

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates French President

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulation to His Excellency Mr Nicolas Sarkozy, on his assumption of the Presidency of the French Republic on 16 May 2007. — MNA

Cambodian PM to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar

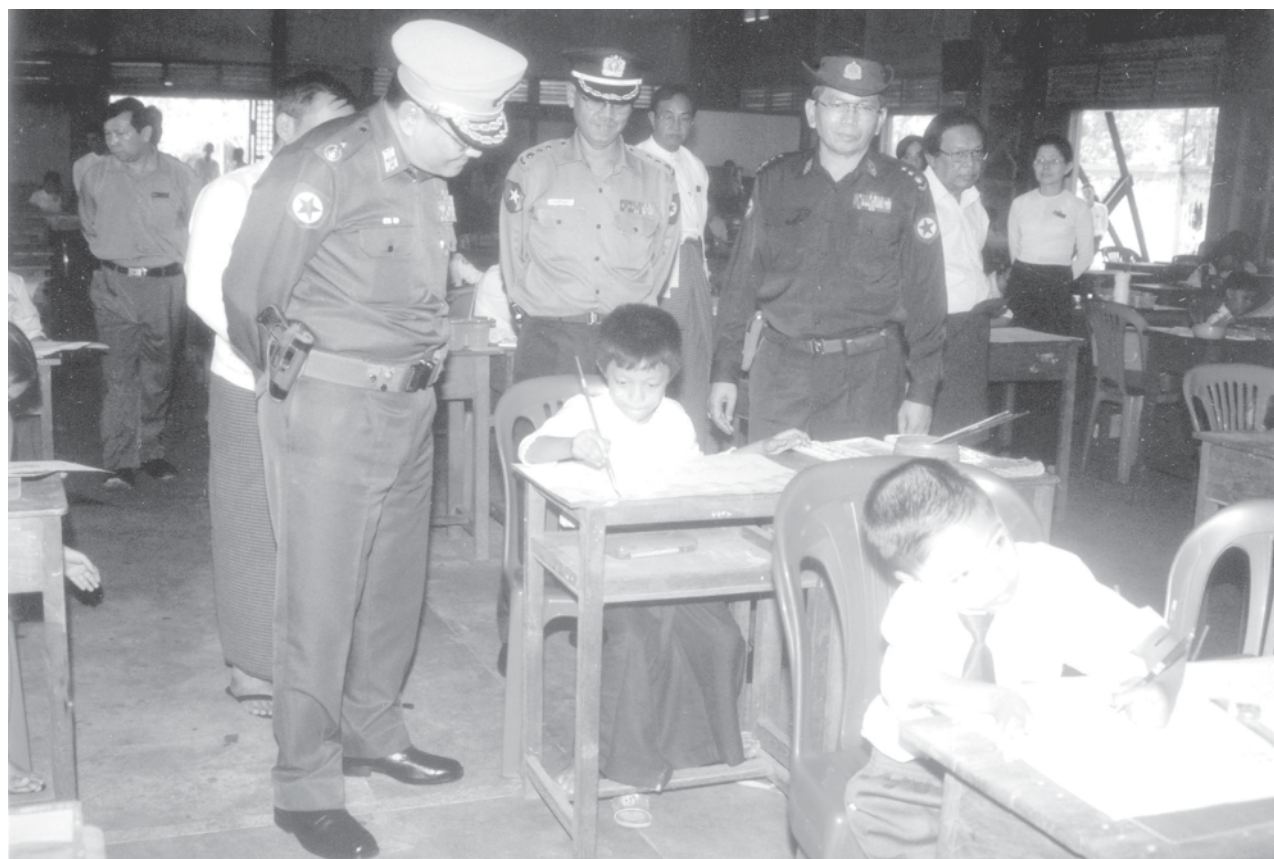
NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — At the invitation of Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, will pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

Cartoon, painting and poster competitions to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking for 2007 organized

YANGON, 17 May — Yangon Division Committee for Drug Abuse Control organized the cartoon, painting and poster competitions in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking for 2007 at Basic Education High School

No 2 in Latha Township this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected participation of contestants in the under-10, the aged 10-15, the aged 15-20



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win visits division level cartoon, painting and poster competitions to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking for 2007. — 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

and the above-20 events for the cartoon, painting and poster competitions at Yangon Division level.

A total of 84 contestants took part in the cartoon event, 73 in the painting event and 79 in the poster event.

Likewise, six contestants competed in the middle school level computer art contest and 13 in the high school level computer art contest. — MNA

Weather Forecast for (18-5-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas

One or two rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 May, 2007

Grow cash crop kenaf extensively

Today the government is fulfilling all agricultural requirements including water supply for boosting production of crops, and farmers are using advanced agricultural methods and high-yield strains of crops. So, the nation is enjoying economic growth resulting from increasing output of agricultural produce.

Kenaf is among the crops farmers should grow extensively for better income. It grows well on any soil in any season. There is no need to add much fertilizer to the soil to cultivate it, and it grows fast if it gets sunshine well.

Kenaf fibre can be obtained from kenaf stem by soaking it in water or peeling it in raw and exposing it to the sun.

It is harvested when it is at the age of four to six months. Kenaf plants in raw or fibre-removed kenaf stems can be used to produce pulp.

Kenaf contains 20 to 40 per cent protein, so it can also be consumed.

The most appropriate period to grow pre-monsoon kenaf is between early April and mid-May. The field should be ploughed deeply and thoroughly. Four pyis (small baskets) of kenaf seeds are scattered for an acre. An acre of land needs about five to ten bullock carts full of natural fertilizer, a minimum of 25 kilos of urea fertilizer and 12.5 kilos of potash fertilizer to boost production of kenaf.

Kenaf is grown on a commercial scale in Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Sagaing divisions. Farmers should extensively grow kenaf, which has ready market, to obtain better income.



Soon Hoe & Cynthia Hoe and daughter Serena Hoe of 3301, Aegean Way San Bruno Ca 94066, USA, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint Treasurer of the Home for the Aged U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the donation presented by the 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

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — The State Peace and Development Council has transferred Director-General U Pe Than Oo of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Political Department under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed General Manager (Engineer/Administration) U Kyaw Soe of Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation as Principal of Central Institute of Transport and Communications under the Ministry of Rail Transportation on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

MNA

Yangon Command MCWA's aerobic training course concluded

YANGON, 17 May — Aerobic Training Course organized by Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association concluded at the command headquarters yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the concluding ceremony. Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai delivered a concluding address.

Trainees of the course demonstrated aerobics and the ceremony concluded. — MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai delivers an address at concluding of aerobic training course organized by Yangon Command MCWA. — MNA

Annual meeting of Rice Dealers Association on 19 May

YANGON, 17 May — The new office of Myanmar Rice Dealers Association will be opened on 19 May at 7 am at the corner of Yuzana and Nwethagi Roads at Bayintnaung Brokerage in Mayangon Township. The association will also hold its 10th Annual Meeting at Mingala Hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Office Tower at No 29 on Min Ye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on the same day at 10 am. Members were invited to attend the meeting.

MNA

Traditional Medicine Course (Basic) opened in Pyay

YANGON, 17 May — An opening ceremony of Traditional Medicine Course (Basic) organized by Bago Division (West) Women's Affairs Organization was held at the meeting hall of Pyay Township Peace and Development Council on 12 May, attended by the Patron and members of Bago Division (West) WAO, the Head of Bago Division (West) Traditional Medicine Department and trainees.

Patron Daw Thein Paing made an opening address and Head of the department U Aung Aung gave account on purpose of opening the course.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thomson agrees to buy “Reuters” for \$17.2b

LONDON, 16 May—Canadian publisher Thomson Corp has agreed to buy *Reuters* for about 8.7 billion pounds (17.2 billion US dollars) to create the world’s biggest financial news and data group, the companies said on Tuesday.

The deal has the support of the *Reuters* Founders Share Company but still needs regulatory clearance, they said in a joint statement.

The Founders Share Company could have blocked a takeover if it thought *Reuters* editorial independence was at risk.

“The combination of these two great businesses will create an exceptional

global information company guided by the *Reuters* Trust Principles,” *Reuters* Chief Executive Tom Glocer said in the statement.

The Thomson family, which owns 70 per cent of the Toronto-based group via its Woodbridge holding company, backs the takeover and several *Reuters* investors have said they believe the offer of 352-1/2 pence and 0.16 Thomson shares for each *Reuters* share is fair.

Thomson-*Reuters* will have revenues of about 12 billion US dollars and almost 49,000 employees. With 34 per cent of the financial information market, it will overtake

Bloomberg LP, which has 33 per cent, according to industry newsletter Inside Market Data.

Thomson, whose publishing interests span law, tax and scientific research, has been building its financial data business as it looks to tap into booming global markets. It sold its education unit for 7.75 billion US dollars in cash last week.

The Thomson family’s Woodbridge vehicle will own 53 per cent of the new dual-listed Thomson-*Reuters* group and support the *Reuters* Trust Principles of integrity, independence and freedom from bias.

MNA/Reuters

Women gaining more say in China’s politics

BEIJING, 16 May — Chinese women have more say in politics, with more than 200 of them now in positions of the governors, Cabinet ministers or holding posts equivalent to that level.

The proportion of

female officials at various levels of government and state institutions has been raised to 40 per cent, said Huang Qingyi, vice-president and first secretary of the Secretariat of All-China Women’s Federation, at a Press

conference on Tuesday.

“The participation of women in politics has increased enormously,” Huang said, noting that currently there are nine female “state leaders” — a term described people with a post equal to or above the vice-premier level.

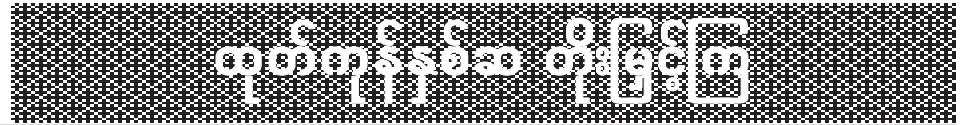
These important females include Wu Yi, Vice-Premier and Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, He Luli, Gu Xiulian and Uyunqing, all vice-chairwomen of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, or top legislature, and Chen Zhili, State Councillor.

Five women have been promoted to state leaders in less than six years since 2001, Huang added.

At the end of 2005, there were 241 women in the ministerial posts across China, which means they are key decision-makers in a province and ministry, or equally important state agencies.—MNA/Xinhua



Malaysian Chinese singer Ah-Niu presents Cyndi Wang with a bundle of peach blossoms at the release ceremony of her latest album “*Magic Cyndi*” in Beijing on 15 May, 2007. —INTERNET



Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with a delegation of Yale University students and faculty in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 May, 2007.—XINHUA

Car bomb near Shiite market northeast of Baghdad kills 32 and wounds 50

BAGHDAD, 16 May—A car bomb exploded near a market in a Shiite enclave northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 32 people and wounding 50, police said Wednesday. Hospital officials and victims said chlorine gas may have been used in the attack, but police and the US military denied that.

Clashes also broke out in the mostly Shiite city of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, when militants fought with police who had arrested two wanted

militia members, police said. Nine Iraqis were killed and 75 wounded, police said.

In Baghdad, at least nine mortar rounds or rockets slammed into the US-controlled Green Zone, killing two Iraqis and wounding 10 people — none of them Americans, US Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said. It was the second such attack in as many days.

The Green Zone, a sprawling complex on the

west bank of the Tigris River, also was hit by a rocket Tuesday, wounding nine foreigners. Fintor said he could not provide specific nationalities but they were not Americans or Iraqis.

A recent increase in mortar and rocket attacks on the Green Zone, which houses the US Embassy and major Iraqi government offices, has raised concern, especially since they are occurring during the US-led crackdown.

Internet

Six US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 May—Six American soldiers were killed and 11 others wounded in Iraq on Monday, bringing the death toll of US soldiers killed in Iraq to about 3,400 since the US-led invasion broke out in

2003, the US military said on Tuesday.

Two soldiers were killed and four others wounded when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with small arms fire southeast of Baghdad, a military statement said.

A US airman was killed and three others were wounded in a roadside bomb attack at about 3:55 pm (1155 GMT) on Monday in southern Baghdad, another statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



Musicians Big Kenny Alphin (L) and John Rich of the country duo Big & Rich arrive for the 42nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 15 May, 2007.—XINHUA



Liu Xiang holds up two trophies for Sportsman of the Year and the Most Popular Sportsman of the Year during the 2007 China Top Ten Benefiting Laureus Sports For Good award ceremony in Changsha, on 12 May, 2007. —XINHUA

Construction to start on “Airbus A320” China assembly line

TIANJIN, 16 May — A ground-breaking ceremony is to be held later Tuesday to launch the construction of European aircraft maker Airbus A320 assembly line in north China’s port city of Tianjin.

The plant in the Tianjin Binhai New Area, the first for Airbus outside Europe, is expected to start operating in August next year and have an annual capacity of 44 aircraft in 2011, sources with the project said.

The project includes assembly workshops, power stations, hangars and outdoor facilities. The main body of the assembly workshop will be completed at the end of this year.

Airbus will hold a majority 51-per-cent stake in the Tianjin

assembly facility, while the rest will be held by Tianjin Zhongtian Aviation Industry Investment Co, an entity comprised of investors such as Hafei Aviation Industry Co and Jiangxi Hongdu Aviation

Industry Co, both affiliated to AVIC Two, Tianjin Bonded Zone Investment Co, and China Aviation Industry Corp One (AVIC One), the other leading Chinese aircraft maker.

MNA/Xinhua



Quechua indigenous people, wearing traditional clothes, dance during celebrations of the traditional Tinku Festival in the city of Macha, Bolivia, in 4 May, 2007 file photo. Tinku, an ancestral ritual that predates the Spanish conquest, consists of rival villages engaging in hand-to-hand combat that tradition says will secure richer, more prosperous crops in the coming year. — INTERNET

US, local soldiers killed in Pakistani tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 16 May—An American and a Pakistani soldier were killed when unidentified gunmen fired at them in the Pakistani tribal territory Monday, the Pakistani Army said.

Army spokesman Major-General Waheed Arshad said that miscreants opened fire on the vehicles of American and Pakistani soldiers when they were returning from a meeting with Afghan

officials at the border areas.

The meeting was convened to stop clashes between Pakistani and Afghan forces along the border.

“There was no clash on Monday,” Arshad said.

He said that investigations have started as to who fired on the American and Pakistani soldiers.

He said that three American and four Pakistani soldiers were

injured when the miscreants attacked them.

“One American and a Pakistani soldier died later due to injuries,” the spokesman said.

On Sunday, seven Afghan soldiers were killed when Pakistani soldiers returned fire to an attack by the Afghan forces in the Pakistani Kurrum tribal region, according to the Pakistani military.

MNA/Xinhua

Los Angeles unveils ambitious plan to fight global warming

LOS ANGELES, 16 May — Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Tuesday released a plan aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in one of the most polluted cities in the United States.

The plan, dubbed Green LA, relies heavily on 50 initiatives aimed at expanding renewable energy sources and providing alternatives to driving vehicles, with a target to reduce the city’s carbon dioxide emissions 35 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030.

“We’re setting the green standard in LA,” Villaraigosa said. “Reducing our carbon footprint by 35 per cent below 1990 levels is the most ambitious goal set by a major American city.”

Los Angeles once again topped the list of the most polluted US cities in a study released by the American Lung Association earlier this month.

The new green plan calls for expanded regional rail lines, improved bus service to Los Angeles International Airport, more develop-

ment around transit hubs, and distributing fluorescent light bulbs as a way to urge residents to conserve energy.

And the mayor also wants to secure 35 per cent of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The city utility, which supplies electricity for 1.4 million homes and businesses, currently relies heavily on burning coal at power plants and is responsible for one-third of the total emissions.

MNA/Xinhua

Avalanche buries two Spaniards in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 16 May—Two Spanish mountaineers were swept away on Sunday by an avalanche while they were climbing Mt Dhaulagiri in Nepal, the seventh highest peak in the world, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Tuesday.

Santiago Sagaste, who was leading a six-member Spanish team called “Club Exea Dhaulagiri Expedition”, has gone missing with teammate Ricardo Valencia after an avalanche buried their camp on the way to the 8,167-metre peak, according to the daily. A third Spanish climber, Javi Serrano, and an Austrian climber Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, were luckier and escaped though their gear was swept away.

According to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, these mountaineers scaled the peak on 29 April and 1 May. — MNA/Xinhua



South Korean children crouch underneath classroom desks during an earthquake drill in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday, 16 May, 2007. The two-day exercise started on Tuesday was a routine drill and combined with disaster prevention drills. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Indonesia to increase cotton production to 70,000 tons in 2010

JAKARTA, 16 May—Indonesia plans to increase its cotton production to 70,000 tons in 2010 to reduce its dependence on imports, Director General of Plantations Achmad Manggabarani said here on Monday.

He said domestic need for cotton at present reached 550,000 tons a year but only 5,000 tons of it could be met by domestic production and the rest had to be met with imports.

“To meet the production target we plan to open 50,000 hectares of cotton plantations until

2010 and raise productivity to 1.4 tons per hectare,” Antara news agency quoted Manggabarani as saying.

At present, productivity of cotton plantations in Indonesia reached only 0.6 tons per hectare because the seeds the farmers used were low quality.

The cotton plantation development programme would be implemented in 55 districts in seven provinces, namely Central Java, East Java, Yogyakarta, Bali, East Nusa Tenggara and South

Sulawesi.

In 2006, the country’s cotton plantation development reached 8,980 hectares, producing 4,191 tons of raw cotton equivalent to 1,397 tons of processed cotton, and contributed 0.3 per cent to the textile industry and textile production.

MNA/Xinhua



An artist's representation of the molecular structure of nanoglue. A cheap glue that gets stronger at high temperatures might be useful around the house, but make it 100,000 times thinner than a human hair and you have nanoglue, a sticky substance that could help make extremely tiny computer chips, US researchers said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

Japanese melons from bankrupt city fetch record price

TOKYO, 16 May — A pair of melons from the Japanese city of Yubari — better known lately for going bankrupt than for its farm produce — fetched a record two million yen (16,600 US dollars) at the season's first auction on Tuesday.

Department store Marui Imai Inc in the city of Sapporo on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido snapped up the melons, beating out other bidders and besting the previous record price of 800,000 yen set last year, an official of local farm

co-op JA Yubari said.

“This year is the 135th anniversary of the founding of our department store, so that is one reason” why the store paid so much, said Marui Imai spokeswoman Shizuka Sumii.

MNA/Reuters

Asian beauty queens give art performance in Bali

BALI (Indonesia), 16 May — A huge colourful art performance was given by 18 beauty queens from five Asian countries, namely China, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, in Indonesia's resort island of Bali Tuesday night.

Attended by more than 3,000 people, including diplomats from the five countries, the beauty queens showed cultural arts from their countries.

The activity was jointly organized by China's Guangxi TV Station and the Indonesian state TV station (TVRI) in a bid to promote the culture of their respective countries and tourism in the Southeast Asian Region.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian company resumes petroleum export to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 16 May — The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Monday resumes the exportation of petroleum products to Nepal, local newspaper *The Himalayan Times* reported on Tuesday.

A high-ranking Indian official on Monday said 1,009 kilolitres of petroleum products have been routed to Nepal, the report says.

Last week, IOC slashed the supply quantum by 40 per cent, citing non-payment on the part of Nepal.

The Indian official said in view of the agreement between IOC and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC), there was no question of not supplying petroleum products to Nepal.

In April, Nepali former secretary at the Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies Bharat Bahadur Thapa and officials of the NOC visited Indian capital New Delhi and made a pact with the IOC of trenched payment every fortnight.

NOC has about 6 billion Nepali rupees (around 91.6 million US dollars) in unpaid bills to settle with the Indian supplier. — MNA/Xinhua

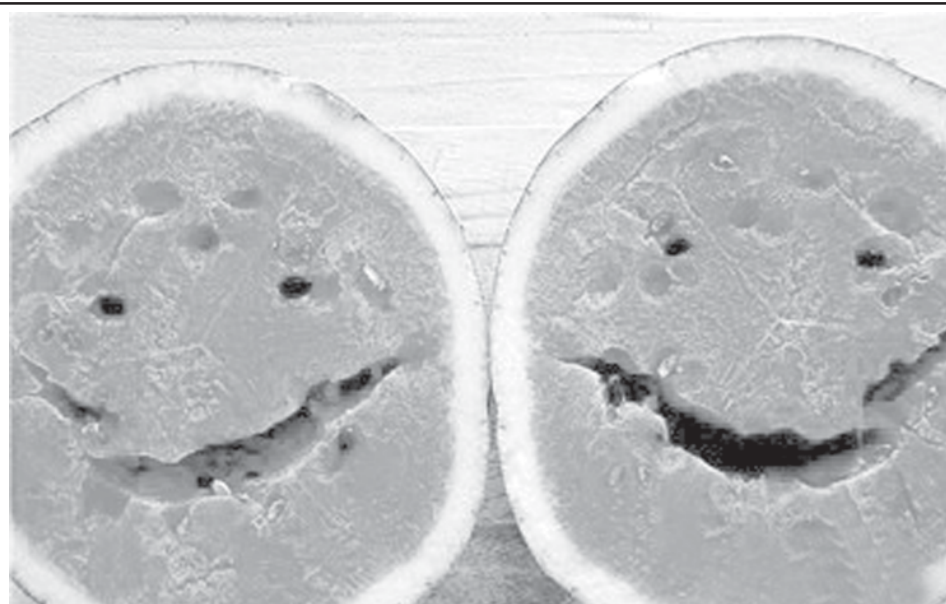


Photo taken on 15 May, shows smiling faces in two halves of a split watermelon. Mr Li in Beijing bought the watermelon and sliced it open to find this happy greeting.—INTERNET

610,000 overseas companies in China have trade unions

BEIJING, 16 May — The All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) Tuesday said 610,000 overseas companies, including those with investment from Hong Kong and Macao, have established trade unions in China by the end of September in 2006.

The number of union members in overseas companies reached 11,797,000, said Li Bingsheng, director of the research department with ACFTU, on a Press conference held here.

The ACFTU figures indicate 54.5 per cent of the overseas companies were provided with trade

unions while 55.5 per cent of their employees had joined the unions.

The formation of trade unions in the Wal-Mart outlets in China last year was a major breakthrough in expanding trade unions for better protection of workers' rights in overseas companies, said Li.

The federation, led by

the Communist Party of China (CPC) and backed by the government, said the country has a total of 1,324,000 trade unions with a membership of 170 million people, including 40,978,000 migrant workers from rural areas, by the end of September 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



A yacht makes its tour through the Qutang gorge one of the Three Gorges in Chongqing municipality, southwest China, on 14 May, 2007. After the water in the reservoir was raised to 156 metres, the landscape of the Qutang gorge appeared to be more beautiful along with its ever loftiness and steepness.—INTERNET

Chinese hi-tech products popular in Africa

SHANGHAI, 17 May — “Hi-tech products from China such as computers, mobile phones and software are more and more popular in African countries, just like China-made clothes and shoes,” Togo businessman Coubadja told *Xinhua*.

Chinese products are cheaper than those from the US and Japan, and the quality is good, according to Coubadja, who is here to attend the 2007 annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank.

“I just bought a Lenovo computer for my family,” he said.

High-quality, competitively-priced cameras, televisions and computers from China are on sale in shops in Benin, said Eloge Houessou, a macro economist with UEMOA from the Republic of Benin.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce show the proportion of hi-tech products in China's exports to Africa rose from 8 to 10 per cent in 2005. Together, electronic and hi-tech products make up 45 per cent of the total.

“African countries have realized the importance of hi-tech industries such as telecommunications for an economy.

The development of Africa is an opportunity for China which has advanced technologies in these sectors,” said Joseph Ibara, Togo's Minister of Economics and Finance.

The number of cellphone users in Africa has grown at an annual rate of over 40 per cent since 2000 to reach 187 million by the end of 2006.

Analysts are betting on 50 million new users each year for the foreseeable future.

Some hi-tech giants such as Huawei and Lenovo, as well as a number of medium- and small-sized firms, are already active in the African market.

MNA/Xinhua



A Motorola Razr2 handset in an undated file photo. Motorola Inc, the No 2 cell phone maker, unveiled a slimmer Razr phone on Tuesday and said it was working with some Hollywood studios to put movies on handsets as it aims to regain market share.—INTERNET

Small Swiss observatory finds ice planet

GENEVA, 16 May— An observatory in southern Switzerland has detected the first planet made of ice, Swiss Radio International (SRI) reported on Wednesday.

Located outside the solar system it is about the same size as Neptune, according to the report.

The find was made by a team of four astronomers from the St Luc observatory in canton Valais and Geneva University.

“It's really the first time that we've found the transit of such a small planet and the first time we know precisely the mass and the size of a planet that's not a giant gaseous one,” Frederic Mallmann, head of the observatory, told SRI.

“It's the first sort of ocean planet that has ever been found and it's a great step toward (finding) other

planets that resemble Earth,” he added.

Using a 24-inch telescope, the team measured the light coming from a star 30 light years away, which is not very far in astronomical terms.

Team members found it was dimmed a little for about an hour, meaning that this was the time when the planet was passing in front of its star.

“It's a planet with a radius four times that of the Earth. It's orbiting very close to its star — a few million km, so it's a very hot planet made mainly of hot ice with a temperature of more than 300 degrees,” Mallmann explained.—Internet

Saudi Arabia announces discovery of two new oil fields

RIYADH, 17 May — Saudi Arabia's state-run Aramco oil company has found two new gas-rich oil fields in the country's Eastern Province, Oil Minister Ali al-Nuaimi said Tuesday.

Both oil fields, Mabruk 1 and Durwazah 1, lie southeast of Saudi Arabia's Al-Ghawar field, the largest oil field in the world, Nuaimi said in a statement.

The Mabruk 1 field will produce 5,600 barrels of heavy crude and 2 million cubic feet (56,634 cubic metres) of natural gas per day, said the statement, adding that the Durwazah 1 field will produce 5,569 barrels of light crude and 2.8 million cubic feet (79,287 cubic metres) of natural gas per day.

Nuaimi said the two oil fields' daily output of crude and natural gas are expected to exceed the figures under normal conditions for production.— MNA/Xinhua



The college student representatives from both China and South Korea put pots of flowers to form a pattern of five Olympic rings at the Beijing botanical garden in Beijing, on 15 May, 2007. The sixth green volunteers exchange activity of China-South Korea college students was held here from 14 to 16 May, attracting 100 South Korean students and 60 Chinese students.—INTERNET

Brazil, Argentina agree to boost energy cooperation

BRASILIA, May — Brazil and Argentina on Tuesday agreed to establish a joint working group to boost bilateral energy cooperation, reported *Agencia Brazil news agency*.

The agreement was reached by Brazilian Minister of Energy and Mining Silas Rondeau and Argentine Minister of Planning, Public Investment and Services Julio de Vido during their meeting on energy.

The working group is

scheduled to hold its first meeting in July to set up its joint energy strategy.

Rondeau stressed the importance of boosting bilateral cooperation in bio-fuels, as both countries are biofuels producers and exporters.

On nuclear coopera-

tion, Rondeau said the two countries will sign an agreement on nuclear technology cooperation.

Argentina recently decided to resume its nuclear power plan while Brazil owns two nuclear power plants.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian laptop makers to promote computer use among poor

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 May — Brazilian laptop manufacturers are to join a special social programme aimed at promoting the use of computers among disadvantaged members of society, the federal government announced on Tuesday.

The programme, titled “Computador Para Todos” (Computers For All), will give people from some of the country's poorest areas an opportunity to buy laptops at lower prices, according to a decree issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology Monday. The laptops will be equipped with a 1.4 gigahertz microprocessor, 512 megabytes of RAM, a 40 gigabyte hard disk, a combo (DVD ROM/CD-rewritable) drive and a 14-inch screen.

MNA/Xinhua



City bound peak hour traffic heads across the Sydney Harbour Bridge under a blanket of fog on 17 May, 2007. A layer of heavy fog over Australia's largest city caused travel problems on Thursday with cancelled commuter ferry services and dozens of inbound flights diverted to alternative airports.—INTERNET

Yangon Division USDA funded for public health care

YANGON, 17 May — A cash donation ceremony of Myanmar Brewery Ltd was held at the first floor of City Hall this afternoon.

CEC member of USDA Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted K 5 million to be used in public health care services being carried out by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association presented by General Manager Mr Peter Ong and Deputy GM U Maung Maung Sein. The mayor presented certificate of honour to the donors and spoke words of thanks. — MNA



CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepts K 5 million donated by Myanmar Brewery Ltd. — YCDC

Report says ocean around Japan warming up fast

TOKYO, 17 May — The ocean around Japan has warmed up faster than elsewhere in the world over the last hundred years partly because of global warming, Japan's Meteorological Agency said on Tuesday.

The sea surface temperature around central, western and southern Japan has climbed by 0.7 to 1.6

degrees Celsius in the last century, far higher than the world average of a 0.5 degree Celsius increase, a survey conducted by the agency showed.

The findings were based on data collected by research and commercial vessels that started in the late 19th century.

The agency said global warming was

partly to blame for the fast rise in the ocean temperature around Japan.

“But the areas surveyed were so small that we cannot say the rise in the water's temperature has been caused entirely by global warming,” it said. It did not specify why the ocean around Japan would be more affected than other parts of the world. — MNA/Reuters



Yangon Division Team plays against Mandalay Division Team during the men's semi-final match of their 3rd Inter State/Division U-18 Basketball Competition on 17 May 2007. — NLM

Electric Power No 2 Minister meets Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met General Manager Mr Gao Rong of China National Electronic Imports & Export Southwest Co and party of People's Republic of China at the minister's office, here, yesterday.

Present at the call were Head of Office Col Nyo Myint, Deputy Director-General U Saw Win of Electric Power Department, Chief Engineer U Aye Thaw of Power Supply Projects Department and officials. — MNA

Torrential rains with strong winds cause damages

YANGON, 17 May — Torrential rains with strong winds caused damages in some townships from the states and divisions on 14 and 15 May as the Cyclone storm “AKASH” occurred over the North of Bay of Bangal.

A landslide caused a traffic jam on Haka-Gangaw road section in Haka Township and the kitchen of a house in Paungde, Bago Division (West) collapsed due to torrential rains with strong winds.

Moreover, the flooded creek caused a traffic jam temporarily and some lamp-posts collapse in Pauk, Pakokku, Saw Townships in Magway Division. Kadin village was flooded in Yamethin, Mandalay Division.

Some fishermen were missing as two fishing boats sank in Pauktaw and Manaung Townships in Rakhine State. Therefore, officials concerned were carrying out rescue tasks. Roofs of some buildings were turned out, trees collapsed and the telephone lines were cut in Sittway, Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Myebon Townships.

Roofs of some buildings were turned out and some school buildings were damaged in Hinthada, Ingapu, Latbutta, Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Division. Local authorities provided necessary assistance to the victims. — MNA

Commander inspects progress of Mandalay ...

(from page 16)

In addition, preparations are to be made for stallation of larger machines.

The machine can mill two or 2.25 baskets of physic nut seeds per hour and can produce physic nut oil through the seeds.

Next, the commander viewed functions of the Foundry Shop, manufacturing of machine parts, four jaw chuck, counter weight, air compressor, samples of 10-ton power dump tube head, pipe flange, brake drum and compressor.

Chairman of the development committee U Aung Win Khaing conducted the commander round the factory.

The factory could manufacture 91 items of tyre and vehicle parts. This month, the factory plans to produce various sizes of dynamo and mortar, steel ball, ball mail liner, panel control as import-substitute products to distribute them not only to Mandalay Industrial Zone but also to the entire nation.

The commander inspected extension of the road at the corner of 35th and 73rd Streets for traffic safety. — MNA

China trains fighting fox force to rout rodents

BEIJING, 17 May — Animal husbandry officials in western China have deployed crack forces of trained wolves, eagles and foxes to combat an outbreak of marauding rats, local media reported on Wednesday.

The Fuyun County government in Xinjiang's northern Altai Region spent 80,000 yuan (10,400 US dollars) buying and training 20 foxes at a special base to catch rats that threatened to destroy some two million hectares of grassland, the *China Daily* said.

“The rat populations in areas where the foxes make their homes are much smaller than in other areas. We plan to train and

free 200 foxes into the wild every year,” Shayila Wu, a local official, told the paper.

The local Army contingent had also set up 50 perches for eagles, the paper said, adding that an eagle could eat about 10 rats a day on average.

The large plains rats, which were posing a threat to local people's livelihoods through environmental damage and disease, had bred heavily due to an unseasonably warm winter, the paper said.

Where rat poison had failed, the natural predators were “expected to come in handy this year”, the paper said.

— MNA/Reuters

80-year-old Belgian thief sentenced to 6 months in jail

BRUSSELS, 17 May — A court in the central Belgian city of Leuven on Wednesday sentenced an 80 year-old man to six months in prison and a fine of 275 euros for stealing money from the collection boxes at several churches.

Ronny Meyers is probably the oldest thief in Belgium to get a prison sentence, Belgian news service *Expatica* reported.

Meyers' attorney had asked for a relief from additional prison time for his client because the appeal court in Antwerp, a city in northern Belgium, had already put him in prison for one month for similar offences. But the court in Leuven did not agree.

The 80-year-old has already been convicted more than 40 times for stealing in the course of his life. — MNA/Xinhua

Going too far?

A Reader

As I was systematically placing the newspaper cuttings I had kept for years on the shelf, I had not met with my pals for some time at the tea shop, a gathering point of our friends.

While I was putting away the cuttings, my pals arrived at my house unexpectedly. They were holding some dailies and periodicals. I knew at once that they might have something to discuss with me.

One of them said, "Sorry to disturb you, but we are in limbo. We come to your house as we cannot wait till you come to the tea shop."

Another then asked, "Aren't China and Vietnam adopted market economy not long after Myanmar introduced it to herself?"

"What you mean is that both China and Vietnam are developing faster than Myanmar in terms of economy. Is that what you would like to discuss?" I asked them.

"You bet! Actually, we feel dissatisfied with that. On the other hand, there may be many other reasons. Some people also have the same view."

"I hope, it's still in your memory that at the press conference No 7/2006, a journalist asked the same question as he too was dissatisfied with the situation."

"I still remember the Chairman of the Information Committee the Minister for Information gave a reasonable and detailed answer concerning the question".

"The minister said that if Myanmar was free from economic sanctions of a certain foreign power as in the case of Vietnam, she would achieve development two times that at present."

"At the previous APEC meeting held in Vietnam, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in an insinuating way said that Myanmar should follow Vietnamese model. I think you are uncertain whether her statement was right or wrong."

"I don't mean so. My positive wish is for our nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with other countries. I wish all would collectively amend our weaknesses."

"We believe in the law of karma and the law of cause and effect. So we should have the ability to find the root cause of all the matters and to analyze their effects. We must discard all evil causes and at the same time encourage the good ones to produce sound results."

"True! The Tatmadaw government has been resolutely endeavouring to realize the

multiparty democracy system and market economic system since its assumption of the State duties. We have belief in the government as we have witnessed its endeavours."

"So, I would like to raise a question. There is a political party inside the nation that is trying to disturb all the government's endeavours with negative view while relying on aliens under the name of the Opposition. Do China and Vietnam have such political party as in our country?"

"No. The two countries are unitedly serving their own interests with oneness and might and main under the single leadership of their national political force."

"Besides, they do not have any national traitor expatriates evil enough for the government to declare their organizations as unlawful groups and terrorist bands. The two countries do not have any parallel government either that is relying on a certain foreign power to make its voice heard internationally."

"OK. But are the two countries facing any attempts of the said foreign power to interfere in their affairs and dominate them?"

"There might be only some cloak-and-dagger foreign interferences. But it is sure that they do not face any open hostile interferences and pressures like us."

"That is the answer. The said foreign power regards every nation that do not agree with it as its enemy."

"But depending on geographical condition and according to its political strategy, the power categorizes countries into the ones it should make concessions to, the ones it should give favour to and extend close relations with and the ones it should apply one-sided pressures on with biased view in extending its international relations. This way it is applying multiple standards."

"Now I see the whole picture. The said power tries to put pressure on Myanmar with a naval flotilla during the 1988 unrest; and the so-called Congressmen arrived and incited to form an interim government and to convene the Hluttaw, sowing discord."

"There were more. Through its embassy, the power was instigating and flattering a group of persons who took the leading role during the unrest without understanding even the fundamental principles of politics."

"Thinking those flatters as real and instigation as encouragement, seasonal politicians were acting arrogantly as if they were prominent persons and

grabbing all available opportunities under the pretext of democracy slogans."

"At that time, NLD Chairman U Tin Oo started to slam regional countries including China, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan that had close relations with Myanmar. He wrote to prime ministers and foreign ministers of other nations including the president and the secretary of state of the US to gain their sympathy and to urge them to cut off all relations with Myanmar and to put pressure on her."

"Daw Suu Kyi of NLD who can be dubbed as an alien fair lady slammed the Tatmadaw government with harsh words in playing a political game."

"So some foreign media are opposing the Tatmadaw government with one-sided and narrow view till now. They are trying to tarnish Myanmar's international image with made-up and exaggerated news reports."

"Some were even attempting to confront and oppose the government with the intention of harming community peace and the rule of law as they were not content with their violent acts during the unrest."

"The underground elements (UGs) of Burma Communist Party (BCP) laid a trap to cause a bloodbath after designating the 1989 Martyrs Day as the second revolution. Daw Suu Kyi and NLDs were on the verge of falling into the trap when the Tatmadaw government restored the situation back to normal. The people were saved from being suffering from an unnecessary danger."

"Because of her rich natural and human resources, international entrepreneurs were eyeing on Myanmar that was in transition from Socialist economic system to market economy to make investment in her. I think I read the news which said that foreign entrepreneurs are assuming that Myanmar had sound foundations for investment."

"You are right. The said news was rife in the nation during the time. News reports and news articles that featured them in the periodicals gave witness to the fact."

"Please let me read some of those periodicals if they are available in your house. Almost everyone may forget about them as 18 years have already passed. How can 19-year olds and 20-year olds know this? Even people in their 40s and 50s are starting to forget those events."

"Foreigners who knew well about Myanmar wrote news reports and news articles about the situations. Just now, I have found a news article while placing my old cuttings in order on the shelf."

"I am interested in it. Please read it for me."

A foreigner who assessed Myanmar's conditions and future prospects in 1989-90 was former Chairman Michael Dobbs Higginson of Merrill Lynch company to Asia Pacific Region. He is the writer of the book *Asia Pacific New World Disorder*.

In his article entitled *What is the National League for Democracy Up To?* he wrote that international investors were focusing more on Myanmar due to the endeavours of the present Myanmar government and the international community's dissatisfaction with the situation in China and Vietnam.

(See page 9)

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Going too far?

A Reader

(from page 8)

The article said if the NLD made up of many factions arguing each other with different objectives went on like this irresponsibly and selfishly, those who would face the evil consequences would be ordinary people, not the Tatmadaw government.

“It said if foreign governments no longer offered any assistance and made any investments in Myanmar due to the acts of the NLD, it would have adverse effects on ordinary people’s education and health sectors and services of infrastructures such as supply of electric power and clean water, and smooth transport along with the drive for raising the socio-economic life of the people.

It added that foreign governments and investors might assume that there would be more unrest in the nation due to instigation of international news agencies and the acts of the NLD.

It said it was time Myanmar people, individuals and all, understood more the NLD’s egoistic acts.

It noted that surely, the more the people understood the prevailing situations the more they would show their support for the government. In the time of the present government, the nation had prospects for greater progress and the people had realized that the nation was enjoying fruitful results of development.

The cumulative development of the nation reflected the fact that foreign assistance and investment in the nation were increasing day by day, it added.

The writer said that it was so frightening for him to know that the NLD, whose factions were disunited, and whose members lacked knowledge of the prevailing situations of the nation and political experience was trying to rule the nation.

“As he guessed 18 years ago, Myanmar has always begun the undertakings at the right time but it has never achieved success early due to the problems politicians of the NLD have stirred up constantly.”

“What is worse is that in response to the demands of Daw Suu Kyi and NLD members, expatriate NLD members and their cohorts, since 1993 the US has forced the international community to impose various sanctions against Myanmar such as commerce, investment, international assistance and tourist visit.”

“Because of foreign sanctions, unrest and protests internal destructive elements are committing to destabilize the nation, how can foreign businessmen make investments in Myanmar? I would say that is the root cause.”

“The nation has not received more foreign investments and assistance, but it is very encouraging to see that in a decade the government has managed to build fine basic foundations and created favourable conditions for the development of the nation in various sectors, fulfillment of the basic needs of the people, and building a modern nation.”

“As a matter of fact, internal and external destructive elements are making Myanmar get into grinding poverty. So, they should understand that Myanmar has been able to make a good headway

due to its tenacious efforts.”

“That is right. They are imposing sanctions and applying pressure on Myanmar, but why are they providing assistance to Vietnam? Vietnam is a nation that the US once declared war on and invaded it.”

“Vietnamese patriots repulsed the attack of the neo-colonialists with patriotic spirit. Indeed, Vietnam War was just an aggressive war that humiliated the US.”

“You are right. Vietnam War tarnished the image of the US. In my opinion, for the US, it badly needed to save its face for its loss in the war. In the past, Vietnam was the enemy of the US, but now the US is providing assistance to it.”

“Maybe, that is right. I think another point was that unlike our country, Vietnam had no axe-handles the neo-colonialists could use as their lackeys. Anyhow I am glad to know that Vietnam is developing rapidly. It was a historic evident that Myanmar people expressed their support for Vietnamese people who took part in the war to safeguard their nation and people.”

“By the way, Vietnam needs more power supply due to its development. I read a news story in a journal that it purchased electricity from China. I also read a news story recently that Vietnam was facing electricity shortage, so electricity was distributed to some regions alternately.”

“Today many countries are facing the problem of electric power and energy shortage. To fulfil its power requirement, India is now making investments in hydropower projects in Bhutan.”

“In our country, the people’s living standard is rising and the number of factories and mills is increasing, and it needs to generate more electricity. So the government is implementing hydropower projects to fulfil this requirement.”

“That is not all. Now everyone in our nation knows that the government is trying to complete large hydropower projects in five to ten years to provide sufficient power to local people and to sell the surplus to neighbouring countries.”

“A group of people who are committing acts like naives or veckless davetils and a group of people who are politically exploiting the nation’s situations are making

demands for 24-hour power supply. What is their real purpose?”

“In fact, they are showing their malicious attitude. Here I would like to refer to the word of Shin Disapamok of Bagan Period that ‘A good gardener never nips the buds of a plant, but plucks only the fruit’.”

“I read an article that was featured in the newspaper recently. It said that no one set his own house on fire. If he did so, he must be crazy.”

“Of course. How disappointing local politicians’ acts are! They are resorting to various means to incite unrest making demand for 24-hour power supply. No sooner did inexperienced politicians in exile hear the news that huge hydropower projects such as Htamanthi, Tarhsan and Hatkyi were to be implemented in Myanmar than they staged protests abroad shouting that the projects would have strong impact on the environment.”

“Internal destructive elements are demanding for 24-hour power supply while destructive elements in exile are demanding that no hydropower station be boilt in the nation. Surely, a person without much knowledge may be confused about the nation’s situations due to their demands.”

“They are persuading international community to impose sanctions against Myanmar. And they are pointing out the temporary difficulties that are due to the sanctions and putting all the blame on the government. They have gone too far.”

“Certainly, the expatriate destructive elements are desirous of seeing economic sanctions against Myanmar. They have gone too far that they are misleading the people into misunderstanding the government.”

“I would like to present the comment of Michael Dobbs-Higginson to conclude our conversation.”

“What is it?”

He said it was so frightening for him to know that the NLD, whose factions were disunited and whose members locked knowledge of the prevailing situations of the nation and political experience was trying to rule the nation.

Translation: TMT+MS

Myanma Alin and Kyemon: 17-5-2007

“In our country, the people’s living standard is rising and the number of factories and mills is increasing, and it needs to generate more electricity. So the government is implementing hydropower projects to fulfil this requirement.”

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Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets



Deputy Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun delivers an address at 123rd meeting of Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee. — MNA

YANGON, 17 May — The 123rd meeting of Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee was held at the office of Wireless and Traffic Police Force, here, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the committee Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win of Yangon City Development Committee, committee members and departmental officials.

Secretary of the committee Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council U Hla Soe reported on progress of tasks laid down at the 122nd meeting.

Joint-Secretary of the committee Commander of Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing explained measures on traffic rules enforcement carried out from April to 15 May.

After hearing reports, the chairman attended to the needs.

MNA

Two people wounded in insurgent-planted mines

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May — The insurgents are committing destructive acts through various ways with the intention of disrupting stability of the State and community peace and tranquillity and killing the innocent people and making them panic.

Fifteen-year-old Toe Gyi, son of U Tin Hla in Bawkahta Village, Shwekyin, Bago Division along

with his elder brother went to the forest in search of the missing buffalo and lost his left leg and was wounded at left knee after stepping on a mine planted by the insurgents on 11 May.

Similarly, thirty-eight-year-old Maung San Win, son of U Thaung in Kawtpyin village, Kyaukkyi went to the forest to pick up vegetables, stepped on a mine planted by the insurgents, lost his left leg and was wounded at his right forehead on 11 May.

Toe Gyi was taken to Shwekyin Township People's Hospital and Maung San Win to Mone Station Hospital. Medical treatment and supplies were provided to the victims and the authorities concerned are making arrangements to expose the insurgent terrorists.

MNA

Factories for sale

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Four state-owned factories will be sold through competitive bidding system to private companies.

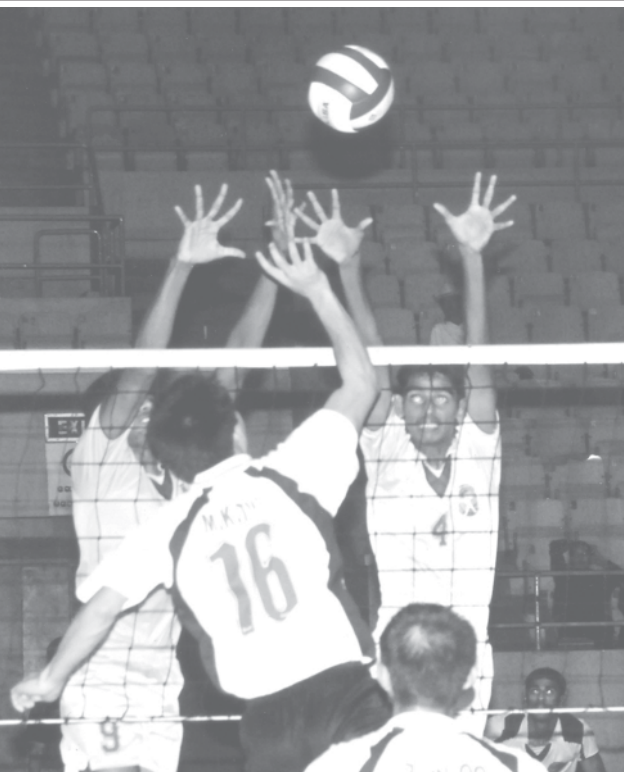
Pathein Soft Drink and Ice Factory (factory's vacant land) of Myat-to village in Pathein will be sold at a floor price of K 263,499,121, Pathein Soft Drink and Ice Factory (factory's land) at a floor price of K 173,096,308, Magyisin Noodle Factory of Magyisin village in Sagaing at a floor price of K 54,146,720 and Annawa Ice Factory (Ye) in Annawa Ward of Ye at a floor price of K 76,435,680.

Tenders can be available at Privatization Commission of Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, Office No-32 in Nay Pyi Taw as from 15 May. The tenders must be submitted from 10 am to 4 pm on 15 June.

For further information on the sale, dial 406069 of Privatization Commission of PAPRD in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Selected Team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation in action against Indian University Champion on 17 May, 2007.
Myanmar volleyball team beat Indian team 3-2.

NLM



DISTRICT NEWS IN BRIEF

Books donated to village library



DEDAYE, (AYEYAWADY DIVISION), 10 May — Dedaye Township Information and Public Relations Department, Dedaye Township Writers and Journalists Association and wellwishers donated books and cash to a self-reliant library in a village in Dedaye Township, Pyapon District, on 8 May.

At the donation ceremony, Head of the township IPRD U San Hlaing and Chairman of the township WJA U Aung Zaw Myint gave talks on general knowledge and advantages of reading and briefed on tasks for development of libraries.

Wellwishers and officials presented 200 books and cash to In-charge of the village library U Chit Win.— *Kyemon Daily*

Myaung DAD paves road



MYAUNG, 5 May — Myaung Township Development Affairs Committee has carried out maintenance and paving of roads in the township during 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Officials of the department closely supervised the paving of 10th Street in Myaung on 28 April. The road is 400 feet long and 12 feet wide. It was constructed at a cost of K 1.8 million funded by the government. — *Kyemon Daily*



Deputy Director of Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee U Than Hlaing inspects garden of Nattalin Township DAD on 27 April, 2007 in Nattalin. —KYEMON DAILY

Laos earthquake jolts Bangkok, Hanoi buildings

BANGKOK, 17 May — A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck northern Laos on Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as Bangkok some 800 kilometres (500 miles) to the south, and Hanoi to the east.

Shoppers fled some of the Thai capital’s many malls in panic and some high-rise office blocks were evacuated after they swayed.

People in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, also felt the tremor and office workers were ordered to leave some tall buildings.

“The building shook quite a bit and we were told to evacuate,” said Michael DiGregorio, a programme officer at the Ford Foundation, a US

philanthropic organization with offices on the 15th floor of a Hanoi building.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said on its Website (<http://earthquake.usgs.gov>) the quake hit at 0856 GMT with its epicentre 92 miles (148 kilometres) from the ancient Lao capital of Luang Prabang.

People in Luang Prabang, a world heritage site on account of its centuries-old Buddhist pagodas and temples, said

they felt only minor shaking.

Longitude and Latitude coordinates given by the USGS placed the epicentre in the sparsely populated, mountainous northern province of Luang Namtha.

The tremors caused some panic in the neighbouring province of Oudomxai, but no damage or casualties, Lao Foreign Ministry spokesman Yong Chanhthalansy said.

MNA/Reuters



Space shuttle Atlantis rolls-out to launch pad 39A aboard the shuttle transporter at Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 15 May, 2007. Atlantis is scheduled to launch in early June with a crew of six on a 11-day mission to the International Space Station. — INTERNET



Hong Kong actress Rain Li attends the Chinese Film Media Awards presentation ceremony in Hong Kong on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Germans convicted of stealing 4 km of railway line

BERLIN, 17 May— A court in Germany has convicted three men of stealing over four kilometres (2.5 miles) of rail track, weighing nearly 500 tons, to sell as scrap metal.

The court in the city of Marburg said on Tuesday the men, aged 26 to 29, pretended to be working for the national rail operator Deutsche Bahn when they began carving up a disused line between nearby Niederwalgern and Lohra with blowtorches.

“They even went around handing out leaflets to locals asking for understanding about the noise,” a court spokesman said.

“The stolen tracks were worth about 170,000 euros (230,000 US dollars) altogether, but they’d collected less than 100,000 euros by the time they were caught.”

The crime has become so famous that the regional Education Ministry has used it as a model for a maths exam, asking pupils to calculate the weight, volume and value of the stolen steel. — MNA/Reuters

“Taxi Sisters” take to the streets of Dakar

DAKAR, 17 May — Female cab drivers dubbed “Taxi Sisters” will take to the streets of Senegal’s sprawling capital Dakar for the first time this month in a move the government hopes will boost gender equality in the mostly Muslim nation.

“This is a new way of tackling the gender issue. What a man can do a woman can also do,” Aida Mbodj, Minister in charge of Women, Family and Social Development in the former French colony, told Reuters.

The female cab drivers will take the wheel behind bright-yellow Chinese-made vehicles with “Taxi Sisters” written in black letters on the bonnet.

Senegal is one of West Africa’s more progressive states in terms

of gender equality, albeit coming from a low base. Forced marriages and female genital mutilation are slowly dying out and the country has even boasted a female prime minister.

Passengers hope the “Taxi Sisters” will have better road sense than their male counterparts, who often mount pavements or drive the wrong way down streets as they compete with mopeds, horse-drawn carts, goats and pedestrians for space.

MNA/Reuters

Police deactivate explosive in N-W Spain

MADRID, 17 May — Spanish police deactivated an explosive device at an industrial estate near the town of Lugo in northwest Spain on Tuesday, they said in a statement.

Local news media received e-mails warning of a bomb and informed the police, who sent bomb experts to disarm the device.

A local government spokeswoman could not give any details, but Spanish National Radio said the explosive was packed in a pressure cooker filled with shrapnel.

There was no word on who was responsible.

Spain holds municipal and regional elections on 27 May and tensions are mounting in the Basque Country region, where a new party with links to violent separatist group ETA is trying to present candidates.

MNA/Reuters

Bus hijacked in northern Italy, passengers freed

TURIN (Italy), 17 May— Three armed men, believed to be North Africans, hijacked a bus in northern Italy on

Tuesday, wounding a policeman before freeing all the passengers, police sources said.

A police source said the three, who had a gun and knives, had stopped the bus which was carrying around 20 passengers, mostly students, on a highway between the Piedmont cities of Novara and Alessandria.

They told women and children to get off, forced the driver to take another road but were then stopped by police who had set up roadblocks in the area.

The attackers set the bus on fire with tanks of fuel they had with them, but no passengers were hurt.

“All the passengers were released,” said an Interior Ministry official.

MNA/Reuters



A boy runs through the rain on a cold on Thursday, 17 May, 2007 in Frankfurt, central Germany with temperatures around seven degrees celsius (44.6 Fahrenheit). — INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (707)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (707) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 18.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L., D.B.L. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
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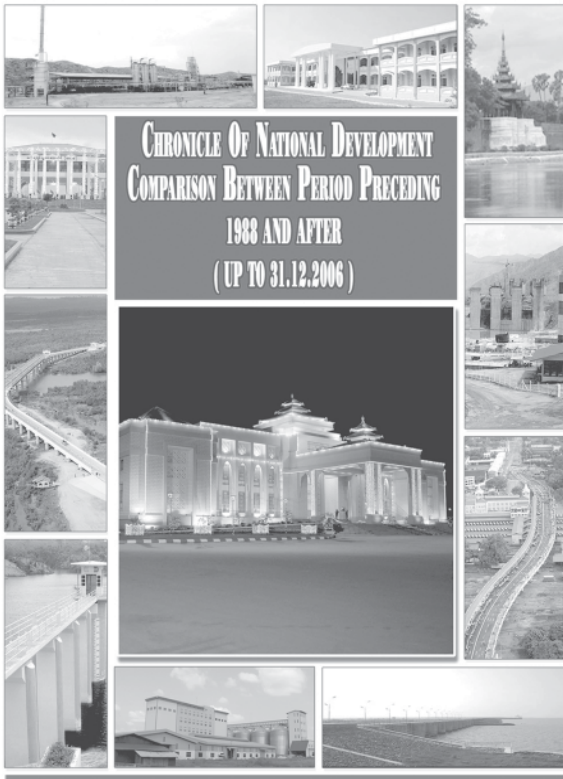
Vietnam may reprocess bird flu medicine Tamiflu

HANOI, 16 May—Vietnam is extracting Oseltamivir phosphate, active agent of Tamiflu, to reprocess the bird flu medicine, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Tuesday.

Vietnam's Chemistry Institute is extracting the active agent from a large amount of Tamiflu tablets and capsules stocked up by the country, which are going to expire. The reprocess of Tamiflu will be more economical than new purchase, and help handle the expired medicines more easily, said the newspaper.

Using state monies of nearly three billion Vietnamese dong (over 187,000 US dollars), the chemistry is synthesizing Oseltamivir phosphate from local star anise, an aromatic Asian evergreen tree that has purple-red flowers and star-like clusters of anise-scented fruit. The synthesis is expected to conclude in April 2008. The institute's scientists have found out a process of extracting shikimic acid, a key material to synthesize Oseltamivir phosphate, from anise fruit. With the process, prices of made-in-Vietnam Tamiflu medicines are similar to those of imported on.

MNA/Xinhua



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- Hotels, Supermarkets and Shopping Malls in Yangon.

US women rates for breast cancer screening fall

BEIJING, 15 May—US researchers report the rate of women getting mammograms to screen for breast cancer fell 4 per cent from 2000 to 2005, according to a study at the US National Cancer Institute. According to background information in the study, mammographies are the best way to catch breast cancer early. Since the 1980s, widespread use of mammography has led to a reduction in deaths from breast cancer.

The National Cancer Institute and the US Preventive Health Services Task Force recommend that women 40 and older get screening mammograms every year or two. The American Cancer Society recommends annual mammograms starting at age 40. "Although it was small, this decline may be cause for concern, because it signals a change in direction," the organizations wrote.

"It's unclear what caused the decline, although Brooks thinks part of it may be due to 'mammogram fatigue', said Dr Jay Brooks, chairman of hematology/

oncology at Ochsner Health System in Baton Rouge, La. "When women move into the menopausal years, they tend to lose track of going to a doctor on a yearly basis, and women who got a lot of normal mammograms in their 40s and 50s may ask, 'Why do I continue?'" he added. "But, unfortunately, people get fatigued when the incidence of breast cancer actually rises. The two great risk factors for breast cancer are being a woman and getting older."

The drop might also be due to other factors, such as more women without health insurance, higher co-pays for office visits, and a decline in the number of centers that offer the screening, the study pointed out.

What experts do know, however, is that changes in screening rate do translate into changes in the reported incidence of breast cancer and, further down the line, higher death rates, it argued.—Internet

HK launches legal information website for general public

HONG KONG, 16 May—Community Legal Information Centre (CLIC), a community legal information website, was launched here Monday by the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Host of CLIC, the China Information Technology and Law Centre of HKU Monday organized a completion ceremony for the website, which is also one of the activities celebrating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The CLIC project is commissioned by the Hong Kong Government and funded by the Department of Justice of the government under which the law centre is to develop, host and maintain the website.

The bilingual website is a quick Internet guide for the general public to find relevant legal information in Hong Kong. It helps citizens to acquire a basic understanding of the relevant law before seeking advice from lawyers, and it serves the purpose of informing the general public about where to seek free or subsidized legal assistance. — MNA/Xinhua

Netherlands considers shelving cruise missile purchase

BRUSSELS, 16 May—The Netherlands' Defence Ministry is considering postponing the controversial purchase of American *Tomahawk* cruise missiles for the Navy as part of defence cuts, Dutch newspaper *Trouw* reported on Monday.

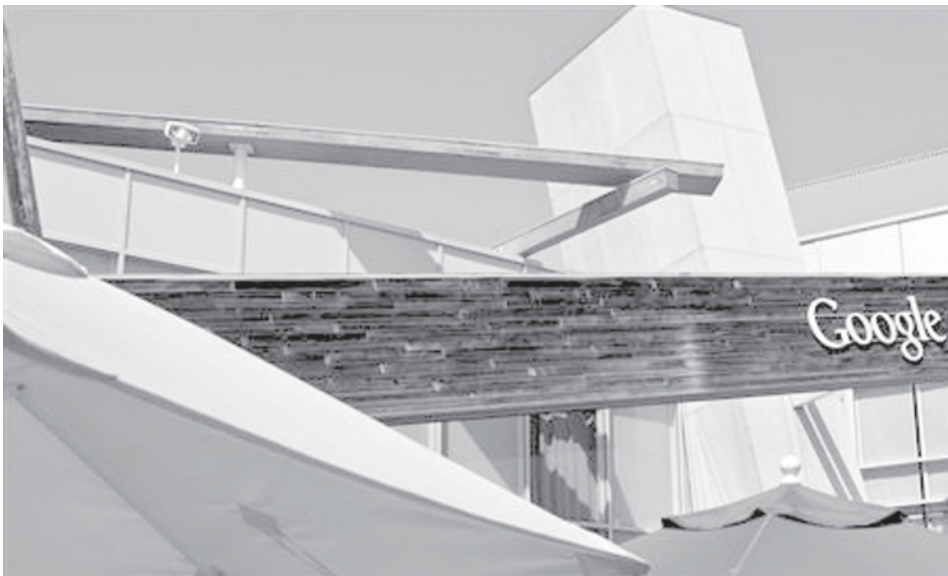
Defence Minister Eimert van Middelkoop will hold talks with his officials this week about a new plan for a focus shift in spending from weapons to personnel, who are under severe pressure due to international missions, the report said. Other options include scrapping a squadron of 18 *F16s* and selling more tanks and panzer howitzers, it said. A ministry spokesman said on Sunday that the Armed Forces must find alternatives since the extra money promised during the government formation talks earlier this year will not be enough.

The Defence Minister is also facing a shortfall since Finance Minister Wouter Bos is refusing to pay for the replacement of some helicopters.

Van Middelkoop's predecessor Henk Kamp strongly urged the purchase of *Tomahawk* cruise missiles for Navy frigates. Kamp wanted a "long arm" for the Navy vessels to protect troops on land, which would also allow the Netherlands to fight at the highest level of combat with the Americans and British.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီမှု ပြုစုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်သွား



A general view of the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California on 15 May, 2007. Google Inc plans to offer a unified approach to search that combines its classic Web search service with separate searches that range from news to images to videos.—INTERNET

New finding may remedy human baldness

BEIJING, 17 May — Baldness could soon be a thing of the past, according to a finding published in Thursday's issue of *Nature*, offering hope for a baldness remedy for humans.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine have found that mice with deep skin wounds can grow new hair.

"We showed that wound healing triggered an embryonic state in the skin which made it receptive to receiving instructions from wnt proteins," said senior author George Cotsarelis,



MD, Associate Professor of Dermatology. "The wnts are a network of proteins implicated in hair-follicle development."

Researchers previously believed that adult mammal skin could not regenerate hair follicles. In fact, they believed that mammals had essentially

no true regenerative qualities. They said the liver can regenerate large portions, but it is not de novo regeneration; some of the original liver has to remain so that it can regenerate.

In this study, researchers found that wound healing in a mouse model created an "embryonic window" of opportunity. Dormant embryonic molecular pathways were awakened, sending stem cells to the area of injury. Unexpectedly, the regenerated hair follicles originated from non-hair-follicle stem cells.

Internet

Halo 3 launch date is announced

NEW YORK, 17 May — Hugely popular video game Halo 3 is due for a September debut, Microsoft has announced.

The September release date is earlier than expected and will help Microsoft in its drive to make the Xbox 360 console the gaming machine of choice this Christmas.

Halo 3 is the final instalment of the video game that has been crucial to sales of Microsoft's Xbox.

The game debuts in the US on 25 September and one day later in Europe.

No word has been given on when it will be available in Japan.

A trial version of the



See action from the Halo 3 multiplayer trial.—INTERNET

online portion of the game was released on 16 May.

Microsoft has only released information about US pricing. The basic game will cost \$59.99 (£30), a limited edition for \$69.99 and a legendary edition for \$129.99. It is likely that European prices will be higher than direct

exchange rate conversions suggest.

The Halo series of games are first-person shooters which detail the ongoing conflict between humans and the Covenant - an alliance of alien races.

Halo 3 has been likened to a blockbuster movie and continues the conflict on Earth which has been conquered and is now controlled by the Covenant. Like many console games it has a multi-player section that allows players to take each other on in a variety of settings. In mid-May the first three multi-player maps were released to players in a beta test of the Halo 3 game.

Internet

60th Cannes Film Festival opens

CANNES, 16 May — The 60th Cannes Film Festival opened Wednesday with top Hong Kong director Wong Kar-Wai premiering his latest movie.

The screen's well-known faces — Luc Besson, Juliette Binoche, David Lynch and Andie MacDowell — stepped up the red carpet to attend the opening ceremony. Other stars at the party included China's Gong Li and India's Aishwarya Rai.

Stars slated for appearances include George Clooney, Sharon Stone, Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Al Pacino and Angelina Jolie.

Germany's Diane Kruger, of Hollywood blockbuster "Troy," presided over the opening ceremony.

Actress Shu Qi from



Jury president Stephen Frears (8th L) stands on stage with (L-R) Abderrahmane Sissako, Sarah Polley, Orhan Pamuk, Toni Collette, Portuguese director Manoel de Oliveira, actress Shu Qi, Master of Ceremonies Diane Kruger, Maggie Cheung, Michel Piccoli, Maria De Medeiros, Marco Bellocchio during the opening ceremony of the 60th Cannes Film Festival on 16 May, 2007.

INTERNET

China's Taiwan and 98-year-old Portuguese director Manoel de Oliveira declared the May 16-27 festival open.

"My Blueberry Nights," a film by Wong Kar-Wai set in the United States — his first in English, was screened at the opening ceremony as the first of the 22 films in

competition for the prestigious Palme d'Or.

Cannes Film Festival was founded in 1939 but almost as soon as it opened, the festival was canceled because World War II broke out.

The festival is held annually, with a few exceptions.

Internet

S Korea, DPRK conduct historic railway test runs

MUNSAN, 17 May — South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted historic cross-border railway test runs on Thursday.

A total of 150 passengers, 100 from South Korea and 50 from the DPRK, took a South Korean train after attending a joint ceremony for the test-run at the Munsan station here Thursday morning.

At the ceremony held before the train departed, South Korean Unification

Minister Lee Jae-joung and his DPRK counterpart Kwon Ho-ung delivered commemorative speeches.

Both expressed their willingness to promote bilateral cooperation and national reconciliation.

The train pulled out of the Munsan station at 11:30 local time (0230 GMT) towards DPRK's Kaesong station. It crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) at 12:15 local time (0315 GMT) and became the first train across the MDL

since the inter-Korean railway system was cut off in 1951.

Meanwhile, a DPRK train departed from DPRK's Geumgang Station to South Korea's Jaemin Station along the Donghae Line also at 11:30 local time. A total of 150 South Korean and DPRK representatives are aboard the train.

South Korea and DPRK agreed last month to conduct test runs of cross-border railways on Thursday.

Internet



A North Korean train carrying 50 North Koreans and 100 South Koreans runs to the South during train crossing test, in North Korean territory of the demilitarized zone at Kosung on 17 May, 2007. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Buffalo Sabres' Maxim Afinogenov (R) scores against Ottawa Senators' Ray Emery (L) as defenceman Chris Phillips follows the play during the second period in Game 4 of the NHL's Eastern Conference final hockey series in Ottawa on 16 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Hewitt advances to third round of Hamburg Masters

HAMBURG, 17 May — Lleyton Hewitt, looking sharp after a practice session with Rafael Nadal, continued his comeback from injury with a 6-2, 7-6 victory over Juan Ignacio Chela in the second round of the Hamburg Masters on Wednesday. The Australian, who hit with the Spanish clay court supremo the day before the match, broke Chela in his opening service game and hardly looked back as he went a set and a break up.

He was briefly in trouble as Chela clawed the break back and the former world number one had to save two set points when 5-6 down. He managed to hang in and force a tie-break, winning it 7-3 with a punched half-court forehand on match-point.

Hewitt, the former world number one, came into the 2.1 million euros clay-court tournament with just one match under his belt in two months.

MNA/Reuters



Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash (C) drives the ball past San Antonio Spurs Tony Parker (L) as Tim Duncan (R) watches during Game 5 of their NBA Western Conference semifinals basketball playoff series in Phoenix, Arizona on 16 May, 2007.—INTERNET

N Korea held goalless draw with Thailand

PYONGYANG, 17 May — The Olympic football team of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday was held a goalless draw with Thailand at home in the Olympic qualifications of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

After the match, DPRK has become the first team in Group E, also including Iraq and India, to reach the next phase.

DPRK beat India 2-1 at home on 18 April. — MNA/Xinhua

Federer digs deep to reach Hamburg third round

HAMBURG, 17 May — Roger Federer stumbled his way to an unconvincing 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Argentine qualifier Juan Monaco in the second round of the Hamburg Masters on Tuesday.

The Swiss World number one looked comfortable enough in the first set, played under the roof with the rain lashing down outside, but hit more and more unforced errors as Monaco levelled the match in a second set he dominated.

Federer, the top seed at the 2.1 million euros clay-court tournament, then had to save five match points in his first service game in the decider before eking out a break for 5-4 and clinching victory in one hour 56 minutes.

It was Federer's first match since splitting with his part-time coach Tony Roche at the weekend and it is clear he will need to improve if he is to challenge Rafael Nadal for the French Open, which starts on 27 May. — MNA/Reuters

Saha ruled out of Cup final

MANCHESTER (England), 17 May — Manchester United striker Louis Saha will miss Saturday's FA Cup final against Chelsea because of a knee injury, manager Alex Ferguson has confirmed.

The 28-year-old Frenchman has been restricted to just four starts in 2007 because of hamstring and knee problems and he suffered a relapse in training.

"There has been no progress," Ferguson told reporters on Wednesday. "He had a scan on Monday and we know the problem now.

"It's a matter of deciding what to do next. We're considering whether or not to operate. We'll make that decision in the next week.—MNA/Reuters



Sevilla's Andres Palop (L) celebrates with Jesus Navas (C) and Frederic Kanoute after making the winning save in a penalty shoot-out to win the UEFA Cup Final soccer match against Espanyol at Hampden Park Stadium in Glasgow on 16 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Thailand stun China 1-0 in warm-up for Asian Cup

BANGKOK, 17 May — Although the Thai national football team head coach Chanvit Phalajivin had asked fans not to expect too much, but the team stunned China 1-0 in Wednesday's warm-up here for the forthcoming Asian Cup.

Pipat Tonkanya scored the winning goal in the 39th minute. Tonkanya, nicknamed "right foot rocket", beat Chinese goalkeeper Li Leilei in a goalmouth melee.

Although the Chinese team accelerated its attacking pace in the second half, Thai players seemed more aggressive. Both sides squandered some scoring chances. The Asian Cup finals slated for July are co-hosted by Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia. China are grouped with Iran, Uzbekistan and Malaysia.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan beat Hong Kong 4-0 in Olympic qualifier

HONG KONG, 17 May — Japan trounced Hong Kong 4-0 in a group match of Asian Soccer Olympic qualifying tournament here on Wednesday.

It was the fifth consecutive victory for Japan in the Group B and it has already gained the berth for the final 12 with one match left.

Lee Tadanari opened the scoring for Japan seven minutes into the game and Sota Hirayama made it 2-0 in the injury time of the first half.

At the 51st minute, Keisuke Honda had a fierce shot and found the net for the visitors and eight minutes later, Koki Mizuno sealed the victory with a long-range shot. Hong Kong, who have 1-4 win-loss record in the Group B now, lost to Japan 3-0 in the first-leg clash of the two teams. — MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese Xavier to join Beckham at LA Galaxy

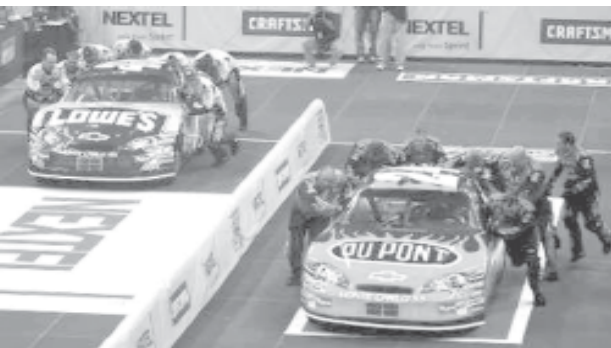
LISBON, 17 May — Portuguese soccer star Abel Xavier said on Tuesday that he will join Britain's David Beckham at United States Major League Soccer team the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Xavier, who played for Portuguese team Oviedo from 1996 to 1998, said he had already spoken to Beckham, 32, about the move.

"He is a player I admire and that made a difference in the decision. He helped me to say yes to the invitation," Xavier said.

Xavier will be 34 when he begins his US career in August and will play for the Galaxy for a year and a half, with an option to extend to two years.

Xavier currently plays for English league team Middlesbrough, but had not been able to renew his contract with them, originally signed in 2005, when he was suspended for a year as he was caught using a bodybuilding steroid dianabol. — MNA/Xinhua



Pit crews for Jimmie Johnson (L) and Jeff Gordon (R) push their cars to the finish line during the NASCAR Pit Crew Challenge at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena in Charlotte, North Carolina on 16 May, 2007. —INTERNET

Giggs leads chase for more United honours

MANCHESTER (England), 17 May — Ryan Giggs will lead Manchester United out as captain in Saturday's FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley as he bids to add to his remarkable collection of honours.

Giggs, who became the first player to win nine championship medals when he helped United win this season's title, will skipper the side in the absence of the injured Gary Neville. The 33-year-old Wales international will also become the first player in the modern era to win the FA Cup five times if United overcome Chelsea.

"Ryan will be captain and it does complete a remarkable season for the lad -- nine championships and the contribution he has made for us," Ferguson told reporters on Wednesday.

"Hopefully he has a very successful day on Saturday. To get five FA Cup medals would be wonderful."

Neville misses the chance to play in his fifth final after undergoing surgery to clear up an ankle injury which has kept the England international defender out of action since the middle of March.—MNA/Reuters

China offers free education to teachers of the future

BEIJING, 17 May — China has decided to waive tuition fees for students training to become teachers at six elite teaching universities, according to measures publicized by the Ministry of Education on Wednesday on its website.

From September this year when the autumn semester begins, tuition and accommodation fees will be scrapped for freshmen majoring in education at six top teaching universities in Beijing, Shanghai, Changchun, Wuhan, Xi'an and Chongqing. The students will also be granted an allowance.

The cost of the measure will be covered by the central budget, according to the trial programme approved by the

State Council last week.

To be eligible for free tuition, the student must agree to work at a primary or middle school for at least ten years after graduation and spend the first two years in a rural school.

Students who have a change of heart during their studies can choose another occupation on graduation, according to the measures, but in this case they must pay back the tuition fees in full.

In the early 1990s, it

was common practice for Chinese teaching colleges to offer free education. But as the decade wore on, many teaching institutions started charging fees. At the same time, more and more teaching graduates opted for non-teaching jobs after graduation.

Education at most universities — tuition, accommodation and expenses — costs a student an average of about 10,000 yuan (1,280 US dollars) a year so the measures

represent savings of about 40,000 yuan (5,120 dollars) over a four-year course of study.

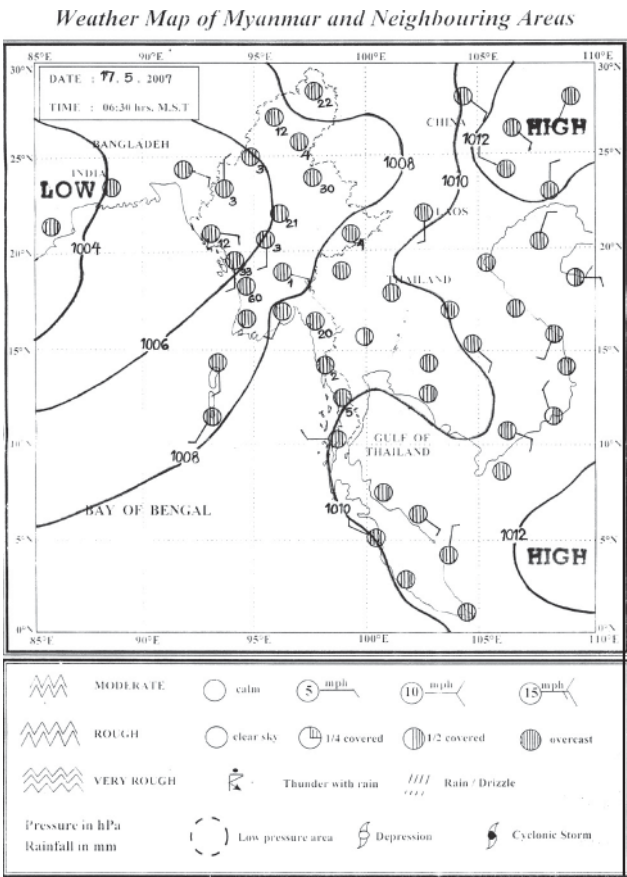
Reporting to the National People's Congress in March, Premier Wen Jiabao said the government will institute free education for students majoring in education in teacher colleges directly under the Ministry of Education.

"The measure will demonstrate to the general public the importance of the teaching field, create an atmosphere of respect for teachers and education in society, increase awareness of the value of the educational profession, produce large numbers of outstanding teachers, encourage prominent educators to run schools and spur more outstanding young people to become lifelong educators," Wen said.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysian veterinarian S. Amilan prepares for eye surgery on an orangutan named "Aman" at Matang Wildlife Centre in Sarawak on Borneo island on 16 May, 2007. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Thursday, 17 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Shan States and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin and Kayah States and Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperature in Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperature in Kachin State and Bago Division, (3°C) above May average temperature in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (2.92) inches, Mawlaik (2.52) inches, Thandwe (2.36) inches, Machanbaw (2.28) inches, Bhamo (1.96) inches and Bago (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-5-2007 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 17-5-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-5-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 16-5-2007 was (1.0) hour approx.

Rainfall on 17-5-2007 was (0.44) inch at Mingaladon, (nil) at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (20.16) inches at Mingaladon, (23.94) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.52) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 16-5-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon in moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Kayah States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining areas. 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 18-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-5-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Friday, 18 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. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍနည်း
- 8:05 am**
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:15 am**
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -စတုတ္ထနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm**
5. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm**
6. Song of yesteryears
- 5:30 pm**
7. "ကြို့ဆိုလျက်ပါ" (ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇင်၊ နေထူးနိုင်၊

- နေယ၊ စင်စင်စော်မြင့်၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး၊ သင်ဇာဝင့်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)
- 5:45 pm**
8. အာဆီယံနိုင်ငံများ အချင်းချင်း ပေါင်းစပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း (အာဆီယံဒေသအတွင်း ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု)
- 6:00 pm**
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရွှေရောင်သမီးသော အသည်းနုလုံး" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm**
13. News
- 8:15 pm**
14. International news
- 8:30 pm**
15. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကံကြမ္မာနတ်သမီး" (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 9:00 pm**
17. The next day's programme



Friday, 18 May
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music:
-Young ones
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music:
-I want you
- 8:50 am** National news
- 9:00 am** Music:
-Mr Baker
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music:
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40pm** Lunch time music:
-Careless whisper
-Going down slow
- 9:00pm** WOM
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Music at your request
-When the world was mine
- 9:45 pm** News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Commander inspects progress of Mandalay Industrial Zone (2) Plan under way to manufacture import-substitute products to distribute them to Mandalay Industrial Zone, entire nation



Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects foundry shop in Mandalay Industrial Zone (2). — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspected MR 072 brand oil mill and manufacturing of import-substitute spare parts at the Foundry Shop, Machine Plant and Forging Shop of Taw Win Industrial Co Ltd at the corner of 51st Street and Pho Yarzar Road in Mandalay Industrial Zone (2) in Mandalay on 26 April morning.

The commander was welcomed at the fac-

tory by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and Secretary of the Division PDC U Khin Maung Than. Chairman of Mandalay Industrial Development Committee U Aung Win Khaing reported on construction of the oil mill, production process and sample physic nut oil.

In his instructions, the commander said that efforts are being made for production of physic nut oil

as bio-fuel in line with the guidance of the Head of State. Encouragement was given to entrepreneurs to take innovative measures for manufacturing the high quality machines to extract physic nut oil. As a result, MR 072 brand machine could be manufactured. It is necessary to try hard to produce better quality of bio-diesel through physic nut oil and to readdress weak points in production of the bio-diesel at the laboratory.

(See page 7)

INSIDE

“The underground elements (UGs) of Burma Communist Party (BCP) laid a trap to cause a bloodbath after designating the 1989 Martyrs Day as the second revolution. Daw Suu Kyi and NLDs were on the verge of falling into the trap when the Tatmadaw government restored the situation back to normal. The people were saved from being suffering from an unnecessary danger.”

PAGES 8+9

A READER

Seminar on Tourism Development of Ngwe Hsaung organized

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Organized by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, a Seminar on Tourism Development of Ngwe Hsaung was held at Bay of Bengal Resort on Ngwe Hsaung Beach in Ngwe Hsaung, Patheingyi Township, on 9 May.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, lo-

cal authorities concerned, responsible persons of Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Travels Association and other invited guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung explained assistance to be rendered for development

of Ngwe Hsaung region and rapid rise in international tourism services.

The deputy minister discussed laying groundwork for tourism development and rules and regulations for environmental conservation.

Chairman U Hla Maung Shwe (Ngwe Hsaung Zone) of MHA reported on arrangements for Ngwe Hsaung Zone.

A total of six research papers were read at the seminar aimed at disseminating information about Ngwe Hsaung region to global nations.

Later, the commander went to construction site of Ngwe Hsaung MyoU Pagoda and gave instructions. Anyone may donate cash and kind to building the pagoda. — MNA

**Com-
mander
Maj-Gen
Thura
Myint Aung
delivers an
address at
seminar on
tourism develop-
ment in
Ngwe
Hsaung
region.
MNA**

