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Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Member of CPVCC President of VFF Central Committee and party

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Prime Minister General Thein Sein received visiting Vietnamese delegation led by Member of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee President of Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Mr. Huynh Dam at the hall of Government Office here this morning.

Also present at the call were USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, Secretariat member U Kyaw Hsan, CEC members U Tin Naing Thein and U Than Htay, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung.

MNA

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Member of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee President of Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Mr. Huynh Dam at the hall of Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Bangladeshi FM and party

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received visiting Bangladeshi delegation led by Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni at the hall of Government Office here at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department and Director-General U Kyaw Tin of Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charge d' Affaires ai Mr. Md. Golam Mostafa and Defence Attaché Brig-Gen A.N.M Shawkat Jamal, ndc, psc of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. – *MNA*

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni at the hall of Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 16 May, 2009

Strive together for harmonious development across the nation

The government is making all-out efforts to bring about harmonious development throughout the nation.

Under the project, Kayin State saw remarkable progress in the education, economic, social and health sectors after 1988.

In Kayin State, there are 1269 basic education schools plus one technological university and one university of computer studies, and with those educational institutions local national race youths are now enjoying greater opportunity to pursue education within their own regions.

Kayin State still has virgin and fallow land where the agricultural sector can be enhanced on commercial scale. With the advanced cultivation methods provided by the government, efforts are to be made for the development of the agricultural sector, thereby contributing to self-sufficiency in rice and other crops.

In the transport sector, altogether 14 bridges, 180 feet and above long, were constructed in Kayin State, and the transport facilities have enabled local people to travel from one place to another and brought about secure and smooth transport. Meanwhile, Myainggyingu Region is enjoying unprecedented development. This can be attributable to the fruits of mutual trust and understanding and cooperation among the national brethren. The 34 miles long Myainggyingu-Hpa-an Thittsa road is now contributing to regional development.

At a time when work is under way for all-round development in the economic, social, education and health sectors it is incumbent upon the local people to strive together with the government for the development of their own region.

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**

Regional development tasks in Hkamti Township in high gear

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence cordially greets trainees at Training School for Development of Border Areas and National Races in Hkamti.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe and officials, on 10 May morning inspected the training school for development of border areas and national races in Hkamti and presented stationery, sports gear and cash assistance.

At the meeting hall of Hkamti District Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people and presented cash for social organizations, cash for regional development and medical trust funds, stationery for schools and medicines for hospital.

After that, he looked into the water supply tasks in Myoma Ward, Hkamti.

In meeting with officers and other ranks of Hkamti Station and their families, Lt-Gen Tha Aye gave instructions and presented provisions.

On arrival at the Hkamti Airport Runway Extension Project, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on construction of Htamanthi-Leshi road, tasks for extension of the runway and future work, construction of bridges along Thetkekyin-Phaungbyin-Homalin-Hkamti road and Hkamti-Pinma-Htamanthi-Leshi road and gave necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to Mongnaung Village in Hkamti Township where he met with members of social organizations and local people and attended to the needs.

After inspecting the construction of bridges along Hkamti-Pinma road, Lt-Gen Tha Aye presented medicines and medical equipment for Htamanthi Station Hospital and stationery for students.—*MNA*

MoU signed for Bagan and Luang Prabang to be sister cities

The ceremony to sign MoU on recognizing Bagan of Myanmar and Luang Prabang of Laos as sister cities in progress.

CULTURE

YANGON, 15 May —At the invitation of Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Mr Mounkeo Oraboun, Minister for Information and Culture of Lao People's Democratic Republic, wife and party visited Bagan Nyaung U on 12, May.

The visiting Minister and party visited Ananda Pagoda, Dhammayangyi Pagoda, Watgyiin Gupyaukgyi Pagoda and Shwesigon Pagoda and donated cash for the pagodas.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint hosted a dinner to the visiting Minister and party at Golden Palace Hotel in the evening. Fine Arts Department of Ministry of Culture entertained them with songs and dances during the dinner.

U Sann Win, director-general of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and Mr Singkham Phommalath of Luang Prabang signed MoU on recognizing Bagan of Myanmar and Luang Prabang of Laos as sister cities on 13 May. Also present on the occasion were Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, visiting Minister Mr Mounkeo Oraboun and party.

The Laotian Minister and party visited Bagan Archaeological Museum, Bagan Palace Museum of King Anawrahta, Thiri Zeya Bhumi Bagan Golden Palace and the Minister signed the visitors' book. They also visited lacquer handicraft shop in Watgyiin of NyaungU, Myinkaba Gupyaukgyi Pagoda, Sunamani Pagoda, and Pyathatgyi Pagoda.

They came back in Yangon on 14 May and visited Myanmar Gems Museum and National Museum. They also paid homage to Shwe Dagon Pagoda and presented cash.The visiting Minister and party left Yangon for home on 15 May.—*MNA*

A man who was wounded in a suicide car bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 12 May, 2009 lies on a hospital bed. A suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into an Iraqi police vehicle in Kirkuk on Tuesday, killing five policemen and wounding 15 bystanders, police and hospital sources said.—INTERNET

Three militants, security guard killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 May — A clash between Taleban militants and a private security company on Thursday left three Taleban rebels and a security guard dead in south Afghanistan's Ghazni Province, local police chief said.

"The incident took place in Qarabagh district at around 6:00 am (GMT0130) when rebels attacked a logistic convoy escorted by a local security company and guards returned fire, killing three rebels on the spot," Khial Baz Shirzai told *Xinhua*.

One Afghan security guard was also killed while three Taleban and another guard sustained injuries in the firefight, which lasted for a while, he added.

In a separate incident, police encountered a group of rebels in Gilan district of Ghazni Province on Thursday morning, killing one rebel and injuring another, Shirzai said.

South Afghanistan has seen escalating violence and attacks against interest of government and international troops during the past week as a suicide bomber on Thursday morning targeted a police base in Spin Boldak town of Kandahar Province, leaving one police officer killed and injuring five others.—*Internet*

NATO soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL,15 May—A soldier with a NATO-led force helping to fight extremist militants in Afghanistan was killed in a bomb attack, the International Security Assistance Force said on Friday. ISAF did not give the nationality of the soldier killed on Thursday in southern Afghanistan, where most soldiers are American, British or Canadian.

"An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device strike yesterday in southern Afghanistan," it said in a statement that gave no more details.The killing comes amid a spike in attacks linked to an insurgency led by the Taleban, who are most active in southern Afghanistan where the United States has started to deploy most of the 21,000 reinforcements due this year.—*Internet*

Afghan official says 22 Taleban killed in south

KANDAHAR,15 May—A provincial official says 22 Taleban militants, including three regional commanders, have been killed in a clash in southern Afghanistan. Dawood Ahmadi, a spokesman for the governor of Helmand Province, says a band of Taleban fighters attacked two police checkpoints in Helmand's Nawzad district on Thursday, taking control of the stations and forcing the officers to flee.

The police launched a counterattack with the help of an airstrike, killing 22 militants. Ahmadi says officials identified three men who were Taleban chiefs in Nawzad and surrounding districts among the dead. He says no Afghan forces died in the fighting.—*Internet*

A vehicle burns following a suicide attack in the northern city of Kirkuk, 255kms from Baghdad. A suicide bomber aboard a small pick-up truck slammed into an Iraqi police patrol, killing six people and injuring 14, police said.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,295

WASHINGTON, 15 May — As of Thursday, 14 May, 2009, at least 4,295 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,441 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.—*Internet*

NATO aircraft crashes in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 May — An aircraft of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) crashed in Taleban birthplace Kandahar in south Afghanistan on Thursday, a spokesman of the alliance said. "We confirm an ISAF aircraft but not helicopter has crashed and landed in Kandahar today," the spokesman, without identifying himself, told *Xinhua*. However, he ruled out the involvement of Taliban militants in the incident, saying it is not due to Taleban or any other's hostile fire.

The spokesman also added that only the pilot got minor injuries in the incident. The riot in southern Afghanistan has seen escalating since Taleban militants vowed to launch Spring Offensive in late April. On the same day, suicide car bombing targeted a police base in Kandahar killing at least one police and wounding five others.— *Internet*

Over 70 hospitalized as more bad bombs detonated in Dar es Salaam

DAR ES SALAAM, 15 May — More than 70 people have been rushed to the hospital in Dar es Salaam in the aftermath of more bomb blast shocks, local media reported on Thursday.

Local newspapers quoted hospital sources as saying that the patients had been brought in from nearby the Mbagala Military Base where a series of blasts on 29 April have killed 26 and wounded more than 100 others.

These people reportedly suffered from shocks from Wednesday's notified defusion of more bad bombs inside the base. Some of the patients lost their consciousness.

The military authorities on 7 May notified and defused some bad bombs left over from the 29 April blast. The 29 April incidental blast has destroyed 4,636 houses in suburban Dar es Salaam rendering over 4,000 families homeless.

It was the second such incidental blast at a military armory in Tanzania. The other one occurred at the Gongola Mboto military base also near Dar es Salaam in 2000 with no human life loss.

Internet

Afghan schoolgirls lie in bed after admission to hospital with symptoms of poisoning in Charikar, near Kabul on 11 May. –INTERNET

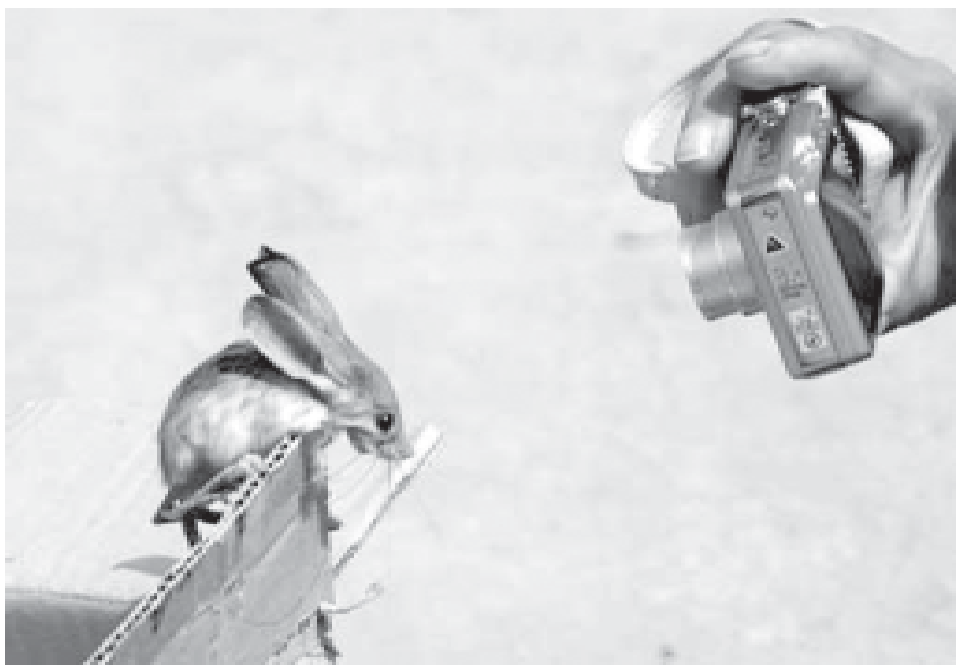
Shanghai Expo opportunity to deepen ties between China, S Korea

SEOUL, 15 May — The upcoming 2010 Shanghai Wold Expo and a similar event in South Korea in 2012 will provide an opportunity for China and South Korea to expand communications, says a South Korean governor.

"History has proven that as long as China and South Korea open their doors and embrace the ocean, the two countries will see the joint prosperity and further development of humanities exchanges," Park Joon-yung, governor of South Korea's Jeollanam Province, told *Xinhua* in a recent interview.

Jeollanam Province, located in southwestern South Korea, has been a regional trade hub since the Tang Dynasty of China (618-907), the governor said.Yeosu, located in southern Jeollanam Province, will host a world expo in 2012.

China and South Korea last year signed several agreements on expo cooperation in a bid to strengthen collaboration, share experiences and exchange information. Since then, the two countries have maintained close cooperation.—*Xinhua*



A tourist takes photo of a Long-eared Jerboa at the scenic spot of the Mountain of Flames (Huoyanshan) in Turpan City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 13 May, 2009. The Long-eared Jerboa, a species on the edge of extinction living in desert habitat, is a mouse-like rodent with a long tail, long hind legs, and exceptionally large ears.—XINHUA

New Zealand to celebrate International Museum Day

WELLINGTON, 15 May — New Zealand's museums will celebrate the country's culture and tourism industry in the form of International Museum Day on Monday.

Museums Aotearoa director Phillipa Tocker said on Friday tourism continued to grow as New Zealand's largest earner despite the economy, and museums played an important part in tourists' experiences.

This year's International Museum Day theme was "museums and tourists".

"Visitors go to museums and art galleries to find out what the local culture, history and people are like, it is a way of developing a sense of place and getting to know somewhere new," the New Zealand Press Association quoted Tocker as saying on Friday.

A number of museums and art galleries around the country were offering special events and tours this weekend and on Monday.

The International Museum Day was established by the International Council of Museums in 1977. — *Xinhua*

Thunderstorms hit US Midwest, three killed

WASHINGTON, 15 May — Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes hit US Midwest on Wednesday night and killed at least three people, leaving thousands of homes without power until Thursday, officials said.

In Missouri, state Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Susie Stonner told reporters that three people died during the storm, including an elderly woman in a mobile home. Six other people were treated for minor storm-related injuries in the state.

At least five tornadoes hit Oklahoma Wednesday night, leaving three people wounded and a town of 6,400 without power. —*Internet*

Iran's presidential hopeful vows to revolutionize "weak economy"

TEHERAN, 15 May — Iran's conservative presidential hopeful Mohsen Rezaei said Iran's "weak economy" is the most important problem and he intends to bring a revolution in the economy, local *Mehr* news agency reported on Thursday.

Addressing a group of people in the town of Roudehen in suburban Teheran on Wednesday, Rezaei, a principal conservative candidate for presidency, said he has made his bid for presidency to make a "revolution" in the country's economy through proper "revised management." —*Internet*

Ecuador to increase troops on northern border with Colombia

QUITO, 15 May — Ecuador announced on Thursday a military reinforcement on the northern border with Colombia to prevent incursions by rebel groups.

Ecuadorian Defence Minister Javier Ponce made the announcement while visiting the Tufino quarters at Tulcan, Carchi Province to check the situation of the northern border.

Ponce said the diplomatic ties between Ecuador and Colombia are not in their best situation to coordinate actions, so all moves to retake the national sovereignty will be based on security.

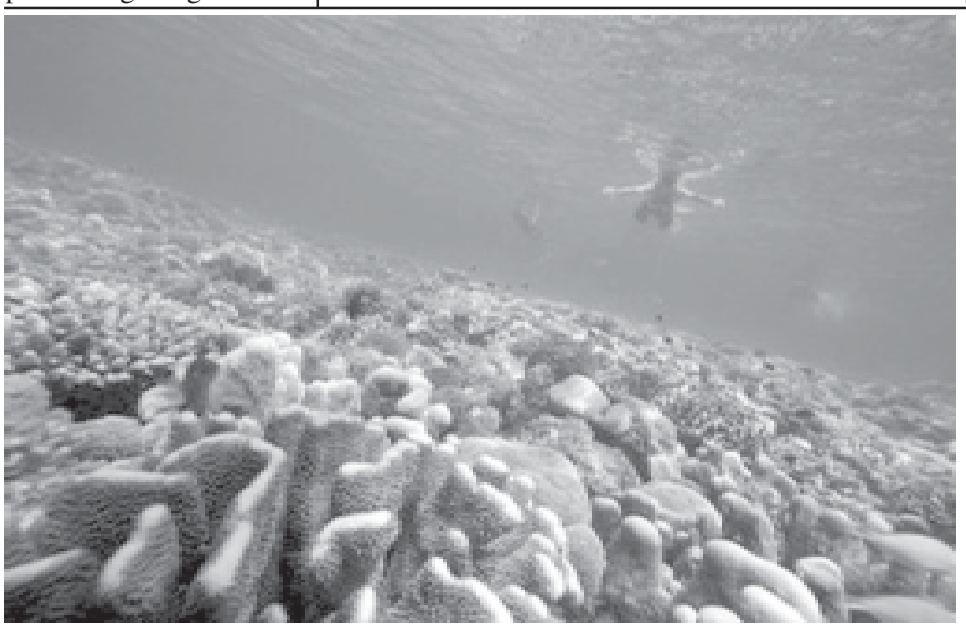
Ecuador broke ties with Colombia on March 3 last year, two days after Colombia bombed a rebel camp located in the Ecuador territory without notifying Ecuador of the operation, a move Quito considered a violation of the Ecuadorian sovereignty.

Xinhua

Survey shows N America hurts environment most

WSHINGTON, 15 May — Canadians rank almost at the bottom — just above Americans, who are the worst — in hurting the environment, a National Geographic Society survey says.By contrast, Brazilians and Indians tied as most "green," the society's annual Greendex tracking survey said.

The survey, conducted by Canadian research company GlobeScan International, examined consumer behaviors in 14 countries that represent more than half of the world's population and use about 75 percent of its energy. The examined behaviors involved housing, transportation, food and consumer goods. Brazil and India each scored 60 out of 100 on a sustainable-consumption scale, the survey indicated.—*Internet*



People swim past corals at the protected Bunaken Island marine national partk in Manado, on 14 May . Rising water temperatures, sea levels and acidity are threatening to destroy the vast region of southeast Asia known as Coral Triangle, labelled the ocean's answer to the Amazon rainforest, according to an WWF report.—INTERNET

Japan to send P-3C aircraft on antipiracy mission off Somalia

TOKYO, 15 May — Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada ordered on Friday to send two *P-3C* patrol aircraft on an anti-piracy mission off Somalia.

It is the first time that Japan has ordered the deployment of *P-3C* patrol aircraft on an overseas mission.

The two antisubmarine and maritime surveillance planes will be deployed in Djibouti to provide patrols in support of the two Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) destroyers escorting Japanese-related ships in the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden.

On Monday the defence ministry will send an advance team of about 40 people to Djibouti before dispatching the rest of the members to the country.

Having reported his order to the Security Council of Japan, Hamada told reporters that with the dispatch of the aircraft, Japan could more effectively fulfill its important duty of protecting the lives and property of Japanese people.

The surveillance aircraft are expected to begin their patrol mission sometime between early and mid-June. — *Xinhua*

Cannes Film Festival kicks off

BEIJING, 15 May—Cannes lifted off Wednesday with 3D cartoon comedy "Up" as Brad Pitt and Quentin Tarantino and a bevy of auteur directors and megastars lined up for the French Riviera film festival frenzy.

The notoriously extravagant event has toned down the glitz in this time of economic crisis, but there was little gloom here as the crowds gathered to cheer celebrities sashaying up the red carpet for the gala opening.

Isabelle Huppert, the French actress leading the jury that on 24 May will pick the winner from among 20 films vying for the Palme d'Or top prize.

She and her eight-strong team, including Chinese Hong Kong film star Shu Qi, will choose from the work of directors such as Spain's Pedro Almodovar, Palestinian Elia Suleiman, Park Chan-Wook of South Korea and Denmark's Lars Von Trier.

Ang Lee's new film, 'Taking Woodstock" and "Spring Fever" directed by Beijing filmmaker Lou Ye are also competing at the event.

Xinhua

Creators and their family memebers of the 3D animated movie "Up" pose during the screening of their movie on the opening night of the 62nd International Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 13 May, 2009.—XINHUA

Folic acid cuts babies' heart defects

BEIJING, 15 May — Canadian researchers suggest folic acid, a type of vitamin B, reduces the risk of newborns being born with congenital heart defects. In Quebec, flour and pasta fortification with folic acid since 1998 dropped heart defects each year among the babies. "Our study offers new evidence regarding the benefits of the mandatory fortification policy, which is important both for the countries that are currently considering starting such a policy and for the countries that have already implemented it and are currently monitoring and evaluating its implementation," said lead researcher Raluca Ionescu-Ittu, a doctoral candidate at McGill.

Congenital heart defects are rare, but when they occur, they are severe and costly, she said. "If you can reduce such a significant abnormality by doing something as simple as a public health intervention by increasing folic acid in the grain supply and encouraging individuals to take folic acid supplementation, it's a win-win situation," she said.—*Xinhua*

Lula hopes to boost strategic partnership with China

FLORIANOPOLIS, 15 May—Brazil hopes to vigorously strengthen its strategic partnership with China, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said here on Thursday. China is now Brazil's largest trading partner, but the potentials for their cooperation could be 10 times bigger than the current trade volume between the two countries, Lula said. Brazil-China cooperation is of strategic importance for both sides," Lula told *Xinhua* at a tourism conference.

Lula said he was "very optimistic" about the prospects of the cooperation between his country and China. Lula, who is scheduled to visit Beijing on Monday, said he hoped his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao could make a tour to Brazil within the year.

Government representatives and medical and tourism experts from more than 30 countries Thursday met in Brazil's tourist resort of Florianopolis for a two-day Global Travel and Tourism Summit. Top on the agenda of the meeting will be the impacts of the current A/H1N1 virus on global tourism as well as sustainable development of the tourism industry.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

US spy accusation "totally made up"

BEIJING, 15 May—Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said on Thursday claims that a Chinese agent had been involved in espionage by a US defence official were "totally made up". The remark came a day after US officials said a senior Pentagon employee had been charged with conspiracy to pass classified information to an agent of China.

"We urge the United States to abandon its Cold War mindset, stop its groundless accusations against China and do more to improve mutual trust and friendship between both peoples," Ma said at a regular press briefing in Beijing. Retired air force Lieutenant Colonel James Wilbur Fondren, a deputy director of the US Pacific Command's Washington Liaison Office, was accused by the U Justice Department of leaking classified information to China between November 2004 and February 2008.—*Xinhua*

Bombs targeting ex-Philippine governor convoy kill one

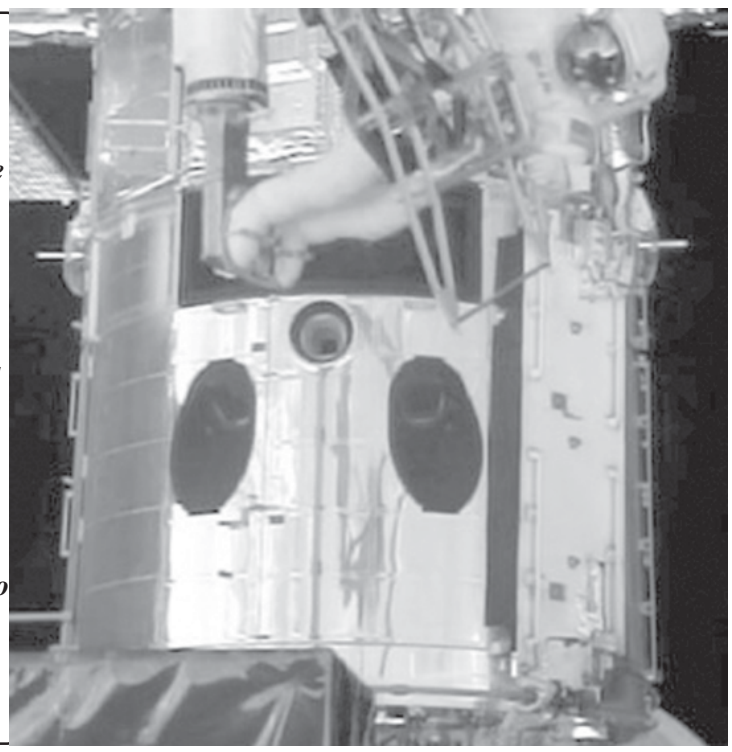
SHARIFF AGUAK, 15 May—Three home-made bombs exploded in a row in a southern Philippine town on Friday morning, leaving one dead and three others wounded as the convoy of an ex-governor passed by, a military official said.

Lt Col Jonathan Ponce, a spokesman of the military in Mindanaoregion, said Andal Ampatuan, former governor of Maguindanao province, survived the attack that was apparently targeting him. The bombs, which went off along a main road in Shariff Aguak town, were fashioned by 81mm mortar shells, the military said.

"The ex-governor has just left his house and on his way to his farm along with a ten-vehicle convoy when three successive blast went off along the highway in the village of Bagong," town councilor Iyo Kutob told *Xinhua* here. "It was the fourth vehicle, a red Nissan pickup, hit in the blast. A militia escort of the government died and three others were hurt in the attacks," he added.

It was the second bombing attack targeting high ranking officials in Mindanao region. On Tuesday, another explosion occurred near the governor's office in Sulu but Governor AbdusakurTan escaped the apparent assassination attempt. No one claimed responsibility for either attack.

Xinhua



Spacewalker Drew Feustel, attached to the robot arm, secures the Wide Field Planetary Camera into Atlantis's payload bay in this image from NASA TV on 14 May, 2009. The Wide Field Planet Camera allows large-scale, clear and detailed photos to be taken by the Hubble Space Telescope.
XINHUA

US astronauts install new camera for Hubble Space Telescope

WASHINGTON, 15 May—A pair of US astronauts on Thursday conducted the first spacewalk of space shuttle Atlantis' Hubble-upgrade mission, installing a new camera in the Hubble Space Telescope.

Astronauts John Grunsfeld and Andrew Feustel floated from the airlock of the shuttle Atlantis at 8:52 am EDT (1252 GMT) to begin the spacewalk, which lasted about seven hours and 20 minutes. Besides installing the camera, they also replaced a science data-handling unit that broke last fall and hooking up a docking ring so a robotic craft can guide Hubble into the Pacific years from now.

US shuttle Atlantis lifted off Monday with seven-member crew onboard from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on a mission to upgrade the 19-year-old Hubble Space Telescope for the last time.

Hubble, launched by NASA in 1990, was named after US astronomer Edwin Hubble whose work revolutionized our understanding of the size and structure of the universe. After its first two months of tests in 1990, the initial images from Hubble were a blurry disappointment. A slight flaw in the telescope's main mirror — barely the width of a human hair — fouled the observatory's vision.

Xinhua

Sunglasses have health benefits

NEW YORK, 15 May — Two US ophthalmologists say wearing protective sunglasses helps preserve eye health.

Dr Donald J D'Amico and Dr Stephen Trokel, both of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center, warn overexposure to the sun can not only cause skin cancer of the eyelids, but cornea sunburn and vision-blocking tissue growth. It has also been implicated in the development of cataracts and, possibly, macular degeneration.

"There are strong indications that chronic exposure to the components of sunlight may accelerate aging of ocular tissues," Trokel says in a statement. "Any protective eyewear should have side shield protection or wrap around the eye so light cannot enter the eye from side reflections."

The doctors advise to get sunglasses:

— That are labeled "over 95 percent UV protection."

— That have a lens tint — such as neutral gray, amber, brown or green — that blocks 80 percent of transmissible light, but no more than 90 percent to 92 percent of light.

— That can be worn over contact lenses because sunglasses help prevent the drying effects of warm wind.

— For infants because eyes should always be shaded from direct exposure to the sun.

Internet

DASH diet lowers heart failure risk

BOSTON, 15 May — Women who followed the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension diet to lower blood pressure halved their rate of heart failure, US researchers said.

Senior study author Emily Levitan of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston said the DASH diet is plentiful in fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy products and whole grains, while using less salt, sugar, red meat and processed meat.

The study, published in *Archives of Internal Medicine*, found women with DASH scores in the top 10 percent had fully half the rate of heart failure compared with the one-quarter of participants with the lowest scores.

"These foods are high in potassium, magnesium, calcium and fiber, moderately high in protein, and low in saturated fat and total fat," Levitan said in a statement. "Those women whose diets most closely resembled DASH had the lowest risk of heart failure.Very few of the women we looked at had diets that shared all aspects of the DASH diet, but we found that the closer they were, the lower their risk of heart failure."—*Internet*

France tops gold medal winners at wine challenge

LONDON, 15 May — France topped the list of gold medal winners at the 26th International Wine Challenge (IWC) unveiled at the London International Wine Fair this week.

France won 49 gold medals, closely followed by Australia with 43 golds and Portugal with 36 golds in a competition of wines from 41 countries across the globe that were tasted by panels drawn from almost 400 experienced wine judges.

The IWC, an influential independent wine competition, awarded 304 gold medals, 1,304 silvers and 2,154 bronze medals to wines entered into the competition. France also led the total medal count with 729 medals, while Australia won 591 and Italy came third with 405.

English wine, which has recently developed a reputation for winning competitions in the sparkling wine category, won a record 24 medals and one gold to Bob Lindo's Camel Valley Bacchus 2007, which the winemaker describes as a modern Sylvaner/Riesling cross that produces wine with a distinctive fruity bouquet and a grapey flavour. —*MNA/Reuters*

Coral Triangle countries to enhance cooperation in rescuing coral reefs

MANADO, 15 May — Leaders from Coral Triangle countries on Friday signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in rescuing the regional coral reefs in Manado of Indonesia's North Sulawesi Province.

They were President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines, President Jose Ramos Horta of Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Michael Somare, the Solomon Island's Prime Minister Derek Sikua and Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Razak.

The signing marked an official cooperation among those countries for a brighter future for all people of the Coral Triangle. An Indonesian official said, in the signing ceremony, Malaysia pledged to contribute 1 million US dollars for the CTI.

Tengku Faizasyah, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson told *Xinhua* that the pledge would be very useful for the initiative to carry out its programmes. Faizasyah also said that the action plan agreed in the summit would be the guide line for the next "more directive cooperation."

"We managed to lift the coral reef issue that is very important in our civilization to the international core agenda. And, the six countries involved in the cooperation will focus on the cooperated areas," he said.— *Internet*

NEWS ALBUM

David Merlini keeps submerging in a crystal watertank in Manama, capital of Bahrain. Merlini submerged Sunday in that crystal watertank for a total time of 21 minutes and 29 seconds, which transcended the original world record of 18 minutes and 3.69 seconds.

Woman kept her mother's body to collect benefits

A Florida woman kept her dead mother's body in a bedroom for six years in order to receive more than 200,000 US dollars in pension benefits, according to US prosecutors.

Penelope Jordan, 61, was indicted by a grand jury last week and formally charged in a federal court Thursday with Social Security fraud and theft of US funds, officials with the Department of Justice said.

Police found the decaying body of her mother, Timmie Jordan, on a bed in a spare bedroom at the mother's home in late March, when they were called to investigate a report of nuisance cats.

Penelope Jordan told police her mother had died in 2003. Jordan collected 61,415 dollars from Social Security and 176,461 dollars from the military pension during the six years, prosecutors said. She could face up to 15 years in prison.

A combination photo shows a humanoid robot named "Saya" making facial expressions as she takes on a role as a school teacher, during a demonstration at an elementary school in Tokyo. The robot, developed by the Tokyo University of Science professor Hiroshi Kobayashi, which can speak different languages and make facial expressions with motors inside her face. Saya is seen making the expressions (From L to R) happiness, surprise, anger, disgust and fear.

Indonesia launches Southeast Asia's biggest marine park

Indonesia has opened Southeast Asia's largest marine park in the Savu Sea, a migration route for almost half the world's whale species and home to vast tracts of rare coral, the country's Fisheries Minister said.

Environmental groups, The Nature Conservancy and WWF will help set up the reserve, where efforts will be made to stamp out illegal practices such as dynamite and cyanide Fishing. Tourism activities and subsistence fishing by locals will be allowed but restricted to certain areas.

The Savu Marine National Park, launched at the World Ocean Conference in Manado, Sulawesi, will cover 3.5 million hectares (8.649 million acres) in an area of 500 species of coral, 14 species of whales and 336 species of fish living in the Savu Sea near Flores in eastern Indonesia.

A Eastern Grey kangaroo shot in the head with an arrow being rescued by Wildlife Victoria officers. The kangaroo — now called Beau — was operated by Melbourne Zoo veterinarian Michael Lynch, and will be monitored for the next three weeks.

Kangaroo survives arrow through head

Australian wildlife officers say a kangaroo survived for up to a week after being shot through the head with an arrow and is expected to make a full recovery.

Wildlife Australia has posted a 10,000 dollar (7,600 US) reward to find the people responsible for shooting the kangaroo, which was found in parkland near Melbourne's outer suburbs last on Thursday.

Veterinary surgeons from Melbourne Zoo operated on the stricken marsupial over the weekend and were optimistic about his chances.

"This was a big injury, but because the arrow didn't seem to have been in there for a long time, and the injury was fresh, hopefully he'll be okay," Melbourne Zoo vet Michael Lynch told reporters.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about the kangaroo's prospects for a full recovery."

Wildlife Victoria spokeswoman Fiona Corke said the kangaroo was rescued just days after another kangaroo was found with an arrow in its rump in the same location.

Htithein Water Supporting Dam to supply sufficient water to Taunggyi dwellers

Article: Win Kyaw; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Water is essential to the daily life of humans. The water sources in the environs of human society are natural rainwater, underground water, irrigation water and lake water. Consumption of clean water is important for life and health of the human beings.

On 7 May, the news crew of Myanma Alin Daily arrived at Taunggyi. We, the news crew observed the arrangements of Taunggyi Township Development Affairs Committee under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs to supply the water needs of the dwellers.

Junior Engineer (2) U Zaw Win.

In November, the town can receive the largest amount of rainfall and total of 50 inches. Taunggyi located on 6.13 square miles is formed with 22 wards. There are over 18,000 houses in the town. The local people consume 3,925,000 gallons of water per day.

The Township Development Affairs Committee is supplying 1,320,000 gallons of water per day (33.6 per cent) from seven lakes of the water sources and 25 tube-wells to the local people. Moreover, social organizations are also supplying 1,295,000 gallons of water (33 per cent) daily from 10 ponds, 1,774 tube-wells and 2,946 artesian wells to the dwellers. Therefore, Taunggyi thus requires 1,310,000 gallons of water (33.4 per cent) more daily.

For supplying water to the people, two oval shape lakes were built near Taunggyi. These lakes are supplying 29 million gallons of water. Similarly, Htithein Dam built in 1967 is also undertaking the water supply task.

Htithein Dam can store 161 million gallons of water and supply 250,000 gallons daily. The 19,000 feet long 18-inch diametre concrete pipeline was laid for supply of water in the urban area.

From July to October every year, the water sources store water for the town. During the months of April, May and June, only least amount of water can be supplied to the people. As the increasing population consume more water, Htithein Water Supporting Dam is under construction near Htithein Dam, upstream of Htithein Dam.

Heavy machinery being used at construction of Htithein Water Supporting Dam.

While visiting the site of Htithein Water Supporting Dam, we saw land preparations for the construction task with the use of heavy machinery. We had an interview with Junior Engineer (2) U Zaw Win of the Township Development Affairs Department who was supervising the construction tasks.

He said, "Construction of Htithein Water Supporting Dam commenced this month. We set the plan to complete the construction tasks within four months. The catchment area of the dam will be 1.50 square miles. The earthen embankment will be 42 feet high and 420 feet long. The dam will store 270 acre feet (73 million gallons) of water at the full brim. The conduit will be of reinforced concrete."

Land preparations being made for construction of Htithein Water Supporting Dam near Taunggyi.

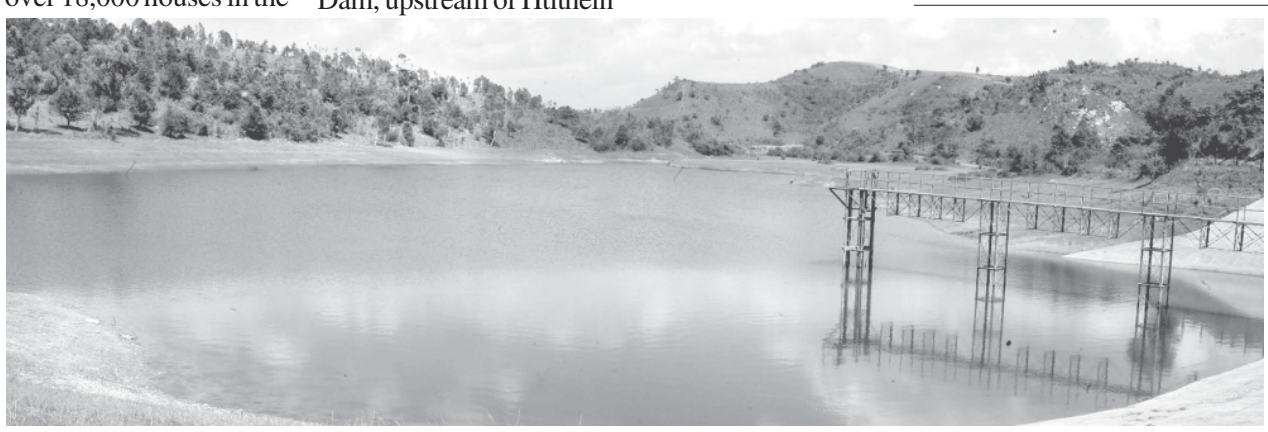


Photo shows Htithein Dam, a water source for Taunggyi dwellers.

To enable the local people to sufficiently consume water, the Township Development Affairs Committee spends its funds on construction of Htithein Water Supporting Dam. It was estimated that the total amount to be spent on the construction tasks will be K 108 million.

Water is the daily basic need for all the human beings. If it is inadequate for water consumption from the existing water sources, it is necessary to seek the various ways and means for supply of water to the increasing population. During the visit to Taunggyi, we witnessed the all-out efforts of the Township Development Affairs Committee to supply water to the local people.

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Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 11-5-2009

Prime Minister hosts luncheon to Member of CPVCC President of VFF Central Committee and party

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Prime Minister General Thein Sein hosted a luncheon in honour of Member of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee President of Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Mr. Huynh Dam and goodwill delegation members at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at 12.30 p.m. today.

Also present at the luncheon were Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, Secretariat member U Kyaw Hsan, Central Executive Committee members U Thein Nyunt and U Tin Naing Thein.

The Vietnamese guests were accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr. Chu Cong Phung.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein hosts luncheon to member of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee President of Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Mr. Huynh Dam and goodwill delegation members. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence views thriving rubber plantation in Thekkaw Village of Thanbyuzayat Township.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw views development tasks in Khawza

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and officials arrived at Khawza on 13 May morning.

The chairman of the Township PDC reported on facts about the town.

After giving instructions on regional development, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw cordially greeted those present.

At Khawza Hospital, he presented cash assistance to the patients.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected Ye Station and cordially conversed with family members of the station.

At the rubber plantation of U Maung Kyi in Thekkaw Village in Wewinkara Village-tract in Thanbyuzayat Township, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports on growing of rubber plants in the township presented by the Mon State Manager of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw viewed production of rubber and gave instructions on innovative measures to be taken for producing quality products.

In the evening, they arrived back in Mawlamyine.—*MNA*

Bio batteries distributed to villages in Lewe Township

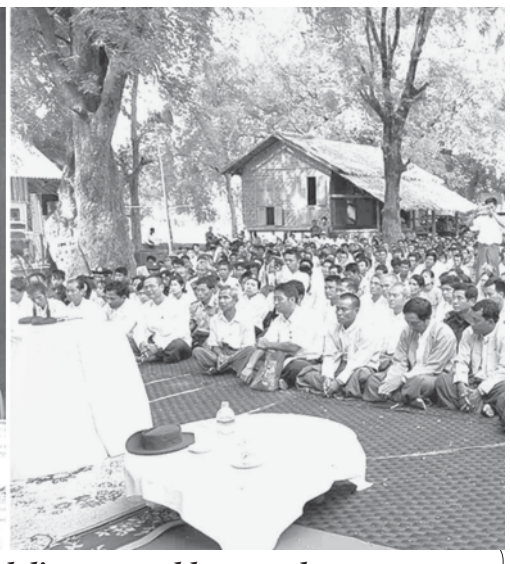
NAY PYI TAW, 15 May — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended the ceremony to present bio batteries for lighting in villages held at Hteinin village, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw District here this morning.

It was attended by district-level departmental officials, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council, members of social organizations, farmers and guests.

At the ceremony, the chairman of Township PDC explained facts about the use of electric power in the Township and arrangements made for supply of electric power in all villages. After that, the commander presented ready-made bio batteries to the village heads.

The commander made a speech and viewed the bio batteries put on show.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivers an address at the ceremony to present bio batteries for lighting in villages at Hteinin village in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township. — MNA

Today Book Store's special sales

YANGON, 15 May—With the aim of sharpening the reading skills of children, as special sales for children, Today Book Store, Quality Book Store and Pyae Sone Book Store will put books for children on special sales at a 10-percent discount from 15 May to 15 June.—*MNA*

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views rice samples displayed at Rice Production and Export Development Meeting.— MNA

Domestic rice supply well exceeds demand and rice…

(from page 16)

state/division PDCs, representatives of wholesales centres, and officials from the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Greater Development

The Secretary-1 in his speech called for seeking better ways and means for parallel development of processes of production and export of rice.

He said that the nation's economic objective is "development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well" and to transform itself into an industrialized one.

As part of the plan, the government is increasing paddy sown acreage, and so far, the paddy sown acreage of the whole nation is more than 20 million. And it has constructed 358 dams and 322 river water pumping stations and sunk 7927 tube-wells that benefit 5.56 million acres in total. Moreover, 33 dam projects are ongoing and many other dam projects are on target, and on completion, the facilities will help increase the acreage of irrigated farmlands. The agriculture sector has made significant progress thanks to reclamation of vacant lands, boosting per acre yields, new dams, and practice of multiple-cropping patterns. As a result, now rice supply well exceeds the demand in the nation, and export of rice is on the increase year by year.

The drive for greater agricultural development calls for effective practice of mechanized farming, choice of high-yield paddy strains, use of fertilizer and pesticides, systematization of production processes, and use of advanced agricultural methods.

In order to further boost paddy production, the government is fulfilling requirements such as distribution of seeds of high-yield strains and advanced methods, supply of irrigation water, and providing agricultural loans and materials. However, that is not enough yet. The agricultural sector will make greater progress if entrepreneurs, and rice dealers and exporters help attend to the needs of farmers.

The government has bestowed free trade of rice upon merchants in the interest of farmers, merchants and consumers. There will be greater benefits in trade of rice if farmers, merchants and dealers cooperate instead of trading rice in a conventional way. And it is required to help fulfil the financial requirements of farmers.

In the process, it is needed to generate mutual interest without burdening the farmers. Moreover, the government will have to supervise the processes in order that entrepreneurs and merchants will make reasonable profits.

There will be greater benefits in trade of rice if farmers, merchants and dealers cooperate instead of trading rice in a conventional way.

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those present at Rice Production and Export Development Meeting.— MNA

Today, leading companies have come into existence region-wise. The development of the agricultural sector will pick up greater momentum only if the government, farmers, and merchants and entrepreneurs cooperate in harmony. Apart from that, it is needed to effectively manage the processes of milling, export of rice.

Measures are to be taken to sell agricultural produce at reasonable prices not only in the domestic market but also in the international market, to ensure quality rice is produced in accord with the international demand, to keep the already-achieved market firm and expand the market and to try to win the trust and reliance of customers. Next, the Secretary-1 invited those present to cordially discuss matters for boosting production of rice.

Then, he cordially greeted those present and viewed marine products, export items, plastic raw materials, fertilizers, pesticides and rice samples. The first session of the meeting them went into recess.

At the second session, Director-General of Agricultural Planning Department U Tin Htut Oo discussed cultivation and production of rice, the importantance of use of quality strains in rice trading and use of fertilizers and pesticides. Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Kyaw Htoo discussed production of internationally marketable rice and condition of rice exports and rice market.

Afterwards, Manager Dr Ye Tint Tun of Myanma Agricultural Service read the paper on production of paddy seeds of high-yield strains; Manager of MAS Dr Kyi Myint on production and use of effective fertilizers; Assistant Manager of MAS Dr Aung Swe on prevention of pests by using pesticides and public safety consumption; General Manager of PTAC (1) of MAPT U Soe Win on quality control after harvest and plans for systematic storage of rice; General Manager of PTAC (2) of MAS U Myint Win on milling of marketable quality rice and plans for improving technology for milling rice; General Manager U Toe Aung Myint of MAS on condition of global rice market, plans for producing marketable quality rice of international standard; Dr Myo Aung Kyaw and U Thaung Win of Myanmar Rice Millers Association on effective use of driers and plans for raising quality of rice by milling and producing steamed rice; Dr Maung Aung of Study Group of UMFCCI on importation of fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and quality strains; Chairman of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association U Aung Than Oo on reduction of transport charges and production costs in growing and producing rice; Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Bank U Tin Lwan and U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Danubyu Gold Delta Co on condition of rice production costs and providing agricultural loans for farmers; and Director U Thein Zaw of the Central Bank of Myanmar on plans for providing capital for production of rice.

Then, representatives from UMFCCI, rice companies, rice exporting companies, state/division peace and development councils, division level managers of MAS and MAPT and departmental officials raised queries and took part in the discussions.

Later, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gave supplementary reports.

MNA

14 members and 23 family members totaling 37 from batallion-201 and batallion-16 led by Saw Sein Maung Htay with the rank of Captain from KNU's Central Special Batallion join Htot-kawkoe village.

(News on page 16)

MNA

37 members from batallion-201 and batallion-16 led by Saw Sein Maung Htay with the rank of Captain.

(News on page 16)

MNA

President of VFF Central Committee arrives

YANGON, 15 May—A goodwill delegation led by Member of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee President of Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Mr Huynh Dam arrived here by air at 6.30 pm on 13 May to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar.

They were welcomed by CEC members of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aung Thein Lin and U Than Htay, officials from USDA headquarters, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and embassy staff at Yangon International Airport.—*MNA*

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winner books on sale

YANGON, 15 May—Books that won Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Award of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under Ministry of Information are on sale now.

Those books are "Lotus in Flame" by Athok Maung Win Yaung, "Artistes that innovates Myanma Dramatic Arts" by Tin Aung Thwin, "Mindfulness and other short stories" by Nanda Khin (Thakala), "Copyright and Innovations of Myanmar Arts" by U Moe Win Myint(Science &Technology), "Future Economy of Myanmar and Breeding of Ostrich" by Aung Kyaw Phyo, "Nutrition and Health" by Dr Aye Kyaw, "Influence of Natural Environment on Health" by Dr Myint Than, "Patriotic Poems for Children of the Golden Land" by Aung Kyaw Hsan, "Through the Road of Thorns" by Myoma Hla Maung, "The History of North West Gate" by Maung Nwe Than.

Those books are available at Sarpay Beikman book shops in Thapyaygon Market in Nay Pyi Taw, on Merchant Street in Yangon and Sarpay Beikman agents in respective towns.

MNA

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, a delegation led by Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh arrived here from Yangon by air today on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister U Nyan Win and responsible officials of the Ministry. Minister Dr Dipu Moni was accompanied by special envoy to the Foreign Minister Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla, Director General Mr Md Enayet Hossain, and officials from Bangladesh Embassy.

Minister Dr Dipu Moni and party paid a courtesy call on Minister U Nyan Win at the ministry. The visiting Foreign Minister held bilateral talks with U Nyan Win. At the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed further strengthening of the friendly relations, promoting trade and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and party called on Minister for Energy Birg-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo separately and discussed mutual interest of the two countries.

In the evening, Minister U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and party at Golden Guest Hotel here.—*MNA*

***Minister U Nyan Win and party hold discussions with Bangladeshi delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni.* —MNA**

WHO says H1N1 flu cases, death toll rise

GENEVA, 15 May — The number of confirmed cases of the new Influenza A/(H1N1) flu has climbed to 6,497, including 65 deaths, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

The number of countries reporting confirmed cases remains at 33, with the vast majority of cases in Mexico and the United States, the WHO said in a twice-daily update.

The latest update appeared before a meeting of experts later on Thursday by the WHO to decide whether drugmakers should switch production of flu vaccine to deal with the new outbreak, widely known as swine flu, from seasonal flu.

Seasonal flu kills 500,000 people a year, mainly the elderly or those with respiratory problems like asthma. So the WHO will want to be sure that the H1N1 outbreak poses a severe threat before recommending the switch.

MNA/Reuters

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 15 May — A Royal Marine has been killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

The soldier from the Royal Marine Armoured Support Group died following an explosion while travelling in a Viking vehicle near Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province on Thursday.

"We are numb with grief at this loss of a noble Marine, who served his country for the good of the Afghan people," said spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Richardson. "Our thoughts and prayers and with his family, friends and colleagues who feel the greatest loss. He will always be remembered as a true hero."

MNA/Reuters

Rocket departs French Guiana on Big Bang mission

SAN JUAN (Puerto Rico), 15 May— A rocket carrying the largest telescope ever has launched into space on a mission that European scientists hope will help unravel the mystery of the universe's creation.

The Ariane-5 rocket was loaded with the Herschel space telescope and the Planck spacecraft, carrying a payload of 5.3 tons (4.81 metric tons) when it launched from the city of Kourou Thursday near the jungles of French Guiana.

The Herschel will study the formation of stars and galaxies, while the Planck will gather data on remaining radiation from the Big Bang, the massive cosmological explosion that many scientists believe formed the stars and planets.

Dozens of officials with the European Space Agency, which is sponsoring the mission, clapped and hugged each other as the telescope and craft separated successfully about 25 minutes after takeoff.—*Internet*

This photo provided on 14 May, 2009 by the European Space Agency shows the Ariane-5 rocket taking off in Kourou, French Guiana, Thursday. European Space Agency has launched a space telescope and a spacecraft meant to gather information about the Big Bang cosmic explosion.—INTERNET

Li Shuangjiang, a famous Chinese tenor vocalist, sings enthusiastically and emotionally in his personal vocal concert in Beijing, on 14 May, 2009. Li Shuangjiang is joined with his comrades and students to present the audiences with PLA-featured and revolutionary songs.—INTERNET

A first grader from St Jude School, in Bridgetown, Ohio, observes a polar bear at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in Avondale, Ohio, on 7 May, 2009, during a school field trip. — INTERNET

Malaysia confirms 1st A/H1N1 case, New Zealand adds two

HONG KONG, 15 May — Countries in Asia and Pacific region are facing increasing threat from A/H1N1 influenza Friday as Malaysia reported its first case and New Zealand added two more.

Malaysian Health Ministry's Director General Mohd Ismail Merican Friday issued a statement to confirm the first influenza A/H1N1 case in the country. The case involves a student who had just returned from the United States.

Malaysian Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai, who was on transit in London en route to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the World Health Organization (WHO) General Assembly, also confirmed the case, according to Malaysia's national news agency Bernama.

Ismail Merican, said the young man was hospitalized on Thursday for fever, sore throat and body aches.

Tests confirmed that he was infected with the A/H1N1 virus and is receiving anti-viral treatment, but in stable condition, Ismail said.

Internet

Support for UK Labour party drops to 22%

LONDON, 15 May — Support for Britain's ruling Labour Party has dropped to an all-time low of just 22 per cent, according to a YouGov survey for the *Sun* newspaper which asked how people would vote in a general election.

The poll, details of which were published on Friday, put the Conservatives on 41 per cent and the Liberal Democrats, Britain's second opposition party, on 19 per cent.

The voting intentions would be enough to give the main opposition party a landslide victory if repeated at a parliamentary election due by mid-2010. The YouGov poll, which sampled the views of 1,814 UK adults, follows several days of embarrassing revelations over parliamentarians' expenses.

The results compare with a BPIX poll for the Mail on Sunday which gave Labour 23 per cent support with the Conservatives on 45, and with an earlier YouGov poll for the *Sunday Times* which put Labour's support at 27 per cent, 16 points behind the Conservatives.

The YouGov poll for the *Sun* also shows Labour floundering ahead of elections next month for the European Parliament.

Asked how they would vote in the June 4 European elections, 29 per cent said Conservative, 20 per cent Labour and 19 per cent LibDem. —*MNA/Reuters*

Director Kore-Eda Hirokazu (2nd L) poses on the red carpet with cast members Itao ItItzuji (2nd R), Arata (L), and Doo Na Bae (C), as they arrive for the screening of the film "Kuki Ningyo" at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival on 14 May, 2009. Twenty films compete for the prestigious Palme d'Or which will be awarded on 24 May. The man on the right is unidentified.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (447)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (447) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANSA LONDON VOY NO (2045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANSA LONDON VOY NO (2045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.T.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.a

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MAXICON CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9018)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIANA BREEZE VOY NO (2)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIANA BREEZE VOY NO (2) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 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.a

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADE MARK CAUTION

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, U.S.A., with offices at 5959 Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Texas 75039-2298, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

EXXONMOBIL

Reg. No. 4892/1999

in respect of "Olefins, aromatic hydrocarbons, solvents for industrial use and polymers. Brake fluids and hydraulic fluids for general use. Preservatives against rust. Cleaning fluids. Gasoline, diesel fuel; aviation fuels; transmission fluids, lubricating oils and greases for industrial, marine, aviation, agricultural, automotive and other vehicular applications; heating oil; kerosene; propane; agricultural oils; cutting oils; circulating oils; insulating oils; refrigeration oils; compressor oils; turbine oils; process oils; turbo oils; heat transfer oils; hydraulic fluids; waxes; refined petroleum base stocks. White mineral oils used in pharmaceutical preparations; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides. Magnetic-striped credit cards and debit cards; magnetic data carriers. Periodical publications, printed matter; stationery; nonmagnetic credit cards and debit cards. Polyolefin films, polyolefin in bars, blocks, pellets, rods, sheets and tubes; synthetic rubber and rubber substitutes, leather and imitation leather, and goods made of these materials and not included in other classes; travelling bags, umbrellas and parasols. Asphalt. Clothing, headgear. Retail services, advertising. Financial affairs. Car wash services. Providing of food and drinks".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon. Dated: 16 May 2009

DRIVE WITH CARE

Invitation to Tender

Sr. No	Description	Qty	Issuing Date	Closing Date
1.	Grinding Media (Ks/FE)	7 Items	14.5.2009	1.6.2009

Tender forms and documents are available at the Procurement Department, Myanma Ceramic Enterprise, Ministry of Industry (1), Office No 41, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who purchased Tender Documents officially. (For further details, contact telephone number. 067.408298)

Myanma Ceramic Industry

New York City to close three more schools over flu fears

NEW YORK, 15 May—New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Thursday that the city will close three more schools in its Queens borough due to reports of many children with flu-like symptoms.

"Though there might be some inconvenience, this is the best procedure, to close these schools for public safety and the continued safety of the families involved," Bloomberg said. The three Queens schools, IS 238 in Jamaica, PS 16 in Corona and IS 5 in Elmhurst, have a combined student population of more than 4,000 and will be shut down for at least a week.

At IS 238, city health officials said four students and an assistant principal have tested positive for the H1N1 virus. Since 6 May, a total of 50 students have been sent home from IS 238. Officials said the assistant principle, now on a ventilator, is in critical condition.

Late last month, two other schools in Queens, St. Francis Prep and PS 177, were closed following outbreaks of the A/H1N1 virus. Some students at St Francis Prep visited Mexico and some children at PS 177 had siblings studying at nearby St Francis.

Internet

Seven new A/H1N1 flu cases confirmed in Britain

LONDON, 15 May—Seven new A/H1N1 flu cases were confirmed in Britain on Thursday, bringing the current total number of confirmed cases in the country to 78.

A statement from the Department of Health said: "The Northern Ireland Executive announced a case earlier today and there are six cases in England: three children and two adults in the London region and one adult from the East of England. Of these, four are linked to previously confirmed cases and the other two are returning travellers."

So far, all infections in Britain have been "mild", and cases have been diagnosed and treated early, which have reduced the severity of symptoms and helped to limit the spread.

The Department of Health added that "It is right to prepare for the possibility of a global pandemic. The UK's arrangements are continuing to ensure that we are well-placed to deal with this new infection."

Internet

Peru confirms first case of A/H1N1 flu

LIMA, 15 May—A Peruvian woman was infected with the A/H1N1 flu after she came back from a trip to the United States, the country's health minister said on Thursday. This is the first confirmed case in Peru.

The 27-year-old woman returned home on 9 May and tested positive the following day, Oscar Ugarte told reporters.The woman's symptoms have been largely relieved and was quarantined at home, the minister said.

There are altogether 9 cases of suspected cases in the country. Since April 23, Peru has put the international airport of the capital Lima under a 24-hour monitoring and tested thousands of people from the United States and Mexico, worst-hit areas by the flu outbreak.

Internet

Mexican port may have $10 ml in loss due to flu

MEXICO CITY, 15 May—Mexico's Ensenada port could lose as much as 10 million dollars this year as cruise ships avoid docking amid fear of A/H1N1 flu, a tourism official from Baja California state said on Thursday.

"There is only one confirmed case in Baja California," Oscar Jesus Escobedo Carignan told the Press. Earlier on Thursday, Mexico's Health Ministry said the nation had 64confirmed deaths of A/H1N1 flu and 2,565 infected cases.

Tourism is one of the sectors in Mexico that is estimated to suffer most in the wake of the flu as tourists are unlikely to revise travel plans a second time if they have already cancelled their trips.

Internet

Bizarre bird gets its own private Indonesian beach

JAKARTA, 15 May — A species of birds that are able to fly immediately after hatching from eggs buried beneath the tropical sand have just been given their own private beach in eastern Indonesia, a conservation group said Friday.

Maleos — chicken-sized birds with black helmet-like foreheads — number from 5,000 to 10,000 in the wild and can only be found on Sulawesi island. They rely on sun-baked sands or volcanically heated soil to incubate their eggs.

The US based Wildlife Conservation Society said it has teamed up with a local environmental group to purchase and protect a 36-acre (14-hectare) stretch of beach in northern Sulawesi that contains about 40 nests.The environmental groups paid $12,500 for the beach-front property on remote Sulawesi, one of Indonesia's 17,000 islands, to help preserve the threatened species.

"The protected area is already helping raise awareness about this bird," said John Tasirin, WCS program coordinator on the island, adding that is especially significant because humans are the greatest threat to the maleo's survival.Villagers often dig up the eggs and harvest them for food, he said.

Internet

*A boy wears a protective face mask as he walks past a hospital in Panama City. Scientists need more time to decide whether to mass produce a vaccine against swine flu, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as the number of cases topped 6,000 around the globe.—*INTERNET

Ginseng has an anti-inflammatory effect

HONG KONG, 15 May — The herb ginseng, much used in traditional Chinese and other Asian medicine, has an anti-inflammatory effect, Chinese researchers said.Study leader Allan Lau of the University of Hong Kong identified seven ginseng con stituents — ginsenosides — which showed immunesuppressive effects.

"The anti-inflammatory role of ginseng may be due to the combined effects of these ginsenosides, targeting different levels of immunological activity, and so contributing to the diverse actions of ginseng in humans," Lau said in a statement.—*Internet*

Waitress accused of shooting customer

MANNING, 15 May — Police in South Carolina said a waitress allegedly shot a customer in the arm and struck the customer with the gun during a heated argument.

Crystal Samuel said she was waiting for a takeout breakfast order at the Waffle House in Manning, SC, when a waitress, identified by police as Yakeisha Ward, 29, allegedly told her friends they could not eat their food while waiting for Samuel's order, WLTX-TV, Columbia, SC, reported on Wednesday.

"I said what is your fuss about. I said we haven't paid for our food. She (Ward) said well you all got to leave. How you want us to leave and we ain't paid for the food yet," Samuel said.Samuel said she threw a waffle at the waitress "but it didn't hit her." That's when she (Ward) jumped across the counter and we got into it," she said.

Clarendon County Sheriff Randy Garrett said the women took their argument outside and Ward retrieved a gun from her car. He said Ward's gun discharged during the altercation and a bullet fragment struck Samuel in the arm. Ward also struck Samuel in the head with the gun before deputies arrived and ended the confrontation, Garrett said.—*Internet*

Congenital anemia gene is identified

MONTREAL,15 May — Canadian medical scientists say they have discovered a new gene that's responsible for congenital sideroblastic anemia.

The researchers, led by Dr Mark Samuels, a professor at the University of Montreal, said the rare disease is mainly characterized by the presence of ringed sideroblasts in the patients' bone marrow.

The Genome Canada scientists said they identified three families from the Maritime provinces, each with a child suffering from the disease. Although the families are not officially related, the scientists said it seemed very likely it would be possible to establish a genealogical link uniting them generations ago and that they exhibited what is called a founder effect.

Using new technologies developed by the Atlantic Medical Genetics and Genomics Initiative's molecular analysis team, the scientists said they succeeded in delimiting a genomic region likely to contain the gene responsible for the disease in the families.

"The identification of the causal gene can now offer patients and their family members direct molecular confirmation of their condition, allowing them to know whether they are sufferers or asymptomatic carriers of the disease," the scientists said.

The research is detailed in the early online edition of the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Internet

New laser power meter is developed

BOULDER, 15 May — US National Institute of Standards and Technology scientists say they've created a nanotube coating to enable measurements of high-power military lasers.Researchers said the technology allows the military to quickly and easily calibrate high-power laser systems, such as those intended to defuse unexploded mines.

They said their achievement rests with a novel nanotube-coated power measurement device that can measure the light emitted by 10-kilowatt laser systems — light a million times more intense than sunlight reaching the Earth.NIST-built power meters currently being used are barely portable and operate slowly, the scientists said, noting their new power meter is much smaller and features a new design that enables it to make continuous power measurements.—*Internet*

Optometrists create custom contact lenses

HOUSTON, 15 May — Researchers at the University of Houston's College of Optometry say they have created custom-made contact lenses for people with highly aberrated vision.While the majority of patients with common vision problems can find glasses or contact lenses fairly easily, the researchers said others who suffer from eye diseases that affect the focus of light have more limited options and might have to learn to live with poor vision.

"The lenses we make are made for (the specific patient)," Assistant Professor Jason Marsack said. "It's like putting a fingerprint in the optics … it would not work for another individual with the same disease. It's a custom fit, a designer lens."

Marsack's team is supported by a National Eye Institute grant of $1.25 million, which researchers said will help translate the results the team has realized in laboratory trials into products that will be available for widespread clinical use.

Marsack said the new lenses not only incorporate sphere and cylinder, which are commonly corrected in glasses and contact lenses, they also correct an entire other family of aberrations, which are induced by disease, trauma or surgical interventions.Professor Raymond Applegate said the team ultimately would like to see custom lenses become the standard of care. —*Internet*

*Maria Malina, scientific employee, presents the photo of a carved ivory female figurine during its presentation in Tuebingen, southern Germany, on 13 May , 2009.—*INTERNET

SPORTS

South Africa ready for Confed Cup, says FIFA

JOHANNESBURG ,15 May — With one month until the kick-off of the FIFA Confederations Cup, organisers said Thursday that South Africa was ready to host the event, seen as a dress rehearsal for the World Cup next year.

"We approach the tournament with confidence," said Danny Jordaan, the head of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee.Despite worries about South Africa's alarming crime rate, with an average of 50 murders a day, and a public transportation system that is still being built, Jordaan said the country was ready to host the Confed Cup.

"Our stadiums are ready, our transport and security plans have been fine-tuned and more than 4,000 volunteers have been trained in preparation for the first major FIFA tournament on African soil," he said"We know we still have much to do, but I can assure you we will not disappoint."

Derick Blanckensee of the FIFA competitions division said all four stadiums to be used for the Confed Cup matches were ready, although some of the pitches were still being prepared.

"Some for the stadiums need a little bit more work as there had been a lot of activities especially rugby matches," he said, adding that experts were monitoring the pitches.Organisers also announced that they had hired Grammy-winning artist Lebo M, best known for creating the music to Disney's "Lion King", to stage the opening and closing ceremonies.—*Internet*

Bayern expect top marks from football professor Van Gaal

BERLIN,15 May— Bayern Munich have recruited the football professor they were looking for, but new coach Louis van Gaal will be expected to get top marks from his first day in charge on July 1.

Since former trainer Jurgen Klinsmann was sacked after only ten months in charge, Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had been scouring the continent for a top-level, German-speaking coach to help re-establish Bayern in Europe.

The English media claimed Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger was approached, but there was little realistic chance of the Frenchman relinquishing control at the north London club.

Van Gaal led AZ Alkmaar to the Dutch championship and finally won the title on April 19, while just eight days later Klinsmann was sacked by Bayern following dismal results including an unacceptably early Champions League exit.

Barcelona's 4-0 mauling of Bayern in Spain and subsequent quarter-final defeat was the beginning of the end for Klinsmann.

Internet

Bayern Munich new coach Louis van Gaal.

Wenger vows to crash United title party

LONDON ,15 May — Arsene Wenger has vowed to wreck Manchester United's plans for a Premier League title party at Old Trafford on Saturday.

United need just a point from their lunchtime meeting with the Gunners to wrap up a third consecutive league triumph and equal Liverpool's record of 18 English titles.But Wenger insists his players will be determined to delay the celebrations and claim revenge for their Champions League semi-final defeat by United, which led many to question the Frenchman's reliance on his homegrown youngsters.

"We have a very promising team who can deliver very soon," Wenger claimed Thursday. "If you look at the statistics of the two teams, we have scored a similar amount of goals. In the passing quality in the final third and in the opposition half, we are as good as Manchester United.—*Internet*

Arsene Wenger.

McDonald piqued at trial by TV

***Scott McDonald, has angrily denied trying to injure Lee Wilkie as he faces a potential ban next season for his tackle on the Dundee United defender.—*INTERNET**

GLASGOW ,15 May — Celtic's Australian striker Scott McDonald has angrily denied trying to injure Lee Wilkie as he faces a potential ban next season for his tackle on the Dundee United defender.

The Celtic forward's challenge has been passed on to the Scottish Football Association's video review panel as it was not seen clearly by referee Stuart Dougal, who came under fire from Dundee United boss Craig Levein for failing to stop play immediately so Wilkie could receive treatment.

Internet

Tea for two keeps Federer on rooftop

MADRID ,15 May — Tea with a top Wimbledon official has kept Roger Federer fully informed on the workings of the All England Club's Centre Court roof which gets its trial run on Sunday.

With former greats Andre Agassi, Steffi Graf, Tim Henman and Kim Clijsters set to put the new-look Centre Court to the test, in a sold-out exhibition in front of 15,000 people, Federer will be keeping an eye on the proceedings from Spain where he hopes to be playing in the Madrid Masters final.

"In Australia (Wimbledon chairman) Tim Phillips and I always have tea and talk a little bit," said the Swiss."He explains how it's going to work with the roof and he asked me what I thought."

The five-time Wimbledon champion, who lost his crown to Rafael Nadal last summer, likes what he's hearing.

Internet

Aussies wait on Viduka contract decision

SYDNEY , 15 May — Australia coach Pim Verbeek said on Thursday he would wait until Mark Viduka decides his future with Newcastle United before deciding whether to include him in the squad for next month's World Cup qualifiers.

Verbeek said he was prepared to wait until just before he announces an expanded 25-man squad for Australia's final qualifiers against Qatar, Bahrain and Japan.

Australia's 2006 World Cup skipper comes off his contract with the English club at the end of this month, but said this week that he wanted to stay on with the Magpies.—*Internet*

Australia coach Pim Verbeek said on Thursday he would wait until Mark Viduka, decides his future with Newcastle United before deciding whether to include him in the squad for next month's World Cup qualifiers.
INTERNET

Nadal, Roddick handed Madrid walkover gifts

MADRID , 15 May — Top seed Rafael Nadal and American Andy Roddick reached the Madrid Masters quarter-finals without hitting a ball on Thursday when their scheduled third round opponents pulled out with leg injuries.

World number one Nadal went through courtesy of German Philipp Kohlschreiber's decision not to play, a decision which left thousands of fans frustrated at not seeing their Spanish superstar on court at this troubled event.

Almost simultaneously, sixth seed Roddick enjoyed the same gift when Russian Nikolay Davydenko pulled the plug before their scheduled late-night encounter.Meanwhile, Roger Federer stormed to a 6-2, 6-4 win over James Blake while Scot Andy Murray also coasted into the last eight with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Spanish 16th seed Tommy Robredo.

Federer said he was relieved that none of the top seeds had been affected by the injury plague."I wish that every match could be played out and be finished so the tournament is not going to suffer too much," said Federer."

None of the great, great players had to pull out which is a good thing, which has happened before like in Paris (in 2008) when Rafa and I had to pull out which was kind of tough."

Federer, aiming to lift his first title of the season, and keen to peak in time for next Sunday's start of Roland Garros, was impressive against Blake, whose only win over the Swiss in ten meetings came at the Beijing Olympics.—*Internet*

MR. MONO RANJAN PAUL
(a)
MR. M.R. Paul
Aged 89 years

Beloved husband of (Mrs. C.R. Paul (a) Chabi Rani Paul) of 2nd floor, No. 189 on Seikkantha Street Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Father of [U Ranjit Paul (a) Ran Ju), Rita + Uma Shankar Talukdar (a) U Maung Maung, younger brother of (Mr.S.B. Paul)+Mrs M.L. Paul, uncle of Tapan+Ratna Paul, Swapan+Neli Paul, Sajan+Mita Paul, Anjan (a) T.K. Paul+Deepa (a) Sanda Win, Shipra+Deepak Paul, Shikha Paul, Gouri Paul, Maya+Saroj (a) Sajal Banik, Chaya+(Debu Prasad Banerjee), grandfather of Tanmay, Shanu, Shyoni (a) Guddy, Ananda Sankar, Manisha, Kum Kum, Priya (a) Ya Min Sanda, Sneha (a) May Mya Sanda. Mr. Mono Ranjan Paul peacefully passed away at his residence at 3.40 p.m. on 15-5-2009 (Friday). The funeral will be held at Yayway Hindu Cemetery on 16-5-2009 at 11.00 a.m. (Buses will leave from his residence at 10.00 a.m.)

Bereaved Family

Arizona woman with lung disease dies from H1NI flu

PHOENIX, 15 May—An Arizona woman with underlying lung disease has died from H1N1 flu, health authorities said on Thursday. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health said a woman in her late 40s with underlying lung disease died last week from complications of H1N1 influenza.

The death is the first in Arizona associated with the new flu strain and the fourth in the United States, the department said in a news release. "Unfortunately, we knew this was coming. Flu is serious, especially for those with underlying health conditions," said Bob England, director of Maricopa Department of Public Health.

The H1N1 flu, known as swine flu, has killed 65 people — including 60 in Mexico — and infected nearly 6,500 people in 33 countries, according to the World Health Organization. Common seasonal flu kills up to 500,000 people a year worldwide.—*MNA/Rieuters*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(16.5.2009) (Saturday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

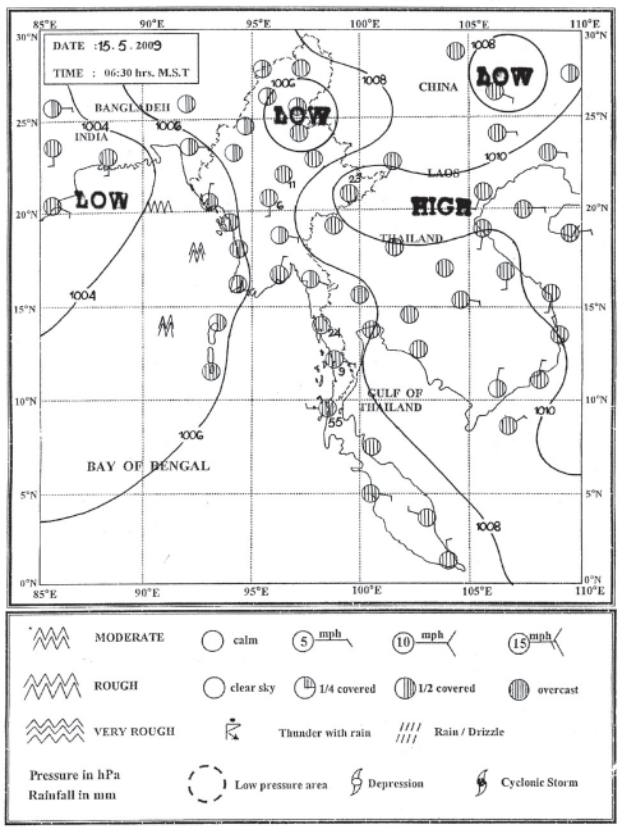
* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Mandalay, The Golden City
* Poem Garden: "School is over"
* A Day in the Life of a Mahout
* Honourable Composer Myoma Nyein (Erythrina Flower)
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Sightseeing around Mandalay (Mandalay)
* A Souvenir of Pathein
* Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
* Exciting Adventurous Journey (Part-II)
* Hot Springs in Lashio and Nam-Kham
* National Herbal Park (Part-I)
* The Incredible Edifice (The Ananda Temple)
* Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh and Seawaters (II)
* Mandalay, The Golden City
* Poem Garden: "School is over"
* A Day in the Life of a Mahout
* Honourable Composer Myoma Nyein (Erythrina Flower)
* National Herbal Park (Part-II)
* Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh and Seawaters (III)
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 15 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon is advancing into the Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine, Mon States and Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Rakhine State,Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, NyaungU and Minbu (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were TadaU (3.23) inches, Shwebo and PyinOoLwin (2.13) inches each and Kanbalu (2.08) inches and Kyaukse (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-5-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 15-5-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-5-2009 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 14-5-2009 was (3.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-5-2009was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (3.43) inches at Mingaladon, (4.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.67) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (11:30) hour MST on 14-5-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast and West Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16th May 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of advancement of Southwest monsoon into the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-5-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-5-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for third weekend of May 2009: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers are likely scattered in Yangon Division, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 16 May
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

7:50 am
5. Musical Programme

8:00 am
6. "မြန်ပြည်တစ်လွှား လမ်းတံတားများ"

8:15 am
7. "စီးဆင်းပါစေမေတ္တာရည်" (မေကဗျာ၊ ဖူးဖူး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော် (ကုမ္ပဏီ)]

8:30 am
8. International News

8:40 am
9. Song of National Races

8:45 am
10. ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:10 am
2. Musical programme

11:20 am
3. Game for children

11:45 am
4. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:30 pm
5. Yan can cook

12:50 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတော့သူ" (အပိုင်း-၄၅)

1:40 pm
7. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ "Telematch"

2:25 pm
8. International news

2:35 pm
9. "မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်"

2:45 pm
10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

3:50 pm
1. Myanmar National League MNL-Cup (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (ဇေယျာရွှေမြေ F.C နှင့် ရန်ကုန်ယူနိုက်တက် F.C)

5:45 pm
2. Musical programme

6:00 pm
3. Evening news

6:30 pm
4. Weather report

6:35 pm
5. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:55 pm
6. ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်

7:15 pm
7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူသက်ထား" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

8:00 pm
8. News
9. International news
10. Weather report
11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "ဒိုင်နိုဆောမိသားစုစွန့်စားခန်း" (အပိုင်း-၇)
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
13. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

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Domestic rice supply well exceeds demand and rice export on the increase year by year

Secretary-1 addresses Rice Production and Export Development Meeting

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses Rice Production and Export Development Meeting.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—The Rice Production and Export Development Meeting took place at the Ministry of Commerce here this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, heads of department, governors and officials of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association, private banks and leading companies, representatives of

(See page 9)

The drive for greater development calls for effective practice of mechanized farming, choice of high-yield paddy strains, use of fertilizer and pesticides.

37 members led by Saw Sein Maung Htay with rank of Captain of KNU together with ten assorted arms and ammunition join Htot-kawkoe Village

YANGON, 15 May—The government is extending a warm welcome to the national race armed groups for the latter to return to the legal fold for national reconsolidation while providing necessary assistance to the national race organizations who have returned to the legal fold out of compassion and understanding.

Realizing the goodwill of the government, altogether 159 members and their families led by Saw Nay Soe Mya of KNU bringing along with them small arms on 30 March joined Htot-kawkoe Village, where the KNU/KNLA Peace Council resides.

Witnessing the taking care of the group of Saw Nay Soe Mya by the government, discord rife among the KNU's remnant groups and realizing that the armed struggle line is of no use to the local people, a total of 14 members and 23 families of battalion-201 and battalion-16 numbering 37 led by Saw Sein Maung Htay with the rank of Captain from the KNU's Central Special Battalion-201 bringing along with them ten assorted small arms and ammunition joined Htot-kawkoe Village where Saw Htein Maung and Saw Nay Soe Mya reside on 13 May.

Officials concerned are making arrangements for providing Saw Sein Maung Htay and his group with necessary assistance.

MNA

Family members led by Saw Nay Soe Mya warmly welcome 37 members led by Saw Sein Maung Htay with the rank of Captain at Htot-kawkoe Village. —MNA