectors, the minister said.

The Commerce Minister said a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Bangladesh and Italy aiming to enhance the two-way trade and commerce.

The three-day single-country Bangladesh Trade Fair was organized to showcase various exportable Bangladeshi products. A total of 45 business firms participated in the exhibition with their items under 16 categories.

The minister said he had meetings with government officials of Italy and members of the business community there. The Italian business community expressed its desire to invest in export-processing zones (EPZs). At present, the trade is in favour of Bangladesh as the country exported goods worth 318 million US dollars to Italy while its import bill amounted to 180 US dollars from Italy in fiscal 2003-04. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier walks past a burnt out truck at the scene of a car bomb south of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad, on 31 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Kalam suggests use of Indian satellites for quake prediction

REYKJAVIK, 31 May — Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam on Monday said information technology, including satellite communication, should be used for earthquake prediction and suggested Iceland take help of Indian satellites for disaster management in both countries.

"India has its own satellites placed in different orbits. These satellites can be used as an aid for disaster management for both our countries," the President told a gathering of scientists in Iceland.

"Application of Information Technology in the form of GIS, Remote Sensing, Satellite Communication and Internet play a vital role in disaster mitigation programmes," he said.

"With the use of these technologies we need to prioritize the area of relief, particularly in the seismic zones and deploy the resources needed to mitigate the disaster in a time bound manner", he said.

"Over the last one-and-a-half decade India has made substantial progress in monsoon modelling and weather prediction. This experience can definitely be shared between the two countries for predicting weather patterns both short-term and medium-term in Iceland," the President said.

Elaborating on the mechanism to predict earthquakes, he said "stress-forecasting was possible in Southwest Iceland only because of the unique seismic activities of the onshore trans-

form-zone. I would request the scientific community to clarify whether the stress forecasting technique will be applicable to earthquakes occurring in other regions also".

The President even offered Iceland's scientists to study all the natural disasters which have taken place in India in the past 50 years along "with prediction research inputs, which could probably enable us to evolve prediction model, to accurately predict the natural disaster in a timely manner".

Concurrently, codes for construction in earthquake prone zones can be evolved which can form part of the standard building codes. This will be an important contribution made by the scientific community in reducing the quantum of loss to people and property, he said.

The loss and damage due to natural disasters can be reduced if timely warning becomes available to the people as well as the authorities. It is a general opinion of the scientific community that accurate prediction of time and location of an earthquake is still a distant possibility, he said.

MNA/PTI

Finnish PM visits Kuwait to promote economic ties

KUWAIT CITY, 31 May — Visiting Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen said on Monday that his trip to Kuwait is aimed at promoting economic cooperation between the two countries.

During talks with officials of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vanhanen highlighted Finland's progress in its industries, particularly in the fields of communications, information technology and computers, according to the official *Kuwait News Agency*.

Vanhanen was quoted as saying after the talks that he hoped the outcome of the current talks between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will have a positive impact on the economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Kuwait, an oil-rich Gulf Arab country, is a member of the GCC.

President of Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Al-Ghanem, on his part, said Kuwait has a number of big infrastructure investment opportunities for Finnish companies for the next five years with a

total worth of more than 40 billion US dollars.

Al-Ghanem pointed out that the Kuwaiti private sector also looks for suitable investment opportunities abroad, naming Finland as an important market.

Vanhanen, heading a large delegation composed of Cabinet ministers and businessmen from more than 20 companies, arrived in the Kuwait City on Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman shows the hailstones she collects in Beijing, capital of China, on 31 May, 2005.—INTERNET



Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (R) speaks with Japan's Emperor Akihito (L) at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, on 1 June, 2005.

INTERNET

Vietnam sees stronger farm produce exports in five months

HANOI, 31 May — Vietnam earned nearly 2.3 billion US dollars from exporting farm and forestry products in the first 5 months of this year, a year-on-year surge of 31 per cent.

Local items with high-growth in export value include rubber, up 63 per cent to 171 million dollars, woodwork, up 52 per cent to 621 million dollars, fruits and vegetables, up 50 per cent to 100 million dollars, rice, up 40 per cent to 621 million dollars, and cashew nuts, up 37 per cent to 162 million dollars, according to the country's agriculture and rural development administration on Monday.

Local experts said Vietnam's agriculture will focus on sustainable development in the coming years. Rice intensive farming techniques and new varieties will be employed to boost export turnovers and ensure national food security.

They said Vietnam should not grow more robusta coffee in the next five years, maintaining coffee plantation at about 450,000 hectares. Instead,

investment should be intensified in post-harvest technology and trademark promotion as well as in processing cashew nuts and pepper. Last year, Vietnam had over 7.4 million hectares of paddy rice with an output of 35.7 million tons, 505,000 hectares of coffee, 832,100 tons, 460,800 hectares of rubber, 404,600 tons, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

China willing to solve textile trade issue by negotiations

BEIJING, 31 May — Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said here Monday that the Chinese Government is still looking for a proper solution by negotiations with the United States and the European Union on the textile trade issue.

After United States and the European Union took restrictive measures upon China's textile products, China announced on Monday morning it would no longer impose export tariffs on 81 categories of textile products, beginning 1 June, 2005.

During a Press conference hosted by the State Council Information Office, Bo said the restrictive measures taken by the two parties were "groundless".

Bo said that the US and EU had failed to meet the preconditions required by Article 242 in the documents concerning China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), which allows WTO members to impose limits on certain types of China-originated clothing.

"The US and EU are liable to provide solid evi-

dence to prove both a surge in their imports of China-made textile products and the resultant market disruption," Bo said.

He said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the relations with the two parties and hopes friendly cooperation can be continued.

"We will not take retaliatory actions since economic and trade cooperation with the two parties are very extensive," he said.

He said he is optimistic about future cooperation with the two parties.

"Some parties tend to use restrictive or retaliatory measures when problems come out, but this is not a way to solve the problems properly," Bo said.

MNA/Xinhua

Patents will harm Indian software industry

NEW DELHI, 31 May — Indian Software developers are opposing patents, saying the move would hit small and medium software enterprises in the country and promote the interests of multinational corporations, Indo-Asian News Service reported on Sunday.

Participants at a gathering in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of Kerala, to campaign for free software expressed happiness that their lobbying had put at bay attempts to allow software to be patented, at least for the time being.

But they warned that unless the country was careful, India could be stepping into a minefield that could affect software developers.

Last December, a presidential ordinance threatened to bring software under patents, causing much angst among software developers nationwide. After considerable lobbying, the software developers managed to avert the "threat".

"We've gone back to the status quo (pre-December 2004 situation). We're glad that the immediate threat to allow software patents has gone. But there are still issues of concern that remain," Dr G. Nagarjuna, chairperson of the Mumbai-based Free Software Foundation (India) said.

Nagarjuna said some parliamentarians, social organizations and the pharmacy industry had helped to get the government to do a re-think about software patenting in India.

MNA/Xinhua

Cancer, heart diseases biggest killers in Thailand

BANGKOK, 31 May — Cancer and heart diseases are the biggest killers of Thais, Thailand's Health Minister has said.

Nearly 62,000 Thais died of these two diseases in 2002 — at an average of seven deaths an hour, Minister Suchai Charoenratanakul was quoted on Sunday by the Thai News Agency as saying.

He added that an average of nearly 800 patients of these diseases were admitted daily to hospital for treatment in 2003.

Thailand needs to develop its medical technology to treat these killer diseases, he said.

Nearly 80 per cent of hospitals and clinics treating the two diseases are now located in Bangkok.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Exchange to tighten listing rules

SINGAPORE, 31 May — The Singapore Exchange (SGX) has proposed to tighten its listing rules and processes to raise corporate governance standards, a SGX statement said on Monday.

The planned enhancements require every listed company to have two independent directors on a continuous basis instead of just at listing, and ask the board of directors to give interim and annual confirmation regarding the company's financial results and internal control.

For a foreign listed company, SGX stipulates that the board must have at least two independent resident directors on a continuing basis. In addition, another director or officer in executive capacity is required to reside in Singa-

pore, the statement said.

SGX also seeks to extend the role of intermediaries, as well as improve transparency and disclosure of listed firms by encouraging issuers to adopt best practices set out in the Operating and Financial Review (OFR) Guide.

The statement said that the amendments, which will be implemented after consulting the public and getting necessary approvals, will apply to new issuers, while existing listed issuers will be given two years to comply with the new rules.

MNA/Xinhua

HK launches new authentication for Internet banking

HONG KONG, 31 May — Hong Kong banking industry will launch two-factor authentication for Internet banking to protect customers from frauds, announced the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Monday.

According to the requirement, banks offering high-risk retail Internet banking transactions will have two-factor authentication ready for their clients by June, 2005. Clients will need to adopt the new authentication if they want to conduct transactions through Internet.

The authority said

there will be a customer education programme to educate people with the significance, benefits and usage of the new authentication. William Ryback, the chief executive of HKMA, said the requirement is to strengthen the security controls of Internet banking, protect the customers from frauds and

enable Internet banking to flourish under a safe and sound environment.

Internet banking service has developed fast in recent years and is accepted by many residents because of its convenience. The number of Internet banking accounts in Hong Kong reached 2.7 million in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese workers receive instructions under a tree at a construction site at the central business district in China's capital Beijing on 30 May, 2005.

INTERNET

They can't get away easily

Moe Shinn

Some jargons used in the golf course jokingly are often correct and remarkable. For example, when the ball overshoots the fairway and lands on the rough despite the proper concentration and use of strength, the golfers may use the jargon "It's the notorious guy's foreign policy". Think hard and you'll come to know who's the guy we are referring to as the infamous person.

That person always plots a scheme of his foreign policy after making detailed calculations. And then he tried to carry it out at a huge cost. But all went wrong and the plan missed its target. In the end, that guy and his men had to admit "We were wrong". Every time he conspires and work out a plan, the infamous guy puts all his energy and money in it. And every time, the plan fails to realize its aims.

It was wrong thirty years ago, again it was incorrect twenty years or ten years back, or till now. His schemes always fail to realize the aims.

So, the jargon may sound funny, but it is true. A golfer needs a lot of energy and concentration to hit his ball to reach the fairway. Excessive use of the strength to hit the ball is not correct method. But the notorious guy has gone wrong again.

If we study international affairs we can see that the degree of greed of some powers is high. They are threatening the developing countries to stay under their domain as minions or face annihilation. They will consider any country which does not yield to their orders as enemy. They give priority only to their own interest while ignoring the spirit of equality, justice and humanity in their relations with others. They are conceited.

Whether it is just or unjust, those powerful nations make one-sided decisions only from their point of view for self-interest. The Roman empire, the Mongol empire, the French empire and the Nazi German empire, all proved that the arrogant belief "The use of force wins over everything" is wrong. Ascending is followed by descending, and eventually ending in disintegration. No one can stay on top always. If those powers cannot take the lessons of history they will fail in the end.

But we, Myanmar nationals, have no ill will towards them. We have no wish to see them fall apart. We have no grudge. It is not our concern with them even if they get richer

or poorer.

We, Myanmar people, have only loving kindness, sympathy, consideration and compassion for the entire human race. So we sometimes assumed all others to be as simple and sincere like us. Thus, we failed to beware of the terrorist bombers' inhuman attacks.

Since we were children our parents and traditions and culture teach us to have kindness toward all creatures let alone human beings. So Myanmar national races make friends with all

Myanmar nationals never regard anyone as enemy. But we will not be cowed by any enemy however powerful it is if we face its barbarous aggression and insults. Our nation is now enjoying unprecedented unity among the national people.

We are amazed to see and hear our people including children and women being blown up and murdered ruthlessly. We all are calm, stable and united. We will never yield to the atrocities of the terrorists. We are brave peo-

If the terrorists move a step forward, they will be crushed by the people, who are already angry with their crimes, with nationalistic fervour. Tolerance has its limit. History has proved that whenever such atrocious acts are committed the destructive elements will get the retribution from the strength of the people who will never stand such nonsense.

human beings regardless of their colour, whether they are white, black, yellow or brown. So we regard all mankind as relatives. We are always hospitable. We have no suspicion of a foreigner of any race. We are always helpful to them. We never have had any idea of making unfair profits out of a foreigner. We always think of offering hospitality with a smile eager to help others.

- the time-bomb explosion at Zegyo in Mandalay,
- the powerful blasts at the Yangon Trade Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt, Dagon Centre and Junction-8 in Yangon, and
- the looting and killing of innocent passengers are the results of the works of the inhuman mercenaries serving their foreign masters as stooges. Beyond any doubt no national brethren will perpetrate such brutal acts among themselves.

According to investigations, the bombs or any of the materials used in making them are not available in Myanmar. Although the terrorists are trying to hide the evidence, we have found clues leading to their crimes. Their brazen lies are ridiculous for any human beings.

ple waiting for the opportune moment to teach the terrorists a telling lesson.

The terrorists have made us angry. But we have not shown our anger or made a response yet. We are totally against terrorism. We love to live in peace and stability and with discipline. We want to catch up with other nations in terms of development. Thanks to the advanced equipment we now have, we can see the whole world as if it is on our palm. We understand that peace and stability will bring progress. So, we remain calm and stable despite the attempts to cause confusion, fear and unrest in the nation. We will not dance to their tune.

But if the terrorists move a step forward, they will be crushed by the people, who are already angry with their crimes, with nationalistic fervour. Tolerance has its limit.

History has proved that whenever such atrocious acts are committed the destructive elements will get the retribution from the strength of the people who will never stand such nonsense.

(Translation: TMT)

Secretary -1 Adjutant-General...

(from page 1)
managers, coaches and footballers of both teams.

Myanmar girls presented flower baskets to the players.

In the second friendly soccer match, Myanmar Tatmadaw football team beat Indian Defence Services football team 1-0.

After the match, the Secretary-1 presented the trophy to mark the friendly match to the guest team.

Next, the Secretary-1 posed for documentary photo with managers, coaches and players of both teams.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave

cash prize for the Myanmar Tatmadaw football team to Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Col Htein Lin. Later, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw rewarded K 1 million to the Myanmar Tatmadaw football team through Col Htein Lin. —MNA

UDNR courses for...

(from page 16)
The commander called on them to make sustained efforts to ensure flourishing of Union Spirit and nationalistic fervour, needed for national development,

among the national people, and to serve the interests of the nation, and to bring honour to the university.

Rector U Zaw Min Thein submitted a report on training courses. The

commander presented the model company award for 2004-2005 to Bayintnaung Company.

After the ceremony, the commander cordially greeted the trainees.

A total of 1,378 trainees will attend the courses in 2005-2006 academic year. —MNA

Research and Plant Propagation...

(from page 16)
In the afternoon, the minister and officials arrived at the research and plant propagation farm of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise on

Phaya Road in Kyaukto. He heard reports on production of hybrid oil palm strains, nurturing of rubber and grafting works.

Later, the minister

gave instruction concerning production of quality strains, setting up of the grafting farm and meeting the target of rubber saplings.

MNA

Library & museum of UDNR put into service



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspect library and museum. — MNA

YANGON, 1 June — The ceremony to open the library and museum of the University for Development of National Races was held in front of the building of university library this morning.

Present on the occasion were Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-

Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, Member of CSSTB U Aung Myint, university council members, Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Col Kyaw Zan Hla of the Civil Service Affairs Department, rectors, officials and guests.

Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun formally opened the library and museum and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye pressed the button to open the signboard of library and museum.

Next, the commander and party viewed round library, e-library, learning centre and booths.

MNA

Staff honoured for helping bomb victims

YANGON, 1 June — Victims injured in the inhuman and brutal bomb attacks of the terrorists were conveyed to hospitals for medical treatment

On 30 May, the New Yangon General Hospital honoured doctors,

nurses and other health staff for their goodwill and humanitarian spirit in providing medical treatment to the wounded victims at the hospital. They were honoured by Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Kyin, Associ-

ate Professor Dr U Win Maung, anesthetist Dr U Kyi Lin, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyu and Matron Daw Khin Ti, who presented them certificates of honour and gifts. — MNA

Tatmadawmen urged to conduct agriculture, livestock breeding undertakings to increase social welfare funds



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe plants a star flower sapling. — YGN COMMAND

YANGON, 1 June — Dalla Station of Yangon Command held a tree plantation ceremony at the regional battalion in Dalla Township, Yangon South District, today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address at the ceremony and planted saplings.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that it is a pleasure

for him to see the locals taking part in planting saplings at the ceremony together with the Tatmadawmen. Tatmadaw members of the battalions and units should conduct agriculture and livestock breeding undertakings to increase social welfare funds of the Tatmadawmen and families. Officials of the station and Forest Department reported on number of saplings and conservation of the plantations.

The commander and party took part in the tree planting ceremony. They also studied the bamboo nursing method demonstrated by the Forest Department. The commander planted a commemorative tree, and then cordially conversed with Tatmadaw members and the people planting saplings. They planted over 4,000 saplings of teak species, fruit trees and shade trees and over 1,000 seedlings.

MNA

Road and bridge construction sites inspected

YANGON, 1 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister and officials of Public Works, oversaw maintenance tasks along Yangon-Htaukkyant-Bago section of Yangon-Mandalay Six-lane Highway this morning.

On arrival at the construction site of Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) Project, Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin reported on progress of work and construction of

the approach road.

The minister gave instructions on arrangements to be made for installation of steel frames at the main bridge, survey works to be made for the approach road and road design and upgrading of small bridges.

Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) will be 2,392.7 feet long. The bridge will have six feet wide pedestrian lane on either side of a 28-foot-wide motorway. The foundation is of rein-

forced concrete and the upper structure, of steel frame type. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

Now, bored pile works have been completed at the approach bridge on Mokpalin bank. The new bridge is being built for better transport in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Next, the minister and party left the construction site and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

Workshop on promotion of anti-AIDS campaign held

YANGON, 1 June — A workshop on promotion of anti-AIDS campaign and treatment jointly sponsored by anti-AIDS project of Health Department and Fund for HIV/AIDS in Myanmar (FHAM) was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel this morning.

Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung delivered an opening address.

Next, Assistant Director Dr Khin Ohnmar San explained about anti-AIDS project. Writer Mya Hnaung Nyo, film director U Nyein Min, composer U Aung Naing San and U Ye Dwe of

Myanmar Thabin Asiayon discussed educative activities on AIDS, difficulties, assistance provided and cooperation. Participants also took part in the discussions. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Diploma in Buddha Dhamma conferred on trainees



Ministers and deputy ministers attend the conferring of Diploma in Buddha Dhamma. — MNA

YANGON, 1 June — The International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University held the ceremony to confer certificates of Diploma in Buddha Dhamma on the trainees for 2004-2005 academic year and welcome fresher trainees of the diploma course for 2005-2006, at the university on Dhammapala Hill in Mayangon Township this morning.

On behalf of Chancellor of the university Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary of the Committee Nyaungdon Monastery

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhavivamsa gave Ovadakatha on the occa-

Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Kumarahvivamsa conferred certificates of di-

five women of Myanmar. Next, the Pro-Rector presented velvet fans bearing the badge of the



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Kumara Bhivamsa presents diploma certificate to a Sayadaw. — MNA

sion. The trainees recited oaths.

Pro-Rector (Academic) Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha

ploma on 22 monks from abroad, 13 local monks, four nuns and five women from foreign countries and two men, 11 nuns and

university to fresher trainee monks and trawl bearing the university badge to fresher nuns, men and women trainees.

Later, the rector Sayadaw gave Ovadakatha and Saddhammajotika Sandesakatha to the trainees.

Also present on the occasion were faculty members, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, deputy ministers, advisers, departmental heads and guests.



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Kumara Bhivamsa presents velvet fan to a fresher monk. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Information meets IPRD personnel in Taunggyi

YANGON, 1 June — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Deputy Director (Admin) U Maung Pe and officials inspected TV relay station, Sub-printing press, District Information and Public Relations Department in Taunggyi yesterday.

The deputy minister gave instructions on security, stockpile of spare parts for printing press and delivery of newspapers to



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects Taunggyi Sub-printing House. — MNA

the respective destinations. He said libraries are recreation centres and officials concerned are to

create the libraries to be the knowledge banks for the people.

The deputy minister

met personnel of District IPRD and explained about the government's objectives in detail. — MNA

World Population Day poster, essay and colour photos competitions to be held

YANGON, 1 June — The Ministry of Immigration and Population in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund will hold poster, essay and colour photos competition to commemorate World Population Day 2004.

The chosen title for the poster is "Equality" in English Version and essay (Myanmar Version) competition will also be held under the title "a-myo-thami-mya-ayay-par-hmu-alay-htar-kaba-myay-phount-phyo-hmu-atwat-swan-hsaung-ar".

The poster competition will be categorized into five levels. The age group for the first level will be between 6 and 8; the second level, between 9 and 12; the third level, between 13 and 15; the fourth level, between 16 and 18 and the fifth level, between 19 and above. The competitions from the first to fourth level will be held at designated venues in the capitals of States and Divisions on 11 June under the supervision of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments. Only 15"x20" drawing papers to be issued by the Population Department are to be used in the competitions. Those wishing to participate in the competitions from the first to four levels are to contact the offices of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned for enrolment not later than 8 June. The fifth level is designed as an open invitational competition. Entrants can use any sort of 18"x24" - drawing papers and should send their works either to State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned by 14 June or to the Population Department (Head Office in Yangon) by 27 June. Prizes for the competitions from first to fourth levels are K 100,000 for first prize, K 75,000 for second and K 50,000 for third, and K 200,00 each for three consolation prizes. Prizes for the fifth level competition are K 150,000 for first prize, K 100,000 for second and K 75,000 for third prize.

Essay competition (Myanmar Version) will be divided into three categories — University /college level, high school level and middle school level — and will be held in major towns of States and Divisions from 9 to 11 am on 12 June.

Prizes for the essay competition (University/college level) are K 40,000 for first prize, K 35,000 for second and K 30,000 for third, and K 20,000 each for three consolation prizes. Prizes for the high school level are K 35,000 for first prize, K 30,000 for second and K 25,000 for third prize and K 15,000 each for three consolation prizes. Prizes for the middle school level are K 30,000 for first prize, K 25,000 for second and K 20,000 for third prize and K 10,000 each for three consolation prizes.

Those wishing to compete in the colour photo contest may send 10"x14" size colour photos. Prizes for the photo contest are K 200,000 for the first prize, K 150,000 for second and K 100,000 for the third, and K 50,000 each for five consolation prizes.

The entry photos should be sent to U Maung Maung Myint, Assistant Director of the Population Department, No 416, Maha Bandoola Street, Yangon, not later than 23 June.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize winning work in local and foreign photo competitions. Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided together with two passport photos and biography of the contestants.

First, second and third prize winners will be awarded at the ceremony of World Population Day to be held in Yangon and consolation prizes will be sent through respective State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments to winners. — MNA

Sri Lanka receives more tourists in first 4 months

COLOMBO, 1 June—Despite the tsunami effect on Sri Lanka's tourism industry, the island country received 167,511 tourists from January to April, nearly 5000 more than the figure of 162,624 during the same period of last year.

The official *Daily News* reported on Tuesday that there were 38,187 tourist arrivals in January and 36,645 in February, dropping by 17,950 and 6,939 from previous year's figure mainly due to the tsunami devastation.

However, the Indian Ocean island country received 50,418 and 42,261 tourists in March and April, increased by 31 per cent and 38 per cent from last year's figures of 38,418 and 30,672 respectively.

"Tourist arrivals have started picking up. We can see that clearly through the March and April figures," the paper quoted S. Kalaiselvam, director general of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB) as saying.

"We are expecting

more tourist arrivals with the forthcoming Sri Lankan Travel Mart which will be held from 3 to 5 June in Colombo. This will be a major event in the Sri Lankan travel calendar in the aftermath of tsunami catastrophe," Kalaiselvam said.

The highest number of tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the tsunami have been from the West European and South Asian countries, according to statistics from the SLTB.

These include UK (26,211), Germany (13,071), France (9,636), the Netherlands (3,882), Italy (2,841), Switzerland (2,532), Sweden (1,509) and Norway (1,437) which were among the 67,092 tourist arrivals up to April.

There were 48,129

tourist arrivals from South Asian countries from January to April this year including 34,575 from India, 8,250 from the Maldives, 3,843 from Pakistan, 3,843 and 1,461 from others.

After the tsunami, the Sri Lankan Government took several steps to recover the tourism industry including giving duty concessions and soft loans to local hoteliers.

Tourism is the fourth largest foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka, accounting for about 5 per cent of its gross domestic product.

Sri Lanka's total tourist arrivals for 2004 was 566,202. The government has a target of receiving one million tourist arrivals by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese girl practises during a training session at an acrobatics school in Liaocheng, in east China's Shandong Province on 30 May, 2005.—INTERNET

India says meningitis under control

NEW DELHI, 1 June—Indian capital's civic authorities stated Monday that the meningitis infection was under control even as two more people died taking the toll to 41 since the outbreak of the disease last month.

Two deaths and two new cases were reported since Sunday in the capital. With this the total number of cases reported has gone up to 389, of which 290 have been discharged and 58 are still under treatment in various hospitals, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Commissioner Rakesh Mehta said the intensity of the disease was waning.

He said many patients had been brought from

outside Delhi. The figures were not purely restricted to Delhi. In Delhi, most of the cases had occurred in the crowded and congested localities of the city.

Apart from putting up hoardings at 100 locations across the capital to raise awareness about the disease, leaflets have been distributed in several areas.

MCDDirector of Hospital Administration JN Banavalikar said people who were in direct contact with patients faced

400 per cent more risk.

Banavalikar said the administration had already vaccinated the high-risk groups. House-to-house surveillance was adopted to avoid missing any of those who had come into direct contact with the patients even for a brief period.

According to him, anti-meningitis medication has been provided to 3,995 people who were in direct contact with patients.

MNA/Xinhua

China's PLA proves worthy in minority areas

BEIJING, 1 June—More than 3 million People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers have been mobilized over the past five years to build 680 infrastructure projects, Monday's *China Daily* quoted a senior PLA officer as saying.

Also the agenda has been increasing awareness amongst soldiers and officers of the country's ethnic minorities and religious practices, said Chang Shengrong, major general of the General Political Department of the PLA.

Ethnic minority and religious leaders have been invited to give lectures, while PLA soldiers are encouraged to study minority languages and get to know their customs and religious beliefs, according to Chang.

"As the majority of the Chinese Army is garrisoned in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, relations between the PLA and local minorities are very important for the country's ethnic unity," he said.

The PLA has to date printed more than 600,000

pamphlets and filmed 100 programmes to help soldiers learn more about ethnic affairs and better handle relations with local minorities, according to Chang.

China is home to 55 ethnic minorities, which amount to a population of more than 100 million. They mainly live in the western part of the country and frontier areas.

"On the one hand, the PLA cannot do its work well without the help of local people, and on the other hand, local development in many ethnic minority areas also benefits from help offered by the PLA," said Chang, who is in charge of the Army's civilian relations.

In the past five years, the PLA has focused more and more on developing the economies of minor-

ity areas, especially through bettering infrastructure, a major bottleneck for local development.

The construction and expansion of seven airports — including Gonggar Airport in Tibet, Hotan Airport in Xinjiang, Dunhuang Airport in Gansu and Jiuzhaigou Airport in Sichuan — were all completed by PLA soldiers, according to Chang.

The PLA's contribution to infrastructure in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities has undoubtedly laid a solid foundation for local economic development, he said.

He said the Army has also played an active role in humanitarian relief work in minority regions,

where conditions are often harsh and natural disasters frequent. —MNA/Xinhua

Disaster early-warning system opens in Thailand

BANGKOK, 1 June — Thailand has opened its national disaster warning centre, the first country to launch such an early warning system following the 26 December disaster, local Press reported Tuesday.

"Five months after the disaster, Thailand has finally come up with a warning system up to standard. I would say we're the first among the tsunami-hit countries to make significant progress in disaster prevention," Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying at the opening ceremony.

The centre, although still not fully complete, will be able to identify the spot where earthquake may occur and the possibility of a tsunami. The analyzing and calculating process will take about 15 minutes, said the Prime Minister.

Once a major earthquake or tsunami was detected, the warning will be issued to all television and radio stations. The message will also be sent to all mobile phone networks as well as to public announcement stations along the coastal line.

About 50 stations are expected to be set up in dangerous coastal areas in Thailand.

Plodprasop Suraswadi, director of the centre, said it will connect to the disaster warning centres in Japan and Hawaii.

Focusing on earthquakes and tsunamis in the first place, the centre's function will then extend

to other disasters, including forest fires, floods and air pollution.

"With the new system, we'll be able to know exact data such as the wave's height, which area will be hit and at what time," Plodprasop said.

To operate with full authority, a royal decree is needed to endorse the establishment and mission of the centre.

On 26 December last year, six provinces along Thailand's southwestern coast were hit by killer waves, which inflicted enormous human and economic losses to the kingdom.

MNA/Xinhua

Volcano erupts in India's remote island

NEW DELHI, 1 June—After almost a decade, the only active volcano on a tiny deserted island in India's tsunami-hit Andaman and Nicobar archipelago has started spewing out smoke and lava, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported Monday.

The spiraling columns of smoke from the volcano, situated on Barren Island, was reported by an Indian Coast Guard ship and a *Dornier* aircraft on patrol in the Andaman Seas Saturday evening.

Officials from Indian Ministry of Science and

Technology and Ocean Development said the volcanic activity was "intermittent" and had begun on Saturday.

"We are monitoring the situation along with scientists from the Geological Survey of India. Right now, we don't think

it is a cause for concern," said an official.

The volcano has been dormant for the last few years and there was no activity even after the tsunami that struck the Indian coast on 26 December.

MNA/Xinhua

UN warns violence against children in residential institutions

GENEVA, 1 June — Violence against children in residential institutions can be found across Europe and Central Asia, according to research gathered by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"Children in residential institutions — from children's homes to detention centres — are desperately vulnerable," UNICEF regional director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Maria Calivis, said Tuesday in a statement.

"They are vulnerable because they are separated from society in a 'closed' environment. And the more closed the environment is, the greater the risk of violence and the smaller the chance that it will be reported.

The research is pre-

pared for a major conference on violence against children, the Consultation on Violence Against Children in Europe and Central Asia. The conference will take place in Slovenia in early July and will feed into the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children due out in 2006.

Nobody knows exactly how many children are living in institutions in Europe and Central Asia, and the most conservative estimates put the figure at around 1 million, according to the UNICEF.

"There is a serious

and fundamental knowledge gap on the numbers, which makes the issue 'invisible' and undermines the chance of an effective response," said Calivis.

UNICEF sounds the alarm on juvenile justice, with research suggesting that juvenile offenders may face the greatest risk of violence in the earliest, pre-trial stages.

"This is unacceptable," said Calivis, "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child sets the standards for children in institutions. The ground-rules are there, but they need to be followed." —MNA/Xinhua

Cypriot President meets UN official on Cyprus issue

NICOSIA, 1 June — Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos on Tuesday met with visiting UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Sir Kieran Prendergast on the resumption of UN-sponsored talks for a Cyprus settlement.

Papadopoulos said after the meeting that it was up to the UN official how to hold discussions, creating a climate conducive to the launch of a new effort for a Cyprus settlement.

On his part, Prendergast described the discussion as "productive" and said "we have agreed that the course of the discussions will remain confidential."

He said he would not make any statement until the end of his mission "because I have come primarily to listen to the parties."

The UN official will have similar discussions with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat during his stay on the island.

Prendergast, who arrived here Monday and will stay until Thursday, is the first senior UN official to visit the island since the failure of the latest UN-led efforts in April 2004 when the Greek Cypriots rejected a reunification plan put forward by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a referendum.

The Turkish Cypriot side, however, gave a green light to it.

Annan has said he will not resume mediation until the Greek Cypriot side specifies changes it wants to his plan, a formula aimed at establishing a loose federation in Cyprus based on the bizonal and bicomunal principle.

MNA/Xinhua

WFP to sponsor worldwide walk to end child hunger

UNITED NATIONS, 1 June — The World Food Programme (WFP) will co-sponsor the second annual global walk against child hunger, with participants in over 90 countries across 24 time zones raising money to help fund school feeding projects worldwide.

Next Sunday, more than 200,000 people are expected to walk five kilometres — a little over 3 miles — in over 200 participating cities, the WFP said in a Press release on Monday.

The food relief agency is joining with TNT, a provider of mail, express and logistics services, to sponsor the event.

"Walk the World," will benefit the WFP's global school feeding project, which last year provided one meal a day to 16.6 million primary

school children in 72 countries and aims to reach 50 million in 2007, according to the agency. It said that lack of food is a major deterrent to education for needy children, especially girls.

"In a world where war and disaster spawn countless human tragedies which compete for attention the silent plight of the hungry — especially children, the world's future is an urgent call we must all answer," said James Morris WFP Executive Director. "This walk is as im-

portant as it is inspiring to our mission to end hunger."

The agency is inviting people everywhere to join the event and "show how one collective footstep can transform the lives of the world's poorest children."

There is a "virtual walk" on the "Walk the World" site: each time someone visits it for the first time, enters their email and clicks, TNT donates 19 US cents — which feeds one child for one day.

MNA/Xinhua

FBI official was "Deep Throat" in Watergate Scandal

WASHINGTON, 1 June — *The Washington Post* confirmed Tuesday that former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) official Mark Felt was the "Deep Throat" source in its coverage of the Watergate scandal that eventually led to the resignation of former president Richard Nixon.

The newspaper made the announcement on its web site after Felt's family said earlier in the day that he was the long-anonymous source who leaked secrets about Nixon's Watergate cover-up to *The Post*.

In a statement read by Felt's grandson Nick Jones in Santa Rosa, California, the family said they believed his account was true.

"The family believes my grandfather, Mark Felt Sr, is a great American hero who went well above and beyond the call of duty at much risk to himself to save his country from a horrible injustice," said the statement. "We all sincerely

hope the country will see him this way as well," the statement said.

Felt, 91, was second-in-command at the FBI in the early 1970s, and his claim was first revealed on Tuesday by the *Vanity Fair* magazine. He confessed that he was the source of *Post* reporter Bob Woodward in the latter's coverage of the scandal, after keeping it secret for almost three decades. "I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat," Felt was quoted by the *Vanity Fair* article as saying. Felt lives in Santa Rosa and is re-

portedly in poor mental and physical health.

Woodward and others at *The Post* involved in the Watergate scandal coverage had previously maintained they would never reveal the identity of "Deep Throat" until after his death.

Nixon, who was first elected US president in 1968, resigned in August 1974, when he was facing impeachment for helping to cover up the break-in in June 1972 at the Democratic National Headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex. —MNA/Xinhua

Chirac names Villepin as new French PM

PARIS, 1 June — French President Jacques Chirac accepted Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin's resignation and named Dominique de Villepin as a replacement on Tuesday, two days after French voters said "no" to the European Union (EU) Constitution in a referendum.

"Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin presented this morning the demission of his government to head of state, who has accepted," said Chirac's office.

Raffarin resigned after French rejected the EU Constitution at the Sunday referendum with 54.87 per cent of "no" vote against 45.13 per cent of "yes" vote.

Villepin was on Tuesday named France's new prime minister to succeed Raffarin, officials said, adding that the power transfer will take place later in the day at 4:00 p.m. (1500 GMT).

De Villepin, 51, former foreign minister

and current interior minister, is charged with forming a new government and giving new impetus to the government policy which Chirac promised after voters rejected the EU Constitution.

The new Prime Minister did not immediately name the new government, with the lineup of the new team expected on Wednesday.

Public opinion had asked Chirac to reshuffle the government and change Raffarin after French regional elections in March 2004. Chirac reshuffled the government but kept Raffarin.

MNA/Xinhua



Two conjoined baby girls lie on an operating table before their separation surgery at the Xinhua Hospital in Shanghai municipality on 1 June, 2005.

INTERNET

Hu praises healthy growth of relations with New Zealand

BEIJING, 31 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Monday China and New Zealand have continuously made new progress in advancing all-round cooperative relations between the two countries in recent years.

During a meeting with visiting New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Elizabeth Clark in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Hu said China and New Zealand have maintained a momentum for smooth, steady development of bilateral relations since they established diplomatic links. Hu said the continuous expansion of bilateral relations is attributed to four major reasons.

The first is the high importance of the two sides put on developing bilateral relations and the great ef-

fort they have taken to advance their links. The leaders of both countries have always proceeded from a strategic height to look at and advance bilateral relations, keeping to the general direction of the firm development of bilateral relations.

Hu said the second reason is that the two countries have respected and treated each other as equals. They have properly resolved differences through dialogue and consultations and paid due attention to each other's concerns, Hu said. The

two sides have continuously expanded their common ground and enhanced mutual trust.

The third reason is mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, Hu said. The two sides have seen important opportunities in each other's development and treated each other as cooperative partners. As they deepen cooperation in traditional areas, the two countries have been actively exploring new areas of cooperation. Mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has maintained sus-

tained growth, Hu said.

Hu said the fourth reason is that the two countries have continuously strengthened communication and enhanced friendship. The two sides place importance on strengthening exchanges and cooperation in the humanities and culture by encouraging and supporting the people of the two countries to expand communication and deepen mutual understanding. Hu said the friendship between the two countries has taken deep root in the heart of the two peoples.—MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka expects floods, landslides due to heavy rains

COLOMBO, 31 May — Sri Lanka's Meteorological Department has issued warnings of possible floods, landslides and high wind conditions, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said on Monday.

The warnings came after most parts of the country experienced torrential rains on Sunday, the state radio quoted officials as saying.

High speed winds swept through the roofs of eight houses in the southern coastal town of Ambalangoda on Sunday.

The state radio said that south western inter monsoonal weather conditions could result in more heavy rains in the western, Sabaragamuwa, central and eastern provinces.

The radio said due to heavy rains on Sunday, roads in some areas are under water and impassable.

Heavy showers have also affected electricity supply lines in some areas, the radio added.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says Venezuelan President enjoys good health

CARACAS, 31 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is in good health after he cancelled his weekend radio and TV show and participation in a pro-government march, a government official said Monday.

Communication and Information Minister Andres Izarra brushed aside rumours that the President may be in poor health, noting that "there is no reason to be alarmed".

"It would not be strange to me that these rumours come from those interested in destabilizing and generating uncertainty among people," he said.

The 50-year-old President was in good shape and handling government business as usual on Monday, he added.

Izarra made the remarks after about 500 Chavez supporters gathered outside the presidential palace to demand an explanation of what happened to the

President.

Chavez was last seen in public on Friday. He was expected to attend a march on Saturday to demand US extradition of Luis Posada Carriles, a man with Cuban origin wanted by Caracas for the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner. But his attendance was cancelled.

His radio and TV show "Hello President", a fixture to his supporters in which he touches on everything from politics to childhood stories, was also cancelled on Sunday. Izarra said Chavez turned over his airtime to allow the TV broadcast of a volleyball match between Brazil and Venezuela.—MNA/Xinhua



A daily paid labourer collects thread that has been dyed and left to dry in the sun, in Kolkata, India, on 1 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Huawei plans to enter Indonesia's WCDMA market

JAKARTA, 31 May — China-based telecommunications equipment provider Huawei Technologies Co Ltd plans to enter the Indonesia's Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) market beginning in the fourth quarter of this year.

"Based on our roadmap, starting in December, we will release GSM-3G handsets on the market," PT Huawei Tech Investment Senior Account Manager Bimbo Abimanyu was quoted Monday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

WCDMA is a form of 3G, a third generation advanced technology which enables cellular subscribers to enjoy several services such as video streaming and video conferencing via cellular phones, in addition to much faster data transfer.

As a start, the company introduced its latest range of 3G mobile phones in Indonesia at the 2005 CDMA Exhibition in Jakarta, which ended on Sunday.

Huawei's Oliver Mu said his company was still trying to get more information through various surveys and research about the Indonesian market.

The spread of 3G networks will stimulate the growth of 3G subscribers and demand for its terminals which provides by firms such as Huawei, which produces wireless terminal products.

"To expand the market, we will have to find ourselves more strategic business partners," he said, adding that the company is cooperating with domestic telecommunications operators such as Bakrie Telecom, Indosat and Telkom.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe names defiant hotels for swindling foreign currency earnings

HARARE, 31 May — The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has released names of hotels and other tourist facility operators who failed to remit over 200 million US dollars in foreign currency earnings from tourists, local newspaper *The Herald* reported on Monday.

While the tourism sector has denied ever swindling the country of foreign currency earnings in the past year, investigations by the central bank revealed that tourism operators "robbed" the economy of foreign currency running into millions of US dollars.

Early this month, the central bank of Zimbabwe had unearthed a 200 million-US dollar scam arising from the non-remittance of foreign currency by tourism operators.

The detailed document indicates that 26 hotels "forgot to collect foreign currency" and 23 hotels

charged "ridiculously low figures" of less than 20 US dollars per bed night to foreign tourists.

"These low rates have formed an avenue for the externalization of foreign currency as they fall far short from what is being charged for similar facilities in the region," said the RBZ.

"The practice should be stopped forthwith as it has cost the economy not only the foreign currency that could have gone into the official system, but also through the fueling of the parallel market," the bank said. — MNA/Xinhua

Lufthansa to operate 41 weekly flights to China

BEIJING, 31 May — Starting its summer schedule, German-based Lufthansa Airlines will provide 41 weekly flights to China, a record high number.

By summer, flights from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong to Frankfurt as well as flights from Shanghai to Munich will reach seven per week, while flights from Beijing and Hong Kong to Munich will reach three per week.

The newly opened non-stop flights from Guangzhou to Frankfurt

shortened by five hours for passengers compared with before. Guangzhou has become the fourth most popular destination for Lufthansa after Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, said Gregor Wende, chief representative of Lufthansa China.

Lufthansa is one of the closest partners with Chinese airlines.—MNA/Xinhua

China launches programme to ensure infants' healthy growth

BEIJING, 31 May — China has launched a programme to promote infants' healthy growth, giving priority to medical care during pregnancy and the first two years after birth.

The comprehensive growth programme for children in their early years, jointly launched by the ministries of health and education, National Working Committee on Women and Children under the State Council and the United Nations Children's Fund, will help ensure basic and quality medical services for rural infants, who are more likely to die of pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition for lack of access to medical care.

The period of pregnancy and first two years after birth is regarded as the key period in developing children's potential.—MNA/Xinhua

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WHO says health professionals key in tobacco control

GENEVA, 31 May — This year's World No Tobacco Day on 31 May highlights the importance of health professionals in the fight against tobacco, which causes nearly 5 million deaths each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday.

"Tobacco continues to be a leading global killer. The health community plays a key role in the global effort to fight this epidemic," WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said in a statement.

"Health professionals are on the frontline. They need the skills to help people stop smoking, and they need to lead by example, and quit tobacco use themselves," he added.

If not taking additional efforts to curb this globally popular epidemic, an estimated 10 million tobacco-related deaths a year will occur by 2020, most of them in developing countries, the Geneva-based United Nations health agency noted.

Health professionals, including doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and others, are trusted by smoking patients

to help them quit smoking. They are themselves health models for the public to lead a healthy life.

Studies show that even brief advice from health professionals can increase the refraining rate against smoking for up to 30 per cent, and the quit-smoking treatment led by nurses normally has a up to 50 per cent more chance to succeed.

However, new survey

shows medical students generally lack training on tobacco cessation techniques.

In January 2004, during a meeting convened by the WHO, several health professional associations adopted a code of practice on tobacco control that lists 14 tangible ways in which these associations can engage in tobacco control.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran, Senegal sign MoU on tourism cooperation

TEHERAN, 31 May — Iran and Senegal signed on Monday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields of tourism, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The MoU was inked by Iran's Vice-President and head of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization Hossein Marashi and Senegalese Minister of Tourism Ousmane Masseck Ndiaye, the report said.

The document is designed to promote bilateral cooperation as a means of developing understanding between the two nations and strengthening amicable ties, the report added. Based on the MoU, which has a five-year credit which can be extended upon the two sides' agreement, the two countries are obliged to provide facilities to travel agencies and make preparations for exchanging tours, according to the report. — MNA/Xinhua



A guinea pig named 'D' is held in front of its X-ray of its head at the Center for Avian & Exotic Medicine in New York on 29 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Uganda halts tuition fees hike at Makerere University

KAMPALA, 31 May — The Ugandan Government has halted an imminent tuition fees hike for private students at Makerere University, reported local Press on Monday.

University sources were quoted as saying that President Yoweri Museveni advised the university heads to halt the plan until the Cabinet discussed it.

Museveni last week met public universities managers at the State House, where he said the tuition hike was a "people's issue". "Do not ignite the fire before alerting the fire brigade. An increase in tuition fees concerns people. They must be involved in the process," he said.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi, who is also the Makerere University's chancellor, Education Minister Namirembe Bitamazire, acting Finance Minister Mwesigwa Rukutana and other govern-

ment and university officials.

Education Minister Bitamazire told Press that the fees hike had been put on hold because of its "sensitivity."

She said Museveni wanted more consultation over the matter and had asked her, Nsibambi and the Parliament's social services committee to work out a plan agreeable to all. She added that broader consultations were going on and that a report would be given to President Museveni and the Cabinet.

The Makerere University Council in March passed a resolution to implement a new fees structure citing underfunding and high costs of education. — MNA/Xinhua

PM projects 7% growth for India

NEW DELHI, 31 May — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday projected a 7 per cent growth in economy this fiscal year and promised to remove all hurdles in pushing domestic and foreign investment.

"Our economy continues to do well... this year the economic growth is expected to be 7 per cent just as last year," Singh told foreign correspondents based in Delhi. Terming investments as being a strong element propelling

economic expansion, he said "we will work hard to create a more congenial atmosphere". India, he said, was committed to creating a hospitable environment for both domestic and foreign investments. — MNA/PTI

Oil pipeline explosion kills one in southeast Nigeria

LAGOS, 31 May — One person has been feared killed and 25 others seriously injured in a oil pipeline explosion in Apete Village in Nigeria's southwestern state of Oyo, local newspaper This Day reported on Monday.

Kunle Atinwore, public relations officer of the University College Hospital (UCH) in Ibadan, was quoted as reporting one of the 25 casualties brought to the hospital from the explosion site had died.

Two of the remaining casualties, he added, were in critical conditions.

The tragedy occurred on Sunday morning when people took advantage of the damaged oil pipeline owned by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and attempted to scoop its spilling content. The entire area, according to sources, was thrown into confusion when fire exploded and consumed some residents who were scooping oil from the pipelines. — MNA/Xinhua

IAF personnel conquer Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, 31 May — The Indian Air Force on Monday added another feather to their cap as three daredevils scaled the world's tallest peak Mount Everest from the Tibetan north side.

Living up to their motto "Touching the sky with glory", Wing Commander R C Tripathi, Squadron Leader S S Chaitanya and Sergeant N R. Choudhary reached the summit between 0515 and 0630 hours, according to a satellite phone message from the expedition.

The 19-member team led by Wing Commander Amit Choudhary was flagged off by the Air Chief S P Tyagi on 22 March. "Weather permitting, the team might make some more attempts on the summit," the message said. — MNA/PTI

Norwegian expedition conquers Mt Everest

STOCKHOLM, 31 May — Five Norwegians reached the top of the world's highest mountain at the weekend, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on Monday.

This year's season reportedly has been one of the most difficult ever, and only 14 climbers have reached the top of (Mount Everest), and two died in the effort.

The Norwegian expedition reached the top on Sunday morning just in time to experience a beautiful sunrise, NRK reported. "An absolutely fantastic experience," said Marius Flygind. The other members are Jon Gangdal, Henrik Wolf Meedom, Mattis Karlsson, Vidar Femdal Roe and five sherpas. — MNA/Xinhua



Nepalese climber Apa Sherpa has conquered the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, seen here for a record 15th time — INTERNET

S P O R T S

BOCOG signs CNPC as official partner of 2008 Olympics

BEIJING, 31 May— China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) signed a sponsorship deal with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) on Monday, becoming an official partner of the 2008 Olympics.

Both sides refused to disclose the financial terms.

"We are glad to see CNPC participating in the Beijing Olympic Games as an official partner," said Wang Wei, BOCOG's executive vice-president and secretary-general, at the signing ceremony.

"We believe CNPC's participation will not only further consolidate the material foundation for a successful Beijing Olympic Games, but also actively promote the development of China's petroleum industry, boost the use of clean energy and ensure the sustainable, long-term development of the city," he added.

Under the deal, CNPC, China's largest producer and supplier of crude oil and natural gas, will provide

funding and services to the Beijing Olympic Games, the Beijing Paralympic Games, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Chinese sports delegations to the 2006 Winter Games in Turino and the 2008 Games.

To date, BOCOG has signed eight partners for the 2008 Games, including Germany's automobile giant Volkswagen, Sinopec, China Mobile and Bank of China.

Yuan Bin, director of BOCOG's Marketing Department, said that BOCOG will not put a cap on the number of partners.

"The door is always open to elite enterprises who have an interest in the 2008 Games," said Yuan.

MNA/Xinhua

Mary Pierce's comeback nearly complete

PARIS, 1 JUNE— Mary Pierce's decline began soon after she became the only Frenchwoman since 1967 to win the French Open.

In a span of less than two years, she injured her shoulder, back, ankle and abdomen. She tumbled from the top 10 out of the top 100. More than a decade into her career, she seemed on the brink of retirement.

Instead, Pierce is back for another try at Roland Garros — and is into the semifinals at a Grand Slam event for the first time since she won the 2000 title.

"It has been a really interesting journey," she said Tuesday after beating top-ranked Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-2. "It has been really tough. I've had some difficult moments. ... I really savor victories now

more than before. They mean more to me now because I went through difficult times."

Born in Montreal and raised in the United States, the 30-year-old Pierce has trained in Paris for the past year and is a French citizen because her mother is a native of the country. Roland Garros fans have jeered her in defeat and mocked her American accent when she spoke French, but the center-court crowd cheered as she closed in on a victory over Davenport.

Pierce paused to soak up the ambiance.

"I just took a moment," said Pierce, seeded 21st. "I just said, 'This is

going to make for good memories for later on in my life.' I just really wanted to appreciate that moment."

Her opponent Thursday will be 16th-seeded Elena Likhovtseva of Russia, who advanced to a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time in her 12-year career by beating 15-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The other semifinal will match 2003 champion Justine Henin-Hardenne against another Russian, No 7 Nadia Petrova.

Henin-Hardenne, bidding for her fourth Grand Slam title, advanced by beating No. 2-seeded Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-2. Petrova reached the semifinals at Roland Garros for the second time by eliminating 17-year-old Serb Ana Ivanovic 6-2, 6-2.

Like Pierce, Henin-Hardenne has staged a career comeback. She missed much of last year with a blood virus that left her bedridden, and her return was delayed until March by a knee injury.

Since then, she has gone 25-1 and won 22 consecutive matches, all on clay.

Internet

Japan beat Poland in straight sets for first win at Dalian

DALIAN (Northeast China), 1 June— Japan breezed past Poland in three straight sets on Tuesday to claim their first win here at PetroChina KunLun Cup China International Women's Volleyball Tournament.

Much shorter than the Polish players, the Japanese made good results out of their wonderful sense of reading into the game. Their block is almost always in the right place, they are able to dig nearly every ball off the floor and they played smart to build a lead all the way.

Trailing 12-7 in the first set, Poland struggled to slice apart the solid defence of the Japanese, taking advantage of their stature to run off four points in straight and go on to tie at 16- all before succumbing 25-21.

In the second set, Japan took an upper hand 4-0 short after the beginning and played a 9-2 run to build big lead on 20-11 before holding nine set points on 24-15 with a wonderful block from Erika Araki, the substitute for starter Miyuki Takahashi on a 23-15 lead of Japan.

The strong-minded Japan still meet no great challenges from the Polish "giants", ruling out a late comeback from Poland who ran off three match points to tie 24-24 and held on to 25-25, 26-26 before losing 28-26.

In the other Group A preliminary match played Tuesday afternoon, Olym-

pic and World Cup double champions China ruled out a late comeback from the Dominican Republic to claim their second straight win in the preliminary round here on Tuesday.

China, the top-ranked team coming into the tournament, closed the match 25-19, 25-18, 21-25, 25-18, as a late rally by the Dominican team fizzled.

Earlier the day, Bulgaria lost their first appearance here in a Group B match, beaten 25-18, 25-16, 25-16 by the Netherlands.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba to host Int'l Chess Tourney

HAVANA, 31 May— Moncada Cup International Chess Tournament is to be held at the eastern Cuban city of Santiago on 4-18 June, organizers said on Monday.

The tournament, which will draw players from Argentina, Germany, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Guatemala and Cuba, has an ELO average above 2,450 points. —MNA/Xinhua

Ronaldo seeks place at Brazil team

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June— Real Madrid striker Ronaldo said Tuesday he is certain that after the beginning of the Spanish season he will be included in the Brazilian team.

On the eve, Ronaldo was excluded from the national team for having requested vacation.

"I don't consider that as a sanction. I want to think that the intention was helping me. To tell you the truth, I did not deeply think on what that means," he said.

"I made myself clear: I was not requesting to be excused from the rest of the South American qualifying tournament. The only thing I asked was not to participate in Confederations Cup, to be played in Germany, but the decision of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation was leaving me outside altogether. I accept and respect it," said the striker.

Ronaldo's request did not please CBF President

Ricardo Teixeira.

Ronaldo, who has already won the World Cup twice, said he had many private problems and needed a good rest. Now I will enjoy my vacations."

These "private problems" include the breaking up with his ex-girlfriend Daniela Cicarelli, a Brazilian top-model and television star.

MNA/Xinhua



Ronaldo greets people as he arrives at a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday, May 30, 2005. Three-time FIFA Player of the Year Ronaldo was dropped from the Brazilian national team for two upcoming World Cup qualifiers and the Confederations Cup, the Brazilian soccer confederation announced Monday.—INTERNET

Peruvian soccer team prepare for qualifiers

LIMA, 1 June— The Peruvian national soccer team started Tuesday their preparation for the coming two World Cup qualifiers for Germany 2006, against Colombia and Uruguay, under the coaching of Fredy Ternero.

The Peruvian coach came after the resignation of Brazilian Paulo Autuori.

In the training sessions participated six expatriates. They were strikers Claudio Pizarro and Paolo Guerrero, both of Bayern Munich (Germany); Jefferson Farfan, of PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands); midfielder Juan Comings of Colon (Argentina), and central defenders Miguel Rebosio and Santiago Acasiete, of

Almeria (Spain).

On 4 June Peru will meet Colombia in away match and then, as host, Uruguay, on 7 June.

Both matches are decisive for the three countries seeking one of the four tickets for the South American region. The fifth in the table of positions will play a repechage match against an Asia-Oceania team.

MNA/Xinhua



As the two former winners left in the tournament, Mary Pierce, seen here, and Justine Henin-Hardenne will be hot favourites in Thursday's French Open women's semi-finals to make it a first ever Franco-Belgian final.

INTERNET

Commander, Minister visit Mandalay industrial zone

YANGON, 1 June — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected a foundry plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 30 May.

Accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials, they made arrangements for work facilitation.

The commander and the minister observed cars assembled by



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspect iron casting works at Mandalay Industrial Zone Upgrading Project. — INDUSTRY-1

the zone. In meeting with staff of the zone, they spoke of the need to raise the quality of prod-

ucts. The commander also inspected the upgrading of the entrance

road to Yadanabon University, and the building of a 3,550-foot retaining wall along the ring road

on eastern bank of Taungthaman Lake. He then inspected landscaping of the

Mandalay Kandawgyi and Pyigyimon Royal Barge. MNA

UDNR courses for 2005-2006 open

YANGON, 1 June—The opening of M.Ed course, B.Ed one-year course, B.Ed two-year course (bridge), B.Ed four-year course, diploma course in teachership, and teachership course (middle school) of the University for Development of National Races was held at the university this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of UDNR Council Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of the Central Committee for Selecting Students Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun,

member of the council member of CSSTB U Aung Myint, members of the council, Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Col Kyaw Zan Hla of the Civil Service Affairs Department, Rector of Sagaing Institute of Education Dr Myint Thein, Rector of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Hsan Win, Rector of the UDNR U Zaw Min Thein, officials, guests, faculty members, and trainees.

The commander delivered an address, urging the trainees to strive for becoming qualified teachers to be able to produce human resources needed for implementation of the drive for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The trainees are to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the university, he said.

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye addresses opening ceremony of training courses at University for Development of National Races for 2005-2006 academic year. — MNA

INSIDE

“If the terrorists move a step forward, they will be crushed by the people, who are already angry with their crimes, with nationalistic fervour. Tolerance has its limit.”

(Page 7)

MOE SHINN

Research and Plant Propagation Farms inspected in Paung, Thaton

YANGON, 1 June — Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, inspected nurturing of mangosteen, durian, nutmeg and mustard saplings, research works and horticultural water supply system at Kyonka Mangosteen Research and Plant Propagation Farm, and supply of hydel power generated from Bantbwaygon Creek to Kyonka, Bantbwaygon and Natgyichaung villages in Paung Township on 29 May morning.

The minister proceeded to Kataik Dam Project site near Kataik Village of Paung Township. Director U Hla

Myint briefed him on building of the main embankment, filling of gravel, construction of

the conduit, the control tower and the spillway, availability of construction materials and re-

quirements. After giving instruction, Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected construction of the main

embankment. On completion, the dam will prevent the floods of Yinnyeik Creek

at farmlands and irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland for double cropping. (See page 8)



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversees construction of main embankment at Kataik Dam Project in Paung Township. — A&I