

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King of Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, on the occasion of the National Day of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2007.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Regional development tasks under supervision in Shan State (North)

Providing assistance for students, a helping hand to the government

YANGON, 16 May—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspected regional development undertakings in Shan State (North) yesterday.

In meeting with Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung

Than Htut, heads of department and local authorities in Nawnghkio in the morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed officials to set a target of monsoon paddy acreage in Shan State (North) and to report the percentage of rice sufficiency of the region in the end of the harvest season.

He called for extensive cultivation of paddy in Nawnghkio Township, the entrance to Shan State (North), to help boost paddy production. Ways and means are to be sought for extensive cultivation of three edible oil crops to fulfil the region's edible oil requirement.
(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of Kyinthei Bridge in Hsipaw. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 May, 2007

Produce more local-made spare parts for industrial development

The government has established industrial zones in different parts of the country for industrial development and has been providing assistance for progress of industries related to producing import substitute items. Moreover, it is making endeavours for manufacturing spare parts and machine parts being used in local factories and workshops.

Altogether 1,275 items of various kinds used in factories of the ministries concerned have been produced in the country by local technicians and industrialists through collective efforts. A total of 1,431 items of various kinds are being produced on trial basis.

Manufacturing of accessories and machine parts locally can save foreign exchange. Availability of local-made spare parts in the country contributes towards full operation of the factories and workshops. Emergence of small and medium industries also helps realize the objective to establish an industrialized nation.

Manufacturing of local-made spare parts enhances the skills and technology of local technicians and industrialists and contributes towards the increase of job opportunities and uplift of socio-economic life of the national people.

It is believed that technicians and industrialists are to exert greater efforts for boosting production of accessories and machine parts on self-reliance basis for factories and workshops in the country.



U Kyi Nyunt and brothers of San Francisco donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Home Maj Aung Than (Retd) accepts donation presented by wellwishers. — H

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

U Nyan Lynn presents Credentials to Bangladeshi President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May— U Nyan Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 3 May 2007 in Dhaka.

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Mehmet Cinar Aldemir as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Mumin Alanat.

Mr Mehmet Cinar Aldemir was born in 1946. He obtained his Political Science degree from the University of Ankara. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in 1970 and has served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Turkish Embassies in Germany, Cyprus, Italy, Austria and the United Kingdom. He served as Ambassador and First Legal Advisor to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2004.

Mr Mehmet Cinar Aldemir will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. He is married. — MNA

International Nurses Day observed

YANGON, 15 May — Organized by Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, the International Nurses Day for 2007 was observed at the University of Nursing (Yangon) here this morning.



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe delivers an address at celebration to mark International Nurses Day for 2007. — MNA

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, departmental heads, senior officers of the Institute of Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, members of social organizations at home and abroad, the chairperson, CEC members and members of Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, matrons, nurses and guests.

First, the Deputy Minister delivered an open-

ing speech. Next, Chairperson Prof Dr Daw Khin Nyo presented certificates of honour to donors of Mo Asia Co Ltd (DUMEX) and Myagayha U Kyaw Nyunt of Bahan Township. — MNA

187 drug related cases exposed in April

YANGON, 16 May — The Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 187 drug related cases in April 2007.

These organizations seized 365.4228 kilos of opium in 50 cases, 0.3616 kilo of heroin in 41 cases, 0.6825 kilo of opium oil in six cases, 10.4352 kilos of low-grade opium in 18 cases, 0.8244 kilo of marijuana in nine cases, 365,581 stimulant tablets in 33 cases, 18.45 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, 234 litres of chemical liquid in one case, 178 Zolan tablets in one case, seven cases of failure to register and 12 other cases.

Action was taken against 264 persons — 211 men and 53 women — in 187 cases.

MNA



Kayah State Men's Team in action against Yangon Division Men's Team during the last match of the group of 3rd Inter-State/Division U-18 Men's/Women's Basketball Championship for 2007. — NLM

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hu holds talks with Rwandan President on bilateral ties

BEIJING, 15 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with visiting Rwandan President Paul Kagame on Monday, in which they vowed to pursue opportunities created by the China-Africa summit and boost bilateral ties.

During their talks in the Great Hall of the People, the two state leaders spoke highly of achievements in bilateral ties.

Hu said the two countries enjoy even closer contacts since Kagame came to power, and cooperate in many areas. Kagame

singled out bilateral cooperation in trade, agriculture and infrastructure construction for special mention, adding his country is ready to cement cooperation with China in areas such as investment and communication.

The two presidents agreed to strengthen coordination in international affairs and within the China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

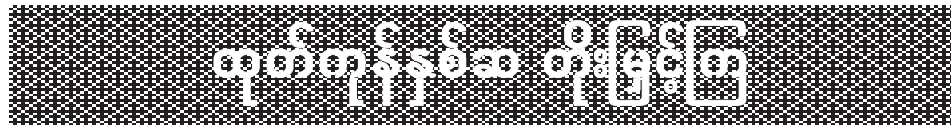
Kagame saluted China's support for Rwanda's social and economic development over the years, reiterating his government's firm

adherence to the one-China policy.

In order to strengthen China-Rwanda all-round cooperation, Hu suggested the two sides reinforce high-level visits and promote cooperation in such fields as trade, investment, agriculture and infrastructure.

China will encourage capable firms to invest in Rwanda, Hu said, suggesting the two countries strengthen exchanges in culture, science, education, health and sports.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets with ADB president Donald Kaberuka in Shanghai on Tuesday. Wen says China will continue to offer aid to African countries through the African Development Bank (ADB) and other institutions. —INTERNET

Iraqi Parl opposes separation wall in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 May — Iraq's Parliament Saturday passed a resolution against the construction of a separation wall in Baghdad and summoned Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to address the nation's security issues.

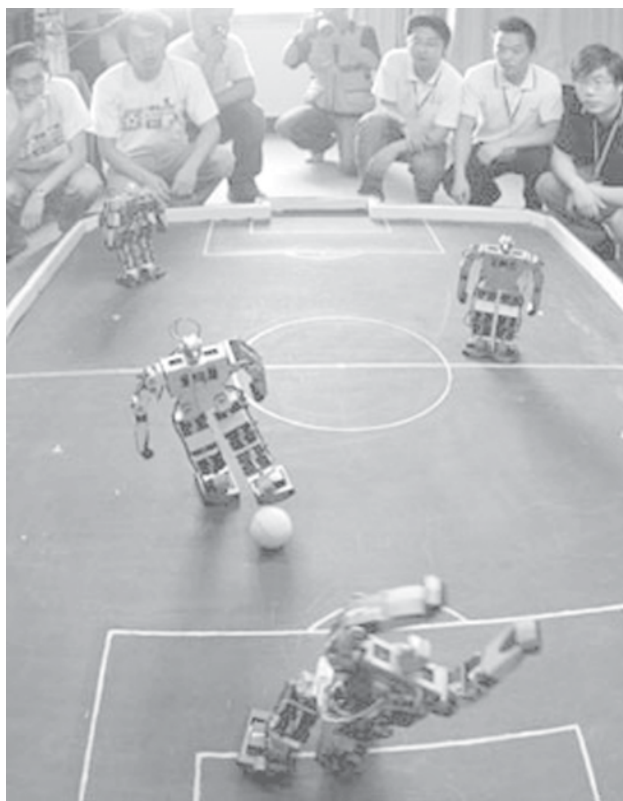
Lawmakers in the 275-member House passed the resolution with a vote of 138 to 88. The legislation still needs the President and his two deputies' unanimous approval for it to become law, otherwise it will be sent back to the House for re-examination.

Citing the need to protect the minority Sunnis from attack, US

troops began in April building a five-kilometre long concrete wall surrounding the northern Baghdad district Adhamiyah, where tit-for-tat sectarian violence is threatening to spiral out of control.

When the wall is finished, Adhamiyah will be completely gated, and traffic control points manned by Iraqi soldiers will provide the only means to enter it.

However, the plan has drawn strong criticism from Iraqi politicians and local residents, who have denounced the move as a form of sectarian discrimination. —MNA/Xinhua



Students and designers for the Harbin Institute of Technology Robot Soccer Team watch a match in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, on 14 May, 2007. —INTERNET

Ahmadinejad calls for US forces to leave Gulf

ABU DHABI, 15 May — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for an end to the presence of US troops in the Gulf during a visit to the US-allied United Arab Emirates on Sunday, an Iranian news agency reported. "With each other's help, we can turn the Persian Gulf to the gulf of peace and friendship," the semi-official *Mehr* news agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying in a meeting with his UAE counterpart Sheikh

Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan. "We all wish that foreign troops would leave the region and give a chance to countries in the region to establish security in the region themselves," *Mehr* quoted Ahmadinejad as saying at the start of his two-day visit, the first to the Gulf Arab country by an Iranian head of state.

Like Iran's other Gulf Arab neighbours, the UAE has expressed concern about non-Arab Iran's nuclear programme.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts north Sulawesi, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 May — An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale on Monday jolted North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, but there was no casualties and material

loses.

The epicentre of the earthquake, which occurred at around 3:00 pm local time, was located in the Maluku Sea, at 1.37 degrees northern Latitude and 126.31 degrees eastern Longitude, *Antara* news agency quoted head of the Manado meteorological and geophysics office Subardjo as saying in Manado, capital of North Sulawesi Province, on Monday.

The depth of the earthquake was 22

kilometres under the Maluku Sea, which is located about 124 kilometres southeast of Bitung City, North Sulawesi Province.

The earthquake was felt by Bitung residents at the second level of Modified Mercalli Intensity.

There was no report from Manado on damage or casualties. Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activities. —MNA/Xinhua



A model presents a creation by American designer Ralph Lauren during his fashion show in the Spaso House, the US ambassador's residence in Moscow, on 15 May, 2007. INTERNET



The cruise ship Empress of the North is circled by a coast guard helicopter as it steams under her own power on Monday, 14 May, 2007 back to port in Juneau, Alaska. The Coast Guard successfully facilitated the evacuation of all of the 200-plus passengers from the ship after it ran aground early on Monday on Hanus Reef in Icy Strait, about 15 miles southwest of Juneau, Alaska. — INTERNET

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Cuba announces purchase of three “TU-204” airplanes

HAVANA, 15 May—Cuba will buy three more passenger airplanes from Russia to renew its aircraft fleet, Cuban aviation officials said Monday.

Cuba has already bought three Russian IL 96-300 passenger airplanes and now it will purchase three TU-204 passenger airplanes to add to its fleet, Cuba’s state

news agency *Prensa Latina* reported.

Cuban Aviation President Arturo Bada was quoted as saying that the planes will be used mainly in the flights foreseen by the Bolivian Alternative for the Americas (Alba) framework promoted by Havana and Caracas.

The Cuban Government increased its aircraft

fleet in 2006 by purchasing from Russia two ATR-72 passenger airplanes and one Ilushin 96-300, Cuba’s Civilian Aeronautics Institute said.

At the beginning of 2007 Cuba announced plans to amplify airports in the country and purchase technology for the aeronautics sector.

MNA/Xinhua

Victim of Australian bully wins \$830,000 payout

CANBERRA, 15 May—An Australian teenager, who as a young child was bullied at school, on Monday won a record court settlement likely to top one million Australian dollars (830,000 US dollars) after a judge said the school failed to step in and stop the abuse.

Benjamin Cox, now 18, was teased from the age of five by an older student at his public school, leaving him

suffering a range of psychiatric problems and robbing him of his adolescence, the New South Wales Supreme Court was told.

Judge Carolyn Simpson on Monday ruled the school had “grossly failed” its duty of care to Cox, and she ordered the state to award him more than 213,000 Australian dollars in damages, as well as weekly earnings for life in a payout set to

top one million Australian dollars.

The court was told Cox was regularly teased by an older bully and was beaten, and on one occasion, the bully tried to strangle Cox, who fell to the ground unconscious.

His mother, Angela Cox, reported the bullying

to the police and to the school, where one teacher said the such incidents were character building, prompting the bully to make a death threat against Cox. “Ben was getting scared, like being pushed into the school walls.”

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh’s exports grow 20% in nine months

DHAKA, 15 May—Bangladesh’s exports grew by 20 per cent to about nine billion US dollars in the first nine months of fiscal year 2006-07, thanks to good performance by apparels, frozen food and footwear, *The Daily Star* reported Monday.

The export earnings fetched about nine billion dollars in July-March period of fiscal 2006-07 (July 2006-June 2007) against 7.5 billion dollars in the corresponding period of 2005-06, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) figures released Sunday.

Despite growth, knitwear missed the export target by 4.3 per cent. Knitwear fetched 3.34 billion dollars against the target of 3.49 billion dollars. “The failure is due to the adverse effect of

labour unrest in the garment sector in May 2006,” said Fazlul Haq, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb attacks kill three in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 May—Two car bombs and a roadside bomb went off in different parts of the Iraqi capital on Monday, killing a total of three people and wounding 20 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A booby-trapped car detonated after midday in a parking lot in the Attar Street in Karradah District in central Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding four others,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

“A second car bomb ripped through another parking lot after midday near the Sakhras Restaurant in the Palestine Street in eastern capital, killing a civilian and wounding three others,” the source said.—MNA/Xinhua



Noh actor Katsumi Endo adjusts his traditional mask as he looks at a mirror before a performance at the Kanda Matsuri at the Kanda Myojin shrine in Tokyo on 14 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Roadside bombing injures NATO soldier in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 May — A roadside bombing injured at least one soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Monday outside Herat City, capital of the western Herat Province, an Afghan official told *Xinhua*.

The attack occurred on a road in Angel District 10 kilometres outside the city, at least wounding one ISAF soldier, said Noor Khan Nikzad, spokesman for provincial police chief.

One ISAF vehicle was destroyed in the bombing, he added.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Taliban militants have carried out similar attacks frequently.

Due to rising Taliban-linked insurgency, over 1,300 persons, mostly Taliban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year. — MNA/Xinhua



Marija Serifovic from Serbia (C) holds the Serbian flag after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in Helsinki on 13 May, 2007. Serbia won the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday with Serifovic beating 23 competitors to clinch victory in a three-hour televised mishmash of power ballads, ethnic rhythms, and bubble-gum pop. — XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS

Poland, Slovenia discuss bilateral EU affairs

WARSAW, 15 May — European affairs, including the EU constitutional treaty, were among the topics discussed by Polish and Slovenian prime ministers, Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Janez Jansa, on Monday.

The Slovenian Prime Minister arrived here for a one-day official visit.

Following their talks,

the two leaders said that bilateral relations are very good and stressed that economic relations have increased by 30 per cent over the past year and will exceed one billion euros in the near future, Polish PAP news agency reported.

Kaczynski said the talks also centred on European affairs, includ-

ing the constitutional treaty as well as EU's neighbourhood policy—relations with Ukraine and Russia, and on Turkey's accession to the Union.

According to Jansa, "the building of European Union's identity after the 2006 enlargement" is in the interest of both countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A staff member displays stamps and an envelope marking the 2007 Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of African Development Bank (ADB) Group in Shanghai, east China, on 16 May, 2007. —XINHUA

Malaysia says to cement energy cooperation with China

SHANGHAI, 15 May — Malaysia's national petroleum corporation said on Monday it was ready to enhance cooperation with China in the energy sector.

Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican, president and CEO of Petronas, said his company had been working with Chinese petroleum companies in Africa and such cooperation would help cement ties between Malaysia and China.

He told Shanghai's vice mayor Feng Guoqin on Monday, that Shanghai was Petronas' first buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on the Chinese Mainland. Petronas would work closely with China to ship LNG from Malaysia to Shanghai before the opening of the World Expo in that city in 2010, he said.

Shanghai LNG Co,

Ltd. reached a deal with a subsidiary of Petronas last year and construction started in January on a Shanghai terminal that will receive LNG from Malaysia starting from 2009 for a period of 25 years.

The project was ap-

proved by the National Development and Reform Commission last December. Shanghai will receive around 1.1 million tons of LNG in the first three years of the contract, with that amount rising to three million tons by 2012.

MNA/Xinhua



Nimra, a one year old cat, sits with her kittens and seven chicks in Amman on 13 May, 2007. Nimra has been taking care of the chicks after their mother's death a month ago. —XINHUA

China's direct investment in Africa exceeds \$6b in last seven years

BEIJING, 15 May — China's direct investment in Africa over the last seven years amounted to 6.64 billion US dollars, a senior researcher with the Ministry of Commerce said on Monday.

Addressing a seminar prior to the 2007 Annual Meetings of the Board of

Governors of African Development Bank Group to be held in Shanghai from 16 to 17 May, Lu Bo classified China's investment in Africa into three categories: aid, external-trade-oriented projects and raw materials development.

According to Lu, China carried out more than 800 aid projects over the past five decades, including 137 agricultural projects and 133 infrastructure

construction projects.

Since 2000, Lu said, Chinese enterprises had contracted to build in Africa more than 6,000 kilometres of highways, 3,000-plus kilometres of railroads and eight large and mid-sized power stations.

Last year, 31 per cent of China's offshore contracted engineering projects came from Africa, Lu said.

MNA/Xinhua

Natural gas reserves discovered in Romania

BUCHAREST, 15 May — Romania's Petrom Co announced Monday it has discovered natural gas and condensed gas reserves in eastern Romania, and exploitation could start by the end of 2007.

The company estimates that, once exploited, the field's daily production of natural gas and condensed gas could reach 130,000 cubic metres and 11 tons, respectively.

"We intend to begin the development stage quite soon, and we expect production to start in late 2007 or early 2008," said Werner Ladwein, a senior Petrom executive. — MNA/Xinhua

Over 6,000 Ethiopia's rural towns to be electrified next year

ADDIS ABABA, 15 May — Ethiopia's Ministry of Mines and Energy said Monday it has plans to electrify over 6,000 rural towns next year.

Minister of Mines and Energy Alemayehu Tegenu told journalists that his ministry has designed massive plans, whose implementation will ensure equitable electric power supply to

all regional states by 2008.

As part of the ministry's Energy Sector Development Programme, a 50-per-cent nationwide electric power services coverage has been envisaged, he said.

Alemayehu said the country's hydroelectric power generation capacity will be grown to 4,000 megawatts from the current 790 upon the

completion of the ongoing hydroelectric power projects in the coming four years.

The plan will help meet energy demands of the agriculture, industry and trade sectors, he said, adding that it is expected to contribute significantly to the nation's attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MNA/Xinhua



Chen Guoguang and his wife, racoon dog breeders in Zaozhuang City, Shandong Province, take "wedding photos" of their animals which will be kept together for mating chance. —XINHUA

Asia to test injectable drug to fight bird, human flu

HONG KONG, 15 May — A new anti-viral drug to treat both bird and human flu, developed by US-based Bio Cryst Pharmaceuticals, will be tested across Asia next month, the pharmacist involved in the trial in Hong Kong said on Monday.

In an earlier animal trial, the drug, peramivir, boosted the survival rates of mice and ferrets infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus.

Some experts say it could be the next-line drug to fight all types of influenza, including H5N1.

The trial will involve people seeking treatment

for seasonal influenza in Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. Half of them will be given peramivir, and the other half a *conventional, orally-administered* flu drug.

Peramivir is a parenteral, or intravenous, anti-viral drug.

“They (BioCryst) will compare which (drug) is better, parenteral or oral, to see which one cures faster, which (type of administration) brings viral loads down faster,” said William Chui of the University of Hong Kong’s Clinical Trials Centre.

Roche Holding AG’s Tamiflu is considered the

first line of defence against bird flu, although early treatment — within 48 hours of the first signs of symptoms — is pivotal.

A death rate of up to 60 per cent has spurred the search for other drugs and vaccines to fight the H5N1 strain, which experts fear could cause a pandemic if it ever becomes easily transmittable among people.

MNA/Reuters



Stars of the ABC show “Women’s Murder Club” (L-R) Laura Harris, Aubrey Dollar, Angie Harmon and Paula Newsome arrive to attend the ABC Network upfronts in New York on 15 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Too many vitamins increase prostate cancer risk

BEIJING, 16 May — Men who take too many vitamins may increase the risk of dying from prostate cancer, according to researchers at the US National Cancer Institute Wednesday.

The researchers found that men who exceeded the recommended dose — taking more than seven multivitamins a week — increased the risk of advanced cancer by about 30 percent. The study tracked the diet and health of almost 300,000 men over five years to see if there was a

link between multivitamin use and prostate cancer.

About a third reported taking a daily multivitamin, and 5 per-cent were heavy users, swallowing the pills more than seven times a week.

Within five years of the study’s start, 10,241 men had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Some 1,476 had advanced cancer; 179 died. Overall, the researchers found no link between multivitamin use and early-stage prostate cancer.”

We didn’t see any

relationship with overall prostate cancer,” said Dr Michael Leitzmann, a National Cancer Institute investigator who worked on the study.

He said the increased risk from overuse of multivitamins was linked to more aggressive cancer that has spread beyond the prostate gland or cancer that proved fatal.

The researchers speculated that perhaps high-dose vitamins had little effect until a tumor appeared, and then could spur its growth.

Internet

Australia, Costa Rica said good ecotourism examples

OSLO, 15 May — Australia and Costa Rica are good examples for the multi-billion-dollar world ecotourism business, which is growing at about 30 per cent a year and in need of tight quality controls, experts said on Monday. Ecotourist destinations, ranging from environmentally friendly Thai beach resorts to jungle lodges in Kenya, now attract about 15 per cent of the global tourist market, leaders of The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) said.

But many destinations lack sufficient “green” certification or follow-up checks by governments or other groups to ensure they keep their promises of not harming the environment.

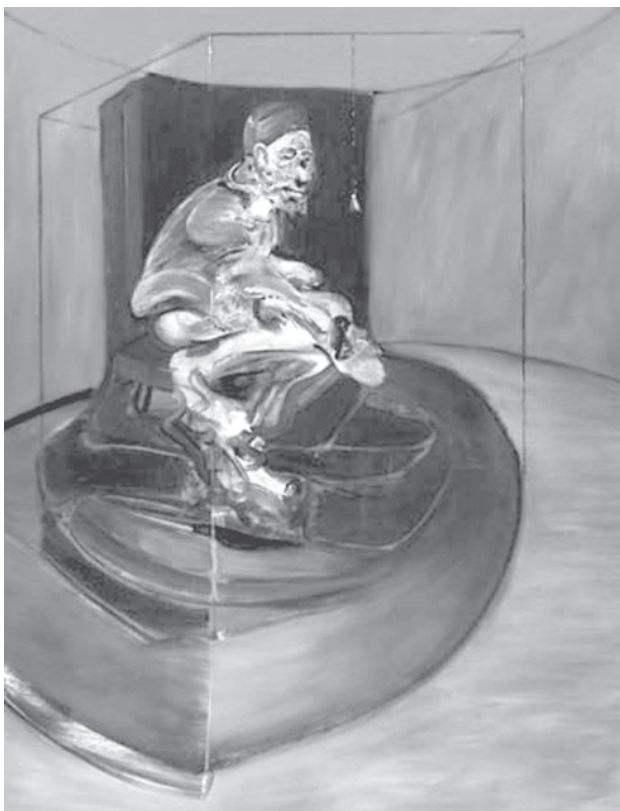
MNA/Reuters

25 dead as bus collides with gas tanker in India

AHMEDABAD (India), 16 May—Twenty-five people were killed when a bus burst into flames after colliding with a gas tanker in western India, authorities said on Tuesday.

The accident occurred late on Monday in Anand District, 45 kilometres (30 miles) south of Ahmedabad, the main city of Gujarat state, when the bus collided with the truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas, said fire officials.

“About 25 passengers died due to burns. Some were totally charred,” said MR Karanjia, a district police official. — MNA/Reuters



A painting entitled “Study from Innocent X” by Francis Bacon is seen here in this undated handout photo from Sotheby’s auction house. Sotheby’s sale of Contemporary Art is scheduled for 15 May, 2007, in New York.—INTERNET

Irish blind man aims to finish highest marathon

KATHMANDU, 15 May — An Irishman is trying to become the first blind person to complete the highest marathon, local newspaper *The Kathmandu Post* reported on Monday.

The 31-year-old Irishman Mark Pollock, nine years after losing his sight, is to complete “the Everest Marathon”, the highest marathon, to be held annually on 29 May.

Mark will be relying on his tracking sticks connected to compatriot John O’Regan and his guidelines to complete the marathon that starts from Everest Base Camp at an altitude of 5,150 metres.

“We have come here to finish the race,” says

Mark with a determined grin when asked about the possibility of finishing the race for a man who has not been above 3,500 metres.

“But I’m concerned

about the boulders and rocks on the tracks,” says the genial lad who is also involved in charitable works.

MNA/Xinhua



Toby Keith performs during the 42nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 15 May, 2007. —INTERNET

Beda rope workshop of Kyaikpaw Village, Bago Township

Article by Than Than Nu and Aye Thanda Thein
Photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)



Beda ropes can be used in making furniture. (U Myint Oo, in charge of workshop)

"Beda plants (water hyacinth) are cut when the length of their stems reaches as long as 13 inches. These beda stems are sun-dried for three days. The dried stems are then twisted into ropes. Roughly, a 100-foot rope can be made from 300 beda plants", said an in-charge of a beda rope-making workshop located near Maha Ceti Pagoda at Kyaikpaw village, Bago Township, Bago Division.

He explained the process of making ropes from beda stems to our team of Myanma Alin daily. As the ropes are made by twisting dried stems of water hyacinth, they are called beda ropes.

Beda, the main raw material, comes from Thanatpin, Waw, Phayagyi and Kali

Villages. Actually, beda rope cottage industry helps develop rural economy as it generates job opportunities for rural people from the stage of

a daily wage of K 500 during the course.

A skilled worker can produce four 100-foot

day as an extra income.

Beda ropes can be used as a substitute for rattan in making furniture

"I am very happy with this workshop as it generates extra income for our family. Besides, I also

As for 45-year-old Daw Thein Thein, she can earn money as much as she works while staying at home. "I am interested in this work", she told us.

Beda plants (water hyacinth) are available in abundance in many places of Myanmar. The plant grows fast in large colonies and can regenerate well.

A new plant can even sprout from an unused stem that is thrown back into water.

Moreover, dried stems that do not meet the required standard for making ropes can be used for making natural fertilizer.

So, there is no question of water hyacinth depletion because of the business.

Another advantage is that the business can be run with less capital.

Bago Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and Three Red Star company are running the workshop. Actually, they are implementing one of the tasks of the five rural development project, as the workshop is generating job opportunities for village people and helping develop the economy of the rural areas where 70 per cent of the nation's population live.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin:
14-5-2007



Our pay depends on our performance. (Daw Thein Thein).



Rural women earn extra income from rope-making works.

cutting beda plants to the process of rope making. Natives learn the technique of rope making an in-house training conducted from 10 to 15 days. The trainees receive

ropes a day. As for mothers, raw materials are sent to their homes, so that they can make ropes without coming to the workshop. Normally, a worker earns K 1000 per

and other personal goods including hand bags. Local market for beda-rope-based finished goods and beda ropes is small, but the goods are exported

earn money to pay my school expenses", Ma Moe Moe Swe, who has already sat for the matriculation examination, said.



Beda ropes for export.

ONE VILLAGE, ONE PRODUCT

to China.

The workshop we visited has about 60 workers, mostly from Kyaikpaw village.

Ma Khin Mar Cho, an employee of the workshop, told us that the rope-making works had helped fulfilled her family's basic needs.



Women making beda ropes.

Regional development tasks under supervision...

(from page 1)

He also called for systematic nurturing of jatropa curcas(physic nut) to contribute towards the drive the government is implementing as a national duty to meet the growing demand of fuel in future.

Rubber is to be grown on a wider scale in fallow and virgin lands in the region. Like Hopang and Laukkai, other townships are to grow rubber, through which the nation is earning foreign exchange.

Kyaukme District PDC Chairman U Ba Win reported on transport matters between Namtu-Manton region and Momeik-Mongngaw region. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on regional development and attended to the needs.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander inspected the three-acre jatropa curcas plot of Lashio Anti-Drugs Squad near Asia World Toll Gate.

They attended the growing of jatropa curcas on 25 acres for 2007 of Nawngkhio Township near Mandalay-Lashio Road. They presented jatropa curcas seeds and grafts to service personnel and social organization members, and planted grafts, and encouraged the participants growing the saplings.

So far, Nawngkhio Township has put 5,646 against the target of 9,500 acres under jatropa curcas in 2007.

They inspected Nawngkhio-Kyaukme road section. Engineer in charge U Chit Tun of Asia World Co reported on

progress in building Goktwin bridge. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for maintenance of the old steel-frame bridge. The 210-foot-long and 34-foot-high reinforced concrete Goktwin Bridge has a 28-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide walkways on it. Its clearance is 22 feet high. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected Goktwin uphill road section and watershed forests on both sides of the road.

On arrival at the physic nut growing ceremony in Kyaukme Township, they inspected the nurturing of 220,000 physic nut saplings of Kyaukme District Police Force. Kyaukme Township has so far grown 3,543 acres against the target of 9,000 acres.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander attended the opening of Padamy Hall of Kyaukme Basic Education High



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win participates in cultivation of physic nut plants for 2007 in Hsipaw Township. — MNA

School (2). Kyaukme District PDC Chairman U Ba Win and member of the school board of trustees Daw Hmwe Hmwe formally opened the ceremony. The commander unveiled the hall.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that in the drive for human resources development, the government is working hard for improvement in the education sector. In that regard if local wellwishers provide desks, buildings and stationery for the students, the donations will be a helping hand to the government and it will help expedite implementation of the nation's education goal.

He said that the government invites wellwishers and expressed his thanks for the wellwishers who donated Padamy Hall.

Daw Hmwe Hmwe

handed over documents related to the building to Shan State (North) Education Officer U Myat Htut.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented exercise books and stationery to the students through the township education officer and the schoolmistress.

The 100-foot-long and 45-foot-wide brick hall is roofed with corrugated iron sheets and it and it was built with the contribution of K 16.3 million made by U Aik Maung-Daw Nan Hsaung Mein family.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander inspected Kyaukme-Hsipaw section of Mandalay-Lashio Road and crop plantations along the road.

On arrival at Kyinthe Bridge Project site at the entranceto Hsipaw, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard a report of engineer in charge U Sai Shwe Min Hla on progress

in building the bridge. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the project site and Kyinthe Creek.

Upon completion, the bridge will be a 210-foot-long facility with a 28-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide pedestrian walkways on it. Its clearance will be 22 feet high and it will be able to withstand 60-ton loads.

At the ceremony to grow physic nut plants for 2007 in Hsipaw Township in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander encouraged service personnel and members of social organizations collectively planting physic nut saplings.

Hsipaw Township is pursuing the target of putting 11,500 acres under physic nut in 2007 fiscal year.—MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents exercise books and stationery to students through officials at Kyaukme BEHS No 2. — MNA

MEP No 2 celebrates first anniversary

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May —A ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the founding of Ministry of Electric Power No 2 was held at the ministry here yesterday.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu offered a day meal to members of the Sangha.

Fifteen members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha Image at the ministry.

First, the congregation led by the minister took the

Five Precepts from Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Neminda of Shweinn Yeiktha Pariyatti Monastery.

Afterwards, the minister and officials concerned presented provisions to members of Sangha and shared merits gained.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Managing Director Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply

Enterprise, Head of Office of the ministry Col Nyo Myint and officials

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Managing Director of China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) Mr Liu Jin Jianhai and party. — MNA

Minister for Transport receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Managing Director Mr Liu Jin Jianhai and party of China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) of the People's Republic of China at his office,

here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General U Win Pe of Transport Department and Head of Office U Win Khant.

MNA



Commander gives instructions to personnel bound for Cocogyun Township



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win meeting with departmental staff who are assigned to Cocogyun Township. — MNA

YANGON, 16 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win this afternoon met passengers and departmental personnel, who will discharge duties in Cocogyun Township, Yangon South District, at the terminal of Thakayta Jetty of Myanmar Five Star Line in Thakayta Township.

In his instructions, the commander explained all round development tasks being carried out in Cocogyun Township by the Division Peace and Development Council under the assistance of the government.

The service personnel were introduced to the commander.

Next, the commander presented K 94,000 to

one member of the Sangh and 46 service personnel through Dr Win Htein of the township, K 85,000 to 85 passengers through communication in-charge U Aung Naing, K 549,000 as monthly cash assistance for personnel who are discharging duties in the township to Head of Township Immigration and Population Department U Than Gyaung, and 120 dozens of exercise books for 153 students to Headmaster U Hla Kyi.

After the ceremony, the commander inspected MV Myitkyina of Myanmar Five Star Line.

Yangon Division PDC sent 1,500 bamboo saplings, iron and cement for construction of the town hall and rice and edible oil on board the vessel to the township.

MNA

Educative Course on Health Care opens

YANGON, 16 May — A ceremony to open an Educative Course on Health Care by means of traditional medicine, organized by Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was opened in Insein Township yesterday afternoon.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Chairperson of Yangon North District MCWSC Daw San San Htay gave an account of the

purpose of conducting the course.

Afterwards, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted cash K 300,000 donated by wellwishers. Next, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and party viewed documentary photos on activities of the association, medicinal plants and traditional medicine booths on display.

A total of 120 trainees are attending the three-week course.

MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai delivers an opening address at basic course on health care by means of traditional medicines. — MNA

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

17 May 2007

“Connecting the Young: the opportunities of ICT” Message from Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of ITU

YANGON, 17 May — The following is the message from Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union, on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day which falls today.

In an increasingly networked world, the young are not only the beneficiaries but often the driving force behind the latest innovations and practices, and for many, the dependence on information and communication technologies (ICT) has come to determine their choice of lifestyle. It is clearly our duty today to provide the opportunities of ICT to all children and youth, particularly to those who remain unconnected from the ongoing digital revolution.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) recognized young people as the future workforce and earliest adopters of ICT and called for their empowerment. In order to achieve this critical objective, national e-strategies must address the special requirements of children, especially the disadvantaged and marginalized, and ensure their full inclusion in the Information Society. ICT are powerful tools to empower children and other vulnerable groups with information and knowledge and act as a catalyst in ensuring their rights within the comity of nations.

Marking its inception on 17 May 1865, ITU is the oldest international organization in existence. Yet the Union is young at heart and remains at the cutting edge of global communications. As world leaders declared at WSIS, ITU is committed to developing ICT infrastructure and facilitating interoperability, inter connection and global connectivity of networks and services, strengthening the development of an enabling environment, and instilling confidence in the use of ICTs by promoting cybersecurity. The Union is also committed to extending the benefits of ICT to people any time, anywhere.

This year, we focus on integrating youth issues into ITU's development activities as a means of offering the young more opportunities and better choice of options for the future. On the one hand, ICT must be utilized to enhance capacity building among the young by improved e-learning and education. On the other hand, we are committed to promoting their capabilities in utilizing ICT towards the advancement of a better, more peaceful and productive world.

As we celebrate World Information Society Day, we invite all our stakeholders as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations and public policy-makers to give children and young people around the world every possible assistance in accessing ICT. This is critical for the young as a means of learning, sharing information and knowledge, improving their health and nutrition, and communicating with other children and youth.

The key to achieving the development aspirations of the world's inhabitants lies in investing in the future generation, especially by improving access to communication among today's children and enhancing their capacities.—MNA

Progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) supervised

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun heard reports on progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) on Mandalay Bank this morning.

Deputy superintending engineers from both Mandalay and Sagaing sites submitted reports on finishing tasks of the bridge. Next, the minister viewed progress of construction tasks by car along

the bridge, and instructed officials to complete the tasks on time.

At the construction of the approach road on Sagaing bank, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Hsan Win reported on tarmacking of the approach road and others. After giving necessary instructions, the minister fulfilled the requirements of the tasks.

MNA

Hotel projects inspected in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected construction of hotels at the Hotel Zone in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and Director-General U Htay

Aung of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the minister heard reports on progress of Thingaha Hotel presented by Managing Director U Chit Khaing.

After inspecting the site of the hotel, the minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for gaining

achievement in hotel services, timely completion of the project tasks and beautifying and sanitation of the hotel.

They also inspected Shwe Myanmar Hotel and Golden Palace Hotel and left necessary instructions.

Private companies are implementing seven hotel

projects in the Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

Among these projects, six hotel projects have completed and opened 82 bungalow buildings and 151 rooms for the first phase.

The hotel build-ings are under construction for the second phase.

MNA

High-quality batteries to be produced for trains

YANGON, 16 May — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin met with battery producers at the Locomotive Factory in Insein Township today and called for production of high-quality batteries which can power locomotives.

In an attempt to avoid

spending foreign currency on batteries, Myanma Railways under the ministry wants to use domestic batteries to power trains, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin said at the meeting.

He also urged officials concerned and experts to discuss and seek ways for improvement of quality of

batteries produced at home.

An official of Myanmar Railways reported to the deputy minister on types of batteries being used for the trains of Myanma Railways, manufacturers and demand for batteries. He also reported on quality and expiry of batteries produced at home and abroad.

Those present at the meeting also discussed ways for production of high-quality batteries.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the deputy minister. After the meeting, the deputy minister and party viewed the batteries displayed at the hall.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin gives talks at meeting with battery producers. — MR

DISTRICT NEWS IN BRIEF

Toungoo District IPRD holds coord meeting

TOUNGGOO, 3 May — Toungoo District Information and Public Relations Department held a coordination meeting on 3 May and officials of the department recounted the instructions of the Minister for Information and the director-general of the department to employees of the department.

The meeting was held at office of Toungoo District IPRD and Assistant Director of Bago Division (East) IPRD U Thant Zin and Head of Toungoo District IPRD U Than Htay explained instructions of the minister and the director-general and directors of IPRD.

Officials and participants of the meeting also discussed nine tasks of the department for 2008 and the project for establishment of self-reliant libraries for 2007-2008. — *Kyemon Daily*

Road accidents awareness raised in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 3 May — To mark the First United Nations Global Safety Week Movement, Mandalay Division Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee and Road Transport Administration Department launched a campaign on 23 April to raise public awareness of road accidents in Mandalay.

During the seven-day long campaign, a signboard enhancing public awareness of road safety was erected at the corner of 78th Street and 35 Street in Mandalay on 23 April and educative talks of traffic rules were conducted in Mandalay. Officials of the enforcement committee also distributed pamphlets to people to educate them on traffic rules. The campaign ended on 29 April.

Kyemon Daily



LOIKAW, KAYAH STATE : Senior Engineer of Kayah State Development Affairs Department U Min Maung and officials inspected paving of Union Road section-2 in Loikaw on 3 May, 2007. Loikaw Township Development Affairs Department is implementing the road construction projects in 2007-2008 fiscal year.

LOIKAW TOWNSHIP IPRD

Germany wants review after Afghan civilian deaths

BRUSSELS, 16 May — Germany called on Monday for a review of the tactics used by Western forces in Afghanistan after a series of civilian casualties in recent weeks.

“We have to make sure in future that operations do not take place in this way. We don’t want the local population against us,” German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung told reporters in Brussels, adding he had spoken to NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on the matter.

Asked whether Western forces should reexamine their rules of engagement in the war against Taliban insurgents, he said: “This is an important point, there should be discussions.”

The US-led coalition in Afghanistan confirmed last week there had been civilian casualties

during fighting with Taliban guerillas in southern Afghanistan, after witnesses said an airstrike killed more than 40 villagers there earlier this month.

Even before the latest casualties, scores of civilians have been killed by Western forces in the last two weeks.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has urged foreign troops to avoid such casualties while hunting militants, to stop searching people’s houses, and to coordinate attacks

with his government.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force has more than 30,000 troops in Afghanistan alongside a smaller US-led coalition. *MNA/Reuters*

Tourists pose next to the picture of, American actor, Clint Eastwood in Cannes, France on 14 May, 2007.

INTERNET



Rice says no new Cold War between US, Russia

Moscow, 16 May — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said here Monday that there is no new “Cold War” between her country and Russia, although it is a difficult period for bilateral ties.

Rice arrived in Moscow on Monday for a two-day visit, aimed at easing tensions triggered by a series of disputes between the two nations.

“I know people

talk about and throw around terms like new Cold War. As somebody who came out of that period as a specialist in it I think the parallels...frankly, have no basis whatsoever,” the top

US diplomat told reporters.

“It’s not an easy time for the relationship. It’s not. But it’s also not a time in which I think any sort of cataclysmic things are happening,” she added.

Rice and Russian officials were expected to discuss bilateral and international issues, including Iran’s nuclear issue, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Kosovo and US plans to deploy anti-missile components in Central Europe, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

They will also make arrangements for a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart George W Bush on the sidelines of a G-8 summit next month in Germany, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen attack UN health office in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 16 May — Gunmen attacked a UN World Health Organization (WHO) office in Mogadishu and wounded a guard, in the latest strike near the world body’s facilities in Somalia since the weekend, a WHO official said on Tuesday.

The late Monday attack came just two days after UN aid chief John Holmes, the most senior UN official to visit Mogadishu in a decade, cut short his visit when bombs planted by insurgents killed three people near a UN compound on Saturday.

“We were attacked last night by gunmen wearing (government) uniforms. Our security guards repelled them. Unfortunately one of our guards was wounded,” Mohamed Abdullahi, the acting officer in charge of WHO operations in Mogadishu, told *Reuters*.

A UN security source who spoke on condition of anonymity said there had been a similar attack on Mogadishu’s largest market, the Bakara Market.

“The WHO incident is just the same. These are gunmen disguising themselves as government troops. I don’t think this will affect UN operations,” the source said.

The WHO offices are located in south Mogadishu near the airport and are next to the UN children’s agency UNICEF offices.

Paddy Ankunda, spokesman for the African Union peacekeeping force, said the wounded guard was in stable condition after being treated at their hospital.

The guard suffered multiple gunshot wounds, including one in the groin, the UN source said.

A UNICEF guard said they also helped the WHO guards to repel the gunmen. — *MNA/Reuters*



Prince Albert of Monaco (C) looks from a boat during semi-final Race 1 at the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 14 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Indian chickens, ducks test negative for bird flu

NEW DELHI, 16 May — Poultry and ducks found dead in two Indian states have tested negative for bird flu, the government said on Monday.

Around 2,500 dead birds were found early May at a poultry farm in the remote village of Matigara in the eastern state of West Bengal. Matigara borders Bangladesh, where there have been outbreaks of the H5N1 bird flu virus.

About 2,000 ducks also died recently in the southern state of Kerala.

Officials sent the dead birds from both states

to the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, where samples tested negative for the avian flu.

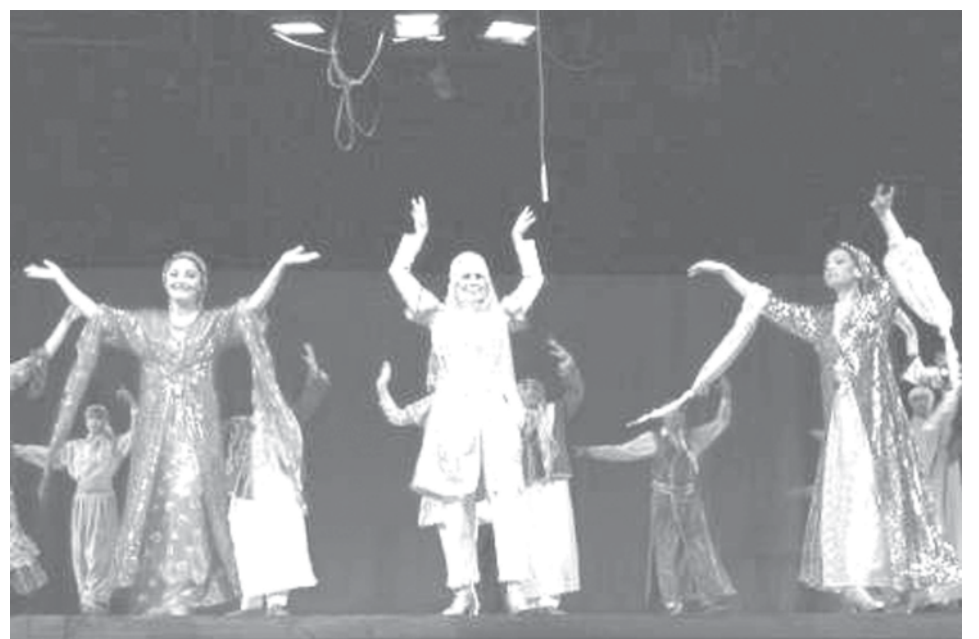
“We continue to monitor the country as a whole with special attention to states that border countries that have been affected by bird flu,” Upma Chawdhry, joint secretary in India’s animal husbandry department, told *Reuters*.

This year there

have been no cases of bird flu reported in India. The virus was last detected in 2005 among poultry, and it was contained to the western part of the country.

But in neighbouring Bangladesh some 157,000 chickens have been slaughtered and 1.5 million eggs destroyed in 11 districts, since the virus was detected at six farms in March, officials said.

MNA/Reuters



Baghdad on 14 May, 2007. Iraq’s National Theatre Association, during its anniversary celebration, is showing “Cruel Wedding”, a play about the life of an Iraqi family since the 2003 US invasion. — INTERNET

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION INVITATION TO TENDER

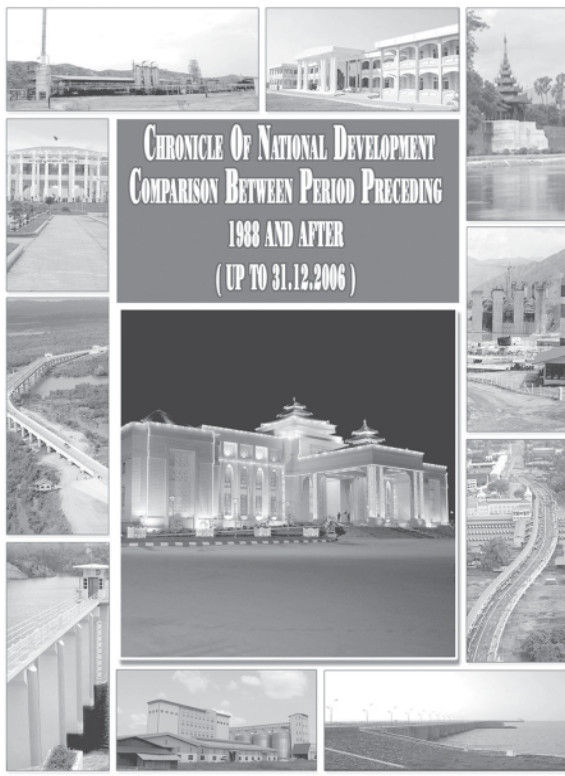
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(b) 7.50x16	- 230 Sets
(c) 10.00x20	- 250 Sets
(d) 6.00x14	- 20 Sets
(e) 5.50x13	- 50 Sets
- (a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Yangon Division, Road Transport No.375/Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar Commencing on the 16-5-2007
(b) Tender will be closed on 1-6-2007 at (16:00) hours
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Egypt, Cyprus vow to promote economic cooperation

NICOSIA, 15 May — Egypt and Cyprus voiced on Monday their strong desire to further strategic cooperation in energy, transportation and other sectors. Visiting Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Fayza Abu al Naga told reporters that she discussed with senior Cypriot officials ways to promote bilateral relations in "vital, crucial and

strategic" areas, such as oil, natural gas, maritime transportation, tourism, and trade of goods and services.

Speaking after a meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister George Lillikas, Abu al Naga revealed that experts on both sides had been discussing ways to export Egyptian natural gas to Cyprus in a compressed

form instead of its costlier liquefied form.

"The most important thing is we consider this issue to be strategic for our cooperation," the Egyptian minister was quoted as saying.

The two governments also agreed to encourage joint ventures among the private sectors in both countries, Abu al Naga added.— MNA/Xinhua

China donates \$8m to WHO

GENEVA, 15 May — The Chinese government has decided to donate 8 million US dollars to the World Health Organization (WHO) for supporting African countries' health cause, Chinese Health Minister Gao

Qiang said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the annual assembly of the UN agency, Gao said the money would be mainly used for the establishment and improving of African countries' disease surveillance network, enhancing their capability for disease control and public health emergency response. Gao said developing

countries suffer deeply from the prevalence of diseases, mainly due to their weak public health infrastructure and difficulties in finance, personnel and technology.

He called on the WHO and developed countries to increase their aid for public health system building in developing countries.

Internet

China, Russia vow to further parliamentary cooperation

BEIJING, 15 May — The Chinese and Russian legislatures will develop their cooperation, Chinese and Russian legislators vowed here Monday.

Talks between Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China (NPC), and Boris Gryzlov, chairman of the Russian State Duma (the Lower House of Parlia-

ment), and between officials of the NPC and the Russian Duma, were the occasion for an in-depth exchange of views on inter-parliamentary cooperation and bilateral relations, and regional and international issues.

Wu proposed that the two legislatures improve the regular exchange mechanism to expand mutual understanding and political trust.

MNA/Xinhua

Five arrested, 360 kilos of cocaine seized in Dominica

SANTO DOMINGO, 15 May — Dominican, US and British authorities have seized 360 kilos of cocaine in the Caribbean Sea, Dominican officials said Monday.

Five people were arrested in the operation off the Republic's coast, the officials said in a statement.

The country's National Drug Enforcement Directorate (DNCD) said a British helicopter had picked up the drugs, which were packed in 12 bundles and were found floating in the water after being thrown from a light aircraft.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hubble spots ring of dark matter

BALTIMORE (United States), 15 May—Astronomers have found one of the best pieces of evidence for the existence of dark matter, a mysterious quantity that pervades our Universe.

They have identified what appears to be a ghostly ring in the sky which is made up of this enigmatic substance.

Using the Hubble Space Telescope, the scientists have established that the ring formed long ago after a colossal smash-up between two galaxy clusters.

Details of the research are to appear in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

As the name suggests, dark matter does not reflect or emit detectable



The ring of dark matter appears in this composite map.—INTERNET

light, yet it accounts for most of the mass in the Universe.

Astronomers have long suspected the existence of this invisible “stuff” as the source of additional gravity that holds together galaxy clusters.

The clusters would fly apart if they were reliant

only on the gravity from their visible stars.

No one knows what dark matter is made of, but it is thought to be a type of elementary particle found throughout the cosmos. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute — both

in Baltimore, US - spotted the ring unexpectedly while they were mapping the distribution of dark matter within the galaxy cluster Cl 0024+17.

This cluster lies 5 billion light-years from Earth; its ring of dark matter measures 2.6 million light-years across.

Because astronomers cannot see dark matter, they must infer its existence by studying how its gravity bends the light of more distant, background galaxies.

This powerful trick, called gravitational lensing, allows astronomers to map the distorted light to deduce the cluster’s mass and how dark matter is distributed in the cluster.

Internet



James Levine demonstrates a vertical workstation he designed. The workstation is composed of a desk fitted over a standard treadmill.—INTERNET

Online fashion sales surpass computers first time in US

BEIJING, 15 May — Online shoppers in the United States spent more on clothing and accessories than on computers for the first time ever, according to a report released Monday.

The report “The State of Retailing Online 2007” is the tenth issued by the research firm in co-operation with the US National Retail Federation’s (NRF) Shop.org network of 600 online

retailers. Shop.org is the online arm of NRF, the retail industry trade group.

Online sales of apparel, accessories and footwear reached 18.3 billion US dollars last year and should hit 22.1 billion dollars this year, according to the Shop.org survey.

“This is a real milestone in the industry,” said Scott Silverman, executive director of Shop-

org. “We have really gone mainstream.”

Meanwhile, computer hardware and software, long the leader for nontravel online sales, moved into second place last year, at 17.2 billion dollars.

That was followed by sales of autos and auto parts, whose sales reached 16.7 billion dollars, and home furnishings, which posted sales of 10 billion dollars. —*Internet*

Chinese water culture theme for exhibition

BEIJING, 15 May—Visitors to the China exhibition hall at the Zaragoza World Expo in Spain next year will be treated to a display of Chinese water culture.

The winning design proposal for the China exhibition hall at the 2008 Zaragoza World Expo was unveiled yesterday morning in Beijing.

The proposal, co-designed by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Beijing Zhongjian Architect Ltd, beat out 12 other plans from well-known architects. “China has a long history of water control and a vivacious water



culture.

Its achievements in water control and ideas about the sustainable use of water resources have been recognized by the international community. The 2008 Zaragoza world expo is a good chance for China to display its water control achievements and exchange experiences,”

said Hu Siyi, Vice-Minister of Water Resources. Gong Qijun, vice-director of the exhibition department of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said the exhibition in Spain would allow China to prepare to play host to the World Expo in 2010.—*Internet*



The Canadian Rockies in the Banff National Forest are seen here in 2006. Some 1,500 scientists urged Canada on 14 May to protect its vast Boreal Forest from mining, forestry and energy operations, to stem global warming and destruction of wildlife habitats.—INTERNET

Bangladesh on cyclone alert, boats called in

DHAKA, 15 May — A fisherman was killed and some 100 others were missing as rain and strong winds swept Bangladesh’s coast on Monday and weather officials warned a cyclonic storm could make landfall on Tuesday.

“Peripheral wind up to

80 kilometres per hour (50 miles per hour) has begun,” said a weather official at Cox’s Bazar, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka.

He also reported moderate to medium intensity rainfall in the

area. Police said the body of a dead fisherman had been found along the Teknaf coast, 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Cox’s Bazar, while at least 20 boats with some 100 fishermen aboard were missing.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Schnyder enjoys easy win in Rome

ROME, 16 May — Fourteenth seed Patty Schnyder cruised into the second round of the Italian Open in Rome when she swept past Russian Vasilisa Bardina 6-1, 6-2.

The Swiss player, who finished runner-up at the claycourt tournament in 2005, mixed up the spin and speed of her groundstrokes to force errors from her 19-year-old opponent in a one-sided first set.

Bardina tried to hit out more aggressively at the start of the second set, but made a pair of backhand errors to drop serve in the first game as Schnyder tightened her grip on the contest.—MNA/Reuters



Magnelly Torres (L) of Colombian club Cucuta Deportivo celebrates a goal against Uruguayan club Nacional during their Copa Libertadores quarter-final soccer match in Cucuta city on 15 May, 2007.—INTERNET

FIFA to investigate Tevez transfer row

ZURICH, 16 May — FIFA will investigate the controversial transfer to West Ham United of Argentines Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano, the world governing body's president Sepp Blatter said on Tuesday.

Blatter told a media briefing at FIFA headquarters in Zurich that his organization would look into the case regardless of any legal challenges launched by West Ham's rival clubs.

"We are monitoring this situation very carefully and we will ourselves look at the files once it has been dealt with by the English league and the Football Association," Blatter said. "We will look at this, and not only if we are asked. We will do it anyway."

West Ham were fined a record-5.5-million-pound (10.88-million-US dollar) last month by an independent Premier League commission which ruled that the players' contracts drawn up at their August transfer contravened league rules by giving certain rights to third-party companies. West Ham, however, admitted the charge and escaped a points deduction that would have almost certainly condemned them to relegation.—MNA/Reuters

Serena Williams progresses at Italian Open

ROME, 16 May — Eighth seed Serena Williams strolled into third round after a 6-4 6-1 win over Michaela Krajicek at the Italian Open on Tuesday.

Williams, who revived her career by winning the Australian Open in January, improved her season record to 17-2.



Serena Williams of the US returns the ball to Netherlands' Michaela Krajicek during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome on 15 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Williams, playing in her first tournament since pulling out of Charleston with a groin strain last month, fought from a break down to take the first set. Her confidence grew in the second set and after earning a breakpoint with a drive-volley winner in the fourth game, a Krajicek double fault handed her the advantage.

She broke again in the sixth game and went on to close the match with an ace. Williams was the only player involved in a second-round match on a day when most of her rivals were still playing first-round games.

Fourteenth seed Patty Schnyder enjoyed an easy win, sweeping aside Vasilisa Bardina 6-1 6-2.

Slovenian 15th seed Katarina Srebotnik also went through to the second round with a 6-4 6-2 win over Germany's Martina Mueller.—Internet

Lefty hints at genuine threat to Tiger

LOS ANGELES, 16 May — Phil Mickelson's superb victory at the Players Championship has raised the prospect of a mouth-watering rivalry between the American left-hander and world number one Tiger Woods at next month's US Open.

Although it would be foolish to draw too many conclusions from what is, after all, just one tournament win, the manner in which it was accomplished has whetted the appetite of golf fans across the globe.

Mickelson, in harness with new swing coach Butch Harmon for only the third tournament, delivered a consummate exhibition from tee to green at Sawgrass on Sunday that suggests he is ready to lift his game to a new level at the majors.

"Phil the Thrill" has long entertained fans with his dazzling skills around the green and his swashbuckling, high-risk approach combined with one or two moments of bone-headed stupidity.

Although he has become one of the most meticulous practitioners in the game with his build-up to the big events over the last few years, his driving accuracy has been well documented as his Achil-

les' heel. He himself has said that memories of his US Open meltdown at Winged Foot last year will never really be banished until he wins the tournament for the first time.

The emerging 2007 version of "Lefty", as he is popularly known, hints at a near-perfect blend of careful course management without sacrificing the short-game skills for which he has become a fan favourite.—MNA/Reuters



Kaka says Liverpool favour long ball game

MILAN, 16 May — AC Milan playmaker Kaka expects Liverpool to play a long ball game in the Champions League final next week when he will be bidding to complete a personal wish list of achievements. The Brazilian has been in outstanding form for Milan this season and scored three goals over two legs in the semi-final win over Manchester United to set up the clash with Liverpool in Athens on 23 May.

"I think Liverpool are different from Manchester, they play a game that is very typical of English soccer. They are a very well-coached team by (Rafael) Benitez and they are a very tactical team. They are a team that marks tight," Kaka said.

"Manchester are a team that like to play more, the quality of their passing is better and they keep the ball longer," he said in an interview for Adidas. Liverpool beat Milan in the 2005 Champions League final after coming back from 3-0 down at halftime to draw 3-3 and win on penalties.—MNA/Reuters

Detroit Pistons' Richard Hamilton (C) goes to the net against Chicago Bulls' Ben Wallace (L) and PJ Brown during Game 5 of their second round Eastern Conference NBA basketball playoff series in Auburn Hills, Michigan on 15 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Ronaldinho may miss Copa America

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 May — Brazilian soccer forward Ronaldinho Gaucho, who plays for Spanish league team Barcelona, may request not to play for the national team in the Copa America, Brazil's press said on Tuesday.



Ronaldinho Gaucho

The move could strike another blow to Brazilian team manager Dunga after the Brazil Football Federation last week published Kaka's letter, which said the Milan player hopes to skip the Copa America due to the differences between the Brazilian and European playing calendar.

Dunga will announce list of players for the 1 June friendly against England in London's Wembley Stadium and the 5 June friendly against Turkey in the German city of Dortmund.

The Copa America runs from 26 June to 15 July in Venezuela, and the champion will go through to the Confederations Cup in 2009 in South Africa.

Internet

Goalkeeper Hilario lined up as reserve Cup final striker

LONDON, 16 May — Chelsea are so short of players for Saturday's FA Cup final they may be forced to use goalkeeper Hilario as a substitute striker, manager Jose Mourinho said.

Mourinho, who has spent millions to bring in new players but insists on working with a "manageable" size squad, said he was down to 15 fit men for the Wembley showdown with double-chasing Manchester United.

Mourinho suffered his latest blow when midfielder John Obi Mikel was ruled out with a hamstring injury picked up in Sunday's final Premier League game, a 1-1 home draw with Everton.

Michael Ballack, Andriy Shevchenko, Ricardo Carvalho, Arjen Robben and teenage striker Scott Sinclair were already definite absentees while fullback Ashley Cole is still doubtful.

"Maybe if Ash is ready we have 15," Mourinho told Chelsea TV.

"The reality is that for a final we do not have 16 players. It's not a good picture. —MNA/Reuters

New France’s President pledges new era of change

PARIS, 16 May — France's new President Nicolas Sarkozy has taken office at a ceremony in the Elysee Palace, after waving goodbye to President Jacques Chirac.

The new centre-right president succeeded his former mentor after defeating the Socialists' Segolene Royal in the 6 May run-off election.

Mr Sarkozy stressed that "now change is needed" in France, in his inaugural speech, and called for national unity.

France "needs to take risks and follow initiatives," he said.

The country also needed to "rehabilitate the values of work, effort, merit and respect" and defeat intolerance, he said. —Internet

Spanish doctor sentenced for spreading hepatitis C

MADRID, 16May — A Spanish doctor who killed four people and infected 271 others with hepatitis C by reusing syringes was sentenced on Tuesday to 1,933 years in prison and ordered to pay almost one million euros (1.35 million US dollars) in damages.

Juan Maeso Velez infected patients at four hospitals in the Spanish Mediterranean city of Valencia by using the same surgical equipment to

anaesthetise himself and then other people between 1988 and 1997, a Spanish court heard.

Maeso used anaesthetic as a recreational drug and knew he had hepatitis C, a blood borne viral infection that can cause chronic liver damage, pro-secutors said.

The doctor denied he knew he had hepatitis C and said he must have caught the virus from one of the patients.

He will serve a maximum 20 years of his sentence, according to officials at the court in Valencia.

MNA/Reuters



Colombian singer Shakira performs at her concert at Foro Sol in Mexico City on 13 May, 2007.

INTERNET

Mini stockpile of explosives found in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 16 May — Thai police found a mini stockpile of explosives, in Bangkok's Bangplad District on Tuesday, the local news group The Nation reported.

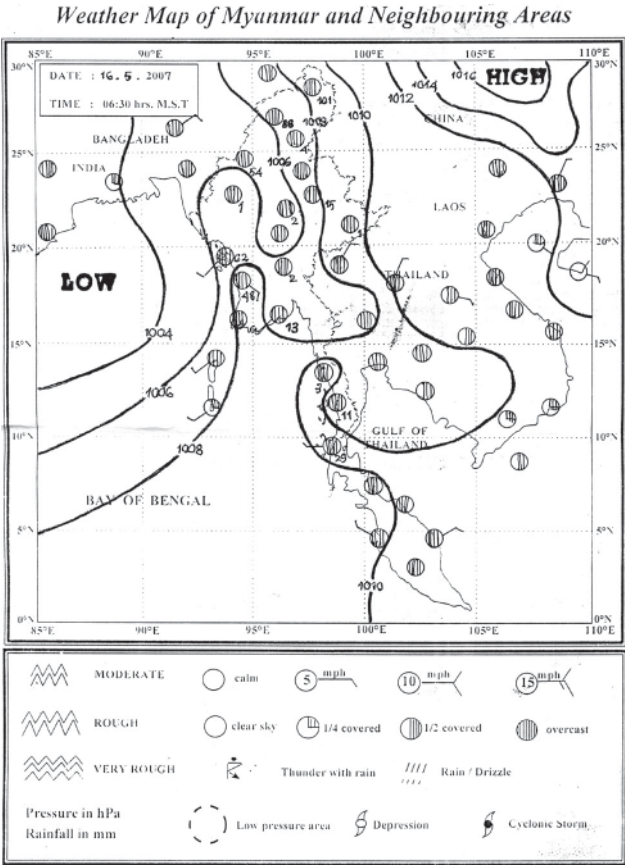
Acting on a tip-off, police and bomb squad team raided a room in Sribamroong Muang Apartment in the district at about 12:30 pm (0530 GMT), the report said.

Inside the room, police found a hand grenade, a stick of power gel explosive with four detonators, three rounds of ammunitions for revolver and a 9-mm pistol.

Found together with the explosives was a yellow headband with a word "patriot" written on it.

Initial investigation reported that the room belonged to a woman who rented the room about two years ago. But she disappeared and failed to pay the rent, and then the apartment manager decided to open the room and found the confiscated explosives.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 16 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperature in Kayin State, Yangon, Taninthayi, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperature in Shan State and Bago Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below May average temperature in Kachin State, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (4.69) inches, An (4.29) inches, Hkamti (3.46) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.27) inches, Machanbaw (2.95) inches, Hmawbi (1.77) inches and Thayawady (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-5-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 16-5-2007 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-5-2007 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 15-5-2007 was (2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-5-2007 was (0.27) inch at Mingaladon, (0.5) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.34) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (19.72) inches at Mingaladon, (23.94) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.52) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (20:50) hours MST on 15-5-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over inland has become unimportant. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Kayin States, scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest Monsoon in the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Thursday, 17 May
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music:
- 9:00pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Pourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Thursday, 17 May
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am 5. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am 7. Dance variety
- 8:20 am 8. ကျောက်တစ်လုံးရေကူး ရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
- 5:10 pm 6. Cute little dancers
- 5:25 pm 7. “စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဘေးကင်းကွာ (လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားမှူးမယ်)
- 5:30 pm 8. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm 9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 12. သီရိဓမ္မာ
- 7:00 pm 13. Discovery
- 7:00 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရွှေရောင်သမီးသော အသည်းနုလုံး”(အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကံကြမ္မာနတ်သမီး”(အပိုင်း-၃)
- 19. The next day's programme

Peace-loving people prevent instigators from trying to cause instability and unrest under the pretext of religion, and hand them over to authorities

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — The people who oppose unrest and love peace prevented 29 persons including Su Su Nway from causing a disturbance at the bus stop on Station Road, Insein Township, Yangon Division, yesterday at 10.30 am. The people handed over the 29 who were constantly trying to stir up unrest under the pretext of religion to the authorities concerned. Similarly, the people who are against unrest stopped Thant Zin Myo and group from causing unrest in Hlinethaya Township, and handed them over to the authorities.

Twenty-three persons including NLD members U Than Htay (joint secretary), Tin Ohn, Kyin Hlaing, Han Thein, Soe Win, Daw Mi Mi Hlaing, Daw Yin Yin Kyi, Daw San Yi, Kyaw Zin Win (youth in-charge 1), Kyaw Kyaw Lin (youth in-charge 2), Nay Lin Kyaw (a) Kon Nyar, Nay Zar Myo Win and Bo Bo Win Hlaing of Dawdon Township, and other NLD members Tin Naing Thein (Chauk), Ohn Lwin (Yenangyoung), Myint Ngwe (Yenangyoung), Myo Khin (Yankin), Daw Tin Yi (Yangkin) and Thawda (Thakayta) led by Su Su Nway said prayers at a corner of Pylonchantha Myaceti Pagoda in the compound of Arthawkayama monastery on Myoma Street, Yamonna Ward 1, Dawbon, from 8 am to 8.45 am yesterday. Ten persons including Su Su Nway of the group wore T-shirts bearing the portrait of Daw Suu Kyi. The group tricked 11 children playing in the compound into taking part in their prayer service. In the prayer service, U Than Htay gave anti-government talks for the release of Daw Suu Kyi and political prisoners and they presented 200 kyats each to the 11 children and let them go.

Su Su Nway and members left Dawbon Township for Insein Township. When they arrived at Insein, some members of Insein Township NLD joined the group. The 29 persons arrived at the bus stop on Station Road in Nanthagon Ward at 10.30 am. Then some residents who did not want to see any

unrest dissuaded Su Su Nway and members from inciting a protest and persuaded them to go home. However, Su Su Nway and members did not accept the persuasion and tried to keep on inciting a protest. Local people prevented them from doing so and entrusted them to the authorities. There were no conflicts and no one was injured in the incident.

The 29 members included Insein Township NLD members Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min (in charge of youths), Nyi Nyi Aung, Daw Nyein Tin and U Ye Aung along with Maung Shine Htet Aung, 13, son of U Maung Shwe and Daw Myint Aye of Phawtka Ward in Insein Township. The investigation revealed that U Ye Aung took Maung Shine Htet Aung with an offer that he would pay a visit to a pagoda and would serve him with coffee if the latter would accompany him. So authorities entrusted Maung Shine Htet Aung to his parents.

Similarly, at about 7 am yesterday, 11 Hlinethaya Township NLD members— Thant Zin Myo (Secretary) and wife Hla Hla Maw, Hsan Win, Win Myint, San Naing, Aung Min Naing, Kyaw Soe Win, Soe Min, Tin Yu, Yan Naing Tun and Myo Kyaw Zin—wearing T-shirts with the picture of Daw Suu Kyi walked in procession along Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Hlinethaya Township. The people who do not want disturbance and want to live in peace told them to disperse and not to disrupt peace and tranquillity. But they did walk in procession without accepting the request of the people. Therefore, the people handed over the 11 persons to the authorities concerned. Upon investigation, Thant Zin Myo, San Naing, Kyaw Soe Win and Win Myint persuaded other people who took part in the movement after giving them T-shirts with the picture of Daw Suu Kyi free of charge.

So-called 88 generation student group who attempted to cause unrest launched White Sunday Campaign every Sunday. The group visited the families of those serving the prison terms after breaking the law,

consoled them and provided cash. In order to do so, some big nations and expatriate organizations are providing necessary cash for them.

Regarding the activities such as prayer service, walking in procession and agitation and consoling the families of those serving the prison terms, the people who want to live in peace said that it was not normal. It was the abhorrent act that the group deceived the children in order to take some advantage in their movement. Those including Daw Suu Kyi who were under restrictions were detained for attempting to disrupt peace and tranquillity and cause unrest in the country. In the same way, all the inmates of various prisons have to be doing their time as they broke any existing law. In all nations without exception, anyone, including politicians, who breaks the law will not go unpunished. Arrest and detention like this are nothing unusual. These people are trying to politicize a normal event and ignite unrest by visiting pagodas and marching in procession, praying for the release of political prisoners. If they want to pray for freedom of political prisoners, they can do so at their homes. Such instigation is not acceptable. The people want only peace and stability. The current situation of the nation is favourable in every way for development. However, its impossible to achieve sound results in a short time. We must wait for a reasonable period of time to be able to enjoy the fruits of development. One thing that is certain is that people will be able to overcome hardships and enjoy benefits in the near future. Favourable conditions can be ruined by the act of saboteurs. People are saying that punitive action should be taken against these destructive elements.

Now, all those who attempted to destroy peace and stability and ignite violence are being interrogated, and authorities concerned have urged the public to prevent saboteurs from committing destructive acts that could destabilize the nation.

MNA

Thirty resign from NLD of Bogalay

YANGON, 16 May — Secretary U Aung Htay of Bogalay Township National League for Democracy in Ayeyawady Division on 3 May, 18 members including U Htay Aung from Chaunggyi Village, four including U Sein Kalar from Koeintan Village, two including U Myint Lwin from Kyaungsu Village, two including U Mya Nyein from Kyeechaung Village, U Mya Win from Aunghlaing Village, Daw Ei Ei Tin and Daw Nu Nu Yi from Kyeinchaunggyi Village on 26 April resigned from the party of their own desire, sending their letters of resignation to NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In his resignation letter sent to Bogalay Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, U Aung Htay said that the NLD practised only bullying acts in group but chanted that they are undertaking measures for restoration of democracy. There were no measures undertaken for organizational matters and unity in the party. He was disappointed that the NLD carried out the acts that harm the nation and the people. That was why he resigned from the party. In their resignation letters 29 NLD members said that they had no confidence and interest in the party any longer and came to realize that the party did not serve the interest of the people and the State. That was why they resigned from the party of their own volition. — MNA

Significant water level

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—According to the (6:30) hr MST observation today, the water level (589) cm of Chindwin river at Hkamti showed a rise of (250) cm (about 8 feet) within (24) hrs. The Chindwin water level may rise (210) cm (about 7 feet) at Homalin, (180) cm each (about 6 feet) at Mawlaik and Kalewa and (300) cm (about 10 feet) at Monywa above the present water levels during the next (2) to (5) days.— MNA

New rainfall record

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — The amount of rainfall (119) mm (4.69 inches) observed at (9:30) hour MST today in Putao is the (24) hours new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of May during last (41) years. The former record was (109) mm (4.29 inches) on 8 May 2001.— MNA

Strong earthquake jolts outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale rocked Laos-Myanmar border outside Myanmar, 390 miles North East of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory at 3:28:12 MST today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department. — MNA