True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

With Myanmar gems and jade market developing, many global nations including neighbours paying more attention to the country’s gems emporiums

Secretary-1 addresses meeting of Leading Committee for Development of Myanmar Gems Industry

YANGON, 8 May — The meeting (2/2006) of the Leading Committee for Development of Myanmar Gems Industry took place at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the leading committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Present at the meeting were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, members of Gems Supervisory Central Committee and officials of the SPDC Office.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said gems enterprise not only generates national income but also benefits private firms. So, the leading committee needs to speed up gems mining activities without much delay. Nowadays, as Myanmar gems and jade market is developing, many global nations including neighbours are paying more attention to the country’s gems emporiums. Therefore, it is necessary to boost gem production and sale. Gem mining needs a great deal of investment as well as hard work. That is why the State will make speedy arrangements to put gems and jade on sale. Previously, gems sales were held two or three times a year. However, it is now required to hold gems sales occasionally based on production without any fixed time. Next, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for the Ministry of

Gem mining needs a great deal of investment as well as hard work. That is why the State will make speedy arrangements to put gems and jade on sale.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Cultivate physic nut plants as a national duty

In the world today, the price of oil is skyrocketing and industrialized nations will soon encounter the fuel problem. Being one of the countries that have to depend on imported oil, Myanmar has to spend a lot of foreign exchange on import of oil. To help solve the fuel problem, physic nut plants are being grown all over the nation. Biodiesel extracted from physic nuts can be used in place of oil.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance that each state and division is to grow physic nut plants on 500,000 acres within three years. Ceremonies to collectively grow physic nut plants on 100 acres owned by Northeast Command in Lashio, on 1,000 acres owned by Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd and in the physic nut research garden of Northeast Command were held on 28 April, 2 May and 5 May respectively. The state-level departmental personnel and leaders of the local national races took part in these plant-growing ceremonies. Out of 1,000 acres on No (3) highland owned by Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd, 145 acres have been put under physic nut plants. Efforts are being made to distribute quality physic nut seeds, saplings and grafts of Northeast Command to local farmers and entrepreneurs free of charge and disseminate cultivation methods.

At the 100-acre model plantation 360,000 physic nut saplings grown from direct seedling and 120,000 saplings grown with physic nut cuttings are now ready to be transplanted. And efforts are being made to meet the targeted acreage in the rainy season.

In Shan State (North), 500,000 acres of land have been slated for growing physic nut plants. Departments, local battalions and private companies have grown physic nut plants on 21,821.72 acres. Now the plants are thriving and have begun bearing fruits. In June, the first batch of fruits will be harvested and distributed some amount of seeds to departments, local battalions and private companies to plant them again. The remaining seeds will be used to produce biodiesel for farming vehicles.

We would like to call on the entire national people to carry out the extended cultivation of physic nut plants as a national duty in the interests of the nation and their own.
Russia insists UN draft resolution on Iran needs adjustment

MOSCOW, 7 May—The draft resolution on Iran submitted by European countries to the UN Security Council “needs adjustment”, Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak said here on Saturday.

“Russia has come out with the proposal, whose essence is Iran’s freezing uranium enrichment works for the period of work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on rebuilding confidence in the character of the Iranian nuclear programme,” Kislyak was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

The draft invokes Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, under which the Council can resort to economic or financial activities immediately or face possible sanctions.

France and Britain, backed by the United States, submitted by European countries to the UN Security Council calling upon Iran without further delay to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors and “decides, in this regard, that Iran shall suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA, and suspend the construction of a reactor moderated by heavy water”.

Europe faces threat of unknown viruses attack

LONDON, 7 May—A veritable zoo of nasty new viruses is circulating in Europe and could kill people without even being detected, the New Scientist reported on Saturday.

Tahyna, which can cause encephalitis in humans like the West Nile virus, is common across the Europe in mosquitoes, rabbits and birds, the magazine quoted Ernie Gould of the University of Oxford as saying.

Gould is engaged in a study commissioned by the British Government on the risks of insect-borne and other arthropod-borne viruses emerging in Britain.

According to Gould, such diseases may already be infecting and killing people. About 50 Britons die every year from viral encephalitis, yet fewer than 40 per cent of these deaths are ever pinned on a specific pathogen.

The figures are similar in other developed countries.

“Wildlife is a huge reservoir of potential pathogens, but at the moment we do very little in the way of surveillance,” the report quoted Joe Brownlie of the Royal Veterinary College, London, as saying.

Brownlie stressed the need to test more animals and birds.

About 50 Britons die every year from viral encephalitis, yet fewer than 40 per cent of these deaths are ever pinned on a specific pathogen. The figures are similar in other developed countries.

Japanese dealers conduct trading at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo, on 8 May, 2006. The dollar touched an eight-month low against the yen on Monday after the US Treasury’s Undersecretary for International Affairs Timothy Adams suggested that Japanese policymakers should avoid intervening verbally in currency markets.—INTERNET

Rescuers retrieve bodies of 10 US troops

KABUL, 7 May—Rescuers recovered the bodies of 10 soldiers who perished in a helicopter crash while scouring remote Afghan mountains along the Pakistan border for al-Qaida and Taliban militants, the US military said on Sunday.

The military said Friday’s crash into an inaccessible ravine — the deadliest for US forces here in a year — was not caused by hostile fire.

The soldiers were based at Fort Drum in New York, but their names and units will not be released for several days, Fort Drum spokesman Benjamin Abel said Sunday.

Of the roughly 18,000 Americans serving in Afghanistan, about half are from the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum.

An investigation team was at the scene of the crash, said Lt Tamara D Lawrence, a spokeswoman for the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

“There was no enemy fire, and it was a really friendly fire,” said Lawrence.

The helicopter crashed in the Chawkay district of Kunar, about 40 miles southwest of a large US military base in the provincial capital of Asadabad.

Asadabad is in a large valley surrounded by rugged mountains. Some 2,500 Afghan and US soldiers are conducting a joint military campaign in Kunar province near the border with Pakistan. It is one of the biggest offensives since the ouster of the hard-line Taliban regime by US-led forces in late 2001.

At least 234 US military personnel, including those killed Friday, have died in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the conflict, according to the Defence Department.
Lee Hsien Loong vows to serve people better

SINGAPORE, 7 May— Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at a Press conference early Sunday morning that he is happy that his People’s Action Party (PAP) won the general elections by gaining 66.6 per cent of the votes.

Having got this strong mandate from the people, he and his PAP team will implement the programmes stated in the party’s manifesto and do their best to serve Singaporeans, Lee said.

He said that the new leadership team will lead Singapore through the next 15 to 20 years and the key is to keep in touch with changing demographics and the younger generation, as well as the new globalized world order.

He called on all Singaporeans to close ranks, stay together and move ahead, saying that there are enormous talents, experience and expertise among them and that each of them can make his own contribution to the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Traditional Chinese medicine export reaches record high

BEIJING, 7 May — China exported traditional Chinese medicine to 164 countries and regions around the world last year, with export earnings reaching an all-time high of 830 million US dollars, according to the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The export earnings represented a 14.55 percent increase from the previous year.

However, the export only accounted for 6 per cent of China’s total export of medicine products and most of the earnings came from the export of low value-added herbal medicines and raw materials, according to the Customs.

Last year, China earned 69.57 million US dollars from the export of extracted herbal substances.

Experts here said as the world’s major production base of herbal medicine, China should intensify efforts to develop and export more high value-added patent medicine.

Customs statistics also show that China imported 240 million US dollars of herbal medicines last year, rising by 6.4 per cent year on year and accounting for 2 per cent of the total import of medicine products.

MNA/Xinhua

Migrants in US pay to have kids smuggled

Tijuana, (Mexico), 8 May—Alejandro Valenzuela, a loquacious 12-year-old, memorized the names of a US immigration inspector.

“I told him in English, ‘I’m an American citizen, but he kept asking questions. That’s all the English I know,” Alejandro said as he rested at a child welfare office back in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego.

Alejandro is one of a rising number of children trying to sneak into the United States without their parents. Some hide on cars or try to pass themselves off as US citizens, while others ride inner tubes across the Rio Grande or trek through the harsh Arizona desert.

Since October, about 70,000 children have been detained along the Mexican border, a 5 percent increase over the same period a year earlier, the US Border Patrol says.

Like Alejandro—who wants to get to Corona, Calif., to join a father he hasn’t seen in nine years — most children are heading north to reunite with parents living illegally in the United States.

The 11 Sept terror attacks prompted the United States to tighten security along its southern border, making it harder to sneak in. Rather than risking a return to Mexico to get their children, many migrants are paying smugglers to bring them north.

MNA/Reuters

Historical enthusiasts take part in a re-enactment of a World War Two battle near Kiev, on 7 May, 2006. Ukraine will mark the 61st anniversary of the former Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two on 9 May.

INTERNET

Cruise liner on fire off S-E England

LONDON, 7 May— A cruise liner with about 750 passengers and crew aboard was on fire off the coast of southeast England early on Saturday, a British Coast Guard official said.

The ship’s crew were fighting the fire, which broke out in the engine room, and were understood to have brought it under control, he said.

Sky TV said earlier that the liner was about 20 miles off Eastbourne, a seaside town on the southeast English coast.

MNA/Reuters

A motorist fills his tank after US Senator Charles Schumer spoke about reducing the import tariff on gas additive ethanol, as a way to reduce gasoline prices, during a news conference in front of a gas station in New York, on 7 May, 2006. Schumer, the senior US Senator from New York, plans to introduce legislation on Monday in hopes of easing the prices consumers pay, by encouraging the importation of ethanol from outside the US, which will increase the domestic supply and hopefully reduce the overall price at the pump.

INTERNET

The yacht ‘Brasil 1’ sails downwind through spectator boats in the Chesapeake Bay after the start of leg 6 of the Volvo Ocean Race in Annapolis, Maryland, on 7 May, 2006.

INTERNET

Italy’s “Unabomber” suspected in bottle blast

ROME, 7 May — A bottle exploded on a beach in northern Italy, injuring a man who picked it up in what police said on Saturday was probably the latest attack by Italy’s “Unabomber”.

Police said the 28-year-old was walking along the seawall in Porto Santo Margherita, near Venice, when he found the bottle, apparently containing a sheet of paper, abandoned in rocks.

News agencies said he had lost his thumb and had two other fingers badly damaged when the bottle exploded.

“It’s probably Unabomber,” said a police source, referring to the shadowy figure, nicknamed after a serial US bomber, who has been hunted by Italian investigators for more than a decade.

The attacker has since 1994 planted exploding eggs and booby-trapped tubes of tomato paste, bottles of blowing bubbles and church electric candles in northern cities.

MNA/Reuters
President says Iran has joined nuclear club

Moscow, 7 May — Iran has joined the world’s nuclear club, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in Azerbaijan’s capital city of Baku on Friday.

Despite all the problems and difficulties, Iran, “relying on the efforts of its younger generation and scientists, has succeeded in advancing the nuclear fuel cycle and joining the group of nuclear states,” Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency in a statement at the ninth summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

“We are interested in continuing our work on the basis of international principles and laws and also under the International Atomic Energy Agency control until we achieve the production of industrial nuclear fuel for our nuclear power stations,” Ahmadinejad said.

“Our scientific progress and the might of our people serve peace and prosperity in the region and worldwide and do no harm the interests of a single state,” the statement says. He said he regretted “injustice in the present international structure, the nonobservance of laws and the violation of the rights of people on the part of certain oppressive forces”. “Under the influence of super powers, international organizations have lost their important functions,” he said.

S-E Asia diplomacy finally tackles security

Kuala Lumpur, 7 May
South East Asia takes diplomacy to a new level this week when 10 defence ministers meet for the first time in the region.

The ministers are to meet in the Malaysian capital on Tuesday under the umbrella of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), 39 years after the grouping formed with the aim of deepening cooperation and making the region a safer place.

The talks are likely to end with agreement to cooperate in areas of common interest, such as counter-terrorism, maritime piracy, smuggling and trafficking in migrants and drugs, a spokesman for the ASEAN Secretary-General said at the weekend.

Notably for ASEAN, whose golden rule is non-interference in a member state’s domestic affairs, the meeting also provides for each nation to brief the group on its security situation.

“An important part of the agenda is to listen to each other’s threat perceptions and security concerns and priorities,” spokesman MC Abad told Reuters.

“There will be an exchange of views — and they are expected to brief each other on their national security situations.”

ASEAN encompasses 500 million people and covers the spectrum of Asian cultures and political systems.

Common ground in Southeast Asia can be elusive, especially in the area of national security. There is no talk yet of the defence ministers’ forum evolving into a European Union-style alliance that can assemble regional peacekeeping forces.

Strong sandstorm hits Cairo

CAIRO, 7 May — The Egyptian capital city of Cairo was hit by a strong sandstorm Saturday afternoon.

The sandstorm swept the crowded metropolis starting from around 5:20 pm (1420 GMT) from the direction of the west desert to the east, thus greatly reducing visibility.

The air was full of earthy smell, which led to an uncomfortable breathing.

In the spring, Egypt is occasionally hit by sandstorms fed by its vast desert. — MNA/Reuters

Thai firm seeks to search for undersea WWII secret weapons

BANGKOK, 7 May — A Thai marine-supply company based in southern Phuket is seeking permission to salvage what it believes are two British “human torpedoes” that have been lying in the sea near Phuket since World War II, local media Saturday reported.

Phuket’s Governor Udomsak Asavarangura was quoted by English newspaper The Nation as saying that East Marine Corp had sent a letter requesting permission to salvage the two human torpedoes, or Chariots, believed to belong to the British Royal Navy.

The Chariots sank near Dok Mai Island of Phuket Province during a mission in World War II. However, authorities in Phuket would first like East Marine to get British Government confirmation that the two vessels really belonged to the British Royal Navy.

“We need to have the evidence first, otherwise it could create problems for us later if the torpedoes are found to belong to another country,” Udomsak said.

Manned torpedoes were the secret naval weapons commissioned during World War II.

The British versions were electrically propelled mini-submarines with two crewmen equipped with diving suits riding astride.

They steered the vessel at slow speed to the enemy ship. A detachable warhead was then used after the crew rode the “torpedo” away.

A boy jumps into a water canal to cool himself from severe heat in Lahore, Pakistan, on 7 May, 2006. Temperature rose up to 44 degrees Celsius in central Pakistan on Sunday and severe heat wave condition will persist in most parts of the country over the next few days, Pakistan’s Meteorological department said on Sunday. —INTERNET

Heavy rains kill at least 101 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 7 May — At least 101 people have been killed by floods and landslides caused by heavy rains throughout Colombia, civil defence authorities said on Friday.

The civil defence operations office reported that the areas most seriously affected by floods and landslides are the departments of Valle del Cauca, Boyaca and Antioquia. —MNA/Xinhua
BOLIVIA, Spain agree to evaluate nationalization

LIMA, 7 May — Bolivia and Spain agreed on Friday in La Paz to assess together Bolivia’s nationalization of hydrocarbons and the measure’s impact on the Spanish/Argentinian firm Repsol/YPF.

Spain’s secretary for Latin American affairs, Bernardino Leon, made an announcement to this effect after meeting with Bolivian President Evo Morales, said reports from La Paz.

Leon said the Bolivian Government affirmed its commitment to “offering guarantees and juridical assurances for a process to be developed at the highest level”.

He said “Spain wishes to exhaust all diplomatic avenues to reach a full agreement with Bolivia on this subject”.

“Today we begin a dialogue and negotiation which will have an impact on the governments and oil companies of both countries,” the official said. The Bolivian Government said hydrocarbons nationalization is irreversible and that in case it reaches agreement with oil companies over their presence in the country they will enjoy juridical security and will be profitable.

Nasal flu vaccine beats shots for young children

NEW YORK, 7 May — A new vaccine called CAIV-T that is squirted into the nose offers greater protection against influenza infection in children than does the current FDA-approved injectable vaccine, according to study findings presented this week at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in San Francisco.

CAIV-T, short for Cold Adapted Influenza Vaccine Trivalent, is closely related to the already approved nasal vaccine FluMist. The major difference is that the newer vaccine is now refrigerator stable and capable of being easily stored.

In the largest head-to-head flu vaccine study ever conducted, 8457 children, between six months and five years of age, were randomly assigned to receive CAIV-T or injectable vaccine. The bulk of subjects had never been vaccinated before.

“CAIV-T was dramatically more effective than the injectable vaccine,” lead researcher, Dr Robert Belshe, from St Louis University, told Reuters Health. The number of confirmed flu cases in the CAIV-T group was less than half that seen in the injectable vaccine group, he added.

Compared with the injectable vaccine, CAIV-T provided better protection against circulating flu strains that matched, as well as those that did not match the recommended vaccine strain. CAIV-T was particularly effective against these latter “mismatched” flu stains, Belshe noted.

Vietnam reaps bigger farm product exports in first four months

HANOI, 7 May — Vietnam exported nearly 2.3 billion US dollars’ worth of farm and forest products in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 25 percent, according to a local trade agency on Friday.

In April alone, the country earned over 397 million dollars from shipping farm products abroad, and roughly 182 million dollars from forest products, said the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry.

Between January and April, items recording high export growth included rubber, up 116 per cent to 349 million dollars; pepper, up 52 per cent to 67 million dollars; and woodwork, up 31.9 per cent to 656 million dollars.

In the period, some products saw decreases in export value, including rice which saw decrease of 9 per cent to 466 million dollars, and cashew nuts, down 5.9 per cent to 131 million dollars.

To export more farm and forest products, Vietnam is focusing on building brands, registering product trade marks, improving quality, exploiting traditional markets as China, the United States, Japan, and the European Union, while seeking new ones.

A general view shows the Tiger Leaping Gorge on 4 April, 2006. Dam builders are setting their sights on building a dam at China’s spectacular Tiger Leaping Gorge to create more hydropower to fuel the county’s insatiable energy needs.

Nepal makes efforts to reopen largest cloth mill

KATHMANDU, 7 May — Efforts are on to reopen Nepal’s largest cotton cloth factory after a gap of seven years, which was closed down in 1999 due to the poor management, the factory, according to Arun Raj Sumargi, coordinator of Makanwanpur chamber of commerce and industry, an NGO comprising local business community.

The government spent a sum of 150 million rupees (2.14 million US dollars) for clearing up the dues of the factory, according to Arun Raj Sumargi, coordinator of Makanwanpur chamber of commerce and industry, an NGO comprising local business community.

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Six Italians wounded by roadside bomb in Kabul

ROME, 7 May — Six Italian peacekeepers were wounded, two of them seriously, when a remote-controlled bomb exploded on Friday in Kabul as their convoy was passing, a spokesman for the Italian forces said.

“There was an attack on a Italian patrol on the outskirts of Kabul. We think there was a remote-controlled bomb,” the spokesman in Kabul told Reuters by telephone.

Italy has some 1,775 troops in Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

Italy is still recovering from last week’s killing of three soldiers in Iraq. They were killed by a roadside bomb which struck their convoy southwest of Nasiriya.

Iraqi residents gather near a burnt car used as a car bomb in Baghdad, on 8 May, 2006. —INTERNET
China produces 9 billion fresh flowers a year

SHENYANG, 8 May—China produces about 9 billion fresh flowers a year, which equates to nearly seven for each person, statistics with the Chinese Association of Flowers show.

However, the level is still low compared with developed countries, especially in terms of spending on fresh flowers, according to Wang Danfu, secretary-general of the flowers association, speaking at the China Shenyang International Horticultural Exposition that opened last week in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

The statistics show that a Chinese person only spends an average of about one US dollar on fresh flowers a year, less than one thirtieth of a Japanese person, he said.

Wang said that China has become the largest production base of flowers in the world. In 2004, China reported a flower planting area of up to 636,000 hectares, nearly 30 times larger than that of 20 years ago and taking up one third of the world’s total.

“China had almost no flower industry two decades ago,” said Wang, who attributed the increase to China’s fast economic development and improvement of people’s livelihoods over the past years.

“When people could not eat their fill, how could they use large pieces of land for planting flowers,” he said. The flower industry has become a fast-developing sector in China. Statistics with the association show that the flower output value was more than 43 billion yuan (5.4 billion US dollars) in 2004, nearly 60 times that of two decades ago.

In 2004, China flower exports stood at 140 million US dollars and more than three million people were engaged in flower businesses. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia delivers aid to Palestine to ease financial crisis

GAZA, 8 May—Russia sent an emergency aid of 10 million US dollars to the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday, Palestinian officials said.

The delivery, which was made with the knowledge of the Palestinian Finance Ministry, could serve as a model for a European proposal on setting up a fund to channel humanitarian aid to the Palestinians bypassing the Hamas-led government, they added.

The Quartet, consisting of the United Nations, the United States, the European Union (EU) and Russia, is expected to discuss the proposal on Tuesday.

Abbas immediately distributed the money to humanitarian programs agreed upon with Russia.

In Oslo, a senior EU official said on Saturday that the Palestinian Authority could receive an aid package soon to end the crisis over unpaid salaries due to government employees.

The Hamas-led government has failed so far to pay March and April salaries for over 160,000 civil servants due to the West’s cutoff of crucial aid.

After meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abacus Gherkin, European Commissioner for External Relations Benito Ferrero Waldner told reporters that “we (are) now to set up an international mechanism to send aid to the Palestinians”.

A spokesman for Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel said on Friday that the EU was ready to offer humanitarian aid of 43 million US dollars to the Palestinians.

The money would be used for food, sanitation, water and health programs, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Former CIA officer Plame signs book deal

WASHINGTON, 8 May—Former CIA operative Valerie Plame, whose identity was disclosed in a Press leak that touched off a federal probe, has signed a book deal worth more than 2.5 million US dollars, publishing industry website said on Saturday.

Publishers Marketplace (http://www.publishersmarketplace.com), where most publishers report details of their book deals, said Plame had signed a deal with Crown, an imprint of Random House, “reportedly for more than 2.5 million US dollars”.

The memoir, entitled “Fair Game”, will detail Plame’s “role in the American intelligence community, as well as the prominence of her role in the lead-up to the (Iraq) war”. Publishers Marketplace said.

Plame’s agent and representatives from Random House could not be immediately reached for comment.

Former US Ambassador Joseph Wilson, Plame’s husband, maintained the disclosure of his wife’s identity was retaliation for statements he made about the Bush Administration’s justification for the war in Iraq.

Wilson said the Administration manipulated intelligence in the lead-up to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. Soon afterward, Plame’s identity as a covert CIA operative was leaked to journalists.

A special prosecutor is investigating who blew Plame’s cover in July 2003.

Vice-President Dick Cheney’s former chief of staff, Lewis “Scooter” Libby, and senior Bush adviser Karl Rove spoke to reporters about Plame before her identity was made public by columnist Robert Novak. — MNA/Reuters

Police random shooting injures one in Macao

MACAO, 8 May — An off-duty police personnel has opened fire at a downtown karaoke lounge in Macao, injuring one civilian, the local police said Saturday.

Xu Yiping, spokesman for Macao’s Judiciary Police, told Xinhua that the incident took place on early Friday when the police officer, surnamed Lo, was engaged in a quarrel with another patron at the Dynasty Plaza karaoke club.

Lo, a tactical unit officer, fired a shot at the ceiling that was diverted down and grazed the victim’s neck, said Xu.

Xu added that the victim has been hospitalized and he is in a stable condition.

An investigation into the incident is underway, said the spokesman. — MNA/Xinhua

Visitors stand by the sensual rump of a maiden who, seen from another angle, turns out to be the gender-bending god Hermaphroditus, at the Louvre Museum in Paris, in this April, 2006 file photo. — INTERNET

Japan’s local government plans to exterminate 4,000 raccoons

TOKYO, 8 May—A central prefecture of Japan plans to exterminate all 4,000 raccoons thought to be living in the region to avoid damage to agriculture.

Kyodo News said Saturday, Kanagawa Prefecture, to the south of Tokyo, would carry out the plan in five years. The plan is thought to be in line with the Japanese law that prevents damage from alien species.

According to Kyodo, similar plans have been approved by Japan’s Environment Ministry. The number of raccoons caught in the prefecture surged from four to some 1,000 from fiscal year 1995 to fiscal year 2005, local officials said, most of the mammals have become wild after being kept as pets.

The animals have caused an estimated damage of over 15 million yen (about 133,900 US dollars) to agricultural produce and others in fiscal 2005, officials said. Some local residents and experts have voiced opposition to the trapping and killing of raccoons which the plan called for, in terms of animal protection and its questionable effect. — MNA/Xinhua

A man is seen using a cell phone in an undated photo. Not many people use their cell phone to buy movie tickets, watch videos or play games, but a significant number of Americans are interested in doing just that. — INTERNET

US LPGA star Paula Creamer hits an approach shot in the 3rd round of the Salonpas World Ladies Golf Tournament at Tokyo’s Yomiuri Country Club on 6 May, 2006. — INTERNET
Myanmar delegation attends ADB’s 39th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors in India

YANGON, 8 May — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back here this morning after attending the ADB’s 39th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Hyderabad, India from 4 to 6 May.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Lt-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Director of CBM Daw Ohnmar Sein and Deputy Director of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Min Htut also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

With Myanmar gems and jade market...

(from page 1)

Mines and local authorities to make constant supervision in mining work so as to ensure environmental conservation as guided by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on incomes from the sales of State-owned and private gems enterprises, annual gem and jade sales from Myanmar Gems Emporiums, developing market of Myanmar gems and jade, production of gems and jade in cooperation between the State and private firms. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein also reported on measures being taken by the leading committee in accord with its resolutions, granting of permits for mining gems and jade in conformity with Myanmar gems law and plans to hold Myanmar Gems Emporiums.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave necessary instructions and the meeting concluded.

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Duya-Shwetoungthaya-Ohnpinkwin gravel road in Hinthada opens

YANGON, 8 May — Duya-Shwetoungthaya-Ohnpinkwin gravel road, built by Hinthada Township Development Affairs Committee, Ayeyawady Division, was commissioned into service yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, departmental personnel, Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association members, members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization and Social Organizations and local people.

First, Executive Officer of Hinthada Township DAC U Myo Thein explained relevant data of the road to those present. Secretary of Hinthada USDA U Nyunt Oo spoke words of thanks for building of the road.

The road is linked to Duya-Ohnpinkwin, Myaychar-Natmhow village. It is eight miles and four furlongs in length and 12 feet in width. It was built by the Hinthada Township DAC through the funds of Department of Development Affairs.

Those who living in 11 villages such as Kyaikhtiyo, Kokkosu and Oakphochaung can use the road at any time throughout the year. Moreover, tasks in the fields of health, economic and education for the betterment of the local people can be carried out.

Minister for Information meets District IPRD staff in Toungoo

YANGON, 8 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met information staff at District Information and Public Relations Department in Toungoo on 6 May.

The minister inspected functions of District IPRD and gave instructions. Service personnel of IPRD and Myanmar Radio and Television reported on their functions. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

In his discussions, the minister said service personnel are to make concerted efforts for implementation of the project and realization of the objectives of the State. They need to carry out the tasks assigned dutifully not perfunctorily.

He said it is necessary to undertake integrated farm on manageable scale. The minister told them not to believe the rumours spread by greedy people. External and internal destructive elements are attacking the State on all fronts. They are to be warded off in accord with the four-point People’s Desire, he added.

The minister called for participation in efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map. The minister inspected TV retransmission station in Toungoo and gave instructions on growing of vegetables in the compound.

World Red Cross Day-2006 observed

YANGON, 8 May — World Red Cross Day-2006 was observed today at the Institute of Nursing here and an official of the Health Department read out a message sent by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Officials of Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Committee of Red Cross, resident representatives of IFRC, ambassadors and officials from social organizations attended the ceremony to mark World Red Cross Day.

After the opening address of President of MRCS Dr Hla Myint, Mr Thiery Ribauh of ICRC read out messages sent from ICRC and IFRC.

At the second session of the ceremony, officials awarded the winners of the international poster competitions to mark the centenary of the red cross society of the Republic of Korea and World Red Cross Day-2006 commemorative competitions. — MNA

Education Minister meets faculty members of Education Colleges

YANGON, 8 May — Education colleges play a major role in training the teachers at basic education level. The faculty members of the colleges are to redouble their efforts to perform duties and to carry out the department tasks in conformity with the rules and regulations. They are to grow physic nut in school compounds, said Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

Dr Chan Nyein, met with the faculty members of Mawlamyine Education College on 6 May.

The minister met the trainees of the college and attended to the needs. Later, he inspected the college.

Mr Thiery Ribauh of ICRC speaking at World Red Cross Day-2006 ceremony. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets information staff at Toungoo District IPRD. — MNA

On arrival at Mawlamyine University, the minister held discussion with the faculty members of the university. The minister also visited Bago Degree College and heard reports on the fresher course for senior assistant teachers this morning. He later proceeded to Hlegu Education College and met with trainees of the college. And he stressed them to become well-qualified ones. — MNA

Safe Staffing Saves Lives
Minister Inspects Thagaya Industrial Zone

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on 6 May went to Thagaya Industrial Zone in Yedahe Township, Bago Division, to assist in implementing the factory projects including construction of buildings in the zone.

Upon completion, machinery such as bulldozer, diesel engines will be manufactured at the zone.

During his inspection tour, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected construction of factories including the diesel-engine factory and site chosen to build construction machinery factory. — MNA

Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws to be Honoured

Yangon, 8 May — Ministry of Religious Affairs held a meeting today to honour the Tipitaka Kovida title recipient Sayadaws who passed the 48th Tipitaka Kovida Examination.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, officials of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council attended the meeting held at the ministry here and discussed matters on organizing the ceremony to honour the Sayadaws.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko. MNA

Minister Byow-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses the coordination meeting on honouring Tipitaka Kovida title recipient Sayadaws who passed the 58th Tipitaka Kovida Examination. MNA

Minister looks into construction of power line at Ahtet Paunglong, Nancho hydel power projects

Yangon, 8 May — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut together with Director-General of Department of Electric Power U Win Kyaw went on inspection tour of Ahtet Paunglong Hydel Power Project being built on Paunglong river, 30 miles upstream of present Paunglong power station, east of Pyinmana, Manda- lay Division on 5 May.

Together with officials of the project, the minister and the director-general inspected clearing tasks for seeking an axis of the dam, digging up a diversion tunnel and construction of the approach road where they asked related matters of the project and fulfilled the needs.

Two 70-megawatt machines were installed at the Ahtet Paunglong project and the project would generate 411 million kilowatt hours every year. Moreover, the present Paunglong power station could generate power up to 969 million kilowatt hours from 911 per year after more storage of water in Ahtet Paunglong dam.

Upon arrival at Nancho hydel power project, the minister looked into the places chosen for building Nancho hydel power station and water intake structure and clearing for seeking an axis of the dam.

The Nancho hydel power project, 12 miles upstream of Paunglong hydel power station will be built on Nancho River which flows into Paunglong river. According to feasibility, the project will generate 40-megawatt. On completion, Nancho hydel project could fulfill requirement of power for the State besides helping the flow of water into the present Paunglong dam.

Yesterday, the minister arrived at the power line construction worksite (Htaw-it) crossing Hlaing river, 230-KV Myanmar-daka-Hline, Hta-yay-Ekayi (Ahtet) power line construction project.

Accompanied by officials of the project, the minister inspected erection of tower for dragging of river crossing power line at the meeting point of Pun Hlaing and Hlaing rivers and fulfilled the needs.

At the same time, the minister instructed officials of the project to make strenuous efforts for accomplishment of the project earlier than scheduled, stockpiling and supervision of the project-use materials before the rainy season, handling and maintenance of the machinery with care and serious attention to be paid for occupation safety. MNA

By violating diplomatic codes of conduct, US and British embassies conduct training courses in cooperation with NLD

Yangon, 8 May — Some embassy staff of some West big nations are interfering blatantly in internal affairs of the nation in their interest. They have interfered in Myanmar’s internal affairs violating diplomatic codes of conduct. They have been undermining the stability and tranquility of the State and development of the country since 1988 by making use of various means. Conducting illegal courses is such an interference.

Personnel of the NLD made contact with British and US embassies and reached agreement in which NLD members were allowed to take the courses at the British embassy and the American Centre free of charge.

English proficiency course and international relations course are being conducted at the British embassy and English proficiency course, international relations course and global technological network course at the American Centre. Ordinary people can take these courses only after they have passed the entrance examination. The course fee costs about US $1,000 a year. But NLD members do not need to pay the fee and they are trained exclusively. The junior leaders of the party attend the courses and after completing the courses, they will be assigned duties at information sub-committee and international relations committee to be formed by NLD. They are sent to attend the courses with the aim of opening multiplier courses for NLD youth members.

The professional development programme-2 course commenced on 14-6-2005 at Information Department of US embassy in Yangon and it is being attended by U Hantha Myint, Dr Aung Moe Nyo, U Tun Myaing, U Thein Zan, U Soe Win, Daw Aye Aye Mar, Dr Than Win, U Win Thaung, U Kyaw Hoe, Daw Than Ngwe and U Zau Bwe of NLD.

Likewise, the training course conducted by the British embassy starting from 22-9-2005 is being attended by 11 trainees including U Hantha Myint of NLD. The course has no specific curriculum and it comprises English language speaking, the assassination of Bogyoke Aung San, corruption in world’s nations, computer, Internet news, world trade order and violations of human rights and law in small countries.

The training courses conducted by these embassies are aimed at feeding sugar-coated poison to youths in media world of Myanmar. Thus, they can be dubbed media poison courses. The inexperienced youths in the media world here especially are likely to be coloured. The youths attending the courses have not improved their English language proficiency. In fact, the training courses elicit information and reactions regarding education, health, social and economic affairs of Myanmar from the trainees.

It is found that conducting illegal courses at the embassies in cooperation with the NLD means violating the diplomatic codes of conduct and interfering in the Myanmar’s internal affairs blatantly. — MNA

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Malaysia to establish international centre to fight cyber-terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 May — Malaysia will establish an international centre to fight cyber-terrorism, local media reported Sunday.

The centre, to be called “International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Terrorism” or “IMPACT”, will provide an emergency response to cyber attack on the economy or trading system of various countries in the world, said Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Badawi made the remarks in his keynote address at the closing of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2006 in Texas of the United States.

The IMPACT is not just a Malaysian concern, but is conceived as a partnership between governments as well as between governments of the world and the international private sector, said Badawi.

Leading names in the world such as America’s Symantec Corporation, Japan’s Trend Micro and Russia’s Kapersky Lab have agreed to be key partners and to serve on IMPACT’s International Advisory Board to be established soon.

The centre will be modelled after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta which provides expertise on the handling of viruses and outbreaks of diseases around the world, said the Prime Minister.

To begin with, IMPACT will focus its activities in three key areas, namely, training and skills development, security certification and research and development, and a global emergency response centre.

The IMPACT will be situated in Cyberjaya, right at the heart of Malaysia’s Multimedia Super Corridor.

Bangladeshi children cool themselves with water leaking out of an Army vehicle during distribution of drinking water in the Sanir Akhra area in Dhaka on 6 May, 2006. — Internet

“Golden week” benefits China’s neighbours

BEIJING, 8 May — For Hu Mingming, a female Chinese fashion designer, golden week means lying on the sand at the picturesque Phuket Island in Thailand and enjoying seven days of sunshine.

It is the fourth time Hu has spent her week-long holiday on Phuket Island, one of the first international tourist sites for Chinese. Like Hu, more and more Chinese choose to spend their holidays outside China.

Statistics with the Thailand tourism authority show Chinese tourists made more than 100,000 trips to Phuket Island in 2005, and the figure is expected to top 150,000 this year.

A Chinese expert said China’s holidays have benefited more and more neighbouring countries since China began its first full week holiday to celebrate National Day in October 1999.

Having an entire week off means that Chinese tourists have enough time to head out the country.

During this week’s golden holiday, the neighbouring countries have been the top choices for Chinese tourists, according to latest figures from the National Tourism Administration.

Unemployment to rise due to economic slowdown in Thailand

BANGKOK, 8 May — Thailand’s unemployment rate is projected to rise to 2 per cent this year, up from 1.8 per cent the previous year due to the economic slowdown attributed mainly to the surge in oil prices, according to the Kasikorn Research Centre (KRC).

AFFECTED by the climbing oil price, high interest rates and the slowdown in investment and consumption, the economic growth this year is expected to fall down, causing employment decline.

Once some businesses begin to slash jobs, workers in the agricultural sectors and those who do independent jobs such as barbers and hawkers would suffer.

These workers have no access to social welfare and job security. They lack bargaining power as they have no organization or labour union to look after their interests, said the research centre.

Wiliawon Sae Tia, chairwoman of the Labour Solidarity Committee, said the group is keeping track of the unemployment rate among workers in textile, electronics and steel industries.

Flood kills 7 in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 May — At least seven people died in a river flood on Saturday in western Nepal, local police officer confirmed here Sunday.

“At least seven people, including four of a family, were killed when the flooded local Badgarg rivulet swept away a hotel at Adhikarchaur Village in Baglung District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu,” Shiva Hari Baskota, deputy superintendent of police at District Police Office, said in a Press statement.

The flooding of the rivulet was triggered by incessant rainfall in the area in the afternoon, the statement said.

The heavy rainfall began at around 2 pm local time (0815 GMT) while the hotel was swept away at 4 pm local time (1015 GMT), the statement said.

The flood swept away the hotel run by Sher Bahadur Poudel. Poudel, his wife and their two children of 8-year-old and 5-year-old were among those killed. Other two local cattle and a herder, whose identity could not be ascertained, were also swept away and killed in the incident, the statement said.
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2006-2007

Closing Date: - 8.6.2006 (Thursday)  (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 8.5.2006 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call, 291982, 291985, 201555/Ext-602, 605, 612

Gulf Arab leaders seek peaceful end to Iran crisis

Riyadh, 7 May—US-allied Gulf Arab leaders met in Riyadh on Saturday to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis between Iran and Western nations over Iran’s nuclear ambitions, officials and analysts said.

Gulf Arab countries, wary of Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, share US concerns about Iran having a nuclear bomb but fear another military conflict in the region after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

“We are consulting on an advanced position that protects the safety, progress and stability of this region,” Oman’s Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said told reporters on arrival at the Saudi capital, the largest city in the Gulf.

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Venezuela approves oil partnership contracts

CARACAS, 7 May—Venezuela’s National Assembly on Friday approved Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) partnership contracts with 16 foreign and local firms to create joint ventures for exploiting 15 oilfields. The assembly announced the creation of 21 joint ventures set by the national oil corporation with its collaborators.

The joint ventures will pump nearly 80,000 barrels per day, almost 13 per cent of Venezuela’s total output.

Venezuela is considered the world’s fifth crude oil producer. — MNA/Xinhua
China to improve 200,000 sq km of erodible land in 5 years

BEIJING, 7 May — China will improve 200,000 square kilometres of land suffering from soil erosion in upcoming five years, said sources with the Ministry of Water Resources.

The proportion of soil erosion land in the country’s total territory will drop from present 36 per cent to 34 per cent in the period.

China estimated to import 301 mln tons of iron ore in 2006

BEIJING, 7 May — China is estimated to import about 301 million tons of iron ore in 2006, an increase of 10 per cent from 2005, according to the China Iron and Steel Association.

Last year, China imported 275 million tons of iron ore and produced 349 million tons of crude steel. The association predicted that China would produce 528 million tons of crude steel this year, an increase of 48 million tons from last year. Total crude steel production is estimated at 834 million tons for 2006. Iron ore demand is predicted to reach 558 million tons.

Zambian official says women still marginalized in world

LUSAKA, 7 May — Women in all over the world are hard working but their efforts are restricted to home and child, tendering duties and marginal activities in the informal sector, the Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) has said.

ZFE President Dan Musenge was quoted by Friday’s Zambia Daily Mail as saying that in Africa and other parts of the world, women’s participation in employment, business and other income generating enterprises has been highly constrained by age, old traditions and culture, taboos, attitudes and religious doctrines.

He told an ongoing workshop on promoting women entrepreneurship through employers organizations in Africa that women need to have equal rights of access to employment and mainstream business opportunities.

“Women participation in the modern sector remains low both in their numbers and hierarchical grading. In the main, therefore, women remain left out of employment and mainstream business activities,” he said.

He urged the governments in the region, employers and others to make sustainable and deliberate efforts to increasingly engage women participation in meaningful economic activities.

Musenge said the education policy must deliberately allow more access to women in schools and other institutions of learning so as to equip them with basic knowledge and skills necessary to engage in productive business activities and entrepreneurship development.

China plans massive restructuring of coal mining industry

BEIJING, 7 May — China plans massive restructuring of its coal industry which will see the closure of many smaller mines or their amalgamation into five to seven major conglomerates, the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) has said.

Each of the conglomerates will have a capacity of producing more than 100 million tons of coal a year, the SDRC said in a policy paper published recently.

The success of the restructuring plan will depend on the closure and merger of the country’s numerous small mines, which will be completed during the 11th five-year plan period (2006-2010), the paper said. The plan also aims to improve the technical standards of the mines and their efficiency in resource utilization.

By 2010, large mines shall have 95 per cent of their jobs done by machines, compared to 80 per cent for medium-sized mines.

The paper foresees national annual coal output reaching 2.45 billion tons by 2010, with death toll per million tons of coal reducing to 1.6.

Indonesia to build more sugar cane plantations

JAKARTA, 7 May — Indonesia plans to establish more cane plantations in a bid to boost its sugar production, Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantono said here on Friday.

He said the country has prepared for the plan in Southeast Sulawesi Province, which includes 25,000 to 30,000 hectares of land.

Meanwhile, the plan for Merauke Regency, Papua Province, is still under negotiation, he said.

In Merauke, a private company plans to set up plantations in two locations and each location covers about 25,000 to 30,000 hectares of land, said the minister.

The production will begin in the next three years, he added.

Indonesia earlier aborted the plan to import 90,000 tons of sugar due to the expected sufficiency of domestic production.

The country consumes about 2.5 to 2.6 million tons of sugar each year.

Japan provides $4.08m to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 May — Japan has approved the utilization of the Counterpart Fund of 286 million Nepali rupees (4.08 million US dollars) for the implementation of nine projects, Radio Nepal reported Saturday.

The government of Japan has approved seven different projects in the agriculture (including fishery) sector, according to the radio report.

These projects will be implemented by various agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.
**Sports**

**Real go second with 3-3 draw against Villarreal**

**Madrid, 8 May** — A dramatic late equalizer from Julio Baptista moved Real Madrid up to second place in the Primera Liga on Sunday after they came from behind to draw 3-3 with Villarreal in the Bernabeu.

Two goals from Baptista either side of a header from Zinedine Zidane on his last home appearance in a Real shirt secured a point after Diego Forlan had threatened to upset the Frenchman with two goals to put Villarreal in front.

Real have 70 points with one game left to play, 12 short of champions Barcelona, who beat city rivals Espanyol 2-0 in the Nou Camp on Saturday. Valencia are third with 69 after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Atletico Madrid.

Fourth-placed Osasuna failed to make sure of playing in the Champions League for the first time next season when they let slip a one-goal lead to lose 2-1 at Racing Santander.

At the other end of the table Cadiz were relegated back to the Second Division after only one season in the Primera Liga when they fell 3-1 away to Getafe.

Alaves, in 18th place with 36 points, must beat Deportivo Coruna at home in their last game to have any chance of catching King’s Cup winners Espanyol, in 17th with 38, and avoid joining relegated Cadiz and Malaga.

Real took the lead after 23 minutes when Raul headed Robinho’s cross into the path of Baptista who let fly with a scorching volley. The visitors were soon back in contention when Juan Roman Riquelme’s corner was nudged into his own goal by Real defender Alvaro Mejia in the 31st minute.

Forlan burst down the right eight minutes later and fired across Iker Casillas into the far corner to put the visitors in front.

**Juve retain three-point lead with one match left**

**Milan, 8 May** — Juventus moved closer to their 29th Serie A title with a 2-1 home win over Palermo on Sunday.

Second-placed AC Milan won 3-2 at Parma, leaving Juventus three points clear of their rivals with one game to go.

In next week’s final round of games, Milan are at home to AS Roma and Juventus play away to Reggina but at a neutral ground.

The only way that Milan can now lift the title is if they win their final game and Juventus lose, leaving the teams tied but the crown going to Milan who have the better head-to-head record.

The battle for fourth place, which brings a place in the third qualifying round of the Champions League, will also go down to the wire after Fiorentina defended their two-point advantage over Roma.

Fiorentina crushed Reggina 5-2 while Roma won 1-0 at home to Treviso.

Juventus’ game at the Delle Alpi Stadium before it undergoes extensive reconstruction was a tense affair – on and off the field.

Czech Pavel Nedved fired Fabio Capello’s side ahead in the 31st minute but before Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic made it 2-0 six minutes into the second half.

Palermo fought back with a superb shot from Denis Godeas in the 62nd minute and Juventus were forced to hang on against some intense pressure in the final half hour.

**Rooney’s injury shifts balance of Eriksson’s squad**

**London, 8 May** — Wayne Rooney’s broken toe has exposed the paucity of striking talent available to England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson as he makes his final ponderings before naming a 27-man provisional World Cup squad on Monday.

The Swede is likely to name Rooney in the squad and, depending on the state of the injury, will probably take him to Germany hoping the Manchester United man might be fit to make an impact in the knockout stages.

Michael Owen, a proven tournament operator but also fighting to fully recover from a broken toe, will remain first choice for the starting team while Peter Crouch is also a certainty for the squad and could find himself in the 11.

Eriksson may have taken five strikers anyway but will certainly need to if he plans to carry Rooney through the early stages. That means Jermain Defoe can expect the nod, despite struggling to make the Tottenham Hotspur first team.

Charlton Athletic’s free-scoring Darren Bent should also get the chance to take his yards, but unimpressed talents to the finals.

Owen apart, none of those names are likely to strike fear into the cream of the world’s defenders and the fact that the likes of James Beattie, Emile Heskey and even Robbie Fowler have also been mentioned as possible inclusions shows just how little Eriksson has to choose from.

**Arrow’s third goal against Wigan Athletic from the penalty spot during their final English Premier League soccer match at Arsenal’s Highbury Stadium against Wigan Athletic, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Arsenal’s Thierry Henry scores his third goal against Wigan Athletic from the penalty spot during their final English Premier League soccer match at Arsenal’s Highbury Stadium against Wigan Athletic, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Czech Pavel Nedved fired Fabio Capello’s side ahead in the 31st minute but before Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic made it 2-0 six minutes into the second half. Palermo fought back with a superb shot from Denis Godeas in the 62nd minute and Juventus were forced to hang on against some intense pressure in the final half hour. — MNA/Reuters**

**China’s Zhang Ning (L2) holds up the trophy atop a victory podium at the 2006 Uber Cup badminton tournament in Tokyo, on 6 May, 2006. Title-holding China took the Uber Cup for the fifth time in a row here on Saturday with a 3-0 convincing victory over the Netherlands.—INTERNET**

**Real Madrid’s Zinedine Zidane of France (L) fights for the ball with Villarreal’s Juan Roman Riquelme during their Spanish first division soccer match at Real Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Juventus’ Kis Kim Chiisters raises her trophy after winning against Russia’s Svetlana Katzenetsova 7-5, 6-2 in the WTA J&S Cup in Warsaw, Poland, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Belgium’s Kim Chiisters raises her trophy after winning against Russia’s Svetlana Katzenetsova 7-5, 6-2 in the WTA J&S Cup in Warsaw, Poland, on 7 May, 2006.—INTERNET**

**MADRID, 8 May — A dramatic late equalizer from Julio Baptista moved Real Madrid up to second place in the Primera Liga on Sunday after they came from behind to draw 3-3 with Villarreal in the Bernabeu. The two goals from Baptista either side of a header from Zinedine Zidane on his last home appearance in a Real shirt secured a point after Diego Forlan had threatened to upset the Frenchman with two goals to put Villarreal in front. Real have 70 points with one game left to play, 12 short of champions Barcelona, who beat city rivals Espanyol 2-0 in the Nou Camp on Saturday. Valencia are third with 69 after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Atletico Madrid. Fourth-placed Osasuna failed to make sure of playing in the Champions League for the first time next season when they let slip a one-goal lead to lose 2-1 at Racing Santander. At the other end of the table Cadiz were relegated back to the Second Division after only one season in the Primera Liga when they fell 3-1 away to Getafe. Alaves, in 18th place with 36 points, must beat Deportivo Coruna at home in their last game to have any chance of catching King’s Cup winners Espanyol, in 17th with 38, and avoid joining relegated Cadiz and Malaga. Real took the lead after 23 minutes when Raul headed Robinho’s cross into the path of Baptista who let fly with a scorching volley. The visitors were soon back in contention when Juan Roman Riquelme’s corner was nudged into his own goal by Real defender Alvaro Mejia in the 31st minute. Forlan burst down the right eight minutes later and fired across Iker Casillas into the far corner to put the visitors in front.**

**London, 8 May — Thierry Henry scored an emotional hat-trick as Arsenal said farewell to Highbury with a 4-2 win over Wigan Athletic to earn a place in the Champions League qualifying round on a dramatic last day of the Premier League on Sunday. The win enabled the Champions League finalists to finish fourth and heralded an all-night party at the ground they are leaving after 93 years. The victory lifted them above north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who lost 2-1 at West Ham United after a food poisoning episode in the Spurs camp. Manchester United made sure of second place and automatic entry to the Champions League with a 4-0 home thrashing of Charlton Athletic, leaving them a point clear of Liverpool, whose 3-1 victory at Portsmouth was in vain. Champions Chelsea signed off with a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle United. With the title, UEFA Cup and relegation places already decided, the day began with only two issues at stake — the battles for second and fourth place. Arsenal made the first move in the eighth minute with a close-range Robert Pires effort. Wigan equalized two minutes later through Paul Scharner and took a 33-minute lead with a bizarre goal when David Thompson caught out goalkeeper Jens Lehmann with a 35-metre near-post free kick.**

**MADRID, 8 May — Wayne Rooney’s broken toe has exposed the paucity of striking talent available to England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson as he makes his final ponderings before naming a 27-man provisional World Cup squad on Monday. The Swede is likely to name Rooney in the squad and, depending on the state of the injury, will probably take him to Germany hoping the Manchester United man might be fit to make an impact in the knockout stages. Michael Owen, a proven tournament operator but also fighting to fully recover from a broken toe, will remain first choice for the starting team while Peter Crouch is also a certainty for the squad and could find himself in the 11. Eriksson may have taken five strikers anyway but will certainly need to if he plans to carry Rooney through the early stages. That means Jermain Defoe can expect the nod, despite struggling to make the Tottenham Hotspur first team. Charlton Athletic’s free-scoring Darren Bent should also get the chance to take his yards, but unimpressed talents to the finals. Owen apart, none of those names are likely to strike fear into the cream of the world’s defenders and the fact that the likes of James Beattie, Emile Heskey and even Robbie Fowler have also been mentioned as possible inclusions shows just how little Eriksson has to choose from.**
Blair, Merkel top-paid leaders in Europe

BERLIN, 8 May — British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are Europe’s best paid leaders, each earning more than 260,000 euro (329,800 US dollars) a year, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by management consultancy Hay Group and published in German magazine *Wirtschaftswoche* on Saturday, put Blair’s annual salary at 268,500 euro, just ahead of Merkel at 261,500.

Slovakian Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, with a yearly salary of 39,100 euro, was the lowest paid leader in the 13 countries surveyed.

Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marciniwicz was just ahead of Dzurinda at 53,400 euro.

US President George W Bush earns an annual salary of 400,000 dollars.

Despite being the best paid leader in Europe, Blair earns only 5 per cent to 10 per cent what the top executive in a British blue-chip company makes, the study said.

Merkel, meanwhile, earns 10 per cent to 15 per cent of what a top German manager makes.—MNA/Reuters

Blair, Merkel top-paid leaders in Europe

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Democrats will launch a series of investigations of the Bush Administration if they take control of Congress in November but are not out to impeach President George W Bush, a top Democrat said on Sunday.

House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said Democrats would hold hearings on the use of intelligence in the lead-up to the Iraq war and investigate the high price of energy and prescription drugs if they win the extra 15 seats they need for a House majority in the mid-term elections.

But Pelosi denied Republican claims that her party would move quickly to impeach Bush.

“I said we’d be having hearings on the war, we’d have hearings. But I don’t see us going to a place of impeachment,” Pelosi said in an interview on NBC’s Meet the Press. “Investigation does not equate to impeachment. Investigation is the requirement of Congress. It is all about checks and balances.”

In Congress, the majority party controls the chairmanship and agenda of all committees, where most laws are drafted and investigative and subpoena power is held.

With Bush’s public approval rating at an all-time low and Republicans fearing they could lose control of both houses of Congress in November, Democrats are laying out plans for an aggressive start to the new Congress.

Michigan Representative John Conyers, the senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, has called for the creation of a committee to recommend grounds for possible impeachment of Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney.—MNA/Reuters

One of the new thirty three new recruits of the Vatican’s elite Swiss Guard gestures during a swearing in ceremony at Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican on 6 May, 2006. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 8 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State, scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay Division, isolated in Kayah and Mon States, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant days temperatures were NyaungU, Minbu and Aunglan (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Hsipaw (1.77) inches, Meiktila (1.41) inches and Nay Pyi Taw City (0.91) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-5-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 8-5-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 8-5-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 7-5-2006 was (9.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 8-5-2006 were Tr at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (5.87) inches at Mingaladon, (6.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from South-west at (15:30 hours) MST on 7-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 9-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers are likely scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Namtu mine, meets service personnel, attends collective growing of physic nut plants

NAV PYI TAW, 8 May
— Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence who was in Mongton, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North) together with Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials went to Mongton to observe development and trading there on 6th May. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to No-1 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines after the inspection of thriving seasonal crops, roads and bridges along Mongton-Namtu road.

At Kyarsakan Mining Yeiktha, Deputy General Manager U Tin Aung presented reports to...

(See page 8)

SNLD has connections with armed insurgents
Is causing regional instability, and bad blood among the nationalities with selfishness

Weather and Water Level Forecast for 2nd week of May, 2006

Bay Inference:
The southwest monsoon may advance to southern part of Myanmar during the second week of May. Weather will be partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Weather Forecast:
Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated about 5 to 7 days in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhnine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, and about 3 days in the remaining states and divisions.

Water Level Forecast:
The water levels of Ayeyawady River are forecast to rise above the present water level by 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo, and Katha, 60 cm (about 2 feet) at Mandalay and Sagaing and 30 cm (about 1 foot) at NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay and Hinthada.

The water levels of Chindwin River are forecast to rise above the present water level by 90 cm (about 3 feet) at Hkamti and Homalin and 30 cm (about 1 foot) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monya.

YANGON, 8 May — Chairman of Hsipaw Township Shan Nationalities League for Democracy of Shan State (North) U Sai Ngoh Kun, Secretary 2 Daw Nang La Pyi, organizer Daw Nang Hkm Li, executive U Shwe Toe, executive Daw Nang Nyunt Nyunt, and members U Thein Tun, Daw Hla Nu, U Sai Ba Zai, U Hsam Sai, and U Ba Thein altogether 10 resigned from SNLD of their own volition yesterday after collectively submitting their signed letters to the party headquarters and the respective local authorities.

In the signed letters, they said that they joined the SNLD after 1988. They formed and took part in the township SNLD with the aim of helping serve the locals’ interest and regional development. But the SNLD Headquarters’ activities have connections with insurgents, and are aimed at causing regional instability and bad blood among the nationalities.

They have witnessed that the SNLD Headquarters is trying to forcefully install narrow racism into national races and break up national unity.

There is weakness in regional development as the SNLD does not encourage youths to attend classes. They were disappointed with the party head office as it is leading the wrong way against the National Convention and the seven-step Road Map.

They quit the SNLD headquarters, Hsipaw Township SNLD and the party functions of their own volition to join hands with the locals for regional development while earning a sincere living. They support the National Convention and the government’s efforts to implement the seven-step Road Map.

The Hsipaw Township SNLD was formed with 10 executives. All the 10 including chairman U Sai Ngoh Kun have quit the party.

MNA