Township level officials are to make efforts with goodwill and zeal for development of respective townships and agriculture

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development undertakings in Lolleh District


They were welcomed there by Principal Daw Myint Myint Thaung, teachers and students.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the computer study of the students and attended to the needs.

They proceeded to the site for building a pagoda to be named "Maha Rathabhi Samaggi" on Wikathiya Hill in Panglong, where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local national people.

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Department under Yangon Technical University U San Kyu reported on progress in building the pagoda with the use of advanced construction methods and technology for ensuring durability of the religious building; Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd U Tun Myint Ngan, on tasks for beautifying the pagoda preceeding its construction ways of exit and entrance to the pagoda.

The General fulfilled the requirements, saying that the design of the pagoda being built is based on the designs of previous ones, and advanced construction methods and technology are being used for ensuring its durability.

The goal of building the pagoda is to preserve existence of the Union and enabling the entire people to live in unity and enthusiasm to be placed on efforts in every sector for ensuring the most sublime appearance as well as durability of the pagoda, he stated.

Next, the General looked into the scale-model of the pagoda.

It was followed by the donations presentation to the fund of the pagoda.

The General presented K 17.5 million to United Commercial Group Co Ltd, K 13.5 million to U Tun Myint Ngan Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd, K 10 million to Ministry of Home Affairs, K 500,000 to Ministry of Commerce, K 500,000 to Ministry of Electric Power, K 500,000 to Ministry of Forestry, K 100 million to Ministry of Rail Transport, K 700,000 to Ministry of Education, K 500,000 to Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, K 500,000 to Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, K 500,000 to Ministry of Tourism, K 500,000 to Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, K 500,000 to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, K 500,000 to Ministry of Forestry, K 500,000 to Ministry of Health, K 500,000 to Ministry of Commerce, K 500,000 to Ministry of Science and Technology, K 500,000 to Ministry of Religious Affairs, K 500,000 to Ministry of Industry, and K 500,000 to Ministry of Finance.

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
Towards turning out more highly-qualified technicians

In our drive for the emergence of a modern and developed nation, it is very important to turn out highly-qualified industrialists, engineers, architects and scientists who can bring about the development of science and technology in the country.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on one occasion gave guidance on development of aerospace and maritime technologies, the opening of an aerospace engineering university and a maritime university and producing technicians for aircraft and ship building. In accordance with his guidance, Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University were established.

The coordination meeting regarding Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology was held on 23 May and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who is also the Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the two universities are very important because they will produce technicians needed in the building of a future industrialized and developed nation.

Now, Myanmar Maritime University with magnificient buildings have been opened at Thilawa in Thayin and, as some of the building—aerospace engineering university in Moikka has been completed, some courses are being conducted there. Committees have been formed to examine the compilation of curriculums of international standard, appointment of qualified and well-experienced instructors and supply of modern teaching aids and reference books.

We would like to urge all those responsible and faculty members of Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University to make concerted efforts to realize the objectives of the State, for these universities to become the one possessing characteristics of international universities and be able to produce highly-qualified technicians necessary for the establishment of a modern and developed nation.

Cash donated for 3-storey building of Mayangon Shweinyany Thiri Nunery

YANGON, 25 May — A ceremony to donate cash for building Mayangon Shweinyany Thiri Nunery in Mayangon Township was held at the nunery this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Paullina Diri Phakadaw Dr. Pyone Hnai, Kyaikhte Thar Mahasay; Hla Mayar, Minn Hla Mayar; Ma Mon, Minn Ma Mon; Nacional, Minn Nacional; Aye Hla Ma, Minn Aye Hla Ma; Kay Myat Zaw, Minn Kay Myat Zaw; Ma Phyu, Minn Ma Phyu, Ma Dhamma, Minn Ma Dhamma; and others.

In the ceremony, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Dr. Khin Than Nwe, sister of Dr. Khin Tin Oo, Dr. Khin Thein Taw, widow of Dr. Khin Taw, and others, donated K1 million to the nunery.

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Mr. Dein Khae Tin Kyi; K500,000 each by wellwishers from Latha Township, Dr. Tan Soe Lin and his wife Dr. Tin Pat Water, Dr. Aung Soe and wife Dr. Aung Soe, and others.

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796 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003

President Bush declared that Salvador, Estonia and the Ukraine, four; Poland, three; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; OPEC decides — to deliver Beirut on 3 June.

Bush's approval ratings down

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

Chinese, Russian FM's talk over phone on Iraqi issue
Iraqis say US soldiers steal during house raids

Baghdad, 26 May — Despite the absence of scandal, there is another, more pervasive problem in Iraq—saying they suffer daily at the hands of US troops—looting and other property during aggressive American raids.

US, Britain differ on Iraq operations

Washington, 26 May — The United States and Britain appeared at odds Tuesday over how much central Iraqi caretaker government will have over American military operations after the handover of political authority on 30 June.

Chinese, Botswana FMs hold talks

Beijing, 26 May — China is ready to work hard with Botswana to advance bilateral ties to a new level, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Monday.

India-China-Russia should establish triangular cooperative mechanism

Beijing, 26 May — India, China and Russia should establish a triangular cooperative mechanism to combat terrorism and other issues of common concern, President of Unity International Federation (UIF) Bhimoda Narain Singh has said.

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Schröder wants total transfer of power to Iraqis

BERLIN, 26 May — German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder urged the United States on Monday to push through a comprehensive transfer of power to Iraq's interim government, including control over the country's resources and security.

"When I say transfer of sovereignty, that means it ... a power once sovereign, it's not sovereign anymore. That's the reason why I asked the United States to push through the handover as quickly as possible," Schröder said in a call with US President George W. Bush.

"There's no majority opinion on not offending each other. Schröder said, adding he doubted that a NATO presence could improve the situation between Kuwait and Iraq.

Schwarz, who has called for the Iraqi army to start participating in a coalition war against Iraq, said he would support the US military presence in Iraq to defend the country's security.

Iraqi Customs foil attempt to smuggle antiquities

Baghdad, 26 May — The Iraqi security forces foiled an attempt to smuggle antiquities out of Iraq, said Al-Sabah newspaper Monday.

The newspaper, quoting the customs authorities, pointed out that the customs police found a group of Iraqis attempting to smuggle out 8000 artifacts, bringing the total to more than 10,000 seized since the fall of the Saddam regime.

The British air war has resulted in a lot of looting and robbery of the Iraqi National Museum, from more than 14,000 antiquities stolen, and most of them shipped abroad.

In Baghdad alone, there are more than 10,000 war sites of various historical phases, which are not yet excavated for economic reasons. — MNA/AlBasrah

Indian FM gave positive message on Indo-Pakistan ties

ISLAMABAD, 26 May — Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday received an extremely positive message from the new Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on improving Indo-Pakistani relations.

In his telephone talk with Manmohan Singh, Iam very glad, it was an extremely positive message that he gave me. He showed complete desire to resolve all disputes with Pakistan and to have an excellent relationship with Pakistan. We reciprocate that feeling and I fully support it," he said.

"I will also speak to Sonia Gandhi soon. This is the way forward. We want to resolve our disputes. If there is a way forward, we will do this," said. — MNA/Shehzad

Kuwait wants neighbourly relations with Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 26 May — Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Jasim Al-Kharafi on Monday asked to approve an occupation by US-led forces of former Kuwaiti sovereignty handed over next month.

"I believe such incidents do not suit the current situation. It only benefits our common enemy," Al-Kharafi told Parliament.

"We believe that a comprehensive transfer of power to Iraq's interim government, including control over the country's resources and security, is necessary," he said.

"I believe such situation is not in the interest of Kuwait or Iraq. We hope that the US-led forces once sovereignty was handed over next month, will leave the country and unprecedented relationship between Kuwait and Iraq is established," he said.

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Iraq hospital filled with anti-US rage after strike

RAMADI, 26 May — Five days after a US air strike in the Iraqi desert, survivors lay groaning in hospital, crying out for relatives they said had died attending a weding found no survival of US military presence at bases within its territories.

Iraqi shrine in Najaf, the holiest site in the country, and the United States forces attacked the area, killing about 40 people, and wounding another 300.

The American planes fired on us," said Nawaf, a survivor. "Then the American planes landed on the bodies of the Americans killed in the bombing. For all the confusion, one thing was clear: the Americans are no longer in Najaf.

"I am very glad, it was an extremely positive message that he gave me. He showed complete desire to resolve all disputes with Pakistan and to have an excellent relationship with Pakistan. We reciprocate that feeling and I fully support it, he added.

"I will also speak to Sonia Gandhi soon. This is the way forward. We want to resolve our disputes. If there is a way forward, we will do this," said. — MNA/Shehzad

The new government would only be credible if it expressed a clear commitment to end the war in Iraq, he added.

"I believe that Kuwait was a friend of Saddam Hussein, but we believe that a friendly relationship should not be based on the perception included that the government is really sovereign," Barnier said in an interview to appear in Tuesday edition of Le Figaro newspaper.

"The next morning the Americans showed up in five armoured vehicles. When we tried to reach the bodies of the soldiers and the other people at the wedding they fired at us. But we didn't respond. We didn't reply to their shots. " — MNA/Barnier

France says no blank cheque to US over Iraq UN vote

PARIS, 26 May — French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said Monday on a UN resolution under debate in New York must ensure Iraqi interim government is respected and that a verified anti-US majority in Baghdad.

"I believe that such a resolution should be respected and that a verified anti-US majority in Baghdad would only be credible if it expressed a clear commitment to end the war in Iraq, he added.

"The next morning the Americans showed up in five armoured vehicles. When we tried to reach the bodies of the soldiers and the other people at the wedding they fired at us. But we didn't respond. We didn't reply to their shots. " — MNA/Barnier

France responded by a veto to the US and the United States after the bombing found no signs of a new government in Iraq that it wanted to back, Ira al-Deeb.

"We believe that a comprehensive transfer of power to Iraq's interim government, including control over the country's resources and security, is necessary," he said.

"I believe such situation is not in the interest of Kuwait or Iraq. We hope that the US-led forces once sovereignty was handed over next month, will leave the country and unprecedented relationship between Kuwait and Iraq is established," he said.

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An injured Iraqi girl is comforted by her mother as she is being rushed to the Al Kindi hospital in Baghdad, Iraq on 22 May, 2004 after a car bomb exploded.

Iraqi woman Haleema Shihab, 32, lies with a fractured leg and arm in the hospital in Ramadi, on 23 May, 2004. Haleema was asleep with her husband and children in her house when US helicopters fired on the wedding party. Haleema ran with her youngest child in her arms and her two other boys close behind, when a shell exploded next to her, killing her two sons.

An Iraqi man sits near a blood soaked sheet in the southern city of Basra. Five Iraqis, including two children, were killed by a mortar explosion when a shell hit their house in Al-Iskan on 23 May, 2004.

Smoke and flames billow over central Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 May, 2004, after a strong blast was heard near the US-controlled ‘Green Zone’ headquarters of the US-run occupation.

Iraqi merchants flee with their property in the centre of Karbala, 110 km south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 16 May, 2004 as fighting continued between coalition forces and Shiite militiamen.

Iraqi women clean the rubble from their shops which were shelled by mortars during a fight between militiamen and U.S. troops in Karbala, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004.

An Iraqi man reacts as he shows empty bullet casings after US Army soldiers fired several shots from their military convoy onto a local taxi as the driver tried to overtake them in the centre of Baghdad, on 18 May, 2004. The taxi driver was brought to critical condition at a nearby hospital.

An Iraqi man shows the vehicle from which shells, which were shot by mortars during a fight between militiamen and U.S. troops in Karbala, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004.

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An injured Iraqi girl is comforted by her mother as she is being rushed to the Al Kindi hospital in Baghdad, Iraq on 22 May, 2004 after a car bomb exploded.
Border and rural area developments

A creek-crossing bridge linking Sankin and Kalawthaw villages in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady Division. (Photo: PBANRDA)

Tubewells are being sunk to supply water to the people living in Myitkyin Model Village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division. (Photo: PBANRDA)

Rural housing being built in Pongyi village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Division. (Photo: PBANRDA)

Rural people living in Yone village in Kyaukpadaung Township are fetching potable water from a tubewell.

The government is building new roads, renovating the old ones for better transport. The above photo shows Muse ring road in Shan State (North). (Photo: PBANRDA)

Mile creek-crossing bridge on Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, is 325 feet long. (Photo: PBANRDA)
Work programme to establish a new democratic nation

Aung San

Our experiences show that the time of plenty will not come immediately, or in other words, prosperity will not come at once, whatever changes are made in the governments. In this regard, the present Tatmadaw Government restored the nation from the deteriorating national situation under the Burma Socialist Programme Party, and the destruction in many areas the nation had faced during the 1960s. And if a new democratic nation is to be built today, the advancement of the economic production forces and the improvement of the living standard of all the people are required. Understanding and accepting the requirements in or other words, the laws of social science, the Tatmadaw Government has laid down the political, economic, and social objectives and is steadily developing the nation.

For example, the life of a family facing food, clothing, and shelter cannot be pacified and stable; and only a family, with a healthy economy, will enjoy peace and progress. Thus, the Tatmadaw Government is striving to develop all the national races regardless of their situations and the places they are living in, especially giving priority to progress of border areas and national races. Thanks to the endeavors, the Tatmadaw Government has been able to make peace and unity with the 17 national races armed groups which had continuously opposed the successive governments in the past.

Because of the unavoidable situation, the Tatmadaw governments had to take over State duties in 1962 and again in 1988, and it can be wittnessed that they have made several times to joint hands with the civilian political forces. But there was no success in doing so, and the only result was the backwardness of the nation and the people. The collapse of the Tatmadaw governments’ negotiations with the civilian political forces was due to the degradations of the leaders of the latter. And that is one of the lessons of history. The Revolutionary Council Government formed the 33 former leaders of the political parties as a body to guide the country. However, because of former prime minister U Ne Win’s demand to remain the State power backbone, the door to harmony came to be closed, instead of marching forward with the national reconsiditation.

During the 1988 session, the government of Dr Maung Maung offered a programme to hold a multi-party general election, which was accepted by the civilian political forces, instead of giving a positive response, chose the way towards opposition and confrontation. The Tatmadaw Government, while deeply considering the fact, has been able to pave the way for the 17 armed groups to return to the legal fold. It is an honor for the Tatmadaw Government.

The result is that peace and stability is prevailing and development undertakings gaining success in the whole nation. As sound foundations can be laid, Prime Minister Gen Khin Nyunt announced the seven-point work programme to build a new democratic nation. The programme includes: Recovering of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996. After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-fostering democratic system. Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention. Adoption of the constitution through national referendums. Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative body) according to the new constitution. Convoying of Hluttaw attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution, and building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The Government has been explaining the above announcement to the public, TV, and radio and again. Because it is the work programme for setting up a new democratic nation. In other words, the Tatmadaw leaders have opened the door for the civilian political forces to set up a new democratic nation with unity and harmony of the nation. It is a historic step towards national reconsiditation.

Hence, the national political organizations and forces should not constantly stick to their old policies and ideas, but should make efforts to start working with new methods in view of the nation’s future and the democracy case. The important role of the Tatmadaw and in nation-building endeavors must be specially acknowledged.

The Myanmar political forces and political organizations should discard their way of sticking to the old ways of confrontation and opposition and economic sanctions as a weapon. Instead, they should strive to achieve national re-considitation. Only then, will all be able to maintain the seven-point political programme in unity and harmony.

(Translation: TST)
Township level officials will have to …

(From page 2)

Education, K 300,000; No. 2 Operations Control Command, K 300,000; Nakarpon Construc-
tion Co., K 2 million; Dr Tint Soe Lin (Shwepyin) and family, K 2 million; Internal Revenue Department, K 1 million; Shan State Customs Department, K 500,000; Shan State Immigration and National Registration Department, K 200,000; Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, K 300,000; Ministry of Construction, K 300,000; Shan State Development Affairs Committee, K 300,000; U Maung Maung Nyunt (Golden Moon Construction Co) in Taunggyi, K 500,000; Khaing and family, K 300,000; U Aye Kyaw (Aung Min Trading Co) in Taunggyi, K 200,000; U Tun Lwin (Aung Min Trading Co) in Taunggyi, K 200,000; U Than Nyunt (Than Nyunt Travelling Agents) in Taunggyi, K 200,000; U Po Sein (Po Min Trading Co) in Taunggyi, K 200,000; Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization, K 100,000; U Pyone Cho-
Daw Zohe and family, K 100,000; U Po Sein Naw Naw Naw of Ward 3 Panglong, K 100,000, and the people, K 700,000. The donations totaled K 201.8 million. The Prime Min-
ister, member of the State Peace and Development Council U-Gun Aung Htwe, Maj-Gun Moe Myo Myint and Brig-Gun Thaw Aung Kyi accepted the dona-
tions.

The General and party looked into the project. Officials concerned conducted the General and party around the construction site.

The Prime Minister and party posed for photos together with local national races in front of the Panglong University marking the Panglong Agreement. The Prime Minister inspected the maintenance work of the monument. At the Panglong University, he heard a report on conservation and breeding of a new chameleon presented by Associate Pro-
fessor of Zoology Department of Taunggyi University U Min Myat Hnin. He inspected breeding of the creature, and sample species of edible fish and ornamental fish bred in southern Shan State. Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt explained the back-
ground history of the Panglong University, major courses taught there, IT rooms in-
cluded with 114 computers, the number of students, staff organizations and academic and management affairs. The Prime Minister looked into the academic and management affairs and welfare of teachers and students.

In Lahin, the Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image. They also paid respects and presented sacrifices to Sayadaws led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasami. They met with local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders at Thirihantha Hall.

Officials reported to the Prime Minister on location, area, native people, cultivation of ten major crops, food sufficiency of the township and health, education and develop-
ment affairs.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into the requirements, saying that as Myanmar is an agro-based country, the people of all regions should extend agriculture to help improve the economic and social standard of the regions. Township level offi-
cials are to make efforts with goodwill and zeal for development of their townships and agriculture. Efforts should be made to promote public welfare, economy and social sectors of local people. They should also get in touch with local people and should play a leading role in regional development undertakings. Only then will they be able to win the cooperation and trust of local people. The township level departments should make coordination and cooperation among themselves and also with social organizations and the people for development of the regions.

Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt went to People’s Hospital in Lahin and inspected X-ray rooms, wards and operation theatres. They were conducted round the hospital by Medical Superintendent Dr Ngwe Yu...
Minister inspects cultural heritage in Shwebo, Mandalay

Yayway, 26 May — Minister of Religious Affairs, Dr Kyaw Zin Aung, paid homage to Maha Minhtin Kyaunggyi Pagoda and visited the site for building the foundry plant. Later, he inspected the site for building Laymyathna Pagoda and the Subway Linkage to Konbaung Age College. He also inspected completion of the conservation of Maha Minhtin Kyaunggyi Pagoda and paid homage to Maha Minhtin Buddha Image and Maha Minhtin Buddha Image.

NC delegate groups discuss ... (from page 16)

Professor/Head of Department and Surgeon Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) spoke at the opening of the conference. Later, the alternate chairman gave the concluding remarks and the discussions were adjourned at 9:57 am. The decisions of the Delegations of intellectuals and Intelligentsia Group have been finalised.

Delegates of State Service Personnel Group

The Delegates of State Service Personnel Group held a group discussion, which was attended by 109 delegates out of 109 listed, accounting for 99.08% of the total. Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence delivered an opening address. The discussions were attended by U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs and U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min acted as masters of ceremonies. The chairman gave the concluding remarks and the discussions were adjourned at 9:57 am. The decisions of the Delegations of intellectuals and Intelligentsia Group have been finalised.

Site for building foundry plant inspected in Ayethaya Industrial Zone

Yayway, 26 May — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and in-charge of Ayethaya Industrial Zone Minor Gen Kyi Aung left Mandaung airport by air on 22 May morning and visited the site of Ayethaya Industrial Zone and Kagyitaw-Hsegyi road and Ngapigon-Hanlin road.

On 23 May, he discussed the arrangements for setting up the foundry plant. Head of Shan State Settlement and Land Records Department U Tin Hlaing briefly informed him on the layout plan of the zone and vacant area. Later, the commander and the minister inspected the site for building the foundry plant.
It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division of Basic Education High School No 1 in South Okkalapa, local authorities, officials, members of the school. The ceremony was presided over by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. The Commander expressed gratitude —
AIDS is a national concern.


disensation of adversifying matter; accounting; business administration and management; business information, provision of information or business purposes on the internet; market research; marketing studies; public relations; purchasing and transaction management; book keeping and statements of account; all relating to the purchase of and payment for aviation and automotive fuel and related services; accountancy and tax preparation services; provision of line procurements; exhibits, bookshop, e-business on the purchase of goods for the remote control of car parks or parking lots; protective gloves; protective equipment and systems; operating insect warning triangles; electrical batteries; anode batteries, anodes; capacitors; cathodic anti-icing; cathodic anti-icing; pre-recorded silicon wafers; water level indicators; pre-recorded silicon wafers; tapes, videos and audio; electronic equipment; optical discs; computer software; downloadable electronic publications; automatic machines; automatic machines; optical disc.viewers; graphic plotters; image processing; mesurement apparatus; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; capacitors; electronic display devices; 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Interpol says counterfeiting used to finance terrorism

BRUSSELS, 26 May — Profits from fake CDs and car parts and other counterfeit goods are used to finance terrorism, Interpol said on Tuesday, urging governments across the world to stop ignoring the multi-billion-dollar crime.

“Interpol believes there is a significant link between counterfeiting and terrorism in locations where there are international terrorist groups,” the international police network’s secretary general, Ronald Noble, told reporters in Brussels. “What I find absolutely amazing is that this is a multi-billion-dollar crime problem that affects the safety of people, the security of governments, that is connected to organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism.”

“No one, as far as I know, has ever had the courage to say what I am doing to fight this problem. No one,” he said at a first Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting.

Trade in counterfeit goods was estimated at 450 billion U.S. dollars in 2000. Products targeted range from car and airplane parts, medicines to clothes, cigarettes, music and movies. Billions of dollars are lost annually in taxes and profits of companies whose products are being faked. According to European Commission figures, the problem is responsible for the loss of up to 100,000 jobs a year in Europe.

Noble said Interpol had found links between counterfeiting and organized crime in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

In an operation involving fake car brakes, Lebanese custom officials had seized a whole range of counterfeit products from negatives to music CDs. Rebels in Colombia had also been linked to counterfeiting, Noble said. Interpol officials said they hoped increased publicity about links between terrorism and counterfeiting would deter criminals from buying cheap fake designer handbags and other accessories.

“I hope it will make members of the public do focus on that and think about what they are doing before they purchase these products,” said Crime Intelligence Officers John Norman — New York. 300 million people to be diabetic worldwide by 2025

AUSTIN, 26 May — Leading experts on diabetes from around the world have gathered in Dallas, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and warned that around 300 million people will be diabetic worldwide by 2025, the Khaleej Times reported.

More efforts are required to face the challenges posed by the rapidly growing threat of diabetes, a disease which is becoming a major problem within the region and the world, the experts said at the two-day gathering of eminent medical practitioners at the Knowledge Village in Dubai.

Diabetes is not only a serious disease associated with significant morbidity and mortality, but also an important health problem of epidemic proportions, the experts noted.

The prevalence of the disease is increasing at an alarming rate in the world and inter-regional variations have also been noted. In the UAE, the prevalence rate is 10.4 percent, compared to 3.2 percent in Europe.

In the middle east, diabetes is on the increase. The number of people affected has risen from 10 million in 1995 to 19 million in 2003. It is expected that there will be 22 million diabetics by 2006.

Diabetes is a chronic disease associated with various complications, including kidney, eye, nerve, heart and vascular diseases. In addition, diabetes is a sign of a lifestyle disease that is related to factors such as physical inactivity and poor dieting.

According to the International Diabetes Federation, more than 200 million people with diabetes will die prematurely from the complications of diabetes in 2005. By 2025, 300 million people worldwide will have diabetes, the federation estimates.

Risk factors for diabetes include obesity, physical inactivity, poor diet, smoking and high blood pressure.

Among the complications of type 2 diabetes, which affects most adults, are eye problems, kidney disease, skin problems, foot complications and cardiovascular disease.

The number of people with type 2 diabetes is also projected to increase globally. The number of people with diabetes worldwide is expected to rise from 171 million in 2000 to 300 million by 2025, according to the federation.

Medical professionals must take steps to reduce the threat of diabetes in the community. They should be educated about the risk factors for diabetes and the potential complications of the disease.

They should inform their patients about the importance of regular exercise, a healthy diet and regular health checks.

They should also urge patients to quit smoking and stay away from tobacco products.

Agricultural experts should educate farmers about the importance of balanced and nutritious diets.

The federation recommends that governments, local authorities, policymakers and the health sector work together to reduce the threat of diabetes in the region.

The federation is urging governments to adopt strategies to reduce the prevalence of diabetes in the region, including: • Disease prevention and management; • Early detection and treatment; • Monitoring; • Research; • Support services; • Training; • Economic development; • and International cooperation.

The region accounts for 6 percent of the estimated global prevalence of diabetes and represents 40 percent of the estimated global prevalence of diabetes-related complications. In the UAE, diabetes is the leading cause of death in people younger than 60.

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Lionel Messi, 26—Mexico’s veteran boxer Julio Cesar Chavez retired from the ring after winning a record breaking 26th pro boxing title on Sunday, said the 41-year-old’s manager Gerardo Guillart.

"We have agreed, by mutual agreement with Carlos Queiroz, that he will not continue with the club," Real Madrid's new coach Fabio Capello said at a press conference on Monday.

"I understand and respect the decision of the club," said Queiroz, who led the team to three Champions League victories in his five years in charge.

Queiroz, the former Manchester United assistant, took over after the club sacked coach Carlos Queiroz on Monday after a humiliating end to the season and admitted a year ago he did not expect to continue in the post.

"I know my David’s heart still aches for the European Cup a record nine times, had been wrong not to offer him an extension to his contract," said Queiroz.

"I didn’t intend to criticize him," Scolari said.

"I called him because he’s used to people who give us to say to you, he’s not used to people disappointing with him."

"That’s what it was about: We get on well."

"We have agreed, by mutual agreement with Carlos Queiroz, that he will not continue with the club," Fabio Capello said.

"I understand and respect the decision of the club," Queiroz said.

Chavez, 41, outscored Frankie Randall 6-2, 6-3 in his first bout since a 48-second knockout of John D.avi on 25 May, 2004, to claim his 114th professional win.

Chavez, who has won 41 of his past 43 bouts, has held both the lightweight and light welterweight titles.

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The Public are hereby informed that exceptionally high tides are likely at Kaba-Aye and 455 mm (17.91 inches) at central Andaman Sea and weak to moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. The maximum wave speed at Yangon (Kalay-Aye) is 5 nautical miles from Northwest at (12.01) hours. Rain information: According to the observing at (09.30) hours of the MST today, a heavy rainfall area has formed over central Mya- tein River, Ataung, Taungthaman and Taungthaman Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time of and along Defile, Gulf of Mottama and Mya- tein River. Surface wind speed is expected to reach 30 miles (48.2 km) hour, and wave height 6-8 feet. MODerate d3s in Myanmar waters.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST (26 May 2004): Rain and thunderstorms have been widespread in Yangon and Taungthaman Divisions, isolated to scattered in other regions. Ataung, Taungthaman and Taungthaman Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time of and along Defile, Gulf of Mottama and Mya- tein River. Surface wind speed is expected to reach 30 miles (48.2 km) hour, and wave height 6-8 feet. MODerate d3s in Myanmar waters.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 26 May 2004
NC delegate groups discuss sectoral proposals

YANGON, 26 May — Delegate groups of the National Convention — Delegates of Workers Group, Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia Group, Delegates of State Service Personnel Group and Other Invited Persons Group — were held at the designated meeting halls of Nyangshpan Camp in Hlaing Township this morning.

Delegate of Workers Group

The delegate of the workers group was divided into five groups and they compiled the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors, to be included in the State Constitution.

Delegate of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia Group

The Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia Group held discussions in the meeting hall-6 this morning. President of Myanmar Academy of Technology Dr. U Thet Pyu Soe presided over the discussions, together with Professor-Surgeon Dr. Thant Myant (Naypyitaw) and Film Director U Khin Zaw. Deputy Director U Thant Myo and Assistant Director U Than Win acted as masters of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 53 delegates out of 56 listed members of support groups.

Delegate of State Service Personnel Group

Delegate of Delegate Groups of the National Convention Convention Convening Committee, Nyaungshpan Camp, Hlaing Township, held its discussions on Plenary Meeting of National Convention.

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.


PM attends closing ceremony of Dhammacariya
Course of Alodawpyi Monastery

YANGON, 26 May — The 6th Summer Dhammacariya Course of Alodawpyi Monastery (Yangon) in Tamway Township concluded this afternoon and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the concluding ceremony. The one-month course was opened on 24 April and a total of 1,290 members of the Sangha and nuns attended it.

On the occasion, General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Committee of Yangon Community, addressed the meeting at 9 am today. Officials of the SPDC Office, department officials, trainees and wellwishers also attended the ceremony.

Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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 involving 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

NCCC meets members of panel of chairmen of delegate groups

YANGON, 26 May — A coordination meeting between members of National Convention-Convening Commission led by Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members of panel of chairmen of delegate groups was held as the meeting hall of Work Committee, Nyangshpan Camp, Hlaing Township this morning.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of NCCC Min-ister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, and Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Myo Gyi-Lun Maung, members of Management Committee, members of panel of chairmen of delegate groups, representatives of civil service staff, employers, workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, student service personnel and other invited delegations and members of support groups.

During the meeting, Secretary Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan held discussions on Plenary Meeting of National Convention, group-wise discussions, security and administration and replied to queries raised by these present and the meeting came to a close at 11.30 am.

*The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.