Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects transport facilities, physic nut nurseries in Mawlaik, Kalay Districts

YANGON, 6 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin formally opened the bridge. The bridge is 143 feet long. At the construction site of Mawlaik-Kalewa Road, Lt-Col Sein Ya reported on progress of construction task. The commander gave a supplementary report. While in Kalay, they also attended the opening ceremonies of Wanetchaung Bridge, Leikpok Creek Bridge, Lahaw Creek Bridge, Kyein Creek Bridge, and Yay-aye Creek Bridge.

They inspected construction of Ngamaunggyi Bridge and Thaphan Creek Bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected units of Kalay People’s Hospital.

Kalewa-Kyigon-Sawbwa Yayshin-Mawlaik Road is 76 miles and 5 furlongs long. Kalewa-Thekkeikyn-Thanantaw-Mawlaik Road is 77 miles long. The 36 miles Kalewa-Mawlaik new road is over 40 miles shorter than the above-mentioned roads. The new road benefits 13,407 people of 30 villages from 14 village-tracts of Mawlaik and Kalewa Townships thanks to better transportation. In Kalewa, they inspected construction of the two-storey building of Kalewa BEHS. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Kawzin village-tract of Kalewa Township, and another ceremony in Kyarbin village-tract of Mingin Township.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the physic nut nursery of North-West Command Headquarters at Larpot Village in Kani Township and left for Monywa. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects earth work for construction of Mawlaik-Kalewa Road. — MNA

Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kalay Station, met Tatmadawmen and family members of regiments and units at Aungzeya Hall in Mawlaik Station on 3 May.

Next, they viewed rubber and physic nut saplings at the nursery of cooperative societies in Mawlaik Township. They attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants in the compound of Basic Education High School.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of Thanpho Creek Bridge on Mawlaik-Kalewa Road. It is a bailey type bridge.

Afterwards, they attended the opening of Manphalay Creek Bridge. — MNA

Kalewa-Kyigon-Sawbwa Yayshin-Mawlaik Road is 76 miles and 5 furlongs long. Kalewa-Thekkeikyn-Thanantaw-Mawlaik Road is 77 miles long. The 36 miles Kalewa-Mawlaik new road is over 40 miles shorter than the above-mentioned roads. The new road benefits 13,407 people of 30 villages from 14 village-tracts of Mawlaik and Kalewa Townships thanks to better transportation.

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

Sunday, 7 May, 2006

Strive for perpetual existence of village libraries

The intellectuals and technocrats play a pivotal role in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation that is the national goal.

It is required for the people from all walks of life including rural folks to have a wide range of general knowledge with thinking power. With this end in view, the Ministry of Information is pursuing the guidance given by the Head of State on establishment of a rural self-reliant library each in every village to widen the scope of knowledge of the people.

All the adults or youths in rural areas can now widen the horizon of their knowledge as rural libraries have been opened. Through reading, a citizen can obtain knowledge and wisdom to distinguish good deeds from evil ones and know how to spend time in an appropriate way. Moreover, he will become a reliable one who is capable of serving the interests of the State and the people.

A library can be termed a knowledge bank since a variety of books, journals and magazines are kept to read and study. It can also be a venue that serves as a bridge between publications and the people, a life-long reading room or the brain of a nation. In addition, it is a centre capable of enriching the knowledge of the people most effectively.

With widened knowledge of the people, the nation will see greater development in the agricultural, livestock breeding, education and health sectors.

Up to 18 April 2006, altogether 53,654 out of 61,949 villages all over the country have been armed with a library each. Hence, it can be said that almost every village in Myanmar has access to a library. And Myanmar is proud to be the first ever nation where the villages have been equipped with a library each.

Shan State (North) celebrated the establishment of a self-reliant library each in all villages totalling 2,589 in it with the presentation of cash and kind to the libraries at City Hall in Lashio on 2 May.

Such a significant success can be attributed to the guidance of the Head of State plus concerted efforts of the government, local people and well-wishers. Meanwhile, local people at different regions in cooperation with well-wishers and librarians are to contribute their shares to ensuring the durability of the libraries.

Such being so, local authorities, members of USDA, staff of Information and Public Relations Department and the respective library committees are to do their bit for perpetual existence of the libraries.

GOS course 01/06-07 concludes

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses concluding of Government Online System (GOS) Course. — COMMUNICATIONS

YANGON, 6 May — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the concluding of Government Online System (GOS) Course (01/06-07) in Nay Pyi Taw City yesterday.

The minister addressed the course conclusion ceremony and presented completion certificates to the trainees. A total of 64 trainees attended the two-week course. After the ceremony, the minister inspected the installation of teaching aid equipment such as computers, and viewed the e-library.

Coordination Meeting between Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities held

YANGON, 6 May — The Coordination Meeting between Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level was held at Tachilek on 4 May, attended by the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and the Lao delegation led by Lao Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Phongsavath Boupha.

The two delegations cordially discussed the matters on the prevalence of peace and security in the border areas, upgrading of borders checkpoints, navigation along the Mekong River and maintenance of Boundary Reference Markers. Next, they exchanged views on implementation of the agreed minutes of the Fifth Meeting of Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level held in Vientiane in October 2005. On the same day, at the invitation of the Lao Vice-Foreign Minister, the Myanmar delegation visited the Ton Pheung Agriculture Farm and Ton Pheung Dam in Bokeo Province, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, built with the assistance of Myanmar and donated different kinds of seeds to the farm as a gesture of goodwill visit.

Coordination Meeting between Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level in progress. — MNA
China set to become world’s second biggest tourist nation

HANGZHOU, 5 May — China is set to become the second largest tourism economy in the world in ten years, according to a report by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

China’s consumption and investment in the tourism industry will grow by 14 per cent year on year to 2.77 trillion yuan (346.3 billion US dollars) in 2006.

With a projected annual growth of 8.7 per cent from 2007 to 2016, China is expected to boast the second highest growth in tourism demand in the world, says the report. The China National Tourism Administration figures show China received 120 million inbound visitors last year. The number is expected to grow by eight per cent in the next five years and the country is expected to receive some 137 million visitors by 2019 to become the world’s biggest inbound tourism nation.

Safety was considered one of the most important reasons for China’s attraction to foreign tourists, said Wei Xiaowan, a researcher with the Tourism Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Cooked tomatoes may help fight cardiovascular disease

LONDON, 5 May — Scientists have found that cooked tomatoes contain a vital ingredient that could help in the fight against cardiovascular disease, according to the latest report on the website AlphaGalileo.

The potential health-giving properties of tomatoes relate to the lycopene they contain and its role as an antioxidant, the website quoted scientists from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)’s Nutraceutical Research Group as saying. However, for the lycopene to become available to the human body, tomatoes must be cooked, preferably in some form of oil, the scientists said.

They are assessing different ways of cooking tomatoes to see which method maximizes the lycopene availability. Cardiovascular disease is one of the biggest killers in Britain, accounting for one in three deaths in the country every year.

The LJMU is the only institution in Britain involved in the 5.2-million-euro (about 6.6-million-US-dollar) research programme to investigate the health-giving properties of cooked tomatoes.

Lava flows from Indonesia’s Mt Merapi

JAKARTA, 5 May — Lava flowed out of rumbling Mount Merapi, Indonesia’s most active volcano, on Thursday but it stopped far away from inhabited areas on its slopes and in the foothills, a volcanologist said. Gunung Merapi, or Fiery Mountain, is one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the Pacific “Ring of Fire” and has been rumbling for weeks. Experts have said an eruption could come anytime.

But authorities have not yet raised the alert level from “2” to “3”, which would require the immediate evacuation of people living under the volcano. “It started from 2 am (1900 GMT) and is still flowing until now to a valley 200 metres (650 feet) away from the peak,” said volcano observer Sapari Dewiyono from the state-run Centre for Volcano Research and Technology Development in Yogjakarta, the nearest city to the volcano. “The closest houses are 6 kilometres (4 miles) away,” he told Reuters, adding the flow could only be seen from the mountain’s southeastern foothill.

Bomb kills three US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 May — A roadside bomb killed three US soldiers south of Baghdad on Friday, and coalition forces shot to death three guerrillas in Sannara — the site of the bombing of a Shi’ite shrine in February that set off a wave of sectarian killings in Iraq.

The violence came as a videotape showing the most wanted terrorist in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, wearing American tennis shoes and struggling to fire a US-made machine gun was repeatedly broadcast on television nationwide.

The video — released Thursday by the US military to undercut al-Zarqawi’s image — was strikingly different from video posted last month on Islamist Web sites showing the Jordanian militant confidently firing bursts from the weapon like an experienced jihadist fighter.

But the US military said the images were all from the same video, which it said American troops seized in a raid last month.
ASEAN seeks ways to boost tourism development

HANOI, 5 May — Officials from 10 ASEAN member countries are convening a meeting in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City, discussing measures to boost tourism development, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Thursday.

At the four-day meeting starting on Wednesday, delegates are touching upon such issues as marketing, tourism investment, tourism standards, and manpower development.

They are discussing concrete tourism promotion programmes, common tourism service standards, and organization of tourism investment forums.

The meeting, held by the Vietnam National Administration for Tourism, is a part of the cooperation framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Chrysler recalls sedans on break problems

WASHINGTON, 5 May — DaimlerChrysler AG said Friday that it was recalling about 45,000 Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Dodge Magnum sedans for repairs to prevent brake fluid leakage that could lead to engine compartment fires.

DaimlerChrysler said the recall affects 2006 model-year vehicles with 2.7 liter engines. In some cases, the exhaust gas recirculation tube could come into contact with the brake fluid leaking and a fire.

DaimlerChrysler spokesman Max Gates said the automaker was aware of nine reported engine fires. He said there have been no reports of crashes, injuries or property damage.

The recall will involve inspecting the rear brake tubes for damage and replacement if necessary. Technicians also will install a clip on all the vehicles to secure the brake tubes and maintain proper clearance from the exhaust tube.

Gates said owners likely would be notified later this month.

DaimlerChrysler also said it would recall nearly 7,000 2006 Jeep Wranglers equipped with 6-speed manual transmissions because of potential problems with the clutch.

The automaker said the hydraulic clutch master cylinder rod could break, which could make it difficult for the clutch to disengage when the pedal is depressed.

Gates said the defect could prevent movement, lead to increased stopping distances and engine stalling. The company said it has received 17 complaints and no reports of crashes, injuries or property damage. Owners also are expected to be notified of the recall later in the month.

In both recalls, the vehicles will be repaired at no charge to owners.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia retains OPEC membership

JAKARTA, 5 May — Indonesia will not quit membership in the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries despite continued deficit in international oil trade, a senior official said Thursday.

“I and the Foreign Minister (Hassan Wirajuda) have agreed that we will not quit OPEC,” Energy Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro was quoted by the Detikcom news website as saying.

Calls are mounting for the government to leave OPEC to save annual oil import of 1.08 million barrels.

At least 5 dead in US airstrike on Iraqi house

RAMADI (Iraq), 5 May — At least five people were killed in the Iraqi city of Ramadi on Thursday in what witnesses and police said was a US airstrike on a house.

The US military said it was not aware of any airstrike on a house in Ramadi but was checking the reports.

One police official said up to 13 people may have been killed. Hospital officials said five people were killed and 15 wounded.

The western city of Ramadi is a stronghold of Sunni Muslim guerrillas waging a campaign of bombings and shootings aimed at toppling the Shiite-led government and driving out US forces.

MNA/Reuters

Artificial rain washes dust from Chinese capital

BEIJING, 5 May — Chinese technicians have artificially generated heavy rainfall to wash a layer of sand and dust off Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

The Chinese capital was hit by a fierce wind storm last month which left the city cloaked in sand, much of it scooped up from the Gobi desert.

The Beijing Weather Modification Office responded Thursday with a major cloud seeding operation.

“A total of 163 pieces of cigarette-like sticks containing silver iodide were burned and seven rocket shells were launched in six districts and counties, which resulted in the heaviest rainfall in Beijing this spring,” Xinhua said.

Although the science of weather seeding is controversial and some doubt its effectiveness, China often seeds clouds in an effort to end droughts in the arid north.

Chinese stuntman pulls a rope through his mouth and nose during a show in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province on 4 May, 2006. —Internet

In this photo provided by Mississippi State University, a newborn gray fox sits in a shirt pocket on 4 May, 2006, at the university’s Wildlife and Fisheries Research and Educational Facility in Mississippi State, Miss. —Internet

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MNA/Reuters

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Sleep apnea raises mortality risk after stroke

NEW YORK, 5 May — Sleep apnea, a common problem involving short periods when breathing stops during sleep, is often seen in stroke patients and appears to be associated with an increased risk of death, Swiss researchers report in the medical journal Stroke.

However, upon further analysis, the only single factor that increased the risk of death after stroke was older age.

Dr Claudio L BasSETTI of Poliklinik, Zurich and colleagues note that despite being widespread, risk factors and other characteristics of sleep apnea in stroke patients are not widely known. To investigate further, the researchers initially studied 152 patients who had a stroke.

Three days after the stroke, about 17 per cent of the patients had evidence of sleep apnea and related problems. As time passed, the breathing problem resolved in 40 per cent of patients.

A variety of factors, including older age, being male and having diabetes and high blood pressure were more common in the patients with sleep-related breathing problems. Many of the stroke patients required long-term treatment with a breathing therapy called continuous positive airway pressure.

As noted, the risk of death after stroke rose as the patient's sleep-related breathing problems worsened. Twenty-two per cent of stroke patients with severe breathing impairment died compared with 8 per cent who had minimal or no breathing difficulties.

Still, the researchers point out that further analysis identified age as the only independent risk factor for death.
Thai King receive UN award

BANGKOK, 5 May — Thailand’s revered monarch Bhumibol Adulyadej will be presented with a United Nations award later this month for his dedication to the development of the country and the welfare of its people.

The United Nations Development Programme Human Development Lifetime Award will be granted to the King at the presence of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin on 26 May, said Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai.

The award, in the form of a silver footed tray, is in recognition of the King’s efforts to develop the country. He is the first monarch to win the award.

After arrival on 25 May, Annan will meet caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at Government House and attend a lunch reception on 26 May before meeting the King in the afternoon.

The government will ask the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to assist in hosting a seminar on “His Majesty and Development”, on 26 May. Annan will speak on development and the UN’s recognition of the King’s devotion.

The preparations were well in hand for the Royal Barge Procession next month to mark the 60th anniversary of His Majesty’s accession to the throne. Monarchs and heads of states from across the world will attend the ceremony, said Surakiart.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier urges pursuit of democracy, science

BEIJING, 5 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday that democracy and science are important for China to transform itself into a modernized country and the two things must be pursued.

Wen paid a visit Thursday to Beijing Normal University, one of the most prestigious universities in China, celebrating the Chinese Youth Day with the students and young teachers. The Premier said that China should create a democratic atmosphere that can ensure people’s rights to vote, to make decision, to participating in management and to exercise supervision.

“We must enable everybody to fully grow up in an environment of equity, justice and freedom,” according to Wen, adding that the country will also provide a platform for people to criticize and supervise the government.

In addition, the country should encourage scientific innovation, and education is the base of fulfilling those goals, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

WHO confirms 13th human bird flu case in Egypt

GENEVA, 5 May — The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Thursday a 13th human case of bird flu in Egypt, a woman who remains hospitalized in Cairo.

The Egyptian Health Ministry announced the case on Tuesday and the Cairo-based US naval medical research unit, known as NAMRO, has certified the sample tested positive for the H5N1 virus, the WHO said in a statement.

Her infection is linked to exposure to diseased poultry during a recent visit to the Manoufiya Province, outside Cairo, it added.

“While there, she stayed in a household where numerous chickens were slaughtered.”

Egyptian officials said earlier this week that she was being treated with the antiviral Tamiflu.

There have now been 206 human cases of bird flu in nine countries including Egypt since late 2003, and 113 deaths, according to the United Nations Health Agency.

Oil price hike brings Asia serious challenge but chances remain

HYDERABAD (India), 5 May — The dramatically soaring oil price seems to drive many Asian countries mad but, according to Asian Development Bank Chief Economist Iftiz Ali, it could be a chance for some of them to change their way of using unrenewable petroleum.

Oil price hike remains one of the major risks for Asian economy in the next two years, Iftiz Ali said here Thursday. “The crude price increased by 10 US dollars a barrel in near future, GDP growth of the whole Asia would count down by 0.6 per cent. And for China, it could be 1 per cent.”

Some of Asian countries have coped with the problem by giving subsidies to either consumers or oil companies, which are owned by the state, Ali said, but it will not be sustainable.

Asian countries need to reduce the subsidies to the oil sector though it would raise oil price in their domestic market, Ali said.

Subsidy reduction will save a large amount of budget and allow the government to adopt a more focused policy to cope with the problem, for example, relocating the money to people that need assistance most, he added.

High energy price could be a chance for countries with low efficiency of energy use to change their way of growth, he said, adding that the countries that have high efficiency of energy use will take the advantage in the current situation.

MNA/Xinhua

Corpse tumbled out of empty rum barrel in Hungary

BUDAPE, 5 May — Hungarian builders who drank their way to the bottom of a huge barrel of rum while renovating a house got a nasty surprise when a pickled corpse tumbled out of the empty barrel, a police magazine website reported.

According to online magazine www.zsaru.hu, workers in Szeged in the south of Hungary tried to move the barrel after they had drained it, only to find it was surprisingly heavy and were shocked when the body of a naked man fell out. The website said that the body of the man had been shipped back from Jamaica 20 years ago by his wife in the barrel of rum in order to avoid the cost and paperwork of an official return. According to the website, workers said the rum in the 300-litre barrel had a “special taste” so they even decanted a few bottles of the liquor to take home. The wife has since died and the man was buried in a proper grave.

MNA/Reuters

In this photo provided by the USGS, a helicopter flies past a new ‘slab’ rock growth in the crater of Mount St Helens, on 28 April, 2006. If the skies are clear as forecast, volcano watchers who turn out for the reopening of the Johnston Ridge Observatory on 5 May, 2006, may get a view of a bulking slab of molten rock. —INTERNET

A monk walks past turtles sitting in buckets during a ceremony as the temple prepares to release the animals into the sea in celebration of the Buddha’s Birthday at a Buddhist monastery in Beijing, China, on 5 May, 2006. —INTERNET

A pair of twin sisters show themselves in Lubo Park of Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 4 May, 2006. The first Jiangsu twins talent television show was held there on Thursday, 50 pairs of twins performed singing and dancing or musical talents, to compete for the awards of best talents, perfect unison, etc. —INTERNET
YMBA Centenary

The centenary of the Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) founded on 10 May 1906 is around the corner. Although other associations that had emerged ceased to exist, YMBA continues to function till today thanks to its adherence to the national cause. Its objective — the promotion of the race, language, religion and education — is so sincere and unblemished.

YMBA was founded after the whole nation had been under subjugation for over 20 years. Hence the association desired independence, disliked to see race, language, religion and education being oppressed, and wished to alert youths. Hence it can be said that the final struggle for independence sprang from the YMBA as the nation regained independence 42 years after its formation. After the independence, the association totally discarded politics, and solely concentrated its efforts on participating in the national cause with might and main.

Patriotism is the love for the race. The nation and the national races will vanish if there is no patriotism. There are over 100 national races living in weal or woe in the country since yore. Myanmar has many national races, hence, non-disintegration of national solidarity is the national cause of Myanmar.

To respect the language means to love it. Because of the influence of the colonialists’ language during the time, the association laid down the objective to love the language.

The association chanted the slogan to promote religion because the colonialists were committing acts of sacrilege. After the occupation of Yangon, the colonialists in 1826 used as a fort and stationed troops on the whole Theingontara Hill where the Shwedagon Pagoda is located.

YMBA put the matter of prohibiting shoe wearing on the pagoda platform as the foremost priority in 1908. It was so agonizing for Myanmars during the time as there were signboards reading “Foot wearing is prohibited except Europeans at pagodas”. It was Justice U Thein Maung who dared put down the old signboard of the colonialists and put up a new one reading “No one is allowed to wear shoes”. When the uppermost part of Shwemawdaw Pagoda fell to the platform due to a massive earthquake in Bago in 1930, the then British governor came to see the pagoda wearing his shoes. Secretary of YMBA U Thein Maung rallied a mass meeting at the Jubilee Hall in Yangon in protest against the governor’s act. Since then the British refrained from the act of wearing shoes at pagodas.

In 1927, the representatives of the association led by U Ba Pe, U Pe and U Su went to India to make a nine-point demand to the colonial secretary Montagu. Included in the nine points was a demand to establish a university in Myanmar that met the required standard. At present, the association is presenting awards to students who passed the matriculation examination with highest marks in the whole of Myanmar and who get highest marks in Myanmar.

The association is holding tests on the Mangala Sutta or 38 Blessings annually and presenting prizes to winners to improve the morals and manners of youths. This year marks the 57th anniversary. It has also been conducting the Abhidhamma course and presenting awards to outstanding trainees since 1967.

At the 60th anniversary of the association, Sir Maung Gyi sent a message, saying that he and other youths collectively founded the association in 1906 with the aim of vitalizing nationalism and national spirit and striving for social affairs, public relations, education, health, language, religion and culture according to the traditions and customs of the nationalities, while removing all the alien ideas, culture and opinions.

We honour the centenary of the YMBA by reasserting the slogan “Love the race, respect the language, promote the religion, and support the education.”

(Translation: TMT)

ADB looks to work with China in rural development, clean energy

HYDERABAD (India), 6 May — Asian Development Bank (ADB), known for funding highway projects in China, is keen on working with the country on rural development and clean energy, a senior ADB official said here Friday.

The ADB has rearranged the programmes in China as the country has decided to change its pattern of economic growth in the new 11th five-year plan of economic and social development, C. Lawrence Greenwood Jr., Vice-President of ADB, told Xinhua here Friday.

“We hope to help China realize its goal of building a harmonious society,” said Greenwood who was here for the annual meeting of ADB Board of Governors.

The ADB will look more on the development of rural roads, which can help boost the economy and change people’s life in the remote countryside, he said. The development bank has supported lots of projects in transport sector in China for the past decades. They benefitted not only big companies but also the poor people because the highway network had helped drive the local economy and provided chances for rural people to work in the cities more easily, he added. The ADB is also “enthusiastic” to work with China in vocational training of people in less developed west and central China so that they can find skilled jobs in rich east China, Greenwood said.

In a country struggling to meet its need of energy, the ADB will work more on developing clean energies like biogas and wind power in China, he added.

MNA/Xinhua
Relief supplies provided for cyclone-hit households in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 6 May — A ceremony to provide relief supplies for cyclone-hit households in Hlinethaya Township took place at BEPS No-6 in Hlinethaya Township this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony.

First, Yangon North District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myat Min explained relief operations and supplies. Next, the commander expressed thanks to wellwishers and accepted cash and relief supplies worth K 30,750,000 including items worth K 11.5 million donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society and K 17.5 million by World Vision.

So far, departmental and social organizations and public wellwishers have donated K 18,496,645 million donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society and K 30,750,000 including items worth K 11.5 million donated by World Vision.

Development of Htantabin Township inspected

YANGON, 6 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected development of Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Engineeering Department (Road/Bridge) is carrying out the upgrading of the road near Yangon West University in Htantabin Township.

The CEC member inspected construction of the retaining walls to prevent bank erosion. He also viewed Htantabin Township Hospital. Next, Col Maung Pa attended a physical nut growing ceremony at Htantabin Township USDA.

IWT Managing Director inspects Mya Ayeya Market Ship

YANGON, 6 May — IWT Managing Director U Soe Tint inspected security measures, shops and commodities at Mya Ayeya Market Ship that will leave Yangon for Mandalay.

The new Kalewa-Mawlaik Road (36 miles) saves 40 miles. — MNA

Ayeyawady Division holds ceremony to provide relief to storm victims

YANGON, 6 May — A ceremony to provide relief supplies to storm victims of Ayeyawady Division was held at Ayea Shwewa Hall in Pathein on 3 May.

Patron of the Management Committee for Natural Disasters Preparedness in Ayeyawady Division Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave a speech.

Next, the commander accepted 178 bags of rice and clothes donated by regiments and units through Command Staff Colonel Col Tint Swe; K 2 million by Ayeyawady Division PDC through Secretary Lt-Col Thein Hlaung; K 65 million by World Vision through in-charge Dr Saw Aik Bin; K 4,281,000 and 40 bags of rice by Myaungmya District PDC; K 2.5 million and 40 bags of rice by Pathein District PDC; K 2.2 million and 40 bags of rice by Pyayon District PDC; 50 bags of rice by Maubin District PDC; K 3 million by Royal Garden Co; 250 bags of rice by Ayeyawady Division Rice Millers’ Association; and other wellwishers.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Prevention against Natural Disaster Commissioner of Ayeyawady Division General Administration Department U Than Win spoke words of thanks.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, senior military officers, departmental officials and wellwishers.

Today’s donations amounted to K 105,592,000, 598 bags of rice, 3,450 items of clothes. Any wellwisher may contact the Ayeyawady Division PDC. — MNA

NLD’s political activities,

(from page 16)

Therefore, they had no opportunities to dedicate themselves to the tasks in the interests of local people and to regional development tasks. In consequence, they felt very isolated in the society.

They found that the NLD relied on external strength and not on internal strength and they no longer accepted the fact that the party criticized the State holding negative views and ignoring the present development of the State.

They said they wanted noble and sincere position that serves the interest of the nation and the people and supported the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention. They did not wish to associate with a group of people who are political opportunists. That was why they resigned from the NLD and had closed down Mabein Township NLD beginning 1 May.

Mabein Township NLD was set up with 21 members. Now altogether 13 party members including Chairman U Khin Htay resigned from the NLD of their own volition. Vice-Chairman-1 U Nyan Shein (Bahe Village, Momeik) and Vice-Chairman-2 U Nyo Hmaing (Ward-1, Momeik) have moved to other areas and Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung is serving his prison terms.

Secretary U Aung Bo and members U Maung Win, U Khin Maung Htain, U Maung Nge and U Myint Oo had passed away. — MNA
Regional development inspected...

On arrival at the briefing of Asia World Co in Kyaukme Township, Member of Kyaukme District Peace and Development Council District Police Commander Police Li-Col Sein Lwin reported on cultivation of physic nut and stockpiling of seeds and Project Manager of Asia World Co Daw Nan Kyali on traffic flow at the toll gate.

Special gems emporium slated for 20 June-4 July

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses coordination meeting for special gems emporium. — MNA

High-yield hybrid paddy harvested

YANGON, 6 May — A harvesting ceremony of KAMA-3, KAMA-4, KAMA-5 Super-hybrid and High-yield hybrid paddy took place at Min Lwin Gone village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division yesterday. KAMA-3 hybrid paddy yields 172 baskets per acre, KAMA-4 hybrid paddy 148 baskets per acre and KAMA-5 hybrid paddy 156 baskets per acre. — MNA

Myanmar Paddy Producers’ Association Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing and party inspect hybrid paddy plantations in Hlegu Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects naturing of physic nut plants in Meiktila Industrial Zone. — MNA

A&I Minister inspects Myogyi multi-purpose dam project

YANGON, 6 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo visited Myogyi multi-purpose dam project site being undertaken near Myogyi Village, Ywangan township, Shan State (South), on 30 April. Director of Construction-7 of the Irrigation Department U Myo Tun reported to the minister on earth work for construction of the main dam, construction of other facilities and conducting of geological survey. The minister stressed the need for timely completion of the project and meeting the set standards.

Next, the minister inspected construction tasks. Myogyi Dam is to store water from already-constructed Zawgyi Dam and Kyankham Dam that is to be built in Yawksaw township and other water-catchment areas near Myogyi Dam. On completion, Myogyi Dam will provide 500,000 acre feet of water to Zawgyi irrigated areas in Kyaukse District and 400,000 acre feet of water to Meikhhla plain and it will generate 24 megawatts. — MNA

Lt-Gen San Myint Oo of regional station gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on supervision of correct data at different levels. Daw Nan Kyali reported on paving of road and collection of toll.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said priority is being given to ensuring smooth and secure transport and upgrading of Union Highways and roads for regional development. He told the officials to maintain the roads and bridges, and to complete the project in time.

There are about 800,000 people living in Kyaukme. Altogether paddy was grown on 85,530 acres in 2005-2006 and 9,553,425 baskets of monsoon paddy were produced. In Kyaukme District out of 30,000 acres of physic nut, 8,341 acres were grown in 2005-2006.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected construction of 470-foot Hsipaw Bridge on Manda- lay-Lashio-Muse Union Highway and 296-foot Sint- in Bridge.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived back in Lashio where they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials.—MNA

A harvesting ceremony of KAMA-3, KAMA-4, KAMA-5 Super-hybrid and High-yield hybrid paddy took place at Min Lwin Gone village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division yesterday. Chief Executive Mr Lin Guodong of Yuan Longping Heigh Tech Agriculture Co, Ltd and an official explained the hybrid paddy and KAMA-3, 4 and 5 to those present.

KAMA-3 hybrid paddy yields 172 baskets per acre, KAMA-4 hybrid paddy 148 baskets per acre and KAMA-5 hybrid paddy 156 baskets per acre. — MNA

Myanmar Paddy Producers’ Association Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing and party inspect hybrid paddy plantations in Hlegu Township. — MNA
Certain anti-government groups attempting to drive a wedge between the government and the people

YANGON, 6 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 Hsan held a meeting with the staff of the Information Ministry in Shan State (North) at Shweli Yadana Hall in Lashio on 2 May afternoon.

Staff officers of Lashio, Muse, Kyaukme and Kunlon District Information and Public Relations Departments, and Hsenwi, Tangyan, Mongyai, Namkham, Kutkai, Mongkoe, Manhriro, Tahmoeny, Nawghkio, Hsipaw, Namtu, Namhsan, Moemek, Mabein, Manton, Kyongyan and Hopang township IPRDs, and the head of Lashio TV transmission station and officials from Lashio sub-printing house, post office, Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Documentary Film Division) reported on work progress. The minister said that in response to the goodwill of the Head of State and the State, governmental personnel are to work two or three times harder to achieve greater success in shouldering the duties. And they are to work to the best of their ability to accomplish 14 work programmes the ministry has laid down for 2006. Measurers are to be taken in line with the five work programmes laid down for sustainable progress of rural self-reliant libraries in Shan State. He underscored the need of the staff to organize mobile libraries and hold talks through media to enhance the knowledge and intellectual power of local people in border areas. They are also to make clarification on nation-building endeavours the government is making to the local people. In conclusion, he urged the information personnel to participate actively in the development, and efforts being made by the members being imbued with Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity in the interests of the nation and the people. He called on the members to speed up their participation in the tasks for community peace and prevalence of law and order. The commander said that the government is rendering assistance to help accomplish the objectives of the Ministry of Information. He pledged that the government will continue to provide necessary assistance for substantial improvement and development, and efforts being made by the members being imbued with Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity in the interests of the nation and the people. He called on the members to speed up their participation in the tasks for community peace and prevalence of law and order. The commander said that the government is rendering assistance to help accomplish the objectives of the Ministry of Information. He pledged that the government will continue to provide necessary assistance for substantial improvement and development, and efforts being made by the members being imbued with Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity in the interests of the nation and the people. He called on the members to speed up their participation in the tasks for community peace and prevalence of law and order.

The council is to lay down principles for substantial improvement and development, and efforts being made by the members being imbued with Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity in the interests of the nation and the people. He called on the members to speed up their participation in the tasks for community peace and prevalence of law and order.

The personnel are to conduct media campaigns so that the people can be aware of the acts of local axe-handles and destructive elements, and to join hands with the people in protecting the motherland from dangers of saboteurs.
Soeharto gets blood transfusion, reportedly in critical condition

JAKARTA, 6 May — Indonesia’s long-serving former president Soeharto was reportedly in critical condition after being hospitalized Thursday evening, with doctors saying Friday that he was getting blood transfusion.

Soeharto, who turns 85 in June, was hospitalized for intestinal bleeding that caused haemoglobin level in his blood to drop below the normal level, presidential medical team head Dr. Mardjo Soebiandonso said at a news conference at the Pertamina Hospital here.

“We are now struggling to stop the bleeding and giving blood transfusions in stages to increase the haemoglobin level,” he said.

Mardjo said Soeharto has suffered intestinal bleedings several times since the last time he got a stroke three years ago.

Soeharto was hospitalized only hours after he received a surprise visit by former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad and appeared without his walking stick.

He has ruled the country for 32 years before nationwide rallies followed the bitter financial crisis led to his ouster in 1998.

China, EU to hold 5,000 business talks at S-W China trade fair

CHENGDU, 6 May — Approximately 850 small and medium-sized firms from China and the European Union (EU) are expected to hold 5,000 face-to-face business talks during an investment and trade fair slated for November 9-10 in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

The organizing committee has received applications from 836 Chinese companies involved in agriculture, tourism, health care, environmental protection, factory equipment, construction equipment, information technology and electronics.

A team of Chinese and EU experts will select 500 qualified Chinese companies and 400 EU companies to attend the fair, the largest in the history of Sino-EU economic cooperation.

Despite recent trade disputes, China-EU trade exceeded 200 billion US dollars last year and EU has become China’s largest trade partner.

The 2006 Sino-EU investment and trade fair will be at the joint sponsorship of the European Commission, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Sichuan provincial government.

Three Gorges Dam becomes popular tourist site among Chinese

YICHANG, 6 May — The Three Gorges Dam, the largest of its kind in the world, in central China has become a popular tourist site which attracted an estimated 100,000 tourists in the week-long May Day holiday, a travel agency executive said on Friday.

Some 13,000 people visited the dam on Thursday, the fourth day of the May Day “golden week”.

One of visitors to the ‘Dream Party’ festival in Tokyo photographs a woman dressed as a comic book maid on 4 May 2006. Internet

A hippopotamus stays under water to cool itself at a zoo in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4 May, 2006. Summer has set in South Asia, with Bangladesh recording 38 degree Celsius (98 degrees Fahrenheit) on Thursday. —Internet

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One of visitors to the ‘Dream Party’ festival in Tokyo photographs a woman dressed as a comic book maid on 4 May 2006. Internet

The water level of the Three Gorges reservoir will rise from 139 metres to 156 metres in October, Xu said.

China lengthened its three major public holidays, the Spring Festival, May Day and National Day, from three days to seven days each in 1999, which has created three so-called “golden weeks” for tourism.

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MNA/Xinhua

Australia’s exports reach record high in March

CANBERRA, 6 May — Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade Mark Vaile on Friday said the highest level of exports in March illustrates that Australia’s exports are on track to reach record highs in 2005-06. Australia’s exports reached 16.1 billion Australian dollars (12.33 billion US dollars) in March, according to figures released by Australian Bureau of Statistics earlier Friday.

“This continues a strong export performance over the past nine months,” Vaile said in a statement.

Australia’s exports grew by more than 16.8 per cent in the nine months to the March quarter and are on track to reach record highs in 2005-06 financial year (1 July, 2005 to 30 June, 2006), he said. Merchandise exports (in original terms) in the year to March were up 31 per cent to North Asian trading partners, with a 45-per-cent increase in exports to China’s Mainland, a 28-per-cent increase in exports to Japan and a 28-per-cent increase in exports to Taiwan.—MNA/Xinhua

S Africa’s new maritime helicopter makes maiden flight

JOHANNESBURG, 6 May — The first of four Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopters being built for the South African Air Force (SAAF) and Navy made its maiden flight at Yeovil, England, on Thursday.

South African Press Association reported that it was a specially designed and equipped maritime helicopter that will see service with the South African Navy’s new Vulture-class frigates.

The SAAF’s version of the Super Lynx 300 aircraft reportedly has a high level of South African sourced avionics and mission equipment, making it the most advanced version of the Super Lynx 300 helicopter developed and produced so far.

Alan Johnston, managing director of military programmes at Agusta Westland the manufacturer, said that the Super Lynx 300 would enter service with the SAAF next year.

MNA/Xinhua

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In the first four months of this year, the dam received 220,000 travellers, up 43 per cent year on year.

Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project is a 185-metre-high dam that will house 26 generating units on both banks of the Yangtze River. The project will be completed in 2009 and generate 8.7 billion kilowatt hour of electricity annually.—MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
1. Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are Invited for the Supply of following Reconditioned Engine Ass’y & Rear Axle Ass’y prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyat-
(a) Reconditioned Engine (HINO HO 7C/HO 7D) Ass’y; with Gear Box Ass’y; (HP-175) (120) Sets
(b) Reconditioned Rear Axle (HINO/ NISSAN 14 Ton) Ass’y; (120) Sets
2. Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Road Transport No. 375/ Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar.
Commencing on the, 5th May 2006. (b) Tender will be closed on 22nd May 2006 at (16:00) Hours
(The Road Transport Reserved the right to reject any or all Tenders)
3. Detailed Information will be available at the Office of the Procurement & Stores Department, Phone Nos 01-252574 (on 01-176549 ROAD TRANSPORT

US lawyer says CIA row hits US-Europe intelligence work

BRUSSELS, 5 May— Allegations that CIA flights through Europe carried detainees bound for ill-treatment are damaging transatlantic intelligence cooperation, a lawyer acting for the US State Department said on Thursday. Speaking before heading the delegation of US practices at the UN Committee against Torture in Geneva, John Bellinger reiterated Washington’s position that it does not outsource torture or transfer suspects abroad expecting torturing. Bellinger was responding to a European Parliament probe which, while producing no firm evidence, concluded last month that more than 1,000 CIA flights had transferred the EU and that the CIA had been responsible on several occasions for kidnapping and illegally detaining alleged terrorists on EU soil.

The suggestion that intelligence flights are somehow engaged in illegal activity really undermines the cooperation between the United States and Europe, he told a news briefing. EU lawmakers are due in Washington next week to probe allegations of secret detention centres and flights in Europe for terror suspects. Bellinger is among those they will meet.

Bellinger said he did not have any information as how many flights there had been, but the suggestion that a large number had detainees aboard was "absurd." MNA/Reuters

Rescuers break through to trapped Australia miners

CANBERRA, 5 May— Rescuers reached two Australian miners on Thursday being trapped a kilometre underground for nine days, but said it was unlikely the small rescue tunnel could be widened enough to free them before the weekend.

A special tunnelling machine, which grinds through rock and is much safer than blasting or drilling, was used to dig 16 metres (52 feet) through solid rock to reach the miners.

A 20-centimetre (8-inch) diameter pilot hole has been made, but must now be widened to one metre (three feet). The men, trapped after a cave-in in a gold mine Thursday, told reporters.

The move is to merge the functions and roles of several government departments and agen-cies into one body, said Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Muhiyiddin Yassin.

Currently, checks on imported agricultural produce are carried out by different departments and agencies under the Agriculture Ministry, the Health Ministry and the Prime Minister’s Department, Muhiyiddin told reporters.

Malaysia to establish Agriculture Quarantine, Inspection Centre

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 May— Malaysia will set up Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Service (MAQIS) to simplify the quarantine procedures and ensure the quality and safety of imported agricultural products, a senior official said Thursday.

The move is to live the miners into the drill.

MNA/Xinhua

Most Indonesians to live in cities by 2010

JAKARTA, 5 May— Rapidly increasing urbanization and uncontrollable urban population growth will drive more and more Indonesian people into cities, with recent survey indicating that by 2010 over 50 per cent of population will reside in urban areas.

The research conducted by the Urban and Regional Development Institute (URDI) also projects that by 2025, the urban population will grow to 60 per cent. The Jakarta Post daily reported Thursday.

Considering that the current growth of urban population has reached 4.4 per cent per year, which far exceeded the total population growth of 1.7 per cent per year, Indonesia would not be an agrarian state for much longer. "Population growth in rural areas has been negative since 2000 because of the fast growth of urbanization levels.

MNA/Xinhua

Kash, a female orangutan born on 27 Jan, 2006 looks out from her mother's embrace at the Phoenix Zoo, on 1 May, 2006. — INTERNET
Earthquake strikes Tonga, tsunami warning issued

LONDON, 5 May—An earthquake measuring 8.1 hit the Tonga islands, the US Geological Survey (USGS) website said on Wednesday and a tsunami warning was issued for Fiji and New Zealand.

The warning said it was not known if a tsunami had been generated by the quake but that any such wave would have hit Suva, Fiji, at 1713 GMT and Gisborne, New Zealand, at 1821 GMT.

“It is not known that a tsunami was generated. This warning is based only on the earthquake itself. An earthquake of this size has the potential to generate a destructive tsunami,” said the Pacific Tsunami Centre said.

The earthquake was at 4.26 am local time (1526 GMT) and was at 16.1 kilometres (10 miles) depth, said the website monitored in London.

A police officer in Tonga told Britain’s Sky Television it was the largest tremor for over 20 years but there were no immediate reports of damage. He said electricity went out before later came back.

Offical says mega sound may have killed dolphins in Zanzibar

DAKAR-SALAM, 5 May — Mega sounds from seakeques and warships may have caused the deaths of hundreds of dolphins around the Indian Ocean archipelago of Zanzibar, according to reports reaching here on Wednesday.

Mussa Abood Jumbe, director of the Zanzibar Fisheries Department, said that initial investigation had listed as possible causes of dolphin deaths the mega sound resulted from seakeque and warships.

Researchers have found more dead dolphins in the mangrove bushes along the Zanzibar shores and the total death toll of dolphins in Zanzibar have therefore been revised to be between 700 and 800 heads, according to the same official.

Jumbe said that earthquakes in Madagascar and Tanzania in recent months may have set off tremors under water known as seakeques.

Seakeque-caused mega sound may confuse and even disorient dolphin’s sonar system.

Scientists probe Atlantic, find new species of life

OSLO, 5 May — Scientists have found about 10-20 new species of tiny creatures in the depths of the Atlantic in a survey that will gauge whether global warming may harm life in the oceans, an international report said on Thursday.

The survey, of tropical waters between the eastern United States and the mid-Atlantic ridge, used special nets to catch fragile zooplankton — animals such as shrimp, jellyfish and swimming worms — at lightest depths of 1.5 kilometres (0.6-3 miles).

“This was a voyage of exploration… the deepest parts of the oceans are hardly ever sampled,” said Peter Wiebe, the cruise’s scientific leader and senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the United States.

“We found perhaps 10-20 new species of zooplankton,” he said of the 20-day voyage by 28 scientists from 14 nations in April.

Most life, including commercial fish stocks, is in the top 1 kilometre of water, but the scientists said the survey showed a surprising abundance even in the depths. The survey will provide a benchmark to judge future changes to the oceans.

New finds among thousands of zooplankton species caught included six types of ostracods, a shrimp-like creature, and other species of zooplankton such as swimming snails and worms.

Zooplankton are animals swept by ocean currents, mostly millimetres-long but ranging up to jellyfish trailing long tails.

Among 120 types of fish caught, the scientists found what may be a new type of black dragonfish, with fang-like teeth, growing up to about 40 centimetres (15 inches), and a 20-centimetre-long great swallower, with wide jaws and a light-producing organ to attract prey.

UN says unclean fuels kill 1.5 mn people per year

GENEVA, 5 May — Half the world’s population burns wood, coal, dung and other solid fuels to cook food and heat their homes, exposing them to dangerous smoke that kills 1.5 million people a year, the UN health agency said on Thursday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said women and children in Africa and Asia were especially vulnerable to indoor air pollution from open fires and poorly ventilated stoves.

Children make up 800,000 of the 1.5 million people who die each year from polluting household fuels, women account for 500,000 deaths and the remaining 200,000 are men.

"Day in day out, and for hours at a time, women and their small children breathe in amounts of smoke equivalent to consuming two packs of cigarettes per day," the WHO said. Yet in a report entitled “Fuel For Life: Household Energy and Health”, the Geneva-based agency said it could cost as little as 6 per US dollars family to install better-insulated and fuel efficient stoves in existing developing countries.

“Making cleaner fuels and improved stoves available to millions of poor people in developing countries will reduce child mortality and improve women’s health,” WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook said.

Report says Child labour declines 11% in the world

ABUJA, 5 May — A report issued here on Wednesday by the International Labour Organization (ILO) showed that there is a decline in child labour for the first time in the world.

“The actual number of child labourers fell by 11 percent between 2000 and 2004 from 246 million to 218 million,” said the report.

“What’s more, the number of children and youth aged between 5-17 trapped in hazardous work decreased by 26 percent to reach 126 million in 2004 as against 171 million in the previous estimate,” it added.

According to the report entitled “The End of Child Labour: Within Reach”, among younger child labourers aged between 5-14 years old, the reduction was even more pronounced at 33 percent. The report attributed the reduction in child labour to increased political will and awareness and concrete action particu-larly in the area of poverty reduction and mass education which led to a worldwide movement against child Labour.

This undated photo provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service shows a polar bear resting with her cubs on the pack ice in the Beaufort Sea in northern Alaska.

A caged rabbit sits with stuffed animals as potential prizes for a game of chance at Ritan Park in Beijing on 5 May, 2006.

A police officer in Tonga told Britain’s Sky Television it was the largest tremor for over 20 years but there were no immediate reports of damage. He said electricity went out before later came back.
**SPORTS**

**Anderlecht win 28th Belgian title**

**BRUSSELS, 6 May**— Anderlecht beat Zulte Waregem 3-0 on Friday to win their 28th Belgian First Division title. Second-placed Standard Liege slipped up at home to Ghent, losing 2-0 on the final day of the season.

Anderlecht finished top with 70 points from 34 games. Liege had 65, a point more than last year’s champions Club Brugge.

The winners qualify for the Champions League with the runners-up entering the third qualifying round of games. Liege had 65, a point more than last year’s to Ghent, losing 2-0 on the final day of the season.

3-0 on Friday to win their 28th Belgian First Division

**Leeds held by Preston in playoff semifinal**

**LONDON, 6 May**— Leeds United’s hopes of returning to the Premier League hang in the balance after they were held 1-1 by Preston North End in the first leg of their Second Division promotion playoff on Friday.

Preston, who lost to West Ham United in the playoff final last season, took the lead three minutes after halftime when David Nugent fired home from inside the penalty area.

American international and former Preston player Eddie Lewis equalized for Leeds after 74 minutes, curling a free kick past goalkeeper Carlo Nash.

The second leg takes place at Preston on Monday. — MNA/Reuters

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**Passarella says no hard feelings with Corinthians**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 May**— River Plate coach Daniel Passarella said there were no hard feelings after they knocked Brazilian champions Corinthians out of the Libertadores Cup.

Passarella, captain of Argentina’s 1978 World Cup-winning team, and their coach in 1998, was fired by Corinthians last year just 15 games into a one-year contract.

“I want to say that everyone from Corinthians gave me a warm welcome and wished me luck before the game,” he told reporters in a chaotic interview broadcast on Brazilian television.

Despite being ravaged by injuries, River came from behind to win Thursday night’s game 3-1 in Sao Paulo and qualify for the quarterfinals 6-2 on aggregate. The match was stopped in the 83rd minute by a crowd riot.

But Passarella denied that River, who won the trophy in 1986 and 1996, could be considered candidates for the title after eliminating one of the pre-tournament favourites.

“I don’t want us to be considered favourites but I don’t want us to be considered dead and buried either,” said Passarella.

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**Curbishley wishes McClaren all the best as England manager**

**LONDON, 6 May**— Charlton Athletic’s outgoing manager Alan Curbishley wished Steve McClaren well on Friday as England’s next head coach and said he does not expect to be involved with the national team after the World Cup.

Curbishley also said Glenn Roeder should not be given the vacant Newcastle United manager’s job on a full-time basis as long as he does not have the requisite qualifications.

Curbishley was interviewed for the England job, but missed out to Middlesbrough manager McClaren, who was confirmed as the Football Association’s choice on Thursday to take over from Sven-Goran Eriksson after Argentina’s 1978 World Cup winning coach passed. — MNA/Reuters

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**Klinsmann calls up 9 players for fitness checks**

**FRANKFURT, 6 May**— Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann has called up nine World Cup candidates for fitness tests next week after they all missed out on checks last month.

China’s Na Li strikes a forehand to Argentina’s Gisela Dulko during their Estoril Tennis Open quarterfinals match on 5 May, 2006, in Oeiras, outside Lisbon, Portugal. Na Li defeated Dulko 6-3, 6-1. — Internet

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**US LPGA star Paula Creamer slips to 22nd at the midpoint of the Salponas World Ladies in May, 2006 at Tokyo Yomiuri Country Club. Creamer saw her chances of winning her third title in Japan fade after a 76 that left her 10 shots adrift of the leader. — Internet**
Eight-month-old African baby miraculously survives five-storey fall

JOHANNESBURG, 6 May — An eight-month-old baby miraculously survived a five-storey fall after his mother trapped in a blazing building in central Johannesburg could do nothing to save him but throw him down, local media reported on Friday.

Major Johannesburg newspaper frontpaged the dramatic rescue on Wednesday afternoon, when the five-storey residential building caught fire, allegedly sparked by a lovers’ tiff.

Shocked onlookers watched as a panic-stricken woman paced a burning balcony on the fifth floor, holding her baby boy tightly and screaming.

A group of people on the ground asked the woman, Thandive Mviko, to throw the baby down and assured her that he would land safely, either in one of their arms or on a mattress they had laid out on the ground, said a report of The Star.

As flames grew bigger and bigger, Mviko could do nothing but throw her baby, the newspaper said.

As the child plummeted Michael Nillovo, a man on the ground, realized that the baby was going to miss the mattress. Nillovo then strengthened his hands and concentrated. Luckily the baby came rolling right into his hands.

A picture in another newspaper, Sowetan, captured the very moment when the baby fell, with his mother on the balcony looking down and many on the ground stretching out their arms.

The baby was later X-rayed to determine whether he had sustained any internal injuries and has been released from hospital on Wednesday.

During the commotion, a five-year-old physically disabled boy was also rescued from the raging fire, the report said.

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Sunday, 7 May, 2006

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 7 May

View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Okalaththara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Agricultural source
8:10 am
6. The Star
8:20 am
7. Tune in today
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Say it in English
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:10 am
2. Musical programme
11:25 am
3. Round up of the week’s international news
11:35 am

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 7 May

Tune in today

8:30 am
1. Brief news
8:35 am
2. Music: Baby come back
8:40 am
3. Perspectives
8:45 am
4. Music: Missing
8:50 am
5. News & Slogan
9:00 am
6. Music: Heartofanangel
9:05 am
7. International news
9:10 am
8. Cultural images of Myanmar
9:20 am
9. Music: Crazy for you
1:30 pm
10. News & Slogan
1:40 pm
11. Children’s delight
1:50 pm
12. News
2:00 pm
13. International news
2:10 pm
14. Weather report
2:20 pm
15. Music: Love is gift
2:30 pm
16. The day’s programme

WEATHER

Saturday, 6 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Rakhine States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (42°C), Minbu, Magway and Pakokku (41°C) each, Monywa and NyangU (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (1.85 inches), PyinU (1.06) inches, Kanbalu (1.02) inches, HomaM (0.35) inch, KawThoM (0.24) inch, Lashio (0.15) inch, Ann (0.08) inch and Namsam (0.40) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-5-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 6-5-2006 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 6-5-2006 was (72%). Total sunshine hours on 5-5-2006 was (10.6) hours (approx).

Rainfalls on 6-5-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall 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 (7) mph from Southwest at (11:15) hours MST on 5-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 7-5-2006

Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah States and Yangon Division 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: Likelihood of increase of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 7-5-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 7-5-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 7-5-2006: Partly cloudy.
The association chanted the slogan to promote religion because the colonialists were committing acts of sacrilege. After the occupation of Yangon, the colonialists in 1826 used as a fort and stationed troops on the whole Theingontara Hill where Shwedagon Pagoda is located.

NLD’s political activities deviate from the path of correct political conviction
NLD fails to give instructions and assistance to members to participate in regional development tasks
It places too much reliance on external elements
Members no longer wish to associate with a group of political opportunists
All members of Mabein Township NLD resign

In the letter, they said that Mabein Township NLD was reconstituted on 25 March 2002. Since the time when the township NLD came into existence, they have become members of the party with the aim of just getting involved in the party politics so as to effectively serve the interests of local residents. Now, political activities of NLD have deviated from the path of correct political conviction and have produced no fruitful results. Within the NLD are personal attacks, deterioration of unity among the members and sectarianism. Moreover, they had been isolated from the people due to lack of instructions and assistance of the party to take part in regional development tasks.