The New Light of Myanmar

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Established 1914

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 accordance 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

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YSAGON, 30 May — The conclusion of Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 7 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the training school of USDA in Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by member of Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present were the Secretary-General of USDA, members of the Secretariat, CEC members, specially invited guests, course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win, course supervisors and trainees. In his address, Lt-Gen Soe Win said he believed that the trainees came to know about political situation of the country and world affairs after they had studied various subjects at the course.

The Myanmar Affairs and International Studies course is being conducted for qualified new generation youths of USDA members to become good citizens and national strength on whom the State and the association can rely. At the course, heads of departments themselves gave lectures on national politics, State security, economic achievements, social progress and international affairs, he said.

The trainees had an opportunity to study the past, the present and the future and fully realize political, economic and social developments of the country. Besides international studies, regional and international relations were also discussed, he added.

He said they had studied objective conditions, of international affairs, cause and effect and good and bad things as the world events resulting from globalization. They also studied the five principles of peaceful coexistence practised by the State and peace, goodwill, mutual respect among the nations, bilateral relations based on equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Mawlamyine-Ye Bridge: A milestone in transportation

Trains are plying daily on Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei route after the completion of Ye Bridge. People can also travel easily from Mon State to Taninthayi Division by road. The beautiful Ye rail-cum-road bridge links the Mawlamyine-Ye and Ye-Dawei road sections. (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 31 May, 2005

Live by the theme of this year’s World No-Tobacco Day

Today is the World No-Tobacco Day. World Health Organization has designated 31 May as the World No-Tobacco Day and Myanmar has observed the day every year since 1989 by holding talks and seminars on the dangers of smoking.

To encompass various aspects of tobacco control, different slogans and themes are selected every year. The theme of this year’s World No-Tobacco Day is “Health professional against smoking: Be a role model”.

The Union of Myanmar will celebrate the World No-Tobacco Day for 2005 in accordance with this year’s slogan, highlighting the role of health professionals in the area of tobacco control.

Smoking is harmful not only to the smokers themselves but also to the non-smokers who breathe in smoke from other people’s cigarettes. Cigarette smoke contains such poisonous substances as nicotine, carbon monoxide and tar and substances that can develop cancer. Parents who smoke and their children as well as those who breathe in cigarette smoke from their colleagues in the workplace or form other people in public places are exposed to the dangers of smoking.

In other words, passive smoking is as dangerous as active smoking. Therefore, smoking should be prohibited in such places as schools, hospitals, cinema halls, railway stations and airports or the schools should have smoking rooms.

Health professionals have a prominent role to play in tobacco control. They have the trust of the people. Their voices are heard across a vast range of social and economic arenas. They can contribute to comprehensive tobacco control programmes to raise public awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco.

They can impart valuable knowledge, guidance and can answer the questions from the general public, especially from their patients, on the consequences of tobacco use. And they can help encourage their parents to stop tobacco use.

Health professionals are in a position to participate fully and actively in anti-tobacco control, providing evidence-based best practices to decision makers and promoting the national-level implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Therefore, we would like to call on them to raise public awareness about the dangers of smoking by living by the theme of this year’s World No-Tobacco Day.

Mayor receives Vietnamese delegation

**YANGON, 30 May**—A delegation led by Vice-Chairperson Madame Ngo Thi Doan of Hanoi City People’s Council, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam called on Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin at his office this afternoon.

Present at the call were Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary U Myint Aung, Joint-Secretary U Tin Soe and members of YCDC, departmental heads and officials from Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

MYANMAR

**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

**Officials urged to exceed project’s goal for 2005-2006 at work coord meeting**

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha delivers an address at the coordination meeting. — MNA

**YANGON, 30 May**—Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development held its work coordination meeting at National Archives Department this morning, with an address by Minister for NPED U Soe Tha.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general and deputy directors-general, directors and deputy directors of organizations and departments under the ministry and heads of Planning Department at state, division and district levels.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said as part of implementing the projects, the country is undertaking third 5-year short-term plan starting 2001-2002 up to 2005-2006. For the time being, measures have already been taken for achieving the project’s goals during 2004-2005, the fourth year of third 5-year short-term plan.

Strengths and weaknesses depending on accomplishment of the project are to be reviewed. Officials are to work harder to exceed the project’s goal for 2005-2006, he stressed. Remarkable progress has been made in various sectors due to harmonious efforts exerted by the government, the people, the Tatmadaw.

**Electric Power Minister leaves for Thailand**

**YANGON, 30 May**—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut left here by air for Thailand this morning to attend MoU signing ceremony between the Ministry of Electric Power of the Union of Myanmar and Ministry of Energy of Thailand on the development of hydro-power projects on Thanlwin and Taninthayi rivers and study Khlong Tha Dan RCC Dam in Thailand.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, Charge d’ Affaires of Royal Thai Embassy Mt Opsa Charantasup, departmental heads and officials.

The minister is accompanied by Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Department of Electric Power and Director-General U Win Kyaw of Hydro Electric Power Department. — MNA

**USD A CEC member tours Ayeyawady Division**

**YANGON, 30 May**—Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 28 May met with members of Ayeyawady Division/District/Township USDAs in Pathein and fulfilled the requirements.

He also met with secretaries and organizers of Myaungmya District/Township USDAs. At the meeting, USDA organizers reported on participation of the USDA members in regional development tasks. At the meeting with Ayeyawady Division/District/Township USDAs today at Einme Township USDA office, the CEC member gave instructions on regional development tasks. The USDA secretaries reported on development tasks being carried out in the region. — MNA
Chinese leaders underline concerted efforts to reduce poverty

BEIJING, 29 May — Chinese top leaders have called on the whole nation to intensify efforts in reducing poverty, stressing that it is a historic task for building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and other top leaders have given important instructions on promoting poverty reduction nationwide. President Hu stressed that poverty reduction and development is important for the building of a socialist harmonious society. Although remarkable achievements have been made in this regard, the task to be accomplished remains arduous.

Helping the people in poverty-stricken areas to get rich as soon as possible needs the joint efforts of the Party, government and all walks of life, he said.

Describing the CAPAD as a major force in poverty reduction, Hu urged the association to play an active role in services capital, technology and information services, training and transfer of labour forces in poverty-hit areas, and international exchanges and cooperation, so as to make great contribution to the country’s poverty-reduction endeavour.

Wu Bangguo, China’s top legislator, called on the whole society to show concern, support and participate in poverty alleviation. Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said at the meeting that social enthusiasm and forces should be mobilized to promote the cause of poverty reduction.

The CPPCC is China’s top advisory body and its members are elites from all social strata. Jia encouraged the people from all walks of life, including members of all non-Communist parties, social and non-governmental organizations, and private companies, as well as volunteers, to contribute to the work.

He also called on united-front work departments and CPPCC organizations at all levels to help poverty-stricken areas get in capital, technology and talented professionals to promote poverty reduction.

The CAPAD, founded in 1993, is a national social organization under the poverty-reduction office of the State Council, China’s Cabinet. In 1979, China had a poor-stricken population of 250 million, and the figure has declined to around 30 million today.

Jia highlighted the work of CAPAD as a major force in poverty reduction.

Hu Jintao and other top leaders urged the association to contribute to the work. CAPAD is an important social force in China, and its work is important for the building of a socialist harmonious society. Although remarkable achievements have been made in this regard, the task to be accomplished remains arduous.

China National Aviation Company sees surge of profit

Hong Kong, 29 May — Though the competition within aviation industry is getting more intense, China National Aviation Company Ltd has achieved an outstanding profit in 2004, said the company’s chairman Kong Dong in Hong Kong on Friday.

Being the company directly-owned by Air China, its air transportation businesses include Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Ltd and Air Macao Company Ltd. Besides, it owns an aviation catering business composed of three catering companies including Beijing Air Catering Ltd.

Kong Dong said the company’s turnover of 2004 reached 1.87 billion Hong Kong dollars, up 52.5 per cent year-on-year.

Kong Dong expected that the opening of Disneyland, the thriving tourism industry of Macao and the rapid economic development of the Chinese Mainland will be an impetus for the business expansion of the company.

Talking about the competition of aviation industry, Kong Dong said the competition situation is a legacy of history. He hoped to develop a healthy competition with other aviation companies.

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Japanese journalists loses $20,000 at airport

MUSILA, 30 May — A Japanese journalist who came here to cover the reported appearance of two Japanese World War II stragglers in Mindanao Saturday lost 20,000 US dollars when undergoing security check at an airport catering for domestic flights, said Philippine airport officials.

Akira Maki, who is a correspondent for the Tokyo Broadcasting System, put his black bag with 20,000 dollars inside on the X-ray feeder at the Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City, but the bag never came out.

Maki was to take an Air Philippines flight via Cagayan de Oro City to General Santos City, Mindanao, Saturday morning to cover the news on two reported World War II Japanese stragglers.

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Alfonso Cusi immediately ordered a thorough investigation of the incident.

At least eight non-uniformed personnel from the Philippine National Police-Police Centre for Aviation Security (PNP-PCAS) and security guards stationed at the security X-ray at the time of the incident will undergo interrogation, retired Brigadier-General Angel Atutubo and Octavio Lina, MIAA assistant general managers, told reporters.

Meanwhile, the rumour about the two Japanese WWII stragglers got one more piece of evidence after a Filipino-Japanese octogenarian who worked as a tour guide for visiting Japanese nationals in Mindanao said she saw two Japanese-looking old men two years ago in a village.

Pakistan-India talks on Siachen move forward

ISLAMABAD, 28 May — Senior Pakistani and Indian defence officials here Friday said the sides held constructive discussion with a view to take the process forward to end a long military stand-off on the world’s highest battlefield Siachen glacier.

They expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation, said a joint statement issued after their two-day meeting.

The two sides further agreed to continue the discussions to resolve the Siachen issue in a peaceful manner, the statement said.

Thousands of Pakistani and Indian troops are stationed atop the 6,300-metre high ice field despite improvement in ties between New Delhi and Islamabad. Pakistan says that India occupied most of Siachen in 1984 and a clash erupted in 1987 to win supremacy over the glacier.

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US Marine killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 May — A US Marine was killed during a US military offensive in Haditha, northwest of Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

The Marine was killed when a guerilla launched a rocket-propelled grenade near his position on Thursday, the military said in a statement.

Early Wednesday, hundreds of US and Iraqi soldiers backed by aircraft swept Haditha, searching for militants in an offensive dubbed “Operation New Market”.

The US military said the operation was “focused on disrupting guerilla activity” as violence has recently increased in the area.

The US forces believe foreign fighters such as the Jordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted man in Iraq, are active and operating in the area.

Haditha, some 200 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, is situated on the bank of Euphrates River and has long been a bastion of unrest against the US troops in Iraq.

About 1,650 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

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Wen Jiabao calls for faster development of ethnic groups

BEIJING, 29 May —Premier Wen Jiabao has called for accelerating the development of minority ethnic groups and their inhabited areas in the coming period, by implementing a scientific concept of development and adopting special policies and measures.

Wen, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, remarked this at the closing meeting of the central conference on the work of ethnic affairs. The meeting was presided over by Jia Qinglin, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

China is a unitary nation with many ethnic groups, while equality is the base for the country’s socialist ethnic relations featuring equality, unity and mutual support, said the Premier, stressing that only a complete ethnic equality can ensure a long-term stability and development of the country.

The Premier said the establishment of socialist system has laid a political and legal foundation for ethnic equality and opened up the road for the development of minority people and a common prosperity of all ethnic groups.

Since China launched its reform and opening up drive, minority ethnic groups' inhabited areas have witnessed a remarkably quicker economic and social development and minority people have their living standards improved remarkably. However, owing to historic and natural factors, some of the areas still lag behind in economic and social development and there is quite a big gap of development among different ethnic groups and different minority areas.

Wen emphasized that in the final analysis, the solving of difficulties and problems in minority areas and the minimization of the gap between minority areas and other regions rely on the development of economy.

The French artists who depicted picturesque scenes of Guangzhou, Macao and Hong Kong by the French artists who travelled to China, are indicative of the cultural exchanges that took place between France and China over the last three centuries.

Examples of Chinese export goods including silverware, lacquer ware and carving in ivory and tortoise shell are also displayed to illustrate items that were popular in the French market.

The star exhibit is a set of 16 engravings that show Qing Dynasty Emperor Qianlong’s victories in northwest China.

It is a unique example of artistic confluence: the pictures were designed by Western painters in Beijing, while the copperplates were engraved and the printing executed in France.

The French artists looked with a foreigner’s eye at the people, the landscape and Customs, and recorded the exotic, the curious, the aesthetic, and the inspiring with their sketches, watercolours, oil and prints.

Completing visual images with notes and diaries, these records reflect the artists’ personal experiences.

He said the workers could count on the support of the government, which would “always be there to help” the overseas Filipino workers.

Bunye said that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is satisfied that through the intercourse of Filipino Charge d’ Affaires in Baghdad, Ricardo Eric Endaya, the situation has been temporarily resolved.

“...the rights and welfare of the workers are our utmost concern,” Bunye said.

The workers, under contract with Prime Projects International (PPI) and Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), are based at Camp Cooke in the province of Taji in Iraq.

KBR is a subsidiary of Halliburton Companies, which was once headed by US Vice-President Dick Cheney.

It was not specified what their complaints were, but the foreign affairs officials said the Filipinos and the agencies that employed them failed to agree on certain issues.

The Filipinos were to have been repatriated amid the deadlock, but Endaya managed to convince them to hold a dialogue instead and temporarily return to their posts.

KBR manages non-combat related operations of military installations in Iraq, while PPI recruits Filipino workers for them.

According to Endaya, at least 500 workers from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal joined the strike led by the Filipino workers. Despite a travel ban to Iraq, the Philippines is the supplier of manpower for US-led coalition forces, with official records indicating that about 6,000 Filipinos are working in various camps in Iraq.

In his report, Endaya said PPI held talks with the 300 overseas Filipino workers, but added the talks remained deadlocked. As a result of the deadlock, the company said it was ready to prepare the return of the Filipinos to the Philippines aboard two chartered flights via Dubai International Airport.

The French exhibition opens to public in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 29 May — World Book Fair 2005, the largest of its type in Singapore, opened to the public at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday while celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Over 300,000 titles, more than double the 120,000 titles that were displayed at last year’s show, are reaching out to an estimated visitorship of 750,000 till June 5. 

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Croatia adheres to one-China policy in any circumstance

BEIJING, 28 May — Croatia says it will adhere to a one-China policy under all circumstances in a joint statement released here Friday aiming at establishing a comprehensive and cooperative partnership with China.

“The Republic of Croatia, under any circumstances, will, as always, adhere to a one-China policy and all related stances, and regards the settlement of the Taiwan issue as an internal affair of the People’s Republic of China,” reads the statement signed between visiting Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao on Thursday.

It also says Croatia is opposed to “Taiwan Independence”, and supports China’s peaceful reunification.

The two sides agree to upgrade bilateral relations to comprehensive and cooperative partnership, the statement also reads.

It goes on to say that China understands and respects the efforts of Croatia to participate in the European Union and the integration of Europe.

According to the statement, the two sides agree to handle international relations in a multilateral framework. The two sides agree it is necessary to reform the United Nations.

They affirm to take more effective measures around the world to crack down on terrorism, and to together hold an anti-terrorism campaign that will observe international law, especially the principles of the UN Charter, says the statement.

On Sino-Croatian relations, the two sides agree to promote high-level dialogues, trying to arrange exchanges of visits between the prime ministers or vice-prime ministers every five years, notes the statement.

On economic and trade cooperation, the two sides agree to improve commodity and service trade to balance trade and economic cooperation, and conform that the next session of the Sino-Croatian sub-committee of economic and trade cooperation will be held in Croatia in 2005, says the statement.

The two sides also agree to enhance cooperation on security, tourism, culture, science and technology, and education, and will upgrade the relations between the local provinces and cities, according to the statement.

It also says Prime Minister Sanader formally invites Premier Wen to visit Croatia, and Wen expresses gratitude, and the date of visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.” — MNA/Xinhua

India, CERN sign agreement in LHC research

GENEVA, 29 May — India and European Organization for Nuclear Research, popularly known as CERN, have signed a Statement of Intent under which the existing scientific and technical cooperation between India and Nuclear Centre would be further extended.

The Statement of Intent was signed by Chairman of India’s Atomic Energy Commission Anil Kakodkar and Director-General of CERN Robert Aymar at a function here recently in presence of President A P J Abdul Kalam. The Indian President is here on a four-day state visit. He is the first head of state to visit Switzerland together with his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao on Thursday.

The agreement, which will extend the existing scientific and technical collaboration between India and CERN particularly in the field of novel accelerator and information technologies as well as through training and education of scientists and technical experts. The draft protocol shall extend the existing collaboration between India and CERN to include in particular collaboration in novel technologies required for accelerator projects of the next generation.” — MNA/PTI

Thai PM to visit India, Bhutan

BANGKOK, 29 May — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will visit India and Bhutan on 3-6 June for talks on topics ranging from security to agriculture and information technology (IT), reported the state-run Thai News Agency on Saturday.

Under the incumbent Thai-Indian Free Trade Area (FTA) deal, India has authorized inspection-free imports of four Thai agricultural products, and Thailand hopes to add more products to this list, including baby sweet corn, tamarind. During his trip to India, the Prime Minister will have talks on security, IT and other topics. In Bhutan, the agenda will focus on agricultural assistance, personnel training and research and development. Thaksin will use his visit to Bhutan to hand over rice milling machinery and electricity generators to the kingdom. — MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd doing well in hospital

RIYADH, 29 May — Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz is doing well after being admitted to hospital for medical examinations, a senior official said early on Saturday.

“King Fahd is well, thank God, and the medical tests he is undergoing are proceeding in a normal way,” the official said quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as saying in a statement.

He said there was no government state of alert and criticized media outlets for erroneous reporting that could cause disturbance in internal affairs of the kingdom, the world’s largest oil exporter.

“Information broadcast by certain Press agencies and picked up by certain hostile and malicious television stations who say that a state of alert has been declared and that leave of elements of the security forces has been cancelled is wrong,” said the statement.

Earlier, reports said the Saudi Government had put the country on a state of alert and cancelled all military leaves as a precaution. Mansour al-Turki, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, also denied that any emergency had been declared, saying the situation around the country was normal.

Colombian police seize 34 kilos of heroin

BOGOTA, 29 May — The Colombian police seized 34 kilos of heroin at the El Dorado International Airport in Bogota, said the authorities Friday.

About 15 kilos of heroin were hidden in two metal lamps that were to be taken to New York through US parcel service UPS, and the other 19 kilos were in a suitcase of a Colombian identified as Rafael Contreras Fonseca. He was heading for Argentina’s Buenos Aires.

Colombia is one of the principal producers and exporters of drugs in the world, with the United States and Europe as the main destinations. — MNA/Xinhua

Drifting sand hits N-W China city

LANZhou, 29 May — Unexpected drifting sand hit Dunhuang, a tourist resort in Gansu Province known for ancient Buddhist grottos, on Friday evening, local meteorological station said.

Windstorms stirred up sand in the sky, lowering the visibility to less than ten metres. Vehicles could only operate at a speed of less than 20 kilometres per hour.

The sandstorm erupted at about 7 pm local time and continued for about 40 minutes.

The unexpected drifting sand was triggered by continuous high temperatures in the past several days and the latest arrival of cold air in Dunhuang, said Tan Jizhi, the local weather forecast reporter on duty Friday. No damage was reported in the tourist spot. — MNA/Xinhua

Little elephant Wang Wang snuggles up to its mother Ya Kun beside a large cake, which was presented by a local foods products factory for Wang Wang’s first birthday in Jinan Zoo in Jinan, eastern China, on 28 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gestures under the bust of late Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh during a news briefing at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi on 30 May, 2005. Yudhoyono is in Hanoi as part of his two-day visit to Vietnam. — INTERNET

National Family Week launched in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 30 May — Singapore on Sunday launched this year’s National Family Week with the aim of encouraging families to engage in family traditions to foster stronger intergenerational bonds.

Officially launching the event, the 21st since 1985, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong stressed the need for the new generation of Singaporeans to put in extra effort to keep family ties strong across generations, especially in a different world today, reported Channel NewsAsia on Sunday night.

“From the new generation Singaporeans, we now have a dispersed extended family network or even cyber families who stay in touch via e-mail.

Therefore the occasion is important today, given the new trend context in Singapore, for us to create awareness of grandparenting, parenting and family bonding,” said Goh, adding that “if we don’t make the effort, if we’re all so busy, over the next 25 years I dread to think what would happen to the family, as the family is the building block of society”.

The National Family Week is organized by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports annually, and this year’s event will last until 4 June, with celebrations extending to 30 June.

The theme of this year’s National Family Week is Bonding Generations, Binding Families.

Every year, the ministry collaborates with many other private and community partners on organizing activities to celebrate National Family Week.

This year’s National Family Week activities include workshops, family life education circuit talks, roadshow, runway cycling and family carnivals.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN becomes key buyer of Chinese synthetic cut stones

NANNING, 30 May — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has become a crucial market for China’s synthetic cut stones, mainly produced in southwestern China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

According to statistics from the Gem Association of China, over 40 percent of total output comes from Guangxi’s Wuzhou City, the world’s largest distributing centre for artificial gems. Most go to ASEAN countries, especially Thailand.

So far, over 400 jewellers in Wuzhou have established firm trade relationships with the ASEAN market while more and more Chinese gem enterprises have set up subsidiaries in ASEAN countries, which now has become China’s third largest trading partner.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran condemns US uncooperativeness on nuclear disarmament

TEHERAN, 30 May — Iran has blasted the United States for its uncooperative stance on nuclear disarmament, calling for the strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the official IRNA news agency reported Saturday.

“The US tried to create smoke screens in the NPT conference in order to deflect attention from its abysmal record,” Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was quoted as saying.

Zarif made the comments in New York on Friday after the 2005 Review Conference on the NPT wrapped up without positive fruits.

The diplomat also condemned the increase of nuclear weapons and urged the world community to strengthen the NPT.

“Holding and expanding nuclear arsenal should be condemned rather than condoned or tolerated. Any increase in nuclear capability should equal a reduction in political credibility,” Zarif said.

“The NPT remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the ability to develop and pursue nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Therefore, the NPT must be preserved and strengthened,” he added.

Zarif further stressed that Iran is committed to the NPT and the non-proliferation regime, urging the international community to act with a concerted and firm resolve to stop the “fast pace” of nuclear proliferation.

Iran, accused of secretly developing nuclear weapons by Washington, has rebuked the US for applying “double standards” on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation.

Teheran said its nuclear programme is fully peaceful and insists that it will never give up its natural rights granted by the NPT.

MNA/Xinhua

Army seminar in China marks Anti-Japanese War, WWII

NANJING, 29 May — The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) opened a seminar to mark the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45) and the World War II (1939-45) on Friday. It lasts through Sunday.

The workshop is convened at the Nanjing Political Academy of the PLA, which was attended by a group of military and civilian experts and scholars as well as some retired soldiers who fought during the war.

The two-day seminar has received 260 academic papers, awarding 103 with first, second and third prizes.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.

MNA/Xinhua

HK airport express line resumes operation after storm

HONG KONG, 29 May — Trains on the airport express line resumed operation after a break down halted service for an hour, the Mass Transit Railway Corp (MTRC) said here Friday.

The stoppage occurred at 7:30pm. The MTRC said the disruption was linked to a thunderstorm that hit the territory Friday evening. Emergency bus services were arranged for passengers during the stoppage.

The thunderstorm caused 48 flights to delay leaving Hong Kong, according to sources from Airport Authority Hong Kong. During the bad weather, one was killed and four injured in two accidents in the western part of the New Territories, local media reported.

In one accident, two trucks collided into each other, killing one and injuring three. In the other accident, which occurred almost at the same place but in the opposite direction, a truck crashed into the rock along the road. One man was slightly injured.

The rain also led to traffic jams across Hong Kong island and New Territories.

China announces supplementary agreement on eastern border

BEIJING, 29 May — China announced the decision of its top legislature to ratify the supplementary agreement on the eastern border with Russia on Friday.

The top legislature, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC), ratified the supplementary agreement on 27 April. Russia’s Lower House of Parliament, the State Duma, ratified the agreement on 20 May.

The supplementary agreement was signed during President Vladimir Putin’s visit to China in October 2004.

The agreement defines the borderline on two sections, which constitute less than two per cent of the Chinese-Russian border, left unsettled since 1991 when the two sides signed a border treaty on the eastern part of the common border.

Russia and China share a 4,300 kilometre-long border.

MNA/Xinhua
As clouds of mist rolled over the Kyaihtitiyo Hill, I felt as if living on an island in the sea. The Kyaihtitiyo Pagoda is situated magnificently on Paunglaung mountain ranges, surrounded by streams and waterfalls and covered by shady woods. The Sittoung River snakes through the western and southern parts of the hill.

Up-hill tarred road and the precipice of the pagoda are usually crowded with pilgrims from home and abroad. Mawlamyine, the busy capital of Mon State, is progressing. The newly-built Mawlamyine Bridge (Thanlwin) and motor roads included in the Asian railway project also add the beauty to the city.

Situated in the south of Myanmar, Mon State shares the borders with Bago Division, Kayin State, Taninthayi Division and Mottama Sea. Famous islands along the coastline are the Bilu, Hintha, Kalagok, Wah and Nat. Light house exists on Green Island and Kyaththein Island near Kyakhtatkyi. Bilin Creek, Thanlwin River and its tributaries, Atatyan River, Gyaing River, Donthami Creek and Ye Creek are famous in Mon State.

During his inspection tour of Ye on 4-3-2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, also Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, recalled that in the past motor road and railroad ended at the town. But now the motor road has been extended to Dawei, Myeik up to Kawthoung. Ye, therefore is no longer the end of the motor road or railroad, he said. As Ye is the gateway to the whole Taninthayi Division it will develop more in the future. The Senior General said Ye has the prospect of engaging in agricultural as well as livestock breeding works. So with such favourable conditions, Ye will further prosper.

Trains are plying daily on Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei route after the completion of Ye Bridge. People can also travel easily from Mon State to Taninthayi Division by road. The beautiful Ye rail-road bridge links the Mawlamyine-Ye-Ye-Dawei road sections.

In Ye Township, rubber cultivation has been extended to 58,830 acres. Greater efforts have been exerted necessary assistance provided to develop Mon State and Taninthayi Division as both regions place emphasis on cultivation of rubber. The area of Ye is about two miles from east to west and about half a mile wide. The town is situated on a hill and there is Ye Creek in the south and a moat in the north.

Main products of Ye are paddy, rubber, betel nut, salt, dried fish, durian and pomelo, and Pyingadaw and betel nut are popular products. As Ye is more than 1000 years old, it was formally known as Avija Jeyapura and then called Raja Siha Jeyapura.

New Ye Railway Station is under construction and wards of Ye Hospital (50-bed) are being extended.

Ye Township has potentials for success in agricultural and fish and meat sectors. Progress has been made in agriculture, extended rubber cultivation, production of fresh and sea water fish and prawn every year after year. This has generated the annual income of local people.

Self-sufficiency in food of Ye Township has been 102.64 per cent.

We arrived in Mudon. We studied Winphanon Dam built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Mudon Township, Mon State. The dam is now irrigating over 13,000 acres of farmland. We then proceeded to Thanbyuzayat, which is situated at the junction of Mawlamyine-Ye road. Mawlamyine-Kyaihkkami motor road and Mawlamyine-Ye motor road. It is 157 miles from Mawlamyine or 312 miles from Myeik by motor road.

Mon State is a fertile region as the coast has been fomed with laterite. Therefore, agriculture is developing in the region. The main economy of Mon State is agriculture. There are some 0.874 million acres of various kinds of crops. The principal crops of Mon State are paddy, rubber, sugarcane and betel nut. Thanbyuzayat Township is widely engaged in the rubber industry. The township produces the largest amount of rubber in the nation. There are also durians, mangoestens, pomelo and djenkol bean in abundance. Altogether 58.5 per cent of Mon State’s area is covered with forests. Its reserve forest area is 468,502 acres.

Yinnyein sluice gate is being built near Yinnyein Creek and Kyonhaw Village, Paung Township, Mon State. In Thaton District, Zeikkay sluice gate which benefits 20,000 acres of farmland and Kyonhaw sluice gate which benefits 22,000 acres of farmland have been constructed, and Kataik Dam which will benefit 20000 acres of farmland is under implementation.

Nowadays, extended cultivation of rubber, an industrial raw material, is being carried out. As Mon State is the main source of rubber, the Mawlamyine Industrial Zone is making efforts for development of the rubber technology.

With the development of industrial zones, efforts are being made to produce quality items for export in addition to import-substitute products. In this regard, there has been mutual cooperation among the industrial zones or the industrialists.

The government is making efforts for industrial development, giving all the necessary assistance and combining the capital, strength and innovation of industrialists. Mawlamyine Industrial Zone with an area of 160 acres has 340 working plots and 240 residential plots. It also has 34 large-scale industries, 126 medium-scale industries and 7 small-scale industries totalling 167. To extend industrial undertakings in the zone, 830 more acres of land have been reclaimed.

In Mon State, 701,600 acres of land were put under monsoon paddy in 2004 and out of 701,410 acres harvested altogether 47,187,692 baskets of paddy was produced. A total of 60,150 acres of land were put under summer paddy. Groundnut, sesame and sunflower were grown on 25,900 acres of land while pulses and beans were grown on 63,807 acres of land. Pepper has been grown on 14,862 acres of land, and arrangements are being made to grow 5000 more acres of pepper in 2005-2006. Rubber, industrial raw material, was grown on 245,805 acres of land and altogether 33,965 tons of rubber produced. A total of 4.7 million rubber saplings are being nursed to grow 21,345 more acres of rubber in 2005-2006.

Mon State with a total area of 2,847,409 square miles has a population of over 2.8 million. The sown acreage of various crops is 874,000 acres. Antimony is mined in Mawlamyine Township, Kyaikarawar Township, Mudon Township and Paung Township. Tin is mined in Chaungzon Township, Thanbyuzayat Township and Paung Township.

There are Taungzin quarry, Moppalan quarry, Zingyiakle quarry and Kyauktalayon quarry in Mon State. Mon State is famous for Panga salt industry, Setse salt industry, Kyaihkkami salt industry, Zeebyuthaung dried fish industry and Ahsin fish sauce industry and fishing net industry.

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While passing the Mawlamyine Bridge (Thanlwin), the glory of the State, built on Dawei-Yangon Union Highway, I was inspired to write about the development of Mon State.

Translation: ST+TS

(Myawna Alin:29-5-2005)
USDA members to serve interest...

(from page 1)

Their discussions included Myanmar’s active participation in the action plans of ASEAN of ten South East Asian nations, BIMST-EC of five south Asia, Greater Mekong Subregion of six countries in Mekong River basin and GSC of six Asia countries.

He spoke of the need for them to continue to learn more and to combine the experience and knowledge gained at the course with practical life.

The government is nurturing youths to possess good character, good personality and qualifications and to become good ones with good character.

Nurturing youths to become good citizens who sacrifice their own interest for the State and the community to become good ones with good qualifications and to become good ones with good character.

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USDA is for human resources development and future State, he said.

He said the USDA is conducting courses and workshops continuously after laying down the project. At the courses and workshops, enhancing efficiency on belief and concept, Union spirit, equality and the sense of nation-building, preservation of national prestige and integrity and national character, the past and the present conditions of the projects for 2004-2005 of Ministry of Forest.

Chairman, the Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets trainees of USDA Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 7 at the concluding ceremony. — MNA

Projects for 2004-2005 of Ministry of Forestry implemented

YANGON, 30 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday evening attended a ceremony to mark the successfully completed projects for 2004-2005 of the ministry held at the Forest Department in Insein Township.

At the ceremony, the minister awarded and presented certificates to the staff of the ministry who seized the illegal timber.Officials of the ministry also gave away the teak special plantation award for 2004-2005 and the arid zones greening award at the ceremony.

The USDA in cooperation with the War Veterans Organization, the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Red Cross, the Auxiliary Fire Brigade and the people, with whom it shares common objectives, is actively playing its own role in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotism.

Our Three Main National Causes are to be warded off decisively

Any acts detrimental to the State and the people, any acts of interfering in the internal affairs and any acts undermining the national prestige and in- terests of a discipline-flourishing democratic State.

The five oaths are to be kept in the mind of the association members in safeguarding and building the nation. In line with the five oaths, they are to contribute their efforts in realizing the seven-point future policy programme.

The government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed State.

The National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, is being convened in this regard. The USDA in cooperation with the War Veterans Organization, the Women’s Affairs Federation, the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Red Cross, the Auxiliary Fire Brigade and the people, with whom it shares common objectives, is actively playing its own role in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotism.

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Only then, will it become a national force. Only the association with a leadership of higher quality will be able to implement the objectives laid down.

The trainees now have a certain ability as they had completed the course. They are to continue studying and implementing the objectives of the association in accord with the guidance of Patron of the USDA Senior General Than Shwe, given at the opening ceremony.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called for the association members to serve the interest of the State and the people at a time when the nation is making progress with added momentum under the leadership of the government, to strive to win the trust and love of the people and become a national force representing the people, to try its utmost to be imbued with the spirit of national unity, patriotism, Union Spirit and the spirit of building the nation, and to steadfastly make efforts for realization of the future work programmes laid down by the Annual General Meeting of USDA for 2004, the seven-point Road Map and the five rural development tasks, adopting the 12 political, economic and social objectives as the work guidelines and upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

YANGON, 30 May — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, school enrolment day for school-age children was celebrated at No 1 BEHS in Kyimyinda Township, Yangon West District, and at No 3 BEMS in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, today.

At the ceremony of Yangon West District, Chairperson of Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Wint Wint Naing explained arrangements for enrolment of school-age children. Leader Prof Daw Htoo Htoo Aung of the social and cultural group (Group-B) of MWAF explained the purpose of celebrations.

At the ceremony of Yangon North District, leader of district education work group explained arrangements for enrolment of school-age children. Member of education work group (branch) of MWAF Dr Daw Mar Mar Thu explained the purpose of celebrations.

Next, officials presented school uniforms, exercise books and stationery for students.

MWAF and Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs have donated uniforms, exercise books and stationery worth K 15.0 million for 5906 needy students from 45 townships in the division.

SECRETARY-1 HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF ATHLETES OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATIONS

SECRETARY-1 LI-GEN THEIN SEIN HOSTS A DINNER IN HONOUR OF ATHLETES OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATIONS AT THE KARAWEIK PALACE — MNA
Ancient pagoda renovated

Yangon, 30 May — Myo-wun-gyi ancient pagoda in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State, was under renovation, and officials enshrined the Buddha statues found in renovating the pagoda. Secretary General of Union Solidarity and Development Association for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife and party paid obeisance to the excavated Buddha images. The minister and party presented the seinpudaw, hngetyamadaw, htidaw and offertories to the Sayadaws. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Obasa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained. The minister and party hoisted the seinpudaw, hngetyamadaw, htidaw atop the pagoda. Sayadaws consecrated the Buddha images. The minister and party set up a trust fund for a primary school and donated stationery for the students. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to victims of bomb blast by MMCWA

Yangon, 30 May — The Vice-President and Central Executives Committee members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfares Association donated cash and kind to the victims of bomb blast. They made a donation of K 390,000 to the Yangon General Hospital, K 300,000 to the New General Hospital, K 318,000, K 18,000 each for 34 patients to the Insein General Hospital and K 212,000 to the North Okkalapa Hospital and K 300,000, medicines and 8 beds to the North Okkalapa Hospital and K 300,000 to Yangon General Hospital. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

Yangon, 30 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Director-General U Win Myint of the Transport Department left here by air yesterday to attend the Sub-regional Meeting on Sustainable Capacity Building and Training of Trainers in Freight Forwarding, Multimodal Transport and Logistics of UNESCAP which is to be held in Bangkok, from 30 May to 3 June.

He was accompanied by General Manager U Myint Wai and Deputy General Manager U Tun Aung Thin of Myanmar Railways, AGM U Thien Ko of Civil Aviation, Deputy Director of the Attorney General’s Office U Tun Yi, Chairman of International Freight Forwarders Association U Aung Kyaw Min, Instructor U Aung Khin Myint. — MNA

Friendly match ends in goalless draw

Yangon, 30 May — The friendly football match between Myanmar and Indian Defence Services teams took place at the Aung San stadium this evening. Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, senior military officers, military attaches of foreign missions in Myanmar and others.

The commander greeted managers, coaches and players of the two sides. Next, Myanmar dam-sels presented the players the bouquets. The players of the two teams exchanged gifts and the match ended in a goalless draw. After the match, the commander presented the medal in commemoration of the friendly match to the Indian defence services team. The commander and officials accompanied by managers, coaches and the players of the two sides posed for a documentary photo. — MNA
Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers an address at the coordination meeting of Myanma Small Loans Enterprise. — MNA


The minister said based on the past experiences, officials will have to find means to improve their functions. They should maintain the degree of success they have achieved this year. They should strive to develop both the operations sector and the management sector.

He presented gifts to staff who were outstanding in their performances. Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, directors general, managing directors, and other officials were also present. — MNA

**F&R minister receives Korean Ambassador**

Yangon, 30 May — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-heum and party at the ministry this evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and responsible officials. — MNA

The ceremony held at No 1 BEHS, Mingalardon Township.

The minister, deputy minister and officials donated school uniforms and stationery and accepted cash donations. — MNA

Minister U Than Aung attended a similar ceremony held at No 1 BEHS, Mingalardon Township.

**Religious Affairs Minister receives Chinese Buddhist delegation**

Yangon, 30 May — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhist Association The Most Venerable Master Shen Hui of People Republic of China at the ministry this afternoon. Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Myo Kyaw and Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, departmental heads and officials from Chinese Embassy. — MNA

**UN peacekeepers in Liberia remember fallen colleagues**

MONROVIA, 30 May — The United Nations peacekeepers in Liberia on Saturday joined their colleagues around the world in commemoration of those who sacrificed their lives in the service of peace.

The commemoration day dubbed as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers was led here by Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Liberia Ambassador Abou Moussa. Moussa recalled that since the start of UN peacekeeping operation in Liberia in October 2003, about 47 of the mission’s personnel have lost their lives. “Today is a day to honour those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace,” he said, adding that “it is also a day when each and every one of us should feel proud of what United Nations peacekeepers have achieved throughout the world.”

Currently, the UN has deployed 15,000 peacekeepers in Liberia and has brought security to the West African country ravaged by 14 years of war and violence. Reflecting on the UN Mission achievements so far, Moussa said more than 100,000 armed combatants were disarmed and that the mission has assisted the transitional government of Liberia to extend state authority to remote areas of the country.

In the UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan’s message for the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, read by Moussa, the UN Secretary-General redefined the UN family to the “noble calling of peacekeeping.”

Annan recalled that about 115 UN peacekeepers, both military and civilian from 39 countries lost their lives during 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

**Presiding Sayadaw of Pariyatti Paragu Kyaungtaik in Gwa passes away**

Yangon, 30 May — State Ovacacarya Presiding Sayadaw of Pariyatti Paragu Kyaungtaik of Gwa, Thandwe District, Rakhine State, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhammajotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhadanta Ganda Gamanada (Aged 97, Vasa 76) passed away at 9.15 pm on 29 May 2005 (Sunday) (7th Waning of Kason 1367 ME), according to the Religious Affairs Department. — MNA

**All-township school enrollment day celebrated in Mingalardon Township**

Yangon, 30 May — All-township school enrollment day for academic year 2005-2006 was celebrated at BEMS Township this morning with an address by Minister for Education U Than Aung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general, the chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations, rectors, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, the township education officer, wellwishers, teachers, students and their parents.

In this academic year programme, started in 1999-2000, for students.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers an address at the coordination meeting of Myanma Small Loans Enterprise. — MNA

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Zimbabwean President endorses police’s cleanup campaign

HARARE, 29 May — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Friday hailed the cleanup campaign implemented by police in the country as a positive measure to restore cleanliness and safety.

Addressing a session of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front central committee, Mugabe said the country’s cities and towns had deteriorated to levels that were a real cause for concern to the government. “The government has had to act to clean up the whole mess in order to restore our cities and towns to their old fame of cleanliness and safety,” he said.

He said apart from the failing rehabilitation system and broken down roads, the country’s cities and towns, including Harare and Bulawayo, had become havens for illicit and criminal practices. He said a few people would have had their livelihood lost in the cleanup campaign as a number were deriving livelihood from the dangerous chaos that had developed.

The President, however, regretted the damage that has been done to some properties that should not have been damaged during the demolition and cleanup process. He said remedial action would be taken in such cases.

The Zimbabwe Police has embarked on “Operation Restore Order” in cities and towns under which it is demolishing illegal structures and removing vendors and flea market operators from undesignated areas.

Investigation into boy stowaway incident ends in S-W China

LAONIAN, 29 May — The investigation into the death of a boy who fell from the landing gear of a plane Wednesday finished Friday.

The boy was identified as 16-year-old Li Dechao, a native of Sichuan Province in southwest China, who moved to the northwest Guangxi Province in 1998 to work as his relative Liu.

Liu lost contact with Li on 19 May and failed to find him until he identified the body of the boy in the hospital. Liu said he could not imagine how Li managed to climb up into the undercarriage of the plane.

The special investigation team has left the Dunhuang Airport, where the tragedy took place, saying the detailed information about the incident will be revealed by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

Severe drought hits Yunnan Province

KUNMING, 30 May — Southwest China’s Yunnan Province has been tormenting from a drought believed to be the worst in 25 years, with 3.6 million residents and 2.88 million head of drought livestock having difficulty of getting drinkable water.

In the meantime, 924 small reservoirs and ponds in the province have been dried up, and water-pumping has ceased with 476 pumped wells because of inadequate water. By 26 May, farm crops with a combined area of 1.68 million hectares are affected by the drought, information from the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said.

An official with the headquarters blamed sustained heatwave weather for the severe drought in the province, citing rainfall in Bai Autonomous Prefecture of Dai was 2.8 millimetres from 1 April to 27 May. Under the spell of heatwave, the highest temperature in a half of counties and cities in the Plateau Province has gone up over 30 degrees Celsius, and in the two counties of Yuanyang and Yuanjiang, there have been days with the temperature exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. The severe drought has adversely affected growing of agricultural crops, including floral production, in most of the southwest Chinese pro-vinces, a leading floral producer in the country.

The provincial party and government authorities have gone all out to organize operations to alleviate drought in the province.

Los Angeles to provide online public access to city records

LOS ANGELES, 29 May — Los Angeles, the second largest US city, launched an online system Friday on that gives the public access to the city government’s records and reports.

Los Angeles City Clerk Frank Martinez said the system will help “reduce paper and increase openness” by allowing citizens to access government records and reports without having to go to the City Hall.

Accessible through the city’s web site, www.lacity.org, the system allows users to search City Council files through an index and connect to background documents by clicking on blue numbers on council agendas.

Previously, the information was only available by going to City Hall to request a copy. A local TV station, NBC4, quoted Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti as saying that all residents can benefit from the new system.

More NY holiday travellers hit roads despite higher gas prices

NEW YORK, 29 May — Holiday travellers in New York began to head off for the Memorial Day weekend despite crowded roads and higher gas prices on Friday.

The rising gas prices did not seem to keep motorists home at the start of the summer driving season. American Automobile Association (AAA) officials estimate a record number of travellers will take to the roads this weekend.

Nationwide, approximately 31.1 million travellers (84 per cent of all travellers) have been expected to use the same time period.

“Prices might be up 15 cents per gallon higher than last year’s then-record levels, but gasoline remains a relatively small part of most travellers’ vacation costs,” said AAA Travel Vice-President Sandra Hughes in a statement.

Airport use is up as well. About 522,425 travellers are expected to use Kenneth Airport during the weekend, a 7.6 per cent increase from last year, according to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

CLAMAS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (203)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (203) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be 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.

PHONE NO: 256908/378316/376797

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER

More NY holiday travellers hit roads despite higher gas prices
Venezuela accuses US of new destabilization campaign

CARACAS, 30 May — Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel on Saturday accused the United States of supporting the opposition to launch a new destabilization campaign in the country.

The main target of the US-financed campaign is Venezuela’s state-run petroleum company PDVSA, Rangel said, adding that a second target is the country’s poor, to whom the United States is providing assistance.

Meanwhile, the United States also instigated Venezuela’s military to rise against the government, backing it with media propaganda and financing, said Rangel, who described Washington as a “terror exporter”.

The opposition is preparing a “second assault on PDVSA”, said Rangel. He accused the United States of supporting the April 2002 coup d’état against President Hugo Chavez and the national strike that paralyzed the country’s oil industry at the end of 2002.

Rangel made the remark during a demonstration in the capital to demand the extradition by the United States of a Cuban exile wanted by Caracas for the 1976 bombing of a Cuban passenger plane that killed 73 people.

The protest came one day after the United States rejected Venezuela’s request that Luis Posada Carriles, the Cuban exile with Venezuelan citizenship, be arrested and extradited to Venezuela to face trial.

17 ancient tombs found in N China

HUMEN, 30 May — Seventeen ancient tombs believed to be built in the Warring States Period (403 BC-221 BC) were found in a recent rescue excavation at an express highway construction site in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Nearly at the same place, an ancient village dating back 4,000 years was also discovered by the experts, who are from a research institute on archeology of the autonomous region. They were surprised by the unique burial style. Bodies were put in jars, pots or basins and then buried in tombs in nearby Chenjiaying Village in Chifeng’s Songshan District.

Axes, stone adzes and stone spades, along with some pottery and potsherds were unearthed from the village located in a Xijiaidian village site.

The tombs and the village were exposed when the express highway connecting Chifeng and Zhangjiakou, another city in the autonomous region, were being built.

Third body found in light-airplane crash in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 30 May — Rescuers found Saturday the body of the third person aboard a private light-airplane, which crashed on Friday in the mountainous area of Costa Rica, a Red Cross spokesman said.

The spokesman confirmed the death of the three persons aboard the plane and they were identified as pilot Luis Cantillano, co-pilot Diego Marenco and passenger Guillermo Picado.

On Friday, the rescuers found two bodies in the La Palma de Puriscal region, some 47 kilometres south of San Jose.

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English teaching in Chinese universities under reform

BEIJING, 30 May— The English teaching methodology in Chinese universities is now under effective reform, as the students taking new courses are having better examination results of English learning than otherwise, said Zhang Yaoxue, a senior official with the Ministry of Education (MoE).

In recent years, more and more employers have begun to use examinations as a major way to evaluate potential employees. The examinations showed that university students’ oral English training was lacking, so officials began to call for “a new English study mechanism targeting students’ integrated skills”.

According to the statistics of the ministry, Chinese university students spend more than 3,000 hours on average studying English during their four-year schooling. However, when in English class, most students just listen silently to their teachers instead of actively speaking.

Chinese universities launched the English study reform in 2002 by taking three measures, Zhang said.

First, the original English teaching curricula for university teachers were revised. Second, computer-based teaching materials and software systems were introduced in English teaching and learning. Third, the evaluation and testing system for English proficiency was adjusted to focus more on listening and speaking, rather than just writing.

The more engaging teaching style has also helped get students more interested in learning English.

Li Yuan, a student of the Beijing Institute of Technology said that when he used the English learning software for the first time, he got interested in a story about scandals in the football circle. The story was divided into three parts for different test targets, which immediately aroused his interest for reading.

In February, 2004, MoE invested 30 million yuan (around 3.6 million US dollars) for the pilot use of English learning software among 200,000 students in 180 Chinese universities, and the oral English pilot test was also carried out since 1999.

UNSG confirms progress in situation in Darfur

KHARTOUM, 30 May — The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan Saturday confirmed progress in the entire situation in Sudan’s war-torn western region of Darfur.

Annan made the confirmation in a Press statement upon his arrival in Niyala, capital of the South Darfur State, from Khartoum in a bid to promote peace and humanitarian relief efforts.

In the Press statement, Annan said the general humanitarian situation in the region was improving, but more efforts should be exerted to achieve peace and a favourable environment for relief work.

Upon his arrival at the Niyala Airport, Annan held talks with Governor

Don’t smoke

A local farmer shows off a couple of heart-shaped water melons during the 4th Hengxi Water Melon Festival in Hengxi Township of Nanjing, capital of China’s Jiangsu Province, recently.—INTERNET

S-W China to hold World Hakka Convention

CHENGDU, 30 May—The 20th World Hakka Convention is scheduled for 12 October in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, organizers announced over the weekend.

Representatives of the Hakka people, one of the eight branches of China’s ethnic minority of the Han people, will gather in Luodai, an ancient Hakka town in the eastern suburbs of Chengdu. The theme of the three-day convention is to deepen affections and consolidate close contacts. Various business activities to be held in the convention are also expected to attract investment to Sichuan, a key region in China’s ongoing drive for development in its west.

Bangladeshi labourers dry coloured yarns under the sun near a small handloom factory at Narsinghdi District, 50 km (31 miles) from the capital Dhaka, recently.—INTERNET

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On Friday, the rescuers found two bodies in the La Palma de Puriscal region, some 47 kilometres south of San Jose.
Hanesu stuns Nalbandian to first make Grand Slam quarters

PARIS, 30 May— Romanian Victor Hanesu continued to stage surprises at the French Open as he outlasted Argentine 10th seed David Nalbandian in a five-set thriller to advance to his first Grand Slam quarters on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Hanesu was made to toil for three hours 27 minutes before he squeezed past last year’s semifinalist Nalbandian 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in their first meeting.

The Romanian giant, standing 1.98m tall, upset another Argentine in the second round, beating 31st seed Juan Ignacio Chela 7-5, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 in the prestigious tennis claycourt event.

“It’s a big surprise for me. If on the match I was a little bit nervous because I played on centre court, but I started the match very well. I won the first set and was more confident,” said the 90th ranked player, who has the chance to be the lowest-ranked Roland Garros quarterfinalist since No. 100 Andrei Medvedev and No. 140 Marcelo Filippini advanced to the quarterfinals in 1999.

Benitez pledges loyalty to Liverpool

LONDON, 30 May— Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez played down on Sunday the renewed speculation linking him with a move to Real Madrid, saying his future lies with Liverpool.

The Spaniard came top of a fans’ poll asking who should take charge at the Bernabeu and newspaper reports say Madrid’s hierarchy may now make a move.

He admits a return to his home city is appealing but insists that he is happy on Merseyside and wants to stay and build on the Champions League success.

“My only idea is to prepare the team for the next season,” he said.

“Of course, I was born there, I have a lot of friends there, I know people in the club, and my family is in Madrid.

“But I’m sure of my situation and really happy at Liverpool. I’ve a clear idea about my future and that is to win another trophy, or trophies, next season.

“I am working now, preparing the future, thinking about what to do and what to say to some players, and establishing if we can sign new players.”

Benitez, a former youth coach at Real Madrid, won 94 per cent of the vote and has an impressive CV.

The 45-year-old’s success in the Champions League final over AC Milan comes 12 months after he won the Spanish title and the UEFA Cup with Valencia.

Davenport in amazing turnaround to overcome Clijsters

PARIS, 30 May— World number one Lindsay Davenport managed to turn the situation around for the fourth time here when the American top seed outlasted favourite Kim Clijsters 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 Saturday in the fourth round at the French Open.

Davenport was down 1-6, 1-3 before the 28-year-old pulled herself together by the former world number one Clijsters in the sixth and 12th games. Clijsters, crowned with Miami and Indian Wells titles since her return from injury in March, fired five aces but also hit 11 double faults before Davenport booked a quarterfinal berth.

Davenport stopped in the fourth round last year, losing to eventual beaten finalist Elena Dementieva. Her best result in her previous 11 appearances was reaching the semifinals in 1998.

“I was really a little bit amazed I was able to pull that match out today, considering how bad I was losing and the previous records against her and it being on clay,” she said. Now she has improved her record against Clijsters to 7-9.

Davenport has been struggling to keep going through the tennis claycourt showpiece event when she was all stretched to three sets and cornered for a couple of times in previous three rounds.

Federer happy to be back in quarters at French Open

PARIS, 30 May— Top seed Roger Federer reaped an easy win from an injury-hit Carlos Moya and was happy back to the quarterfinals after several years.

The 23-year-old Swiss showed no mercy in his 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 dismantling of his 29-year-old opponent, recording the sixth win over Moya in as many meetings. Moya could not serve at full speed due to aching right shoulder and will undergo treatment in the following days.

With the win, Federer has equalled his best result here in 2001 and yet to drop a set in the four rounds after he crashed out in the third round last year.

Federer has got beyond the quarterfinals (2001) and lost in the first round three times (1999, 2002 and 2003).

“I’m very relieved in a way but happy to have come so far again after a few years of tough times here in Paris,” said the four-time Grand Slam winner. “At least I can walk away. I’ve won four matches, which is good. But once you get to the quarters, you want more, especially because I haven’t been using kind of my reserve tank yet. I still have a lot of energy left. I’m looking forward to hopefully another few matches.”

Federer found few challenges this by far and finished Sunday’s match on his third match point by breaking Moya, winner in 1998 at the claycourt tennis event.

Rwanda vows to thrash Nigeria in 2006 World Cup qualifier

KIGALI, 30 May— Many would chicken over the Nigerian soccer team, Super Eagles, but Rwandan players, like Vietnam based striker, Jimmy Muliwa vowed Sunday to thrash the Super Eagles.

The previous team coached by Garcia was Al Ahli, of the Saudi Arab league, where Venezuela Diego Guervara — who now plays for Venezuela’s Guaros of Lara — used to play.

Garcia will have as his assistant Venezuelan international Alexander Nolasco, who is to replace Jorge Arrieta. Nestor Garcia coached in 2002 Venezuelan team Marininos and Santurce, from Puerto Rico, as well as Argentine teams Boca Juniors, Penarol and Estudiantes of Bahia Blanca.

Argentina to train Venezuelan basketball club

CARACAS, 30 May— The Venezuelan club Trotamundos of Carabobo of the Venezuelan basketball league will have as its coach Argentine Nestor Garcia.

The Argentine coach replaced Venezuelan Carlos Gil, who was sacked after the defeats suffered by Trotamundos, which fell from the first place, said a spokesman of the club, cited by the Press on Saturday.

The previous team coached by Garcia was Al Ahli, of the Saudi Arab league, where Venezuela Diego Guervara — who now plays for Venezuela’s Guaros of Lara — used to play.

Garcia will have as his assistant Venezuelan international Alexander Nolasco, who is to replace Jorge Arrieta. Nestor Garcia coached in 2002 Venezuelan team Marininos and Santurce, from Puerto Rico, as well as Argentine teams Boca Juniors, Penarol and Estudiantes of Bahia Blanca.

Canada’s Matt King (C) tries to evade a tackle by Japan’s Takashi Tsuru (R) and Kohei Moriya (10) during the final match of the Toshiba Super Cup 2005 in Tokyo on 29 May, 2005. Canada defeated Japan 15-10.—INTERNET

Japan beat China in AFC Futsal Championship

HO CHI MINH CITY (Vietnam), 30 May— China was eliminated by Japan 5-1 in the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) Futsal Championship on Sunday.

Japanese players netted twice in the first half, and added three goals after the break, while China’s sole goal was scored by Wang Xiaoyu in the 21st minute. With the lopsided victory, Japan won the first berth to semifinals.

“Today, Chinese players exhibited good spirit and technique. They have played too frequently, so their physical strength went down today,” Chinese coach Xu Jian said after the match.

Also on Sunday, six-time champions Iran had a 3-3 draw with Thailand in the other Group G match. Therefore, Japan tops the group with six points, followed by Thailand with four points and Iran one point. —MNA/Xinhua
Khatami reiterates Teheran’s position on nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 30 May — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Saturday stressed that Iran will never give up its legitimate rights but will restrict nuclear research into civil use, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“In view of the on-going progress in the world today, Iran is entitled to peaceful use of nuclear technology,” Khatami was quoted as saying in a meeting with Mohammad Reza Hkhundzadeh, Iran’s ingoing ambassador and permanent envoy to the UN. Khatami said that Iran accepted talks with Europe as a principle and had thus far extended its “utmost cooperation” in that field. He reiterated that Iran’s activities in the field of nuclear energy are peaceful and “free from any ambiguity”.

The Islamic Republic’s legislation supervisory body, the Guardian Council, approved a law that presses the government to continue its efforts to get access to peaceful nuclear technology, including uranium enrichment activities. However, the law, passed by the hardliner-dominated Majlis (Parliament) on 15 May, does not set a specified date for the government to resume enrichment activities.

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (1.61) inches, Kawthong (1.26) inches and Loikaw (1.02) inches. Day temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above normal in Mon, Rakhine States and Yangon Division, (5˚C) to (6˚C) above normal in Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (7˚C) to (8˚C) above normal in Shan, Kachin States, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Magway Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Magway (43˚C).

Maximum temperature on 29-5-2005 was 95˚F. Minimum temperature on 30-5-2005 was 75˚F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-5-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 29-5-2005 was (4.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 30-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (8.27) inches at Yangon Airport, (7.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.78) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Northwest at (09:10) hours MST on 30-5-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay, weather is partly cloudy in elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31-5-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-5-2005: Partly cloudy.
YANGON, 30 May — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung yesterday inspected the trial run of the Salingyi Textile Factory near Salingyi Township in Sagaing Division Myanma Textile Industries.

At the briefing hall, the director of the factory project reported on tasks which have been implemented, installation of machinery and electricity and water supply to the project. Salingyi Textile Factory project is located at the junction of Paungwa-Hsarhtoon, one mile from Salingyi Township. It will produce 3.76 million pound of textile and 11.34 million yard of fabric per year.

In the afternoon, the minister also inspected Monywa Printing and Dyeing Factory in Monywa and Winthuza Shop of the ministry. Afterwards, Minister U Aung Thaung went to the construction project of an iron foundry in Monywa Industrial Zone and inspected the machine shop and installation of machinery in it, warehouse and foundry shop. At the briefing hall, an official of the Chindwin Star Auto Industry reported on production of lorry, trucks and jeeps. Afterwards, the minister attended to the needs and called for more production. Next, he viewed the three-wheel cars and jeeps manufactured by the industry. — MNA

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YANGON, 30 May — A work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Transport was held at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present at the meeting were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, heads of department, advisers, general managers, chief auditors, directors and those in charge in regions and officials concerned.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said officials are to discharge duties assigned by the departments thoroughly, to report real condition for accomplishment of projects, to follow the directives, to carry out future tasks and to seek the strengths and weaknesses. Next, those in charge reported on progress of work, tasks being carried out and future tasks. Afterwards, directors-general, managing directors, the principal and rector reported on progress of work of giant projects, measures taken for departmental functions, generation of income and efficient use of funds and use of power and fuel with audio visual aid.

In response to the reports, the deputy ministers gave supplementary reports. Giving concluding remarks, the minister urged the officials to try to hit the target of the ministry, to spend funds of the State efficiently, to take measures for GDP growth, to supervise facts and figures phase by phase and to lay emphasis on worksite safety. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe addresses the coordination meeting (2005) of the Ministry. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects installation of machinery at the project site of an iron foundry in Monywa Industrial Zone. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Indian guests — MNA

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Director of Medical Services Office Brig-Gen Than Aung, Chairman of Defence Services Volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Principal of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Institute Col Htain Lin and senior military officials were present.

Col VS Kandari was accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and military attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Col VS Kandari, leader of Indian Defence Services Sports team and members. — MNA

Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Board of the Union of Myanmar, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Col VS Kandari, leader of Indian Defence Service Sports team at Zayathiri Beikman, Kommyinttha this morning.

Also present at the call were Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Htun, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Director of Medical Services Office Brig-Gen Than Aung, Chairman of Defence Services Volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Principal of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Institute Col Htain Lin and senior military officials. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Indian guests. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects installation of machinery at the project site of an iron foundry in Monywa Industrial Zone. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Col VS Kandari, leader of Indian Defence Services Sports team and members. — MNA