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Friday, 3 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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives US Military Attaché and his successors

YANGON, 2 June — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attaché of the United States of America to the Union of Myanmar Colonel Michael A Norton, who had completed his tour of duty, and his successors Colonel Dan Tarter (Army) and Lt-Colonel John D Robinson (Air Force) at Zeyathiri Beikman hall on Konmyinthta, here, at 9 am today.

Also present on the occasion

were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with Col Michael A Norton, outgoing Military Attaché of the United States of America.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with Col Dan Tarter (Army), incoming Military Attaché of the United States of America (Left) and Lt-Col John D Robinson (Air Force) incoming Military Attaché of the United States of America (Right).— MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 June, 2005

Actively take part in the anti-tobacco campaign

Good health is one of the blessings of life. It is important not only for an individual and a family but also for a nation. Only if we enjoy good health will we be able to work for the most basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter.

Healthy human resources are the sine qua non in our efforts for the establishment of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The government attaches great importance to health of the people. Therefore, "uplift of health and fitness" is embodied in the four social objectives and being implemented accordingly.

Smoking is one of the habits that are harmful to health of all adults. The government has taken measures to prevent the loss of valuable human resources due to smoking and for the Union of Myanmar to become a tobacco-free nation. The Ministry of Health constantly carries out educative work to raise people's awareness of dangers resulting from the use of various tobacco products.

The Union of Myanmar has observed the World No-Tobacco Day since 1989 and the National Health Committee has raised the momentum of its anti-tobacco campaign since the year 2000. Myanmar ratified the international convention on control of tobacco and its products on 23 October, 2003 and became the eleventh member nation of the World Health Organization to do so.

Myanmar has been so successful in its anti-tobacco measures required by the convention that the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar has been awarded by the world health body.

In Myanmar, as more and more people have become aware of the dangers of tobacco use, smoking rate has dropped remarkably. The motto of the World No-Tobacco Day 2005 is "Health Professionals against Tobacco". Health professionals and health conscious persons alike should be role models in their anti-tobacco drive besides giving health education and doing research.

And we would also like to call on the entire people to actively take part in the anti-tobacco campaign together with health professionals for the uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

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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

Cooperatives Minister receives Vietnamese Ambassador

YANGON, 2 June — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min received Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Cooperative Department U Soe Win, Director-General of Cottage Industries Department, Managing Director of Cooperative Export and Import Enterprise U Hla Moe and officials of the ministry. — *MNA*

16th Country Coordinating Mechanism Meeting held

YANGON, 2 June — The 16th Country Coordinating Mechanism Meeting on eradication of AIDS, TB and Malaria to be undertaken by Global Funds, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road on Dagon Township this morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

The minister presided over the meeting and made an opening speech. Afterwards, AIDS/STD Eradication Project Assistant Director Dr Daw Khin Ohnmar San, TB Eradication Project Manager Dr Win Maung and Malaria Eradication Project Manager Dr Saw Lwin reported on the project measures to be taken. Next, CMC members took part in the discussions and made the decisions and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general and directors of the departments, officials and guests.

MNA

16th Country Coordination Mechanism Meeting in progress. — (MINISTRY OF HEALTH)



MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 2 June — The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Soe Hlaing of Myanma Foodstuff Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Col San Pyi Ministry of Defence	Director-General Border Trade Department Ministry of Commerce
(b) Col Khin Maung Lay Ministry of Defence	Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce
(c) Col Than Myint Ministry of Defence	Director-General Mining Department Ministry of Mines
(d) Col Kyaw Zan Hla Ministry of Defence	Director-General Civil Service Affairs Department Civil Service Selection and Training Board
(e) Dr U Tin Win Maung Deputy Director-General Health Department Ministry of Health	Director-General Health Department Ministry of Health

MNA

TV retransmission station opens in Dotphoneyan in Kachin State

YANGON, 2 June — The construction of Dotphoneyan TV retransmission station in Kachin State was completed on 31 May 2005.

The programmes of MRTV are being telecast as from 1st June.

MNA

Myanmar swimmer takes part in SEA c'ship

YANGON, 3 May — A two-member Myanmar team will take part in 50-metre freestyle, and 50-metre and 100-metre butterfly in the 29th South-east Asia swimming championship to be held in Brunei from 3 to 5 June.

Yan Lin Aung, the sole swimmer of the team will compete in the age 15, 16 and 17 level events.

Swimmers from other ASEAN nations — host Brunei, the Philip-

ines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam — will also take part in the championship.

Manager-cum-

coach U Myint Lwin, Joint Secretary of Myanmar Swimming Federation and the swimmer left here for Brunei by air yesterday evening.

They were seen off

at Yangon International Airport by President of MSF Dr Khin Shwe, Secretary of Diving Subcommittee U Kyaw Oo and others.

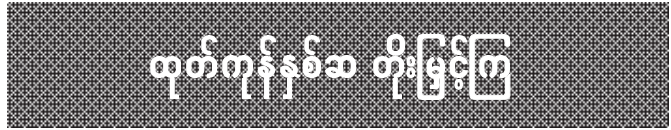
NLM



Myanmar swimming team seen at the airport before departure for Brunei. NLM



Chinese shoppers check out bargain shirts at a clothes store in Shanghai on 31 May, 2005.—INTERNET



China adopts new measures to narrow education gaps

BEIJING, 1 June— China will adopt a series of measures to help narrow the increasing education gap between its rural and urban areas.

According to a document issued by the Ministry of Education recently, education departments at various levels, when promoting compulsory education, must work to curb the gap between different regions and schools.

According to Chinese law, nine years of education is compulsory in China.

"The gaps have existed in aspects of facilities, funds, teacher groups, education quality and other aspects," said the ministry.

The document warned that the imbalance of economic development in China and the gaps left over from the past have

created ever-widening gaps in the quality of China's compulsory education. A standardized rating system should be established to improve the quality of every school, according to the document.

At the same time, education rights of children from vulnerable social groups must be protected.—MNA/Xinhua

Japanese, Russian FMs agree on Putin's visit to Japan within this year

TOKYO, 1 June— Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov agreed on Tuesday to realize Russian President Vladimir Putin's promised visit to Japan within this year.

But the foreign ministers failed to immediately specify the date for Putin's visit and they remained far apart over a long-standing territorial dispute.

"We confirmed that the visit by President Putin will definitely be realized within this year," Machimura said in a joint Press conference with Lavrov.

Machimura said the Japanese and Russian governments will "shortly" reach an agreement on a date for Putin's first trip to Japan since 2000.

Lavrov was pessimistic about an early settlement of the disputed islands off north Japan's Hokkaido. "It is true that we haven't found ways to sign a peace treaty and determine territory," Lavrov said. "Our positions are totally opposite."

Machimura and Lavrov said they tried to hammer out a set of draft documents for Putin and Japanese

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to release during their summit in Japan. Putin last visited Japan in 2000.

The documents being drafted by the foreign ministers in last-ditch preparations for Putin's visit to Japan are expected to feature various agreements on political issues, a senior official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said earlier.

On the economic front, Japan and Russia broadly ironed out differences over pending issues when Machimura met with Russian Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko last month in Tokyo.

Specifically, they agreed to accelerate talks on the route of a planned Pacific-bound oil pipeline originating in eastern Siberia and vowed to work closely in order to boost mutual trade and investment.

MNA/Xinhua

\$18.3m granted for education upgrades in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 1 June — Hong Kong's Quality Education Fund Steering Committee said Tuesday it has approved 18.3 million US dollars in grants for 551 applications.

Committee chairman Tai Hay-lap said many applications aimed at developing the Liberal Studies curriculum for secondary school students under the new senior secondary structure. Some applications help promote students' national identity or instill positive life values.

"These reflect the education sector and the community's support of government's education priorities through offers of bottom-up initiatives," Tai said. — MNA/Xinhua

Syria denies helping guerillas cross into Iraq

DAMASCUS, 1 June—Defence Minister Hassan Turkmani denied claims that Syria is aiding the infiltration of guerillas into Iraq, saying that his country is "concerned" about its neighbour's security situation.

Earlier Tuesday Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari called on Damascus to help "put an end to the flow" of terrorists he says are entering his country from Syria.

Zebari said in a statement read to the United Nations Security Council that Baghdad had "repeatedly urged each of our neighbouring countries to abide by their obligations" under a Security Council resolution to prevent terrorists entering and leaving Iraq, as well as stopping the flow of money and weapons to them. "Some have been more forthcoming than others in their response," Zebari said.

"We have learned recently that Syria has stopped more than a thousand foreign fighters from entering Iraq from Syria. We welcome this action but note that it confirms our long-held view that Syria has been one of the main transit routes for foreign terrorists, as well as for remnants of the previous regime," Zebari said.

"These are false accusations instigated by enemies," Defence Minister Turkmani countered here, in comments in line with earlier denials from Damascus.

"There is no proof of such allegations," he continued, adding however that his country wants "the end of the occupation in Iraq, and is concerned over its security and unity".—Internet

ADB loan to Philippines to resolve delinquent mortgage loans

MANILA, 1 June— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help the Philippines to resolve its portfolio of highly-delinquent mortgage loans through a 1.6 billion peso (29.6 million US dollars) loan, said ADB on Tuesday.

The loan is aimed at buying non-performing loans (NPL) and finally resolving an estimated 239 million US

dollars of NPLs, said ADB.

The ADB loan will go to Balikatan Housing, Inc, a special purpose company jointly owned by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) and Deutsche Bank Real Estate Global Opportunities IB, LP (DBGO), which signed a loan sale purchase agreement with NHMFC in May 2004.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi firemen extinguish burning vehicles after a suicide car bomb attack on Baghdad's airport road on 1 June, 2005.—INTERNET

Vietnam builds new railway

HANOI, 2 June — Vietnam is constructing a rail route to facilitate transport among northern economic hubs and from the country to China, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported on Wednesday.

Capitalized at 3,992 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 252.7 million US dollars), the 128.2-kilometre route, running from Hanoi capital to northern Quang Ninh Province, will facilitate passenger and cargo transport in the northern economic triangle of Hanoi-Quang Ninh-Hai Phong, as well as from Vietnam's northern region to the Chinese province of Yunnan.

On the route, scheduled to become operational in 2009, the maximum speed for passenger trains and cargo ones will be 120 kilometres per hour and 80 kilometres per hour, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Chile sign agreement on copper cooperation

BEIJING, 1 June — China and Chile signed a 550-million-US-dollar agreement Tuesday to cooperate on copper development. Under the agreement, a joint venture will be established between China Minmetals Corporation and Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile (CODELCO).

The two sides expected the maximum investment could be as much as two billion US dollars.

Ignacio Walker, visiting Chilean Foreign Minister, addressed the signing ceremony. He said that the economic and trade relationship between Chile and China has developed remarkably in recent years.

The joint copper development project is a strong evidence of the bilateral friendly and cooperative ties.

The supply and sales network and the strategic alliance established between the CODELCO and China Minmetals will benefit both sides. It is a new form of financing for the joint project, Walker said.

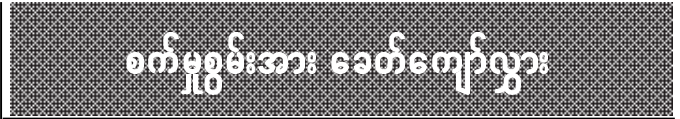
According to the agreement, the joint

venture company will function as a vehicle to secure long-term copper supply from CODELCO to China Minmetals. CODELCO also granted China Minmetals an option to acquire, at a market price, a minority equity interest in the Gaby copper project, which may be exercised by Minmetals when CODELCO decide to proceed with development.

In connection with this transaction, the two sides have appointed the China Development Bank as the lead organizer and underwriter for a term loan facility to the joint venture company.

The proceeds of the loan will be used to partially fund the initial investment commitment.

MNA/Xinhua



A guard overlooks the construction site of the National Aquatic Centre for the 2008 Olympic Games during a visit to venues by members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) coordination commission in Beijing on 31 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Iraq's wild west a constant thorn for US troops

BAGHDAD, 1 June—When it comes to peace and stability in Iraq, there may be no greater obstacle to success than Anbar Province, a vast region of desert and scrubland stretching west from Baghdad.

A huge sandy expanse dissected by a major highway, an oil pipeline and the Euphrates river, Anbar has been the bane of US forces almost since they arrived, with its Sunni Arab people virulently opposed to the presence of foreign troops.

Despite a small, tribal population, the lawless province is the deadliest in Iraq and the heart of the attack hammering at the country.

Of the 1,630 US troops who have died since the war began, more than 500 have lost their lives in Anbar, a higher toll than in any other area of the country, according to icasualties.org, a Web site that tracks military deaths.

The province, which includes the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, a stronghold of the Sunni Arab-led attack, is so dangerous that no journalists venture there unless escorted by US forces. Even many Iraqis are too scared to go. Masked guerillas frequently parade through the streets of Ramadi, and other towns in the Euphrates valley, showing off rocket-propelled grenade launchers and assault rifles.—Internet



Iraqi men injured in a suicide car bomb attack are treated at Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital on 1 June, 2005.—INTERNET

ADB to aid Bangladesh improve living conditions of urban poor

MANILA, 1 June — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help improve the health status of Bangladesh's urban population, especially the poor, by providing a 40-million-US-dollar loan and grant package, said ADB on Tuesday.

The project will build on the gains of the first Urban Primary Health Care Project in Bangladesh and will cover all the six cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Barisal, and five municipalities of Bogra, Comilla, Sirajgonj, Madhabdi, and Savar.

A 30-million-US-dollar loan from ADB's concessional Asian Development Fund (ADF) will continue to contract out primary health care services to non governmental organizations (NGOs) through partnerships established under the first Urban Primary Health Care Project, said ADB.

The project will ensure that at least 30 per cent of these preventive, promotive, and curative health services will target people living below poverty line.

Nutritional supplements will also be given to severely malnourished women and children.

The project will likewise support the construc-

tion of 64 health facilities, upgrading four, and purchasing 12 apartments and buildings for primary health care facilities in Dhaka.

Community-run latrines and community-based solid-waste disposal will be piloted to improve environmental health, and clinical waste management systems will be upgraded.

"The project will lead to health improvements that will boost productivity and learning at school, and make savings on out-of-pocket expenditure on health care," says Sekhar Bonu, an ADB health specialist.

"With women and children to constitute more than three quarters of those benefiting, child and maternal mortality will be reduced, thus helping Bangladesh achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

Meanwhile, a 10-million-US-dollar grant from the ADF will support various HIV/AIDS and infectious disease control activities.—MNA/Xinhua

One-third of Vietnamese children suffer from iron deficiency

HANOI, 2 June — Up to 34 per cent of Vietnamese children aged under 5 suffer from iron deficiency and anemia, the country's Nutrition Institute said on Wednesday.

The rate of iron deficiency and anemia among children in some poor areas is as high as over 70 per cent, the institute said, noting that it can be lowered by more diversified and better diet, and regular intake of anti-worm medicines.

A large number of local children

also suffer from other diet-related diseases such as goiter and Vitamin A deficiency. An estimated 5,500 children become blind each year due to Vitamin A deficiency, the institute said.

Improper diet of local juveniles is the main cause of the situation, it said, explaining that many of them were born healthy, but grow slowly due to shortage of some nutrients. Family meals meet only 84 per cent of their energy demand.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, US conduct annual bilateral naval exercise

SINGAPORE, 1 June— Singapore and the United States launched their annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) bilateral exercise at Changi Naval Base on Tuesday, according to a joint statement by defence ministries of the two countries.

More than 1,500 personnel, 12 ships and a sub-marine, as well as fixed and rotary wing aircraft from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), the United States Navy (USN), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) are participating in the exercise.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam licenses first foreign-invested marine shipping agent

HANOI, 1 June — Vietnam has recently granted license to a Denmark group to work in its marine shipping service sector, as a part in furtherance of Vietnam's World Trade Organization admission agreement with the European Union on opening up its market. With the licence, Denmark's MAERSK A/S group became the first foreign-owned business operating in the field, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Monday. The MAERSK A/S Vietnam agent will conduct container storage and transport services, and prepare Customs dossiers and related documents in the country.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian King meets China's top legislator

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 June — China's top legislator Wu Bangguo met with Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Paramount Ruler) Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin of Malaysia here on Tuesday and said China-Malaysia relations have reached maturity.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, said the normalization of bilateral relations 31 years ago opened a new chapter in China-Malaysia friendship and also created conditions for the development of China's relationship with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

After more than 30 years of development, the good-neighbourly relations of friendship between the two countries have reached maturity and entered a new period of all-round development, Wu said.

Wu said that during his stay in Malaysia, he was impressed by the strong wishes of both sides to develop the strategic cooperation between the two countries. He expressed the belief that China-Malaysia relations are bound to embrace an even brighter future as long as both sides stick to their wishes and make continued efforts to enhance trade and economic cooperation, personnel exchanges and cooperation in other fields.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said China-Malaysia friendly relations have developed well since the establish-

ment of diplomatic ties and the mutually beneficial cooperation have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. He said Malaysia is ready to increase its cooperation with China in energy, education, culture and tourism for the benefit of the two peoples.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese babies compete during a baby swimming contest in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, on 1 June, 2005. Some 102 children under one year old took part in the competition. — INTERNET

China releases list of recommended children's books

BEIJING, 1 June — The State Administration of Press and Publication Monday recommended 100 books for Chinese children to read during the coming month-long summer vacation.

Themes of the books range from adventure stories, hero stories, popular science to growth topics. Fifteen foreign titles, including Little Wooden Cabin on the Prairie, are also on the list.

The list has drawn positive response from white-collar worker Ning Shuyong in Beijing and many other parents.

"It is surely a very helpful guide. Tens of thousands of kids' books are published each year. Some are good, but some are not right for kids,"

said Ning.

Wu Shangzhi, director of the book publishing department of the administration, said the administration began recommending books in 2004. It will be done every year.

The list represents one of a range of measures taken by the government to purify the growth environment for minors.

A few days ago, the Ministry of Culture and

the Ministry of Information Industry jointly recommended a number of "premium online games" to minors for the summer vacation.

Zhang Xinjian, deputy director of the cultural market department of the Ministry of Culture, said children are easily influenced by sexual and violent content common in online games.

"If they see such things often, they tend to

imitate those actions in real life," acknowledged Zhang. "But to keep the kids away from detrimental elements, we have to offer them something new and meaningful."

In September last year, ministries of culture and education and a few other government organizations recommended 100 patriotic films, 100 patriotic songs and 100 patriotic books to youngsters. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia starts polio vaccination programme in three provinces

JAKARTA, 1 June — Indonesian Minister of Health Siti Fadilah Supari announced Tuesday that the polio vaccination campaign which started earlier Tuesday across Greater Jakarta, West Java and Banten would be completed in one week.

Speaking in the West Java capital of Bandung, she said that 6.4 million babies in the three provinces would be vaccinated.

A second round of polio vaccinations will be held on 28 June, she was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

As of May 25, 14 children had contracted polio in Sukabumi and

Bogor, both in West Java, and Lebak in Banten.

Polio is an incurable and sometimes fatal virus that usually affects children, causing paralysis and muscular atrophy.

MNA/Xinhua

Heat wave sweeps India's Orissa

NEW DELHI, 1 June — The death toll due to a fierce heat wave sweeping Orissa, India, touched 40 on Tuesday, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

Coastal districts, including the province capital Bhubaneswar, continued to record temperatures between 38 and 40 degrees Celsius and there were no signs of relief in the western districts.

Titilagarh town on Tuesday recorded a high of 47 degrees while other places registered temperatures as high as 45 degrees, district officials said.

"We have received reports of about 179 deaths due to sunstroke from different sources but only 40 have been confirmed," a senior official of the province revenue control room was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



A family sits in their home as Iraqi soldiers stand guard during a night raid on Ajil Sharqia, 20 kms south of Baghdad on 1 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Nearly half of Nepalis addicted to tobacco

KATHMANDU, 1 June — At least 10 million out of the total 23 million Nepalis people are addicted to some kind of tobacco-related products, a new study disclosed here Tuesday on the "World No Tobacco Day".

Smoking habits among women and teenagers are increasing gradually in the country, the study said.

"The situation will be perilous by the year 2020 unless all the sectors come up with a campaign against use of tobacco," the study quoted Nirakarman Shrestha, chairman of the Tobacco Control Unit at the Nepali Ministry of Health and Population, as saying.

Shrestha said the consumption of tobacco is rising in Nepal's rural hilly and mountain regions as well as urban areas.

There are many laws and regulations set by the Nepali Government and other institutes to discourage smoking, according to Shrestha. — MNA/Xinhua

US mily says detention of top Iraqi Sunni leader a mistake

BAGHDAD, 1 June — US military said on Monday that the troops mistakenly detained the leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party and released him later.

"This morning, coalition forces detained and interviewed Mohsen Abdel Hamid. Following the interview, it was determined that he was detained by mistake and should be released," the military said in a statement.

"Coalition forces regret any inconvenience and acknowledge Mr Hamid's cooperation in resolving this matter," according to the statement.

The Iraqi Islamic Party, a powerful leading Sunni Party, condemned the detention of Hamid and demanded an "apology" from the US forces who hooded Hamid along with his three sons and bodyguards before taking them away.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan to take steps to ease traffic across border with Iraq

AMMAN, 1 June — Jordan on Monday vowed to take new steps to ease the rapidly increasing land traffic across the border with Iraq, the state-run media reported.

King Abdullah II urged his government to shoulder the responsibility in this regard during a surprise visit to the Karameh post along the Jordan-Iraq border, said the reports.

"All means and facilities should be sought with a view to allowing our Iraqi brethren to move smoothly across the border and to ensure that their sufferings are minimized," the monarch was quoted as saying.

Official statistics shows that more than 3,500 passengers, 600 small cars and 1,000 trucks cross the Jordan-Iraq border in both directions every day.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Israel set up joint industrial R&D fund

JERUSALEM, 1 June — India and Israel have signed an agreement to set up a joint industrial Research and Development fund to encourage investment and joint ventures.

India's Federal Minister of State for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Ehud Olmert signed the agreement under which each side will contribute one million US dollars each initially to provide risk-free grants to entrepreneurs from both sides.

The two ministers outlined cooperation in the areas of nano-technology, bio-technology, water management, non-conventional energy and space and aeronautics as five priority areas of

"common interest" for enhanced collaboration.

"We have collaborated with each other in defence and strategic areas but we need to move on to areas in which we can affect the lives of the ordinary people," Sibal, the first minister to visit Israel, said.

Claiming that the two countries were "IT super-powers" with the sector contributing a major chunk of the income, he said "India can be the centre of joint Indo-Israel ventures to serve the rest of the world".

"If we can use some of your technology in the

field of agriculture, we will leave far behind other countries in production", Sibal added.

India is the fifth country with which Israel is setting up such a fund.

Olmert, who visited India in December, said he was struck by the immense possibilities of cooperation between the two countries.

"There is enormous potential. I think that India is emerging as a major economy and Israel has designated India as one of the main targets of our foreign trade in the next five years," he said.

"In selection of the

projects and proposals, we will adopt the bottom-up policy. The market demand will be the basic guiding principle", Azriel Hemar, Deputy Chief Scientist at the Trade and Industry ministry, told *PTI*. Sibal also participated in the "India and Israel: R&D as a strategic bridge" Workshop at the prestigious Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

Calling cooperation in science and technology as the real bridge between countries that cuts across national boundaries, he said the two countries should increase interaction between young students to forge a permanent bond of friendship. — *MNA/PTI*

Croatian PM highlights trade relations with China

SHANGHAI, 1 June — Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader said on Monday in Shanghai that Croatia hopes to further develop its trade relations with China and serve as the gateway for Chinese companies to enter the European market.

Prime Minister Sanader made the remarks in his keynote address during the Croatia-China Business Forum opened on Monday morning in Shanghai. More than 150 entrepreneurs from both countries attended this forum.

Croatian companies are encouraged to come to invest in China, vying with companies from all around the world, and Croatia also hopes to see more Chinese companies would attend the Autumn Trade Fair held in Zagreb, said the Prime Minister.

Croatia and China have signed a number of government agreements over avoidance of dual taxation, protection of investment and maritime shipping, and the agreements will help boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation, he said.

Croatian statistics show that the value of bilateral trade between Croatia and China amounted to 642.7 million US dollars last year, up 56 per cent from 2003, making China the eighth largest trading partner of Croatia. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand Chutamas Siriwan, left, hands a bouquet of flowers to Miss Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova of Canada during a reception at the tourism office in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1 June, 2005. — INTERNET

India to host Caspian oil ministers meet in October

NEW DELHI, 1 June — After getting lead oil producers from Gulf to forge alliance with major Asian consumers, India will in October host a meeting of the Central Asian oil producers with four largest consumers in Asia towards forming an 'Asian Oil Community'.

"In the week beginning 17 October, we propose to host the oil ministers from Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan to a meeting with four prime Asian buyers — the Chinese, Japanese, Korean and, of course, Indian," Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said on Tuesday.

On 6 January this year,

Aiyar had staged a coup of sorts when he got oil producers Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Oman and Qatar together with prime consumers India, China, Japan and Korea to give shape to a new regional forum that vowed to strengthen energy ties for ensuring stable energy supplies at reasonable prices.

Now he wants the Caspian Sea producers to come on board the pan-Asia community. "We are creating brotherhood in the Asian oil economies", Aiyar said. — *MNA/PTI*

HK to invest \$56.4m for tourism promotion

HONG KONG, 1 June — Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) plans to put 56.4 million US dollars for tourism promotion in the coming two years.

Targeting 16 world major tourism sourcing markets, the HKTB prepares to introduce several large-sized new tourism projects and 2006 Hong Kong tourism year to overseas tourists. To welcome more commercial and family tourists to Hong Kong, the HKTB has decided to redesign several large sized tourism programmes for Hong Kong shopping festival, Winter Festival and Spring Festival international performance parade and develop more new tourism programmes.

For the 2006 tourism year, the HKTB plans to introduce new programmes focusing on traditional culture. Hong Kong Disneyland is scheduled to open on September 12 and some other tourism projects will be built up next year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Bangladesh's BTMA demands 15% cash export incentives

DHAKA, 1 June — Leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) demanded 15 per cent cash incentive for exports in 2005-2006 budget for the primary textile sector to facilitate its development.

The *Financial Express* Tuesday quoted BTMA chairman MA Awal as saying that if the country wants to survive in the competitive post Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA), there is no alternative to cash incentive in this sector.

He said many neighbouring countries including India and Pakistan have been giving incentives for developments of their local primary textile sectors.

India has already disbursed a grant worth 220 billion rupees (5.11 billion US dollars) earmarked for its Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme in addition to normal interest subsidy of 5 per cent and a capital subsidy of 10 per cent to the textile sector.

He urged the government to make arrangement for duty free import of dyes and chemicals and to keep the tax holiday option for the textile sector in the upcoming budget for 2005-2006 fiscal.

He also asked the government to fix 5 per cent corporate tax instead of 15 per cent in the budget proposal.

The BTMA leader argued that the knit garment exporters of the country have been targeting to export products worth 3.0 billion dollars this year and it has become possible only due to the development in the primary textile sector. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Afghan Govt cracks down on smugglers, destroys drug bazaar

KABUL, 1 June — The Afghan Government in major crackdown against illicit drug and smugglers has destroyed an illegal drug market in southern Helmand Province, Deputy Minister of Interior said Tuesday.

"The Afghan Special Narcotics Force

(ASNF) has completely disrupted the largest narcotics drug bazaar of Bahram Shah in Helmand Province as part of a three-day operation in which there were no casualties," Mohammad Daud told reporters at a Press conference.

MNA/Xinhua



Shanghai schoolchildren work their way through a playground rope maze at a children's event in Shanghai, China, on 1 June, 2005. China celebrated International Children's Day on Wednesday. — INTERNET

A review of the multi-party democracy general election on its 15th anniversary

Myo Myat

The Tatmadaw Government held the free and fair multi-party democracy general election in the whole nation in 1990. During the election, the majority of the people of Myanmar assigned the democracy transition duty to the National League for Democracy.

At this 15th anniversary of the election, I will deal with the following three questions:

1. To what degree is the NLD dutiful in the task of democracy transition?
2. To what stage has the democracy transition drive reached at present?
3. Which is the less painful means toward transition to democracy?

The election was held in 1990 about two years after Myanmar had passed through the 1988 unrest. During the time, the Tatmadaw was assuming the State duties; and the 1974 Constitution had already been dissolved. So, the NLD's situation is totally different from that of an elected party of a nation where democracy flourishes and which has the constitution. The party of that particular nation after winning the election will certainly form a new government within a few days.

To what degree is the NLD dutiful in the task of democracy transition?

The election was held in 1990 about two years after Myanmar had passed through the 1988 unrest. During the time, the Tatmadaw was assuming the State duties; and the 1974 Constitution had already been dissolved. So, the NLD's situation is totally different from that of an elected party of a nation where democracy flourishes and which has the constitution. The party of that particular nation, after winning the election, will certainly form a new government within a few days.

Without analyzing its situation that was much different from political parties of other nations, the NLD called the Gandhi conference, and tried to take over power with a provisional constitution. In response to the NLD's act, the ruling Tatmadaw Government issued the Order No 1/90, acknowledging the political parties that the initial step should be to write a durable constitution. At that moment, some NLD leaders came to realize the objective conditions and agreed to observe the Order.

The Tatmadaw Government on its part convened the National Convention in 1993 to draw a new constitution with the participation of elected members of the political parties, and representa-

tives from all walks of life.

With the nation's future in view, the Tatmadaw Government took great care in laying down the rules and regulations of the Convention. But in laying down the detailed basic principles, the Tatmadaw had not demanded the absolute power, but it presented two proposals — the people's representatives to take 75 per cent of the seats and the Tatmadaw representatives, 25 per cent in the parliament; and the permission of the setting up of legislative hluhtaws in states and divisions (regions), a task inclusive in the installing a genuine democracy.

Although the NLD attended the National Convention, it rejected the two proposals the Tatmadaw had made to pave the way for national re-consolidation. Instead of trying to achieve a compromise on the said two proposals, the elected delegates of NLD presented their intransigent stand at the Convention just to grab power. At that time, Daw Suu Kyi who was released from restriction order made the NLD representatives to leave the Convention. An elected representative asked her to analyze the essence of the results rather than rules and regulations. But her response was that she only cared about the form, not the content. Her stance showed that the NLD leaders at that time did not regard the Convention as a podium for negotiations. Instead they were sticking to the stand — to get everything or nothing.

When Daw Suu Kyi was released from restriction order the second time, there were signs of improvement in the initial stage of negotiations between the Government and the NLD. However, rather than further improving the sound results of the negotiations, the NLD leaders turned to public making demands for imposing harsher economic sanctions on Myanmar. Thus, the NLD's organizational method gradually changed to the agitation work leading to confrontation that finally met with the Dabayin conflict. Daw Suu Kyi had to stay at her house under restriction order again, and the NLD offices were closed.

All in all, the NLD leaders are still unable to undertake the task of transition to democracy.

To what stage has the democracy transition drive reached at present?

As the NLD did not respond to the Tatmadaw Government's overtures inviting the party to negotiating table, the National Convention which commenced in 1993 had to be adjourned in 1996. In 2003, the Tatmadaw Government announced the seven-point Road Map to build a democratic state. It invited the NLD to attend the National Convention. Agreement was reached on the choice of National Convention delegates and continued discussion on the basic principles already discussed. But it rejected the plan to temporarily shelve the

reopening of the party offices and the release of Daw Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo.

Because of the economic sanctions of some powers to isolate Myanmar, the international financial institutions ceased their assistance to the nation's democracy transition drive or in other words endeavours to develop the market economy. Myanmar is getting farther away from the global market as it has to give priority to self-sufficiency on self-reliant basis. And as a result, the economic development of the people has slowed down.

Which is the less painful means toward transition to democracy?

The NLD used to say that it made overtures to the Government for a dialogue, but the latter rejected them. But the objective conditions bear witness to the fact that the Tatmadaw Government has already made many concessions. On the other hand, the NLD has not made a single proposal for the dialogue.

But the NLD keeps on saying that it will

The NLD used to say that it made overtures to the Government for a dialogue, but the latter rejected them. But the objective conditions bear witness to the fact that the Tatmadaw Government has already made many concessions. On the other hand, the NLD has not made a single proposal for the dialogue.

reveal its stance at the dialogue. Although the party is demanding a dialogue, it is also trying to press and coerce the Government with economic sanctions. The NLD is still far away from the dialogue as it has no will at all to negotiate with the Government.

We have learned that with constructive attitude, the Government officials held a meeting with student leaders to collectively ward off terrorist bombings like the ones that occurred on 7 May. The Government's endeavour reminds us of the days during which the AFPFL and the Communist Party forged unity to drive out the alien-conspired danger following the assassination of national leaders.

On this 15th anniversary of the election, I would like to urge the political forces including the NLD to understand the concessions made by the Government from the objective point of view, regarding the present situation as blessing in disguise and to serve the national interest, while discarding their extreme policies, passions and egos as time is running out.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 1-6-2005

Vice-Senior General
Maung Aye receives
US military attache
Col Michael A
Norton, who had
completed his tour of
duty in Myanmar,
and his successors
Col Dan Tarter
(Army) and Lt-Col
John D Robinson
(Air Force). (News
on page 1) — MNA



Commander inspects progress and production of Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone

YANGON, 2 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe went to Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone in Shwepaukkan Myothit, North Okkalapa Township, this evening, and met with members of

Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone Management Committee and industrial entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that ten industrial zones have been established in Yangon Division for ensuring development of the industrial sector of the State, and

tasks of industrial production are being speeded up. The industrial zones are indispensable for boosting industrial production of Yangon Division as well as the nation. These zones play an important role in the increase of GDP. Import-substitute products are to be manu-

factured for local sufficiency, and efforts are to be made for production of export items. As industries will soon enjoy fruitful results of power supply that is essential for the industrial sector, it is necessary to make more energetic efforts for uplift of the production capacity.

nually boosting production of the industrial sector, formation of industrial zone management committees, industrial zone beautifying committees and discipline enforcement committees and their functions.

Chairman of North Okkalapa Industrial Zone Management Committee U Khin Maung Myint and Chairman of Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone U Than Win briefed the commander on matters related to their industrial zones, beautifying tasks, proper flow of water and discipline enforcement tasks, agricultural tasks for greening the environs of Yangon International Airport all the year round and installation of telephones.

Yangon Division Engineer U Hla Paik of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise submitted reports on arrangements being made for sufficient supply of power to the industrial zones.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to their needs.

Next, the commander and party oversaw medicines produced at the pharmaceutical factory of Silver Shine International Co Ltd on Kanaung Minthagyi Road in Ward 18 of Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone.

Manager of the company U Aung Swe

Hlaing and Factory Manager U Myint Hla reported on facts about the industrial zone management and production of quality medicines and distribution at reasonable price. Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on production and distribution of quality medicines.

They proceeded to Forward Industry on Makhaya Minthagyi Road in Ward 19/1. They viewed manufacturing of agricultural equipment at the industry, and functions of Shwe Aye Foundry Plant. In meeting with the entrepreneurs, the commander gave instructions that the Government is providing necessary assistance to development of the industrial sector.

Similarly, the entrepreneurs should try hard to boost production of quality industrial products so as to substitute the import goods and to manufacture export items. Later, he fulfilled the requirements.

Yangon Division has set up industrial zones for ensuring development of the industrial sector of the State. Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone was established on 94.64 acres of land in 1998. A total of 210 factories including two automobile assembling factories are being operated with K 2,100 million of investment.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views the production process at the pharmaceutical factory of the Silver Shine International Co Ltd in Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone. — YANGON COMMAND

World Environmental Day essay competition winners announced

YANGON, 2 June — Winners of the essay competition (Open Level) organized by the National Commission for Environmental Affairs were announced today.

The first prize winner is U Aye Myint, the second prize winner Ma Sein Sein, the third prize winner Htar Suu Nyein and consolation prize win-

ners are Dr Hsint Soe, Maung Win Pyi Phyo Pai, U Myint Thein (Maung Maung Myint Thein-YIT), Ma Aye Myint Myat Soe and Daw Nann May Thu. The prizes will be presented to the winners on 6 June at the ceremony to mark the World Environmental Day for 2005 at International Business Centre here. — MNA

Chairman of Yangon East District Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein reported on facts about nine industrial zones and an economic development zone located in the district, an-

Fire engines donated to Fire Services Department

YANGON, 2 June — The ceremony to present fire engines donated by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan, Nippon Foundation Myanmar, Tokyo Myanmar Association and Myanmar PLG Travel & Trading Co Ltd to Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at the ministry yesterday morning.

Present on the oc-

casation were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano, the director-general of Fire Services Department, officials and donors. First, the minister made a speech. Afterwards, Mr Nakata Takanori of Ibaraki Prefecture Fire Fighters As-

sociation and Mr Sakae Saito of the Nippon Foundation Myanmar explained the purpose of donating fire engines.

Next, the donors presented the documents related to the fire engines and the director-general of FSD presented certificates of honour to them.

After the ceremony, the minister viewed the fire engines donated by the wellwishers. — MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win being welcomed by Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Raffaele Miniero at the reception to mark National Day of the Republic of Italy on 2-6-2005. — MNA



Fire engines donated by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan, Nippon Foundation Myanmar Tokyo Myanmar Association, and Myanmar PLG Travel & Trading Co Ltd. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and donors inspect the fire engines. — MNA

Provost Marshal's trophy volleyball



Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla watches a women's volleyball match. — MNA

YANGON, 2 June — Eight first division men's teams are taking part in the Provost Marshal's trophy volleyball championship, which began in Hline gymnasium here today.

Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla made a speech

at the opening of the championship in which 15 second division men's team and seven women's teams are also competing.

The women's team played on the opening day of the championship which continues till 10 June. — MNA

Chin State WVO's preliminary meeting held

YANGON, 2 June — Preliminary meeting for 2005 of Chin State War Veterans Organization was held on 16 May in Haka, Chin State.

Patron of Chin State WVO Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla addressed the meeting and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Member of the Central Organizing Committee of the Myanmar WVO, extended greetings at the meeting.

Altogether 621 members of Chin State WVO attended the meeting.

At the meeting, five sectors — national politics sector, national defence and security sector, economic sector, social and welfare sector and public

welfare sector — were discussed at the meeting.

The meeting decided two resolutions and one approval, and put two matters on record. The meeting ended by chanting slogans.

Also present at the meeting were member of the Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Director-General of the Fire Services Department Col Myint Tun (Retd), Chairman of Chin State WVO Supervisory Committee Secretary of Chin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo and committee members, departmental officials, members of Women Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and guests. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister arrives back

YANGON, 2 June — At the invitation of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Preecha Laohapongchana and the Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr Hemayetuddin, a Myanmar Delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air this evening after paying an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand and attending the 9th Senior Officials' Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Deputy Minister was welcomed back at the airport by Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr A B Manjoor Rahim, Mr Opas Chantarasap, Charge d' Affairs of Royal Thai Embassy and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Deputy Minister called on Mr Preecha Laohapongchana on 26 May and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

The Deputy Minister also paid a courtesy call on Dr Kantathir Suphamongkor, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 27 May.

On 31 May, the Deputy Minister and party proceeded to Dhaka, Bangladesh to attend the 9th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu attended the 9th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on 1 June 2005 at Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka.

That afternoon, the Deputy Minister paid a courtesy call on M Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh at his office. They cordially exchanged views on issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

The Deputy Minister also called on Mr Hemayetuddin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. The Deputy Minister and party arrived back here today.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by U Soe Myint, Director-General of Energy Planning Department under the Ministry of Energy, Deputy Director U Soe Lynn Han, Assistant Director U Kyaw Soe, Head of Branch-1 Daw Marla Than Htaik of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to MWAFF hailing Myanmar Women's Day

YANGON, 2 June — As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2005, a ceremony to donate cash and kind was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township, on 26 May afternoon.

President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of Organizational Division Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Head of Information Division Daw

Kyi Kyi Win accepted a server and its related parts worth K 10 million donated by Managing Director Daw Khin San Win of Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd; K 3 million by U Thein Win Zaw of Manaw Thida Co Ltd, Shwe Byaing Phyu Production Co Ltd, and Ashaytaing Swan-ah International Ltd; K 1.5 million each by U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd, U Zaw Lay of Year 2000 Fisheries Co Ltd, U Khin Soe of Annawa Hlwam Co Ltd, and U

Maung Weik of Maung Weik and Family Co Ltd; K 1 million each by U Aung Htwe of Golden Flower Co, U Shwe Kyaing of Wah Wah Win Construction, U Maung Maung of Shwe Gabar Construction, U Khin Myint of Yadanawin (Thonze) Ltd, U Ah Hoke and Shwe Lay of Thiha Yaza Co Ltd, U Khin Maung Kyaw of United Myeik Co Ltd, U Soe Tun Shein of Asia Development Co Ltd and U Ko Ko Htwe of Tawwin Family Co Ltd;



MWAFF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts cash donations from wellwishers. — MNA



MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint accepts cash donated by wellwishers. —MNA



Head of Information Division Daw Kyi Kyi Win accepts cash donations from wellwishers. — MNA

K 600,000 by U Aung Zaw Win of Shine Con-

struction; K 500,000 each by U Aung Naing of Asia Winner Industrial Ltd, U Maung Maung of Asia Express, U Kyaw Win of Shwe Thanlwin, Dr Zaw Tun of Shwe Kyarbyan Construction, U Tin Myint of Asia King Co Ltd, U Win Aung of Myanmar Ngar Bayin Co Ltd; Dr Maung Maung Aye of Moe Hein Co Ltd; U Maung Sein of Golden Everest Co Ltd, Managing Director U Soe Thein of Dhana Aung Co Ltd

and wife Deputy Director Daw Khin Cho Ohn of Attorney-General's Office, and U Soe Aung of New World Co Ltd; K 300,000 by U Ohn Myint of Civil Tech Construction; K 200,000 by Daw Cho of Cho Construction; K 150,000 by Myanmar Paper and Stationery.

Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Later, President Daw Than Than Nwe expressed gratitude.

MNA

Seminar on Community of South East Asian Nations held

YANGON, 2 June—Under the ASEAN Information Seminar Series III (Financial year 2004-2005) Project and with the arrangements of the Ministry of Information, the supervisory committee on ASEAN Information Seminar conducted the seminar "A Community of South East Asian Nations" at Ayethaya Resort in Taunggyi, Shan State, 31 May morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, members of ASEAN Culture and Information Committee, departmental officials, representatives of social organizations, and guests.

The deputy minister delivered a speech.

Next, the seminar continued at the venue. Director U Win Thein of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided

over the morning session.

Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Aung Bwa dealt with ASEAN and security of the ASEAN community; Adviser to the Prime Minister's Office U Maung Maung Yi, with the first step for combination of the 11 ASEAN priority sectors and ASEAN economic community; Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of the Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information, with information programmes of the ASEAN Culture and Information Committee; Director Daw Nandar Hmun of the Department of Cultural Institute of the Ministry of Culture, with cultural tasks of the committee; and Professor Dr Daw Myint Kyi of the International Relations Department of Yangon University of the Ministry of Education, with ASEAN cooperation for education, health and social sectors.

Adviser U Maung Maung Yi chaired the afternoon session.

Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control under the Ministry of Home Affairs Police Col Kham Aung discussed matters on regional narcotic drug-related situations in ASEAN and Myanmar; Deputy Director Police Lt-Col Ya Hlyan Mone of the Transnational Crimes Department of the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs, on preventive measures against trafficking in persons in ASEAN and Myanmar being taken by Myanmar; Deputy Director-General U Thein Lwin of the Energy Administration Department under the Ministry of Energy, on ASEAN and Myanmar energy sector; Joint-Secretary Daw Yin Yin Lay of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs under the

(See page 11)



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses the seminar on "A Community of South East Asian Nations".—MNA

Indian Defence Services sports teams leaves



Indian Defence Services football and volleyball teams led by Col VS Kandari being seen off at the airport.— MNA

YANGON, 2 June — Indian Defence Services football team and volleyball team led by Col Vs Kandari left here this afternoon.

Vice Chairman of the Defence Services Sports and Physical Committee Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers, Military Attaché of India to Myanmar Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra and officials saw off the athletes of the sports teams at the Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 2 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint left here by air this afternoon to attend the 4th IISS Asia Security Conference which will be held in the Republic of Singapore from 3 to 5 June.

They were seen off at the airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar. The deputy foreign minister was also accompanied by Secretary Ambassador U Nyan Win of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint being seen off at the airport on his de-pature for Singapore to attend 4th IISS Asia Security Conference. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu meets with Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Kantathir Suphamongkor on 27-5-2005. (News on page 9)—MNA

Seminar on Community of ...

(from page 10) Ministry of Forestry, on environmental conservation in ASEAN region; and Deputy General Manager U Tint Lwin of Myanmar

Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of the Myanma Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, on electronic transition tasks in ASEAN

region. The resource persons replied to the queries raised by those present. The meeting chairman gave concluding remarks. MNA



Myanmar Boxing Federation President U Win Myint presents best boxer award in junior class to Than Zaw Htwe (Mandalay) in A class junior event of Third MOC Chairman's Trophy and 36th ISD A Class Boxing Championship.— NLM



Professor Daw Myint Kyi of International Relations Department of YU.— MNA



Joint Secretary of CCDAC Police Col Kham Aung. MNA



Deputy General Manager U Tint Lwin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.— MNA



Deputy Director-General U Thein Lwin of Energy Planning Department.— MNA

Follow-up news

YANGON, 2 June — In the news of the 58th World Health Conference of the dailies issued on 29 May, the maternal mortality rate among 1,000 women in Myanmar is 1.78 in urban areas and 2.81 in rural areas", it is learnt. — MNA

Nepal to provide transit facility for China-India trade

KATHMANDU, 2 June — The Nepali Government has commenced exercises on providing transit facility for China-India trade, a government official said on Wednesday. "Holding the first meeting on the matter, a high-level task force constituted under the coordinatorship of Shankar Sharma, vice-chairman of National Planning Commission, has formed two committees to carry out detailed studies," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

The two separate committees, one led by Commerce Secretary Bharat Bahadur Thapa and the other led by Binod Bahadur Shrestha, president of the Federation of Nepali Chambers of Commerce and Industry, would conduct the study from public and private sectors respectively, he said.

The task force will lay down the future plan of action including the guidelines for tripartite talks between Nepal, India and China once it delineates the final strategy, the official said. It will also work out an integrated concept paper by summing up inputs from all those individual strategy papers developed by experts and also incorporating public and private sector perspectives. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sees smaller proportion of agriculture in economy

HANOI, 2 June — The proportion of agriculture in Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) has decreased in recent years, while its economic structure has undergone many changes, said local report.

The proportion of agriculture decreased to 20.4 per cent in 2004 from 21.8 per cent in 2003, while 57.9 per cent of the country's labour force worked in agriculture last year, down from over 59 per cent the year earlier, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported on Wednesday.

In recent years, Vietnam's rice cultivation area has dropped, but acreage of such cash crops as rubber, pepper and tea have increased. Meanwhile, animal husbandry and aquaculture have accounted for bigger proportions in the agriculture sector. — MNA/Xinhua

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးယုံကြည်စိတ်ချရသော
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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 3 June 2005.

COMESA sets 2008 as deadline for Customs Union

KIGALI, 1 June — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has set 2008 as the deadline for all its 19 member countries to join the proposed Customs Union, COMESA spokesperson Mweusi Karake told *Xinhua* here Tuesday.

He said the decision was made at the ongoing Council of Ministers meeting in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, ahead of the 10th summit of the heads of state and government.

"The meeting has decided that all members must join the Customs Union in 2008, or never," said Karake. He, however, declined to say when the first countries will join the Customs Union.

The decision of the ministers shall be submitted for approval to the summit scheduled for June 2-3.

With a total population of 380 million and a combined gross domestic product of 200 billion US dollars, COMESA is one of the largest and most successful regional integration body in Africa.

COMESA had planned to launch the Customs Union at its 10th anniversary last December, but the plan has to be shelved due to concerns by member countries over reduced income as a result of tariff cuts.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (084)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (084) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.05 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and - subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
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Official says Nigeria to accelerate privatization process

ABUJA, 1 June — The Nigerian Government is to accelerate the pace of the government's privatization programme, a high-ranking official said here on Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting on privatization in the capital Abuja, Irene Chigbue, director general of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), said the BPE's current priority is to speed up the pace of privatization.

"It would be unhealthy for government to continue to maintain moribund institutions and pay salaries to idle staff," she said.

The BPE director gen-

eral invited Nigerians to contribute viable ideas to assist the BPE in its mandate, saying that "the process of selling public assets requires inputs from all stakeholders."

She said the agency would focus on reform of the state-owned power sector, the railway, oil and gas, refineries and seaports.

The agency would also be interested in privatizing such state-owned 21 enterprises including

Philip Morris wraps up Indonesian firm deal

JAKARTA, 1 June — US tobacco giant Philip Morris has officially sealed its 98 per cent control over Indonesia's second largest cigarette-maker PT Hanjaya Mandala Sampoerna, with the completion of a 26.9 trillion rupiah (2.8 billion US dollars) payment for its purchase of the shares, reports said on Tuesday.

The payment, which was made for Philip Morris' purchase of 57.5 per cent of Sampoerna's shares from the investing public through a tender on May 20, follows its previous acquisition in mid-March of 40 per cent of Sampoerna's shares, reported *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

"The government responded well to our report of the deal's closure, particularly as all of the funds would remain in the coun-

try," Sampoerna director Angky Camaro said after a meeting with Minister of Finance Jusuf Anwar earlier Monday.

Philip Morris' 5 billion US dollars total investment into Sampoerna was expected to help lift the rupiah, which has recently been slumping against the US dollar.

Indeed, Philip Morris' release of greenbacks for the deal was indicated as having balanced Mon-

day's continuous strong dollar demand in the local forex market, resulting in the rupiah remaining flat at 9,485 per dollar on Monday, unchanged from last week's closing day of Friday.

Meanwhile, concerning the government's plan to raise retail prices of cigarettes by up to 20 per cent, Angky refused to comment, but hinted Sampoerna's objection to the idea.

MNA/Xinhua

Fuel prices down in Uganda

KAMPALA, 1 June — The prices of diesel and kerosene have gone down by 80 shillings (4.5 US cents) and 100 shillings (5.6 US cents) per litre respectively in Kampala, Shell Uganda has announced.

The price of diesel has moved to 1,600 shillings (90.1 US cents) per litre down from 1,680 shillings (94.6 US cents) while kerosene moves to 1,500 shillings (84.5 US cents) per litre down from 1,600 shillings (90.1 cents).

Shell Uganda's country manager Ivan Kyayonka contributed this to less demand, saying in a statement on Monday that Europeans were entering the summer season.

"Each commodity is managed independently and the demand is also independent so there is less demand for diesel and kerosene, a cause for the fall," Kyayonka explained. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to open direct air route to Germany

HANOI, 1 June — Vietnam Airlines will start direct air flight to Frankfurt of Germany on 20 June, aiming to increase foreign visitors to the country.

The national flag carrier will initially operate two flights from Hanoi and one from Ho Chi Minh City to Frankfurt and vice versa every week, said a Press release issued by the Vietnam Airlines on Tuesday.

The direct flights will save passengers around five hours compared to the existing routes between the two destinations, which require a transit in Russia, said the carrier.

The Vietnam Airlines is also negotiating with Lufthansa to provide code-sharing services on the Germany-Vietnam route, scheduled to begin this winter. Vietnam received 70,000 German visitors last year, a year-on-year growth of about 70 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Mozambique plans to develop by products of natural gas

MAPUTO, 1 June — Mozambique wants to enter the list of producers of kerosene, fertilizers and other byproducts from its abundant resources of natural gas, local media reported on Tuesday.

According to Minister of Mineral Resources Esperanca Bias, the Mozambican authorities at the moment are carrying out a market study, that should be completed before the end of this year.

As to the situation of the hydrocarbon sector in Mozambique, Bias said that the country has legislation that is "very favour-

able" to investment. She added the country has oil prospecting underway in the Zambezi delta block, which is being carried out by PETRONAS, the Malaysian State oil company. The government is also going to launch an international tender in July for the Rovuma block in the north of Mozambique.

Commenting on the four-day African Conference on Trade and Financing for Oil and Gas, which was opened in Maputo on Tuesday, Bias said that African countries have been facing difficulties in the oil and gas industries, because most of the financing is done by foreign companies.

MNA/Xinhua

More foreigners visit Vietnam in first five months

HANOI, 1 June — Vietnam hosted nearly 1.4 million international arrivals in the first five months of this year, a year-on-year surge of 19.4 per cent.

The number of visitors from China decreased 5 per cent to 302,400, but still remains Vietnam's biggest tourism market in the period, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism on Tuesday.

The United States ranked second with 134,200 visitors, followed by South Korea with 126,000 and Taiwan with 111,100, rising 14.2 per cent, 59.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively.

Among the 1.4 million visitors, the number of tourists increased the most — by 35.8 per cent to 826,500, while that of business visitors declined 16.6 per cent to 171,800, the administration noted.

MNA/Xinhua

HK to spend \$40.5m on building EcoPark

HONG KONG, 1 June — Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department has proposed the spending of 316 million HK dollars (40.5 million US dollars) on building a 19-hectare EcoPark in western part of New Territories of Hong Kong.

The Phase I project is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

In a paper presented to the Legislative Council Panel on the Environmental Affairs Committee on Monday, the department said the EcoPark will promote the growth of the waste recycling and environmental industry in Hong Kong.

The department said as much as 2.4 million tons of municipal solid waste are recovered as recyclable material annually, but more than 90 per cent are exported for recycling. — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ညောင်းစွာ

Kalam favours JV for developing anti-HIV/AIDS vaccine

REYKJAVIK, 1 June — President A P J Abdul Kalam has favoured the idea of having a joint venture for developing anti-HIV/AIDS vaccine, research on which is already in an advanced stage in India.

Delivering a lecture at the International Health Conference here Monday evening, Kalam said among the tropical diseases the name of HIV/AIDS was getting added very quickly.

“India is also working to develop not only the retroviral drugs for combating the disease but also to develop a vaccine for the prevention of HIV/AIDS,” he added.

“We should work together to develop drugs which can combat different strains. This will be a great service done to the humanity. As far as India is concerned, I understand that the anti-vaccine for HIV/AIDS is in the advanced stage of development and getting ready for clinical trials.

“This programme needs highest priority from different countries. Success in HIV/AIDS vaccine will indeed be a major milestone for planet earth,” the President said while asking the Iceland Pharma companies to join hands for its marketing. — MNA/PTI

NASA’s “Messenger” snaps pictures for Earth, Moon

LOS ANGELES, 1 June — A spacecraft set to explore Mercury has successfully tested its main camera by snapping distant approach shots of Earth and Moon, engineers said on Tuesday.

The Messenger spacecraft is less than three months from an Earth flyby that will slingshot it toward the inner solar system. Messenger is short for Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry, and Ranging.

It was the seventh mission in a lower cost, scientifically focused exploration Programme of the US National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA).

The spacecraft took a set of six pictures on 11 May with the narrow-angle camera in its Mercury Dual Imaging System, or MDIS. Earth was about 29.6 million kilometres from it at the time, but the main processed image clearly shows bands of clouds between North and South America on Earth’s sunlit side. The Moon was 400,563 kilometres from the Earth.

Dr Edward Hawkins III, lead engineer for MDIS at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), said finding the Moon in the pictures was an unexpected bonus.

“As we stretched the image we saw this little object to the side, which turned out to be the Moon,” he said. “That was exciting”.

One of seven instruments in Messenger’s science

payload, the multispectral MDIS has wide-and narrow-angle imagers, both based on charge-coupled devices (CCDs) found in common digital cameras.

The MDIS has taken nearly 400 test shots since Messenger launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station last 3 August, but all were of star fields, dark space or a calibration target on Messenger’s lower deck. These were first “real” images, engineers said.

The photo session was just part of the preparations for the 2 August Earth flyby, the first major adjustment to Messenger’s flight path toward Mercury. While the MDIS took its pictures, the Mercury Laser Altimeter team at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Centre checked its instrument’s alignment by firing a high-powered laser at it from a ground-based Goddard telescope.

The mission operations and science teams are also finalizing plans to calibrate several instruments, including the Magnetometer, Energetic Particle and Plasma Spectrometer, and Mercury Atmospheric and Surface Composition Spectrometer during approach and departure observations of Earth and the Moon.

MNA/Xinhua



Zhang Xinquan, 39, drags a 24-ton train forward for more than 50 metres with one ear in Dehui, northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 1 June, 2005. Zhang started learning kungfu (Chinese martial arts) at the age of eight. He can also drag a 45-ton train with a bowl attached to his stomach. — INTERNET

Switzerland steps up anti-smoking efforts

GENEVA, 1 June — Switzerland is stepping up efforts to control smoking as it marks the World No Tobacco Day on Tuesday.

“This year we are focusing on two themes. One is how parents can set a good example to their children not to smoke. The other, which is from the WHO (World Health Organization), is how health professionals can help against tobacco,” director of the Swiss Association for Smoking Prevention, Verena El Fehri, told reporters. The remarks came after the association had launched a contest to encourage smokers — particularly parents — to kick the habit and the Swiss Federal Health Office last week launched a campaign to clamp down on passive smoking in the workplace.

In the association’s contest, smokers are encouraged to give up smoking for a

month — from June 6 to July 5. If successful, they could win a total of 5,000 Swiss francs (4,050 US dollars) prize, with 10 persons each winning 500 Swiss francs (405 US dollars).

The association is also emphasizing how health-care professionals can help people stop smoking.

Earlier, the WHO said that support from health professionals is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing smoking. A Swiss Government report said almost half the working population was exposed to smoke at the office, but that the effects of passive smoking — lung cancer, heart problems and asthma — were often underestimated. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Govt bans screening of tobacco products

NEW DELHI, 1 June — Indian Government on Tuesday announced a ban on smoking scenes in films and television from August this year and set up a high-level committee to handle surrogate advertising.

“Government has notified additional rules that ban screening of tobacco products by characters in movies or television. The notification comes into effect from 1 August, 2005,” Joint Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Bhawani Tyagarajan told reporters here on ‘World No-Tobacco Day’

MNA/PTI

WHO awards Indian doctor for anti-tobacco activities

NEW DELHI, 1 June — An Indian doctor is among the recipients of the World Health Organization’s awards for contributing to the area of tobacco control.

The Indian, Professor Rama Kant, is a surgeon and has been involved in anti-tobacco activities with a number of anti-tobacco organizations, a WHO release said here on Tuesday. Among the other awardees are Indonesian Heart Foundation, Dr Nyo

Nyo Kyaing from Myanmar, and Sanchal Tulabordee from Thailand, it said.

Director-General’s special award was gone to Professor Nurul Islam of Bangladesh while the second special award has gone to Dr. Gines Gonzalez

Garcia, Minister of Health, of Argentina.

World Health Organization gives public recognition to eminent people working in the field of tobacco control each year on the occasion of the ‘World No Tobacco Day’.

MNA/PTI

South Africa’s population grows to 47 million

JOHANNESBURG, 1 June — South Africa’s mid-2005 population is estimated at approximately 46.9 million, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) said on Tuesday.

Stats SA said that Africans are in the majority — approximately 37.2 million — and constitute about 79 per cent of the total South African population.

The White population is estimated at 4.4 million, the coloured population 4.1 million and the Indian/Asian population 1.1 million, according to the or-

ganization.

“It will be observed that the population estimates for 2005 are lower than previously published. This is primarily a result of additional information about mortality now available to Statistics South Africa,” Stats SA said.

The data reveals that 51 per cent (about 23.8 mil-

lion) of the population is female.

The provincial estimates show that KwaZulu-Natal has the largest share of the population (20.6 per cent), followed by Gauteng (19.2 per cent) and Eastern Cape (15.0 per cent). Northern Cape has the smallest share of the population (1.9 per cent). — MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe commemorates “World No Tobacco Day”

HARARE, 1 June — Zimbabwe Health and Child Welfare Minister David Parirenyatwa on Tuesday called for strong advocacy from stakeholders and the government to tackle health challenges caused by smoking tobacco.

In a speech read on his behalf by Deputy Director for Skin Diseases and Prevention Stanley Midzi, at the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day, Parirenyatwa said although the issue of tobacco was a sensitive one linked to political and economical considerations, he was aware of the negative consequences posed by tobacco.

“My ministry is aware of the negative consequences of tobacco and we have reviewed and strengthened policy regulation on tobacco con-

trol,” he said. Zimbabwe, like other countries that are yet to ratify the Convention Framework on Tobacco Control, will be economically affected if stronger policy implementation measures are not put in place.

Meanwhile in a speech read on his behalf, the World Health Organization director for Africa, Luis Sambo, noted the need for the African region to directly confront smoking related diseases since tobacco consumption was a preventable cause of death.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

FIFA urges World Cup teams to fight against racism

GENEVA, 2 June — World soccer governing body FIFA on Wednesday called on teams taking part in World Cup qualifying matches this month to say no to racism and discrimination.

FIFA decreed that team captains in both semifinals of the Confederations Cup on June 25 and 26 will make statements rejecting racism just before kick-off, in its annual anti-discrimination day.

Their squads will carry "Say No to Racism" banners, while similar action will be taken during the quarterfinals of the World Youth Championship in the Netherlands on June 24 and 25. The move follows a spate of racist incidents that marred matches in Europe over the past season.

"Racism is still rearing its ugly head

in society and unfortunately, football is not immune to this scourge," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

"Thankfully, we are not powerless against this blight. Sport — and especially football — has the unique ability to use its unifying power to combat social ills such as racism and violence," he added. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Tiger Woods, seen here May 2005, Vijay Singh and Ernie Els headline the field for the PGA Tour's Memorial, where many in the star-studded cast will already have one eye on the upcoming US Open—INTERNET

Chelsea, Cole, Mourinho guilty of breaching Premier League rules

LONDON, 2 June — Jose Mourinho, Ashley Cole and Chelsea have all been found guilty of breaching Premier League rules following allegations of the London club "tapping up" the England defender.

An independent commission gave their verdict after meeting at the Premier League's Headquarters in London on Wednesday. All three parties are expected to receive unprecedented fines of up to 250,000 pounds (455,000 dollars) when their punishments are announced later on Wednesday, although they will have 14 days to appeal against those punishments.

Cole, who is under contract at Arsenal until 2007, jettied in from New York to attend the meeting just hours after playing for England in Tuesday's 3-2 win over Colombia.

He was found in breach of Premier League rule K5, which prohibited him from approaching any other club with a view to negotiating a transfer, without permission from Arsenal.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Croatian Sokota joins Porto

LISBON, 2 June — Croatia international Tomislav Sokota, who used to play for Benfica, signed Wednesday a four-season contract with Porto, according to the web site of the Portuguese club. Sokota underwent Wednesday the medical examination before signing the transfer at the facilities of Dragon Stadium, the Porto venue.

The Balkanic player arrived in Portugal for the 2001-2002 season to play for Benfica, transferred from Croatia Zagreb, although he did not have much action with the Lisbon team. Last season Sokota scored 11 goals in 29 Portuguese league matches with Benfica, but during the second half of the season he played with the B team— *MNA/Xinhua*



Japan's Shinobu Asagoe, left, and Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik as they face Meghann Shaughnessy of the US, and Russia's Nadia Petrova in their women's double quarterfinal match for the French Open tennis tournament, at the Roland Garros Stadium, on 1 June, 2005 in Paris. —INTERNET

Ancelotti safe at Milan

ROME, 2 June — Coach Carlo Ancelotti will not be sacked after AC Milan lost the Champions League to Liverpool, Deputy Chairman Adriano Galliani said on Wednesday in Milan.

"I bet my life Ancelotti's going to be confirmed," Galliani said on the sidelines of a meeting of the Italian Football League, of which he is chairman.

Robinho, whose full name is Robson de Souza, has played a key part in Brazilian Santos' revival in recent years. Sergio Ramos, full-back of Seville, is another name considered by Real for next season, although Sacchi said "the team needs to be reinforced in the midfield."

He also made reference to the statement by Jose Maria Gutierrez "Guti" who said the best thing was to leave Real Madrid.

"One must always respect what a player wishes to do, but it is a pity he wants to leave. I wish he waits a little beat before taking a final decision. He

has said that he is 29 years old and that he wants to play, but that in a team with players like Figo, Zidane and Raul, that is very difficult," said Sacchi.

Figo is another player who could leave the team in the coming weeks. "He has a contract with us and I expect he stays, for he is a great player to us. I believe his future depends more on him than us," said Sacchi.

Regarding Iker Casillas, Sacchi said: "Casillas could continue improving as he is very young. I trust that there will be no problems with him. He must learn some more things, for instance the control of the ball with the feet. I never saw a goalkeeper to stop so many balls. In five months he has played as many games as those of the goalkeepers I had in Milan in five years." — *MNA/Xinhua*

Barcelona's Gerard to move to Monaco

MADRID, 2 June — Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Gerard has signed a four-year deal with French Ligue 1 side Monaco, his agent said on Wednesday.

"He was in Monaco early this morning to pass a medical and then flew back to Barcelona where he signed all the papers that will see him join the team for the next four years," Jose Maria Orobitz said. Gerard's contract with Spanish champions Barcelona expires at the end of June.

The 26-year-old had been in talks with Barca over a possible contract renewal but the recent signing of Dutch international midfielder Mark van Bommel from PSV Eindhoven pushed him further down the pecking order at the Catalan club. Gerard, who won six caps for Spain in 2000, underwent surgery on a groin injury last November and played only 13 league games for Barca this season. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Juventus FC's Alessandro Del Piero holds a replica key of a Nissan car presented to him during an MVP award ceremony after a friendly soccer match against J-League Yokohama F Marinos at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 1 June, 2005. Del Piero scored a goal to beat the Japan's soccer club 1-0.—INTERNET

I'm not quitting, says Schumacher

BERLIN, 2 May — Seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher is having a great time racing despite not winning a grand prix this season.

Brushing off questions about whether it was time to quit now that a pack of younger Formula One drivers have beaten him in all seven races this year, Schumacher told Tuesday's Bild newspaper that he was not thinking about retiring. "Let me say this more clearly so you can write it down: I'm not thinking about quitting," said the 36-year-old, who is having his worst start to a championship.

"I've always said that I'd retire if I couldn't keep up with the younger drivers," Schumacher said when asked about past interviews in which he indicated he would quit if drivers came along who were better than him.

ALONSO: The Spaniard is 43 points in front of Michael Schumacher in the battle for the drivers' title. "That's different than what's happening now. I'm very much able to keep up with them. In all honesty, with all the duels going on right now, racing is a lot more fun for me than a lot of people would imagine."

Schumacher, the oldest man on the F1 circuit, is the most successful driver in the history of the sport. But his chances of taking an eighth drivers' title faded fur-

ther on Sunday when he finished fifth, nearly a minute off the pace at the European Grand Prix. He is 43 points behind Spain's championship leader Fernando Alonso.

"I'm a realist and can evaluate my chances better than anyone on the outside," he said when asked why he looked so relaxed on Sunday despite the defeat.

"Naturally I'm always trying to do the best I can but sometimes the best isn't enough. I can accept that."

Schumacher was almost invincible last season, winning 13 of 18 races, but has managed a second place only once this year, behind Alonso in San Marino.

The German, whose contract expires at the end of next season, said he did not think this was the toughest time in his Ferrari career. "The beginning at Ferrari was much harder because we weren't really competitive. In my eyes we definitely are (competitive) now even if that doesn't seem to be the case on the outside.

"It was harder back then because the pressure after so many unsuccessful years was so much greater than it is now.

"I'm not even close to giving up the title," he said. — *Internet*

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌသောရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများမပမ်းရန် ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂/၉၇)

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အဆိုပါတားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုလုပ်ငန်းဥပဒေပုဒ်မ ၄၂၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၅ ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားစွဲဆို အရေးယူခြင်း ခံရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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NZ committed to Pacific fight against HIV/AIDS

WELLINGTON, 2 June — New Zealand has committed to fighting against HIV/AIDS in the Pacific and would continue its assistance to it, Aid Minister Marian Hobbs said on Wednesday.

“This is our neighbourhood and New Zealand is working actively with our Pacific partners to address the challenges HIV/AIDS brings,” said Hobbs at a regional meeting on HIV/AIDS here.

New Zealand is spending approximately 26.2 million NZ dollars (19 million US dollars) a year on HIV/AIDS related activities, according to the minister. Recently, the country has provided 2 million NZ dollars (1.4 million US dollars) to United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to help prevent HIV/AIDS affecting children in the Pacific.

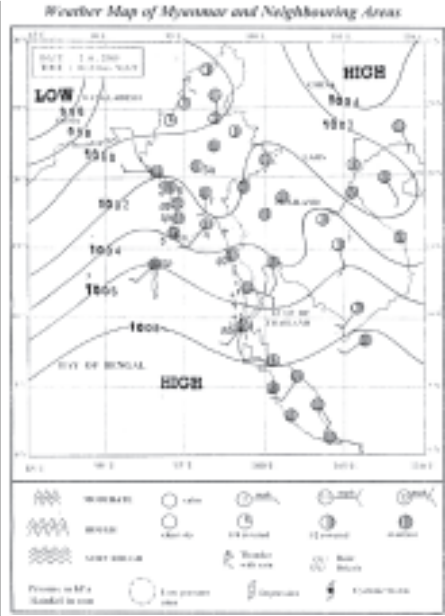
The programme involves initiatives preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mothers to children and teaching life skills to adolescents.

“We are also supporting the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF) to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS

and their families, and preventing the further spread of the disease in the Pacific,” said Hobbs.

NZAID, the country’s aid and development agency, contributes 175,000 NZ dollars (126,000 US dollars) annually to a unique project in Fiji that distributes safe sex information and condoms discreetly through the mail system. Hobbs expected the aid to increase over coming years with significant growth in aid spending covered by recently-announced budget.

“The cornerstone of our support is to help implement the Pacific’s own regional strategy on HIV/AIDS. Funding of this initiative is currently being finalized and is likely to be substantial,” said Hobbs. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 2 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin States and lower Sagaing Division with locally heavyfall in Mandalay Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yaw (4.25) inches, Dawei (3.27) inches, Yamethin (2.68) inches, Meikhtila (2.13) inches and Co Co island (2.09) inches.

Maximum temperature on 1-6-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 2-6-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-6-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 1-6-2005 was (0.9) hour approx. Rainfalls on 2-6-2005 were (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.16 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (8.47 inches) at Yangon Airport, (8.07 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (3.98 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (17:50) hours MST on 1-6-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Shan States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States and Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Earthquake report

(Issued at 04:30 hours MST on 2nd June 2005)
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (825) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (02) hrs (39) min (24) sec MST on 2nd June 2005.



Friday, 3 June View on today:

- 7:00 am**
 1. ဂျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဂ္ဂရာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အရမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာ ဒီပဲယော် ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
 5. လှုပ်ရှားပွဲနှင့် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:05 am**
 6. အတီးပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
 7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

- 8:20 am**
 8. ရန်ပုံပြည်နယ်အရှေ့ပိုင်း၊ နမ့်မွေ တံတား
- 8:30 am**
 9. International news
- 8:45 am**
 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
 5. အခင်းသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရက်စွဲ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ မူဝါဒ၊ အထူးပြုများ) (စောဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm**
 6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm**
 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:35 pm**
 8. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန် အားကစား အစပြုခြင်း
- 5:45 pm**
 9. လက်အင်္ကျီပေးပို့စာတေး

- 5:50 pm**
 10. “သတင်းကောင်း” (သျှားညို၊ ဆုန်လွှာ၊ ဖွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)
- 6:05 pm**
 11. Musical programme
- 6:15 pm**
 12. Discovery
- 6:20 pm**
 13. သက်တံ့ရောင်စဉ်
- 6:30 pm**
 14. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
 15. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
 16. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းခွဲ “ရန်ပေးညီမ” (အပိုင်း-၃၆)
- 7:35 pm**
 17. Song of yesteryears
- 8:00 pm**
 18. News
- 8:05 pm**
 19. International news
- 8:10 pm**
 20. Weather report
- 8:15 pm**
 21. Myanmar video feature: “အသိုက်” (လွင်နိုး၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်သိ)
- 8:20 pm**
 22. The next day’s programme



Friday, 3 June Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: Lonely
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: Love changes
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music: I won't say I'm in love
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music: I'm no rock fellers
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music -Do I love you -Where do you go? -What can I do? -How do I live
- 9.00 pm** World of music -Songs from “Korea”
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request -Good sign -First love -I will still love you -Radio Heart -Angel
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Commander meets with departmental personnel, passengers bound for Cocogyun Township

YANGON, 2 June — Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, met with departmental personnel who will discharge their duties in Cocogyun Township and passengers at the meeting hall of Coastal Division at Thakayta Wharf of Myanmar Five Star Line in Thakayta Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were No 2 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Managing Director U Khin Maung Kyi of Myanmar Five Star Line, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, divisional level departmental officials and local authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the departmental personnel and passengers would take a trip soon to Cocogyun Township by Haka Vessel of Myanmar Five Star Line. Despite being a most distant township from Yangon City, progress in education, health, economic and transport sectors has been made in Cocogyun Township thanks to concerted efforts of officials and local people. For better transportation, preparations are being made for extension of the existing airport in the township.

He continued to say that daily newspapers are in circulation with the use of data broadcasting method to disseminate update knowledge to the local people. And, the plan is under way to enable the local people to enjoy programmes of Myawady TV.

He added that at present, concrete bridges have been built for smooth transportation in the township. It is necessary to extend more acres of pepper for the increase of income. In conclusion, he urged the departmental personnel to join hands with the local people for development of the township with goodwill.

Next, Deputy Head of Cocogyun Township General Administration Department U Myat Kyaw introduced departmental personnel bound for Cocogyun Township to the commander individually.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe provided cash assistance

— K 64,000 for 32 departmental personnel who were assigned duties to Cocogyun Township; K 39,000 for 39 passengers; and K 1,500 each for 176 staff in the township — to officials.

The commander and officials inspected onboard Haka Vessel at which Managing Director U Khin Maung Kyi of Myanmar Five Star Line briefed them on convenience of passengers on board and smooth transportation of commodities. After giving necessary instructions, the commander cordially conversed with the passengers. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets with the departmental personnel posted to Cocogyun Township. —MNA

Kyaukyedwin overpass project inspected

YANGON, 2 June — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Chairman of Yangon City De-

velopment Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected Kyaukyedwin overpass construction project being

implemented by Myanmar Railways, in North Okkalapa Township, this morning and gave necessary instructions.

The minister and the mayor were welcomed by the officials who reported on construction of road to North Okkalapa township,

the road to downtown Yangon and the road linking Mayangon Township and Kyau-kyedwin Ward, progress in building the

main overpass and construction of concrete floor, fixing the steel frames for pedestrian way on both sides of the overpass and the future tasks.

Next, the minister gave instructions to the officials on carrying out the task speedily, systematically, growing of flowery plants and meeting the set standard of the road construction. Now, 65 per cent construction work of Kyaukyedwin overpass project has been completed and great efforts are being made to be able to put it into service as targeted.

CITY NEWS



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect Kyaukyedwin overpass project. — YCDC

Boost oil production to meet local demand

YANGON, 2 June — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi observed drilling of a new test well at Mann oil field in Minbu Township, Magway Division, on 30 May.

Officials explained the drilling of the new wells and maintenance of the existing wells. The minister said that staff should work

with might and main in exploring and drilling oil and boosting production during the short-term five-year plan to meet the local demand.

During inspection of a workshop at the oil field, the minister observed the repair of drilling equipment and parts.

Yesterday, he visited the No 1 test well at

Kyundaw field, in Migyaungye and heard a report on drilling work, future work programmes and sand layers where oil can be found.

Brig-Gen Lun Thi said that staff should strive to drill down to the designated depth as the soil has bright prospects to discover oil. Preparations should be made from now on to drill more wells in the rainy season, he added. He then observed the drilling of the test well with National 55-7 drilling machine.



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects the drilling of Kyundaw test well No 1 in Migyaungye, Magway Division. — ENERGY

INSIDE

The NLD used to say that it made overtures to the Government for a dialogue, but the latter rejected them.

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