Local people to join hands with officials, to extend growing rubber, pepper and physic nut for regional development

YANGON, 5 May—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kalay Station visited Tamu People’s Hospital on 2 May. They inspected men’s ward, medical store, X-ray room, laboratory, operation theatre and OPD and provided assistance to the facility.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated laboratory equipment and medicines to the hospital through medical superintendent Dr Khin Maung Htay.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the collective growing of physic nut by departments in Tamu District at milepost No 4/0 on Tamu-Myothit-Aungzeya Road near Chaungnetkyi plain in Tamu Township. Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Win Zaw reported on progress of growing and nurturing physic nut plants in Tamu District and future plans. They grew physic nut saplings together with departmental personnel and local people.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Tamu Border Trade Centre. Director of the Border Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce Lt-Col Myint Soe reported on tax revenues, largest imported and exported items, exporting new items and work plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed the staff to be loyal to the State without corrupt practices, and to avoid any acts that can harm the dignity of the nation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the physic nut plantation nurtured by District PDC in the compound of No 7 Basic Education Primary School in Sawbwa-in Ward 5, Tamu, and gave instructions to the officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander attended the collective growing of physic nut plants in Kanan Model Village in Khampat Township and planted physic nut saplings. They also inspected the rubber plantation at the junction of Kalay-Tamu Road and Mawlaik-Pyaungbok-Sawbwa Yayshin Road. They looked into progress of constructing roads and bridges on the road from Yan Myo Aung Village junction to Mawlaik-Pyaungbok-Sawbwa Yayshin Road. Lt-Col Aye Hsan of local regiment reported on work progress. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a supplementary report.

In response, Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed the officials to upgrade Pyaungbok-Sawbwa Yayshin Road to a all-weather facility.

(See page 8)

In the past people in Mawlaik and Phaungpyin townships in Mawlaik District had to rely on waterway for transport. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, Mawlaik-Kalewa Road was constructed.
Boost regional economy through extended growing of oil palm

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Extended cultivation of paddy and other crops is being carried out through full utilization of land resources. Food security is ensured by extended growing of monsoon and summer paddy as well as marketable crops, thereby contributing to economic development.

With abundant vacant and fallow land, Taninthayi Division has potential for extended growing of crops that suit the region.

Similarly, work for economic development of the division is being carried out making use of land and marine resources. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials, on 1 May inspected oil palm plantations, crude edible oil mills, roads and bridges and construction of the hospital in Kawthoung District and Bokpyin Taninthayi Division, and gave instructions on extended cultivation of oil palm and producing of palm oil.

The extended growing of oil palm is being carried out in Taninthayi Division for self-sufficiency in edible oil as the region has favourable condition for growing oil palm. The government is making all-out efforts for entrepreneurs to be able to grow palm oil on a commercial scale.

The companies of entrepreneurs are trying their utmost to meet the target of growing 500,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division. And some companies are now in the process of test-running of crude edible oil mills.

In the area of Yuzana Oil Palm Project, 17,700 acres of oil palm have been grown against the target of 20,000 acres from 1999 to 2006, and 1,800,400 saplings are being nurtured at 17 camps for growing oil palm in the region in 2006.

Likewise, Dagon Timber Ltd and Po Kaung Co are widely engaged in land preparations for extended cultivation of oil palm year after year in Taninthayi Division.

The local authorities concerned are encouraging the farmers to grow paddy extensively for self-sufficiency in Taninthayi Division, oil palm, rubber, pepper as well as physic nut plants from which bio-fuel can be extracted.

Such being so, the onus is on Taninthayi Division to boost economy of the region through extended cultivation of oil palm and other crops making better use of favourable conditions created by the government.

Cash, relief items donated to storm victims of Gwa, Kyaintali in Rakhine State

YANGON, 4 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials went to Gwa in Rakhine State on 2 May and attended a ceremony to donate cash and kind to the storm victims of Gwa.

Officials clarified storm-affected condition and the commander and the minister made speeches later.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presented K 10 million donated by HQ of USDA to Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint. The deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors donated cash and kind to the officials. The wellwishers also donated cash and relief items to the storm victims through the officials.

In Kyaintali, the commander, the minister and party attended the cash and kind donation ceremony. Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe donated cash to the storm victims through the commander. The deputy ministers, directors-general, managing directors and wellwishers made cash and kind donations to the victims.

Yesterday, the commander, the minister and party visited Nandaranthi Kinyon Monastery in Gwa and offered provisions to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha.

The donation amounted to K 40.5 million for the storm-affected people of Gwa.

MNA

Functions of Locomotive Shed (Insein) inspected

YANGON, 4 May — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin inspected assembling of locomotives at Locomotive Shed (Insein). — RAILWAY

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin inspected assembling of locomotives at Locomotive Shed (Insein). — RAILWAY

MNA

Bomb goes off near transformer in Bago Division

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May — A bomb exploded at 7:55 pm yesterday near a transformer on a feeder road that leads to the towns of Penwegon and Kyaukkyi in Bago Division.

The bomb caused a little damage to the transformer and the fence that enclosed it. Personnel concerned are in hot pursuit of the saboteurs in collaboration with the people.

In league with terrorists, insurgents are committing destructive acts by sending groups of destructive elements to blow up their targeted areas and places where it is easy planting bombs in the country. Therefore, authorities have raised the alarm about the danger of destructive acts to the people in order to tighten security in cooperation with security forces.

The deputy minister instructed them to actively perform tasks of the shed for manufacturing quality products. He inspected assembling 1,100 hp locomotives at the shed.

Next, the deputy minister inspected repairing of locomotives and other production tasks. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

MNA

Five computer and graphics technicians of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Publishing Enterprise seen at the airport before departure for Thailand on 3 May to study graphics art (imagesetter) and colour printing works in Thailand. — MNA

MNA
S Korea President appeals for independent diplomacy from US

SEOUL, 4 May— South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said on Wednesday that it is time for his country to adopt independent diplomacy from the United States.

“Now it’s time to choose an independent course of diplomacy,” Roh said at a meeting of the National Unification Advisory Council in Seoul. “So far, we have made a success through dependence on the US,” the President said. “But living a dependent life is different from living independently and maintaining a close friendship. The two countries will remain friends forever,” Roh added.

Earlier on the day, South Korean Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok said his country clearly opposes any efforts to change the regime of North Korea.

The South Korean government criticized Jay Lefkowitz, Washington’s special envoy for North Korea’s human rights, last weekend on his remarks that Seoul’s economic cooperation and humanitarian aid to North Korea might be feeding and helping North Korea’s regime.

However, Lee added “An alliance, or cooperation, is to work toward an agreement despite differences. It would be wrong to say the (US-South Korean) alliance would be broken because of this.”

According to the Unification Ministry, South Korea has provided over two million tons of rice and two million tons of fertilizer to North Korea since the late 1990s.

BBC’s Mideast coverage incomplete, misleading

LONDON, 4 May— BBC’s coverage on the Middle East is inconsistent, incomplete and misleading, according to an independent study published on Wednesday.

Led by Sir Quentin Thomas, President of the British Board of Film Classification, a study panel said BBC’s coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict implicitly favours the Israeli side.

The deaths of Israelis received greater coverage than Palestinian fatalities, while Israelis received more airtime on news and current affairs programmes, said the study. Only “a small percentage of Palestinian fatalities were reported by BBC News,” it said, while “the killing of more than one Israeli by Palestinians either by gun or bomb was reported on national broadcast programmes”.

At the same time, there was “little reporting of the difficulties faced by the Palestinians in their daily lives” and a “failure to convey adequately the disparity in the Israeli and Palestinian experience, reflecting the fact that one side is in control and the other side lives under occupation”, the study added.

Pakistan not to ban groups listed by US as terrorists

ISLAMABAD, 4 May— Pakistan has no plan to act against two Islamic charities listed by the United States last week as terrorist organizations, according to a Daily Times report on Wednesday.

The United States banned the Jamaatud Dawa and its affiliate Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq as terrorist organizations, saying they were fronts for Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group fighting the Indian rule in Kashmir.

The Daily Times quoted Pakistani Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam as saying that Pakistan was under no obligation to comply with the US decision.

“We are not required, and we do not put any entities on the terrorist lists, if action is taken under the domestic US law,” she said.

“However, if the United Nations Security Council’s sanctions committee were to designate any organization (as a terrorist group), then it becomes a legal obligation to take action.”

Second man dies after “racist” London arson attacks

LONDON, 4 May— A second man has died after an arson attack on a convenience store last week that police have said was part of a series of racist attacks on Asian-run shops in south London. Police named the dead man on Wednesday as Hamid Hamidullah, 31, an Afghan national who worked in the same store in Clapham Road as Khizar Hayat who also died in the blaze.

On Tuesday, detectives arrested a 33-year-old man from the Stockwell area in connection with Hayat’s murder and the linked arson attacks on three stores which Scotland Yard has said were racially motivated.

The fire bombings all occurred in the last three weeks, culminating in the deadly attack on the Price Cutter Food and Wine store in Clapham Road last Thursday.

“World’s oldest person” celebrates 128th birthday

SAN AGUSTIN, 4 May—Friends and relatives of Cruz Hernandez gathered on Wednesday to celebrate her 128th birthday, a milestone that might make her the world’s oldest person.

Hernandez, who relatives say spends most of her time dozing and no longer speaks, was surrounded by some 200 people at her party, some bearing a cake and others dressed as Salvadoran mythological heroes.

According to national records, Hernandez was born on 3 May, 1878, in one of the country’s central provinces, where she gave birth to 13 children. She now has 60 grandchildren, 80 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great grandchildren.

National birth registry officials sent Hernandez’s documents to the Guinness World Records organisation last year but have yet to hear whether the case was accepted.

Guinness claims Ecuadorian Maria Esther de Capovilla is the world’s oldest living woman at age 116. According to the organisation, the longest any woman has ever lived is 122 years. The oldest man was 120 when he died in 1986.
India, Pakistan agree to launch cross-LoC bus, truck services

NEW DELHI, 4 May — Setting new milestones on the road to a soft border, India and Pakistan on Wednesday agreed to launch another cross-border bus service as well as a truck service across the divided halves of Kashmir to boost trade and popular contacts between the two countries.

The two sides also went ahead with their discussions on modalities over how to make functional the meeting points along the Line of Control (LoC) to enable divided families to meet each other, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The two countries had agreed on this arrangement in the aftermath of a massive earthquake that killed several thousands in Pakistan and Indian Kashmir last year.

“Both sides also agreed to start the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad truck service to facilitate cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade in the first half of July 2006,” said a joint statement at the end of the two-day technical-level talks on enhancing interaction and cooperation across the LoC.

They also exchanged indicative lists of goods for trade, which could include items like pashm shawls and carpets.

The truck route is meant only for products made or grown in Kashmir, officials sources said.

Delegations from chambers of commerce from both sides of the LoC will finalize various aspects of cross-border trade soon.—MNA/Xinhua

Market explosion in Baghdad wounds at least 15

BAGHDAD, 4 May— A bomb went off at a busy popular market in Baghdad’s northern neighbourhood of Shula, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“A explosive charge detonated at the Nasr popular market in the mainly Shiite neighbourhood of Shula, wounding 15 civilians,” the source said on condition of anonymity. The explosion occurred when the Iraqi Parliament convened under tight security measures in the heavily-fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad.

The Parliament is scheduled to choose a committee to draft the assembly’s internal regulations.

NEW YORK sees worst fire in decade

NEW YORK, 4 May — Firefighters are still fighting the city’s worst fire in a decade, excluding the World Trade Center disaster in 11 September, at a vacant warehouse along the East River waterfront in Brooklyn on Tuesday.

The fire which started early morning, sent plumes of thick black smoke over the city that could be seen for miles, as hundreds of firefighters worked to gain control of the situation. But officials with the Fire Department said the fire will not be completely extinguished for another 24 hours.

“They’re warehouses and there are materials in there that are very flammable,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

“A lot of radiant heat from the fire, so it was a difficult fire to fight. And our firefighters had to be careful how close they got.” Flames enveloped the complex of seven vacant warehouses, blocking out the morning light and filling the neighbourhood with acrid smoke, and collapsing several building walls.

The commissioner said they will not evacuate the area, but asks people to stay away as much as possible to make it easier for the firefighters.

So far eight firefighters have minor injuries. Two firefighters were taken to a nearby hospital and the others were treated at the scene.—MNA/Xinhua

Family kicked out of buffet restaurant

DES MOINES, 4 May—Wendy Dershem may think twice before leaving that egg roll on her plate at her next Chinese buffet. The Des Moines woman, her boyfriend and her two children were kicked out of a restaurant last week after management accused her of leaving too much food on her plate.

“They told us we are not welcome there anymore,” said Dershem, a repeat customer at the Dragon House buffet. “We waste too much food. But the buffet is all you can eat. And you know kids. They won’t always eat everything and they want something else.”

Dershem said she paid her $5.95 fee on Saturday but was abruptly told to leave after eating one plate of food.

Employees said they had been watching her family on previous trips to the restaurant and were fed up with her habits.

“They just take one bite and throw it away,” said cashier Lin Huyen. “They take four egg rolls and crab ragoon, take one bite of egg roll and throw the whole plate. That is wasting food.”

Dershem said she was shocked by the scolding and complained to management when she paid her check. “It was embarrassing.— If it’s a one-stop buffet, post it,” she said.—Internet

Nigeria to celebrate World Museum Day

ABUJA, 5 May — nigeria is to join other countries of the world to celebrate 18 May as the World Museum Day, a high-ranking official said here on Wednesday.

Dapo Sijuade, a spokesman for the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), told reporters in the capital Abuja that 18 May “is a day set aside to look at issues relating to the museums and other related matters. ”

MNA/Xinhua

New York City firefighters battle a waterfront warehouse fire in Brooklyn, New York on 2 May, 2006.—INTERNET

A Handout photo shows Toshiba Corporation’s HD DVD player at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, on 4 Jan, 2006. A survey of high-volume DVD users by online DVD trading company Peerflix Inc on Wednesday showed that about one in five may buy high-definition DVD players or discs in 2006.—INTERNET

Men work on a submarine at the Exomos factory in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 4 May, 2006. Exomos is a manufacturer of submersibles and next generation water craft.—INTERNET

A US armoured vehicle burns after a roadside bomb exploded targeting a US patrol west of Baghdad on 4 May, 2006. —INTERNET

A US armoured vehicle burns after a roadside bomb exploded targeting a US patrol west of Baghdad on 4 May, 2006. —INTERNET

A US armoured vehicle burns after a roadside bomb exploded targeting a US patrol west of Baghdad on 4 May, 2006. —INTERNET
Singapore Cos forecast better business conditions

SINGAPORE, 3 May — Companies in Singapore are expecting better business conditions to come in the next six months ending September this year, according to the results of surveys released by the Singapore Government Tuesday.

A net weighted balance of 26 per cent of manufacturers are optimistic about their business outlook for the period, up from the 15 per cent as recorded three months ago, while 64 per cent forecast the same business conditions in the next six months as before, a quarterly poll by the Economic Development Board (EDB) showed.

The poll, which surveyed some 401 manufacturing establishments with a responding rate of 94 per cent, also indicated that firms in the transport engineering and electronics clusters are more optimistic about their business outlook than those in other clusters.

A net weighted balance of 23 per cent of manufacturers surveyed expect higher output in the second quarter than in the first one of 2006, while a net weighted balance of 14 per cent of these firms are predicting an increase in employment from April to June this year.

As for the services sector, an overall net balance of 25 per cent of companies expect improved business climate for the next two quarters, up from the 19 per cent recorded in the corresponding period of last year, according to a separate survey by the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS).

Annan urges new global forum against bioweapons

UNITED NATIONS, 3 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Tuesday for a global forum on biological terrorism, saying current treaties were too weak and governmental and commercial initiatives too scattered. “The approach to fighting the abuse of biotechnology for terrorist purposes will have more in common with measures against cybercrime than with the work to control nuclear weapons,” Annan said in a 32-page report.

The report to the 191-member General Assembly was a quest to develop the world’s first comprehensive counterterrorism strategy. The assembly can make a decision on the blueprint and begins consultations next week. Many of the proposals relate to how nations can build up their political, legislative and financial bodies to fight terrorism, and points to existing UN agencies for technical help.

A September 2005 UN summit of world leaders asked Annan for a blueprint of how to combat global terrorism.

Annan said biological agents were the “most important, under-addressed threat relating to terrorism” and required the involvement of government public health, industrial, science and civil society.

A Biological Weapons Convention, opposed by the United States as being too weak, has no follow-up verification mechanism and no inspections as in chemical and nuclear treaties.—MNA/Reuters

Thai private, public sector urged to attract M-E investors

BANGKOK, 3 May — Thai Caretaker Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon on Tuesday called on the private and public sector to turn the current oil price crisis into an opportunity by persuading investors of Middle East countries to invest in Thailand, The Thaiger News Agency reported.

Speaking before attending a Cabinet meeting, he conceded the United Nations’ plan to inspect nuclear weapons in Iran would worsen the oil price crisis, which could affect all countries including Thailand. He said all parties concerned had attempted to the utmost to prevent the nuclear conflicts from escalating.

Should the problem drag on, Thailand would be definitely affected.

Because of this, he wanted the private and public sector to take this opportunity to persuade Middle-East investors to invest in Thailand because they are already interested in shifting their investment from the West to Asia.

He said the Foreign Ministry was ready to give full assistance in all matters to the private and public sector’s organizations, which want to invite investors from the Middle East to invest in Thailand. —MNA/Xinhua

Iran says uranium purity boosted to 4.8%

TEHRAN, 3 May — A top Iranian official has confirmed on Tuesday that Iran had enriched uranium up to 4.8-per-cent purity, the ISNA news agency reported. “Iran has successfully produced enriched uranium up to 4.8 per cent. This level can satisfy Iran’s demand to produce nuclear energy fuel,” Chairman of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization Gholam Reza Aghazadeh was quoted as saying. “Purity of more than 5 per cent is not on agenda now,” he said, but adding Iran will deploy more than 3,000 centrifuges to upgrade enrichment work soon.— MNA/Xinhua

Foreign Ministry says German hostages freed in Iraq

BERLIN, 3 May — Germany’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that two German hostages held in Iraq since January had been freed after more than three months in captivity.

“I am very pleased to inform you that the two kidnapped men from Leipzig, Rene Braeuchlich and Thomas Nitschke, have been freed today,” Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement. Steinmeier said the hostages were expected to return to Germany on Wednesday. He said they were unharmed after their ordeal and appeared to be in stable condition.

“After spending more than three months under inhumane conditions they are in German care,” added Steinmeier, who was on an official visit to Chile. —MNA/Reuters

The Beaconsfield Gold Mine is shown on 4 May, 2006, as a rescue operation continues to free two men trapped at the mine at Beaconsfield, Australia. The miners, Todd Russell, 35, and Brant Webb, 36, have been trapped nearly a kilometer (3,000 feet) underground for more than a week.—INTERNET

A group of children wait for their flu vaccine at the Children’s Hospital in Panama City, Panama, on 3 May, 2006. The Panamanian government is beginning a campaign to vaccinate children between 6 and 23 months to prevent the flu. —INTERNET

Tourists walk on the Longquan Mountain covered by azalea in Danzhai County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 1 May, 2006. The azalea blossoming on the mountain attracted many tourists during the May Day holidays. —INTERNET
Experts warn nearly 150 types of bird flu pose threat

SINGAPORE, 4 May — While the world focuses on battling the spread of the deadly bird flu, nearly 150 different strains of the virus with the potential to cause a global pandemic were laying in wait, scientists warned on Wednesday.

“It is dangerous just to focus on H5N1,” Hiroshi Kida, of Japan’s Hokkaido University, said on the sidelines of a bird flu conference in Singapore organized by the Lancet medical journal.

Kida said H5N1 virus — responsible for 113 deaths around the world — was one of at least 144 potential different strains which posed a threat to humans.

The different strains were possible because of combinations of proteins within the virus.

All the strains were present in ducks, which act as carriers often without showing any flu symptoms, he said. “None of the... subtypes can be ruled out as potential candidates for future pandemics,” Kida told the conference.

Bird flu viruses are a threat to humans because we have no natural immunity to most of them and because they can jump directly from birds to people — just as one strain did in 1918, triggering a pandemic in which an estimated 50 million died.

In 2003, an outbreak of highly pathogenic H7N7 bird flu infected 89 people in Holland and killed one.

Bird flu strains H9N2, H7N2 and H7N3 have also infected people.

— MNA/Reuters

World oil prices to stay high through 2007

WASHINGTON, 4 May — World crude oil prices are expected to stay high through 2007 because of strong petroleum demand, limited surplus oil production and refining capacity and concerns about supply disruptions due to geopolitical risks in countries like Iran, the US Energy Information Administration said Wednesday.

The EIA said none of these “forces that contribute to current high crude oil prices will ease significantly in the near future, so our best forecast is that crude oil prices will remain elevated through 2007”.

The Energy Department’s analytical arm also said in its weekly review of the oil market, “Strong growth in the world economy, and particularly in China and the United States, has fueled the need for more oil, thus putting upward pressure on prices”.

US oil prices have stayed above 70 dollars a barrel also due to fear among traders that the West’s dispute with Iran over its restarted nuclear programme could disrupt that country’s oil exports and a large part of Nigeria’s oil exports remains halted because of militant violence.

“The situation in Nigeria may continue for many months and market concerns about a possible supply disrup- tion from Iran are likely to remain through at least this year if not into next year,” the EIA said. — MNA/Reuters

— MNA/Reuters

Coal pit gas accident kills 11 in S-W China

GUIYANG, 4 May — Eleven miners were killed in gas deflagration at an illegal coal pit in Yi-Hui Miao Autonomous County of Weining, southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

Rescue workers have found the dead bodies and are carrying them to the ground, said sources with Guizhou Provincial Bureau of Work Safety.

According to the sources, the accident took place around 8 p.m. Tuesday and was reported to the Guizhou Provincial Bureau of Work Safety early Wednesday.

A team sent by Guizhou Provincial Bureau of Work Safety and Guizhou Provincial Bureau of Coal Mine Safety rushed to the site to help handle the aftermath of the accident.

Cause of the accident is under further investigation.

Like gas blast, gas deflagration is also listed as a major hazard for the coal mining industry, as the burning produces a great amount of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and intense heat.

— MNA/Xinhua

900-year-old tombs discovered in N China region

HOMIN, 4 May — Archaeologists have discovered an unprecedented large group of 900-year-old tombs in Haringer County in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The tombs, dating back to the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), were excavated in the ancient city of Tuchengzi, said Li Qiang, head of the archaeology team. He said it was the largest group of Liao tombs ever discovered at the southern foot of the Yinshan Mountains running west-east through Inner Mongolia.

A vase and a kettle made of brown vitreous enamel were among 14 ornate porcelain and six ceramic items found at the site, said Li. He said 18 of the 21 tombs excavated were made of brick and the rest were earthen.

“The tombs are placed in order and decorated with frescos, indicating that members of an upper-class family were buried here,” said Li, adding the discovery might provide insights into life in Tuchengzi during the Liao period.

— MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to 12 in Fallujah suicide attack

BAGHDAD, 4 May — Death toll from a suicide bomb attack in Iraq’s western restive city of Fallujah earlier on Wednesday rose to 12 and up to 25 others were wounded, a local police source told Xinhua.

“A suicide bomber wearing an explosive-belt blew himself up among a crowd of people at an Iraqi police recruitment center in Fallujah,” the source said on condition of anonymity. Earlier, a police source said that the blast killed at least five people and wounded more than 20 others.

The Sunni-dominated Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, has witnessed sporadic guerilla attacks against the US and Iraqi Army forces despite US-Iraqi military operations in the city to stamp out attack. — MNA/Xinhua

28 Russians killed in Armenian jet crash

MOSCOW, 4 May — Twenty-eight Russian citizens were aboard the Armenian Airbus A-320 that crashed near the Black Sea resort of Sochi, the Russia news agency reported on Wednesday.

The list of passengers, placed in the hall of the International Airport Zvartnots of Yerevan, capital city of Armenia, showed it.

Updated reports said the Airbus A-320 of the Armenian airline that crashed in the Black Sea near the resort town of Sochi had 113 people on board, including six children and eight crew, said Viktor Belsov, spokesman for Russia’s Emergencies Situations Ministry. Twenty-five bodies of those killed were found after the crash, Belsov was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.
Really a matchless power, with enough financial strength to order minions to serve its wishes such as staging demonstrations in front of an embassy of a country it dislikes. The power has a large number of stooges. There are Myanmar young men and women earning their living through sincere means of labour in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan etc. But few are willing to serve the power’s orders if they get money more than to earn a living, without knowing the real situation and saying that the practice is just. Any country that does not obey it will meet with isolation, sanctions and troubles.

A certain country with best aerospace technology, largest deployment of naval forces, most powerful military, and strongest economy in the world has many reasons to be haughty, and so arrogant is the nation that it wishes to destroy every state that is not its minion.

Really a matchless power, with enough financial strength to order minions to serve its wishes such as staging demonstrations in front of an embassy of a country it dislikes. The power has a large number of stooges. There are Myanmar young men and women earning their living through sincere means of labour in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan etc. But few are willing to serve the power’s orders if they get money more than to earn a living, without knowing the real situation.

We see no reason people like Aung Bala, Win Khet, Maung Thara, Maung Swan Yi, Dr Lwan Swe and Tin Maung Than do not know the benefits of living under the financial aid of the West intelligence and domination network as they now are leading an easy life.

They are not stupid, but cunning persons earning their living wrongly. In Myanmar, they are loathed for their bad deeds the people have already known. There is no way they do not know the West’s actual schemes behind its generous aid, the bloc has been providing at the expense of much labour and time. The Western powers are not helping those Myanmar expatriates out of goodwill, but just for the economic prospects they see. Once a school teacher said that learning history is not to become stupid. Even though intelligent and born and brought up in Myanmar, expatriates are stupid enough to make verbal and written comments to ignite a commotion that could cause anarchy, death and destruction, while sharing with other terrorists the money they receive for their misdeeds. I pity them for their misdeeds that tarnish their own image and biography.

Those expatriates are committing conspiracies knowingly. By now, they will see all the sinister schemes of their masters, and will come to know that they cannot go away with those misdeeds to destroy the nation and the people.

Sure, they will see and also hear that their perpetuation never has any effect on the nation’s administration, instead it is pushing the poor and grassroots into the inferno of abject poverty.

In this age of transparency, why are they pretending to be innocent? Lies no more have the magical power to make people believe the tricks.

Are they shamelessly making a mountain out of a molehill? Who will believe them?

Myanmar people are intelligent enough to differentiate between black and white, and destructive attempts and constructive endeavours.

Moreover, powerful media alone is not enough to take advantage of everything.

We all know what is right and what is wrong, justice and injustice and loyalty and betrayal.

The persons who are serving the national interest and developing the nation and those trying to cause disturbances and destruction are of the two different groups lying at opposite poles.

Let alone the expatriate mercenaries break laws, it’s time they differentiated the meritorious deeds and evil deeds. Whether deeds are evil or meritorious they always follow the doer. The shade of a person following him can be seen only under the sun light.

Everybody knows that those expatriates are in the darker side of the world who cannot see their own shade following them. Besides, misdeeds have greater degree of perilous effects.

Acts to disturb and frighten others, and cause instability and commotion under alien payrolls are no other than evil deeds.

Are they going to spend the rest of their lives in a foreign country? Have they planned to live till their death in America? Do they know they cannot get away with their evil deeds against the nation?

Albeit the easy way of life they are having as stooges, they cannot lead a good life in their next existence because of their evil acts. As they have already realized their misdeeds, they should discard them and mend their ways to become good persons.

(Translation: TMT)
Local people to join hands with officials, to extend…
(from page 1)

They visited Letsaykan Tawya Monastery in Mawlaik Township and offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Komara. They also made cash donations for the monastery through Chairperson of Mawlaik District PDC Lt-Col Sein Ya.

Next, they inspected the microwave station of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications at mile post No 17. Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash awards and foodstuffs to the staff.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint held a meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, service personnel, social organizations and village elders at the BEHS in Mawlaik. Officials reported on development tasks and requirements region-wise. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint provided assistance to fulfil the requirements.

On 3 May, the commander and the minister called for extending growing of high-yield sugarcane strains to the 100-acre model physic nut farm in the rainy season. On arrival at the 100-acre model physic nut farm in Lashio Station, the commander and the minister inspected growing of 50,000 saplings and thriving plantations.

In charge of the farm U Kyaw Hsein reported on reclamation of 1,000 acres of vacant and virgin lands and putting 145 acres under physic nut plants. The commander gave instructions on nurturing more physic nut saplings by the command for distribution of sufficient number of free physic nut seeds, seedlings and grafts and agricultural methods to local farmers and entrepreneurs, calling for speedy growing of physic nut plants in respective districts, townships and villages.

It was followed by the growing of physic nut saplings. The commander and the minister and high-ranking officials and local national race leaders presented physic nut saplings to the people. The commander and the minister planted physic nut saplings at the designated places and inspected the collective growing of 50,000 saplings, progress of growing physic nut saplings and thriving plantations.

On arrival at the 10-acre sugarcane research farm of Bala Min Hin Co Ltd on No 4 highland, they inspected progress of land preparations for growing sugarcane, observed sugarcane stems displayed at the research booth, and stockpiling of high-yield sugarcane strains.

In charge of the farm U Khin Maung Myint reported on arrangements for planting high-yield sugarcane strains whose per acre yield is 50 tons, and future plants. The commander and the minister called for extended growing of high-yield strains of sugarcane.

At the model mixed-crop plantation of physic nut, pineapple and coconut in the 1,000-acre zone of No 1 highland in Lashio, they inspected thriving plantations of 118,800 physic nut saplings, 125,000 pineapple plants and coconut. Next, they proceeded to the 30-acre model plantation of high-yield strain sugarcane in the seed production zone and inspected growing of sugarcane and thriving sugarcane plantations.

On 3 May, the commander, the minister and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint inspected thriving plantations in the 500-acre honey orange farm of the command in Lashio.

They also looked into the plantation of 12,000 physic nut plants in the 10-acre model physic nut farm of local regiment in Lashio Station.

On arrival at the 100-acre model physic nut farm of the command, they inspected thriving physic nut plantations, and mixed plantations of Thitseint (belleric myrobalan) and physic nut.

Afterwards, they headed for the 100-acre model physic nut farm and inspected the nurturing of 360,000 physic nut seedlings and 120,000 grafts. The commander instructed the officials to grow physic nut saplings in the rainy season, target acreage and make efforts to make sustainable progress.

A target has been set up for Shan State (North) to grow physic nut on 500,000 acres, and so far, 21,821.72 acres have been put under physic nut. The plants are now yielding fruits and they can be harvested in the first week of June. Then the physic nuts will be distributed to local regiments and units and private companies and physic nut oil will be extracted from the seeds to be used in place of diesel for farm machinery.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing distributes physic nut plants to an official. — MNA

Agricultural farms in Shan State (North) inspected

YANGON, 5 May—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsein visited the 1,000-acre physic nut farm of Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd on No 3 highland in Lashio on 2 May.

In charge of the farm U Kyaw Hsein reported on reclamation of 1,000 acres of vacant and virgin lands and putting 145 acres under physic nut plants. The commander gave instructions on nurturing more physic nut saplings by the command for distribution of sufficient number of free physic nut seeds, seedlings and grafts and agricultural methods to local farmers and entrepreneurs, calling for speedy growing of physic nut plants in respective districts, townships and villages.

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MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing distributes physic nut plants to an official. — MNA

Time fixed for YMBA Centenary changed

YANGON, 5 May — Due to the changes in the time of commencement of the Centenary of YMBA, those who have received invitation cards to attend the ceremony are to arrive at the National Theater in Yangon at 7 am on 9 May.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses opening of Golden Belt Challenges for Third Myanmar Traditional Boxing Tournament at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwanna Friday, 5th of June.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Taninthayi Division must be oil... (from page 16)
be used at trawlers and small-scale agricultural machinery. Hence, all the people should grow physic nut plants as national duty.

At Myeik University, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on academic and management matters of the university presented by officials. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the Government had raised salaries of service personnel including faculty members. Therefore, teachers are to nurture students to become outstanding persons. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to the extended construction of bridge across Chaunglamai River at mile post No 147/3 and 147/4 on Kawthaung-Myek Road. He called for the maintenance of the bridges on the road before the rainy season. He inspected the condition of the road section of Taninthayi Road into three sections and is carrying out the construction tasks of the road as well as the maintenance tasks of bridges along the road.

A total of 3,382 students are pursuing education at 13 subjects at Myeik University. The construction of the main building has completed by 89.90 per cent.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at the site of the Public Works between mile post no 87/3 and 87/4 on Bokpyin-Taninthay Division Road and fulfilled the requirements. According to the report of senior engineers at the construction site, the Public Works divided the over 96-mile-long Bokpyin-Taninthay into three sections and is carrying out the construction tasks of the road as well as the maintenance tasks of bridges along the road.

During his inspection tour in Taninthay Division, Lt-Gen Maung Bo also inspected the construction of Town Hall in Taninthay. It is one story building and 100 ft long and 40 ft wide.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo also inspected the oil palm projects of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Kanbawza Co Ltd in Taninthay Township. Htoo Trading Co Ltd has cultivated 1,050 acres of oil palm in 2005-2006, and 800 acres will be grown this year. Kanbawza Co Ltd has grown oil palm on 6,100 sections so far.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo also inspected the construction of Strand Road in Taninthay. It is one story building and 100 ft long and 40 ft wide.

Taninthay Division is rich in land and water resources. For growth of the State economy, efforts are to be exerted to enhance agricultural, industrial and fish and meat sectors by utilizing land and water resources.

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Commander, Mayor inspects sanitary tasks in Yangon City

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin view repaving of a road in Bahan Township. — MNA

YANGON, 5 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitary task and paving of roads in Yangon City this morning. The commander and the mayor inspected repaving of West Race Course Road in Bahan Township. They later went to Tamway and Bahan Townships, and inspected dredging of the drains. The commander and the mayor also oversaw repaving of Anawratha Street with asphalt and dredging of drain along Bo Sun Pak Street, and left instructions there.

Indian delegates conclude visit

YANGON, 5 May — The visiting delegation of 26 trainees of Naval Higher Command Course of the Republic of India left here for home by air this morning. They were seen off at the airport by military officers of National Defence College and Defence Services Medical Academy, Indian Military Attaché to Myanmar Colonel J.S Chopra and officials.

D-G of IRD meets businessmen

Director-General U Hsan Tun of Internal Revenue Department talks at a meeting with businessmen. — MNA

YANGON, 5 May — Director-General U Hsan Tun of Internal Revenue Department met with businessmen of gold and jewellery shops, supermarkets, stores and restaurants at Internal Revenue Department on 4 May and officials of Union of Myanmar Federation Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the same avenue on 5 May. The director-general made a speech first and held discussions on tax with the businessmen later. He urged them to pay tax to the government regularly. And he answered questions from those present.

Businesses need to file return of income

YANGON, 5 May — All cooperative societies, companies, joint venture enterprises and other taxpayers having income amounting to K 30,001 and above in 2005-06 are also required to file the return of income, duly filled-in and signed by the chairman or the secretary of the society, at respective Township Revenue Offices not later than 30 June 2006.

According to Income Tax Directorate of Internal Revenue Department, persons having income amounting to K 30,001 and above solely under the head ‘salaries’ in 2005-06 are not required to file the return of income in respect of their salary income as the tax had been paid thereon by way of deduction at source. However, employer is responsible for furnishing the Annual Salary Statement in the respective Township Revenue Office not later than 30 June, it is learnt. — NLM

Wellwishers contribute books, cash to self-reliant library

Mandalay 30 April — As part of an effort to enhance the general knowledge of local people in Kyaunkpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, wellwishers on 8 April donated books and cash to Phan-mi-eim (Glass Lamp) Library in Tagama Village in Kyaunkpadaung Township.

At the book donation ceremony held at Aungmyaythazan Township Information and Public Relations Department, wellwishers from the township presented over 1,700 books on general knowledge and cash to In-charge of the library Sayadaw Ashin Thuriya Dhamma Nafia Siddhi. — Kyemone

Paung Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tun Mya speaks words of thanks at a generator donation ceremony. — MNA

Paung Hospital equipped with generator

PAUNG 30 April — A First-Aid Training Course No 1/2006 (Basic Level) conducted by Red Cross Committee of Myitkyina District, Kachin State, was concluded in mid-March at Indone Village in Myitkyina.

A total of 43 trainees participated in the course and Head of Kachin State Red Cross Committee presented certificates to them. — Kyemone

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Sasana Arzanis to be honoured on 27 May

YANGON, 5 May — The Ministry of Religious Affairs will organize the ceremony to honour members of the Sangha who passed the 58th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, at 8 am on 27 May. At the ceremony, alms and offerings will be donated to members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Ovadačarīya Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bhandaugarīka Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, 73 monks who passed the 58th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination, totalling 221 members of the Sangha. Those wishing to donate provisions to the Sayadaws may contact Director U Tun Hla of Religious Affairs Department, Tel: 660766; the donation centres, west and east of Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin, beginning 1 May 2006. MVA

60th Anniversary Fire Services Day observed with skills demonstrations

YANGON, 5 May — The Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement observed the 60th Anniversary Fire Services Day at the parade ground of FSD in Mayangon Township this morning. Parade Commander Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Myint presented the parade columns to Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint. Next, the deputy minister delivered an address. Afterwards, the demonstration on rescue and fire fighting drills were performed. At Thida Hall, the commander of the company representing Fire Brigade included in Myawady Column at the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade handed over the second model prize shield to the Director-General of FSD. Director-General U Myint Tun of FSD accepted US$ 23,300 for transport charge of a fire engine donated by the office of Mayor of Osaka of Japan donated by U Te Za of Htoo Companies Group through Director Daw Khin Aye Thit; K 1 million by Thiri T h u d h a m a m a Manjisthadara U Soe Thein-Daw Khin Cho Ohn (Deputy Director of the Attorney-General’s Office); K 500,000 by U Yin Htwe Thet of Reliance Fire System Services Co Ltd; K 300,000 by Daw San San Yi of Europ Containes Myanmar; K 259,000 by U Tin Maung of Sandi Traditional Medicine; K 200,000 by U Aye Thant of Prinse Boss Co Ltd; K 100,000 each by U Zaw Win of Best Supporting Services Co Ltd and U Zaw Weik of Fisca Co Ltd.

Next, the Director-General and Deputy Director General Yehaba U Ko Ko Hlaing presented prizes to four outstanding fire brigade members. Also present on the occasion were Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects Htone Bo-Myinting Shortcut (dual tracks)

YANGON, 4 May — The opening ceremony of Mandalay Division Mandalay Division PDC Chairman, Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw. Next, the commander and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han went to Htome Bo-Myinting shortcut (dual tracks) construction project being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd and gave instructions on timeliness completion. The Myanmar Bo-Myinting Shortcut (dual tracks) is 9 miles and 3 furlongs long and 51.2 percent of the task has been completed.

Doekwin Farm in PyinOoLwin inspected

YANGON, 5 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspected Doekwin Agricultural Farm in PyinOoLwin Township on 30 April afternoon. National entrepreneurs cultivate medicinal orchids at the farm. They perform plant propagation of the orchids through tissue culture method. Myanmar Agriculture Service distributes 200,000 saplings of orchids to the local florists. The minister viewed species of medicinal orchids at the farm, and attended to the needs of the florists. — MNA

Talks on national policy and State’s development given

YANGON, 5 May — USDA ACECMember Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave a talk on the national policy and the State’s development to the 80 trainees of the No 24 Basic Organizing Course opened at Yankin Township USDA Office this afternoon. — MNA

Summer Buddhism Culture Course opened

YANGON, 5 May — - The opening ceremony of second summer Buddhist Culture Course and the prize-presenting to those who passed the first Buddhist Culture Course took place at Shwe Nyang Pin Paitya Monastery in Insein Township on 23 April. The congregation received the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw of Ward Sangha Nayaka Committee and provisions were donated to Sayadaws. Next, the prizes were awarded by Sayadaws to 18 distinction-winners of the course and to 31 winners of the course by Ward PDC chairman and members and officials of social organizations. Later, the ceremony ended after sharing the merit gained. — MNA

Entire NLD practising “Look West” policy...

(from page 16) central. The 62 persons quit the NLD as the CEC has no ability to lead and the future is bleak. The 62 presented their letters of resignation to the chairman of Town-ship Election Sub-commission of own vocation. Af-ter the ceremony, U Saw Huay extended greetings, saying that he quit the NLD because of his old age. His efforts were for democracy. The government has been endeavouring for emergence of a new democratic state in ac-cord with the seven-point policy. All should work together with the govern-ment for the success of the policy. — MNA
Fish fossils found in China may shed light on origin of man

BEIJING, 4 May—Chinese scientists announced that fossils of fish species that lived more than 405 million years ago in southern China may shed light on the origin of modern human beings.

Secrets of the ancient creature's skull were unveiled Thursday by Chinese scientists in the latest issue of the British Nature magazine.

Zhu Min and his team of researchers at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), found the fossils of the ancient fish twice in 2001 and in 2002 in Quing of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, according to a report of the China Daily.

In the following three years, Zhu and his colleagues discovered that the creature was one of the most ancient species of fish, the only kind found with aspects of two different types of ancient fish.

One, the ray-finned bony fish, includes the majority of modern fish species; while the other, the lobe-finned bony fish, allegedly "crawled" out of the water millions of years ago to evolve into today's reptiles and human beings.

The link between the two has been missing, casting doubt on the evolution of ancient fish, Zhu said. His fellow researchers gave the ancient fishes a Chinese name "Chenxiao Miman Fish", which literally means "Fish of the Dawn".

"The name shows our respect for our teacher Zhang Miman, an academic at the Chinese Academy of Sciences," Zhu said. The discovery of the species is an exciting step forward for researchers on the evolution of ancient fish, Zhu said. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO warns Asia, Africa weak on bird flu control

GENEVA, 4 May—Most countries in Asia and Africa already hit by bird flu continue to have weak surveillance programmes for detecting the deadly virus in both humans and birds, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Tuesday. The United Nations agency also said that the virus’ spread to 32 countries since February marked “the fastest and most extensive geographical spread of any avian influenza virus” since the disease was first reported in 1997.

Migratory birds are partly responsible for the dramatic recent spread to new areas, bringing to 48 the number of countries with H5N1 virus in domestic or wild birds, according to the WHO. This had complicated control measures in Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Tuesday.

The United Nations agency also said that the virus’ spread to 32 countries since February marked “the fastest and most extensive geographical spread of any avian influenza virus” since the disease was first reported in 1997.

WHO issued two global reports, published in the newly issued Lancer, is made by Zhang Zhenxin, an expert of the Beijing Union Medical College Hospital.

According to the survey, the incidence of Parkinsonism for Chinese men over 60 years old is 1.7 per cent, while that for female over 60 is 1.6 per cent, compared with the world average of 10 per cent.

Many patients confirmed during the survey have never got any diagnosis or treatment, said the report.

Pakinsonism is a progressive nervous disease occurring most often after the age of 50 and characterized by muscular rigidity, tremor, and impaired motor control. — MNA/Xinhua

China claims nearly half of world's Parkinsonism patients

BEIJING, 4 May—Nearly 1.7 million Chinese are suffering from Parkinsonism, accounting for nearly half of the total four million patients in the world, an epidemiology survey made by Chinese experts shows.

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Pakinsonism is a progressive nervous disease occurring most often after the age of 50 and characterized by muscular rigidity, tremor, and impaired motor control. — MNA/Xinhua

Senior judge killed in western Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 May—An Afghan senior judge was killed Tuesday night in the western province of Farah, an official confirmed Wednesday.

Two unidentified gunmen opened fire at Shaikh Ahmad, deputy judge of Farah Province, as he walked out from a mosque, Provincial Governor Ezatullah Wasiq told Xinhua.

Shaikh was shot dead at the site while two gunmen escaped by a motorbike, added the governor. The investigation was under way while no one has claimed the responsibility for the attack. However, Wasiq blamed “the enemies of Afghanistan”, a term used to refer to Taliban, had killed Ahmad. — MNA/Xinhua
Manuel Uribe sits on his bed at home in Monterrey, Mexico in a 17 January, 2006 file photo. Uribe, who at 550 kilograms (1,212 pounds) is possibly the heaviest person in the world hopes to travel to Italy for a life-saving operation to shed weight. —INTERNET

China develops robot for extra-high tension power line inspection

SHENYANG, 4 May — China’s first robot for inspection of extra-high tension electricity transmission lines has been developed in Shenyang, capital of northeastern Liaoning Province. The robot, which can move freely on and examine conditions of 500 kilowatt power transmission lines, is the first of its kind in the world, according to the inventor, the Shenyang Institute of Automation (SIA) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

With growing demand for power supply, higher requirements for power supply security and stability call for replacement of human operation in the inspection of extra-high voltage power transmission lines.

The Shenyang institute’s invention of the robot was funded by the 863 programme, China’s high technology advancement plan initiated in March 1986, and the Northeast China Grid Company. It took the SIA four years to turn out the prototype.

Half-tonne man seeks life-saving surgery

ROME, 4 May — A Mexican man who at 550 kg is possibly the heaviest person in the world hopes to travel to Italy for a life-saving operation to shed weight. Manuel Uribe, bedridden for the past five years, cannot stand on his own and will need a special flight to take him from Monterrey, Mexico to Modena, where a surgical team has offered to perform an intestinal bypass free of charge.

“I can’t walk. I can’t leave my bed,” the 40-year-old Uribe, who weighs the same as five baby elephants, said in a recent telephone interview.

“I am trying to reduce my weight a bit right now so I can be in the right condition for the operation.” Uribe made an impassioned plea for help earlier this year on Mexican television, saying he weighed a more normal 130 kg until aged 22 and did not know what to do.

The broadcast drew the attention of doctor Giancarlo De Bernardinis, who visited Mexico with a medical team to examine Uribe in March. Bernardinis, whose biggest patient to date weighed 350 kg, told Reuters he plans a gall bladder, intestinal bypass procedure that will allow Uribe to pass food more quickly without so many calories being absorbed. Bernardinis planned to perform the surgery in Modena as early as this month, although a Mexican health official doubted Uribe would be ready for a trip to Europe that quickly.

Uribe’s case puzzles doctors since his cholesterol and blood-sugar levels are normal.

Malaysia conducts its first double lung transplant

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 May — Malaysia has undergone the first double lung transplant in the history of this country, local media reported Wednesday.

The National Heart Institute (NHI) conducted the transplant on April 26, in collaboration with the Institute of Respiratory Medicine (IRM).

The double lung transplant recipient is a 37-year-old man who was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. A 24-member team led by Mohamed Ezami Md Taib, NHI’s clinical director of the heart-lung transplant programme, started the surgery at around 1:30 am local time and completed the whole process at 9:30 am local time (0130GMT).

Scientists say ozone layer shows sign of recovery

LONDON, 4 May — The ozone layer is showing signs of recovering, thanks to a drop in ozone-depleting chemicals, but it is unlikely to stabilize at pre-1980 levels, researchers said on Wednesday.

Depletion of the earth’s protective ozone layer is caused by the chemical action of chlorine and bromine released by man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are used in aerosol sprays and cooling equipment.

Ozone-depleting chemicals were banned by the 1987 Montreal Protocol which has now been ratified by 180 nations.

“We now have some confidence that the ozone layer is responding to the decreases in chlorine levels in the atmosphere due to the levelling off and decrease of CFCs,” said Dr. Betsy Weatherhead, of the University of Colorado in Boulder.

“Not only is the ozone layer getting better, we feel it is due to the Montreal Protocol,” she added in an interview.

The depletion of the ozone layer, which absorbs most of the harmful effects of the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, increases the risk of skin cancer and cataracts in humans and may harm crop yields and sea life.

Despite the signs of recovery, Weatherhead, who reported the findings in the journal Nature, said people should still protect themselves from harmful ultraviolet rays.

Anomalous temperature averages in Antarctica are illustrated in an undated illustration. The ozone layer is showing signs of recovering, thanks to a drop in ozone-depleting chemicals, but it is unlikely to stabilize at pre-1980 levels, researchers said on 3 May 2006. —INTERNET

Arctic town builds 20-kilometre anti-reindeer fence

HAMMERFEST (Norway), 4 May — Fed up with reindeer wandering the streets, one of the world’s most northerly towns is building a 20-kilometre (12-mile) fence to keep the animals out.

“Having reindeer walking around sounds exotic but it isn’t for those who live here,” Alf Jakobsen, the mayor of the port of Hammerfest on the tip of the Norwegian Arctic, told Reuters.

“We’ve just begun building the fence. Reindeer are a big nuisance: they come into the traffic,” he said.

“The reindeer around here have become too tame.”

Pointing out of his office in the town of 9,600 people, he said there had once been 50-100 reindeer on the grass in the square outside his office.

“We have just started building the fence,” he said, adding that it would probably be completed this year.

Jakobsen said he knew of no other town in the world with an anti-reindeer fence.

The wire fence, about 1.4 metres (4.6 feet) high, would run 20 km through the barren hills on the side of the town not open to the sea and cost 2-2.5 million Norwegian crowns (325,900 US dollars-407,400 US dollars).

The municipality would install grates on roads into the town.

The reindeer were apparently attracted by grass in some municipal parks — a break from lichen that is the staple diet of the animals during the cold and dark winter months.

MNA/Reuters
McClaren named new England boss
LONDON, 5 May — Steve McClaren will be the next England manager, the Football Association said on Thursday.

The Middlesbrough manager will take over when Sven-Goran Eriksson steps down after the World Cup finals in Germany.

McClaren’s appointment comes six days after Luiz Felipe Scolari, the FA’s first choice to succeed Eriksson, pulled out of the running because of media intrusion. McClaren was 45 on Wednesday and is Eriksson’s assistant.

“This is the biggest honour that any coach can have and is obviously the height of my career,” said McClaren, who has signed a four-year contract from August 1, taking him up to the 2010 World Cup.

“It’s a massive challenge and one that I welcome. I have hugely enjoyed my time at Middlesbrough and am very grateful to the club. However, this was an opportunity I couldn’t refuse. But Raging staged a stirring comeback with Sergio Maturbuena scoring twice in the last 14 minutes as the substitutes celebrated by throwing water over the pitch as they left the pitch at half-time against Celta and the substitutes celebrated by throwing water over the pitch as they left the pitch at half-time against Celta.

Real climb to second with 3-2 win over Racing
MADRID, 5 May — Real Madrid climbed above Valencia into second place in the Primera Liga on Thursday with a 3-2 away win over relegation-threatened Racing Santander.

Roberto Carlos scored from the penalty spot after 33 minutes and Roberto Soldado and Robinho extended the lead after the break.

But Racing staged a stirring comeback with Sergio Maturbuena scoring twice in the last 14 minutes as the substitutes celebrated by throwing water over each other. — MNA/Reuters

Barcelona retain Primera Liga title
MADRID, 5 May — Barcelona retained their Primera Liga title on Wednesday after second-placed Valencia lost 2-1 at struggling Real Mallorca while they went on to beat high-flying Celta Vigo 1-0 in the evening’s late match.

Leading striker Samuel Eto’o scored his 25th goal of the season to earn Frank Rijkaard’s side a victory that left them with an unsalvageable 11-point lead over their rivals who have just two games left to play.

Barca, who have a game in hand, top the table on 79 points, Valencia have 68 from 36, two ahead of Real Madrid who visit struggling Racing Santander on Thursday.

Valencia, who won 1-0 at Atletico Madrid, occupy the final Champions League place a point further behind Real and five ahead of Celta.

It is the Catalan club’s 18th league title and they are the first team to successfully defend the crown since they won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999 under another Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

Rijkaard’s team have the chance to cap a brilliant season with a European triumph as they play Arsenal in the Champions League final in Paris on May 17.

Barcelona’s players were told they had won the title as they left the pitch at halftime against Celta and the substitutes celebrated by throwing water over each other. — MNA/Reuters

Ajax’s Huntelaar top of the young players in Netherlands
AMSTERDAM, 5 May — AFC Ajax’s Klaas Jan Huntelaar on Wednesday won the Johan Cruyff Award after being named the Netherlands’ Young Player of the Year.

The Eredivisie’s 33-goal top scorer took seven votes from a panel of judges. PSV Eindhoven’s Jefferson Farfan received four votes. “Huntelaar is a true goal-scorer and has done three special things in one season,” said Cruyff.

“He first has scored the most goals, secondly he has coped with his mid-season transfer from Heerenveen to Ajax, and after that he has dragged his new club out of trouble.” — MNA/Xinhua

Arsenal considers legal action against Sunderland’s Smith
LONDON, 5 May — Arsénaexistent manager Arséne Wenger said Wednesday the club was considering legal action against Sunderland defender Dan Smith after his foul left Abou Diaby out injured for nine months.

France Under-19 international Diaby was ruled out after Smith’s dangerous lunge. Diaby suffered a fractured, dislocated ankle.

Diaby, 19, will miss the Champions League final against Barcelona in Paris on 17 May. “I felt, having watched the game, that there were bad intentions there and I will take legal advice to take this game further,” said Wenger. — MNA/Xinhua

Nike rule out changes to Rooney boots
AMSTERDAM, 5 May — Nike is not planning to make any changes to the design of its “90 Supremacy” football shoe, which England striker Wayne Rooney was wearing when he broke his foot last week.

Responding to intense media scrutiny from the British Press, and Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson’s request that Nike take another look at the boot to make sure that it did not play any part in the injury, Nike said it was not to blame for Rooney’s multiple bone fractures.

“Think it is very convenient to blame the shoe,” Nike (NKE.N) spokesman Charlie Brooks told Reuters.

The injury, at Manchester United’s 3-0 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday, threw into question whether Rooney would be in England’s squad at the World Cup in Germany next month.

“It he hurt his hamstring we would not be talking about the shorts he was wearing,” Brooks said.— MNA/Reuters

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China’s Na Li strikes a forehand during her Estoril Tennis Open second round match against Katerina Bohmova of the Czech Republic on 4 May, 2006, in Oeiras, outside Lisbon, Portugal. Li defeated Bohmova 6-1, 6-0. —INTERNET

Germany’s Xu Huaiwen eyes the shuttlecock during her semifinal match against Olympic champion Zhang Ning of China at the Uber Cup badminton tournament in Tokyo on 4 May, 2006. Zhang won the match.—INTERNET

Anthony Rusia of the Netherlands competes on the rings during the qualification round at the 27th European Artistic Gymnastics championships in Volos, Greece on 4 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Bohmova 6-1, 6-0.
South Korean President reshuffles senior secretaries

SEOUL, 5 May — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun replaced five out of the 13 senior secretaries on Wednesday.

Roh’s spokesperson Jung Tae-ho told reporters that the President promoted four officials to senior presidential secretary for civil affairs, personnel affairs, civil and social affairs as well as government innovation.

Kim Sun-hwa, a professor at Soonchunhyang University, was appointed as the senior presidential secretary for science and technology affairs, Jung said.

The other eight top presidential secretarial posts were not mentioned in Wednesday’s reshuffle.

“It is natural to appoint as staff those who have an insight into the President’s philosophy because the President has to concentrate on the stable completion of state affairs rather than launching new projects,” said a senior official at the presidential office on condition of anonymity.

The Yonhap news agency quoted officials of the presidential office as saying that the appointments indicate Roh’s efforts to distance himself from local politics and focus on state affairs ahead of next month’s mayoral and gubernatorial elections.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino mothers carry their babies as they join a simultaneous breastfeeding record at a Manila gymnasiun on 4 May, 2006. Exactly 3,738 mothers in Manila joined in simultaneous breastfeeding to establish a new record which was aimed at encouraging mothers that there’s no substitute for mother’s milk. The current Guinness World Record holder was organized by the city of Berkeley Women Infants Program in Berkeley, California when 1,130 mothers simultaneously breastfed their babies on 3 August, 2002. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Friday, 5 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions were isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State, Eastern Shan State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below normal in Yangon Division and average normal in the remaining areas.

The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Mibbu (41°C) each, Monywa, NyaungU and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (3.51) inches, Kanbula (0.55) inch and Lashio (0.40) inch.

Maximum temperature on 4-5-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 5-5-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 5-5-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2006 was (10.5) hours (approx).

Rainfalls on 5-5-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (5.87) inches at Mingaladon, (6.65) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (21:20) hours MST on 4-5-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 6-5-2006: Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of thunder conditions in the Southern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2006: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for second weekend of May 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw City and Mandalay Division and possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers in Yangon Division.
Entire NLD practising “Look West” policy, relying too much on aliens

NLD pouring bad blood on Myanmar people

NLD practising self-centred ism has no ability to lead and the future is bleak

Sixty-two members resign from NLD

All will work together with government building a democratic state

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Taninthayi Division must be oil bowl of the nation**

**Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects development facilities in Myeik**

Yangon, 5 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the physic nut growing ceremony of Myeik District in the compound of Myeik Airport on 3 May morning.

Together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed documents on regional development, instead, poured bad blood between the Myanmar people in accord with the policy of Western colonial countries. There appeared antagonism between the townspeople as well as among the Myanmar citizens. The nation will develop only if there is national unity. But the entire NLD was practising the policy of “Look West” and were relying too much on aliens. As explained by the NLD central executive committee members did not keep their word to attend the National Convention. In addition, they were using the words “dialogue” and “national reconciliation”, but not for democracy, just for self-centred ism and extreme self interest. All the 62 persons were disappointed with the deeds of the NLD.