Government not in favour of war that it is taking security measures

As KNU has been time and again jeopardizing and harming the lives and property of the people, the Government has to take security measures

KNU drove out the people to prevent them from contacting Tatmadaw and to displace them

Large number of rural people lose lives and limbs due to booby traps of KNU

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan makes clarification during the study tour of journalists in Bago Division. — MNA

YANGON, 14 May — The following is the full text of the clarifications made by Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on the study tour of journalists at Thabyenyunt village in Thandaung Township, Southern Command area of Bago Division on 13 May:

Today’s study tour is for you journalists to witness measures taken for ensuring security and the rule of law and all-round developments in Southern Command area of Bago Division as well as troubles of local people caused by racism, power struggle and bullies among KNU insurgents and terrorist acts such as massacres, setting of fire and planting of mines by KNU.

The present commander of KNU brigade-2 which is now moving about in some far flung areas of Southern Command is Ah Si, son of KNU vice-chairman Tamalar Baw. Previously, the KNU brigade-2 commander was Baw Ni who died of malaria in February 1992. After his death, KNU brigade-2 followers wished Baw Ni’s elder son KNU brigade-2 battalion-6 commanding officer Steel Bar to become the brigade-2 commander. Likewise, Gayba / Bwe Kayin nationals residing in the area wished Steel Bar to become brigade-2 commander as he is also a native.

However, in view of strengthening and expanding his power, KNU vice-chairman Tamalar Baw appointed his son Ah Si as brigade-2 commander. Moreover, Ah Si, out of racism, always favoured Paku Kayin nationals. Thus, local Gayba / Bwe Kayin nationals were not satisfied with it. Since then, power struggles, forming cliques, tortures, bullying, finding faults and killings took place within the brigade-2.

(See page 8)
Towards ICT development in Myanmar

Now is the time when the world is experiencing the rapid advancement of Information Technology. Hence, services of IT have hit highest level. To keep pace with the advancement of IT, Myanmar is making relentless efforts in all aspects.

For the development of IT in Myanmar, it is required to impart knowledge on IT to the people. The workshops on IT have been held constantly in the nation for the youths to be able to apply IT effectively in the practical field.

At present, coverage of information from one country to another or from one region to another has undergone a great change. The growth of digital technology and its impact on multimedia and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have led to changes in our daily life.

As the use, application and integration of ICT is imperative, the government in cooperation with computer scientists, computer industrialists and foreign experts is taking every possible step for the nation to keep abreast of global nations.

A group of technicians was formed to introduce the system of Myanmar character in computer and thanks to the efforts of these persons, the Myanmar character system using Unicode system has emerged and Myanmar consonants, vowels, numbers and special symbols can be used in digital form on various computer systems.

The ICT is being used in the education sector for development of human resources capable of serving the national interest most. Accordingly, multimedia classrooms, e-Education canals can be used in digital form on various computer systems.

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At a time when the world is seeing the rapid advancement of ICT in all sectors, it is incumbent upon the e-National Task Force, expeditious development of ICT in all sectors, Myothit. City" has been laid down in Yadanabon Silicon Valley plan that can be termed "Cyber education high schools.

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Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Jakarta, 13 May — Visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said here on Friday that the threat of possible US military attacks for alleged nuclear weapon development would not terrify his country. The President responded to a question from an audience during a visit at the headquarters of Indonesia’s largest Muslim Group Nahdatul Ulama.

“They launch propaganda with glum looks on their faces and noisy voice to terrify our country. But I can tell you that Iran is not afraid,” he said, adding that if the United States and its allies materialized their military campaign, the Iranian people reserve the right to defend their homeland.

Ahmadinejad arrived in Indonesia on Wednesday for a state visit and to attend the summit of eight Muslim countries on Bali Island this weekend.

The eight countries grouping in the D-8 include Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. — MNA/Xinhua

2,400-year-old salt filter unearthed in north China

Shijiazhuang, 13 May — Archaeologists have discovered a 2,400-year-old filter that was used to extract salt from seawater in North China.

Ancient Chinese in coastal areas used to extract salt from seawater by using a filter that would be placed under a caldron containing seawater blended with plant ash, said Wang Langfeng, director of the office for protection of cultural relics in Haixing County, Cangzhou City of Hebei Province.

The filter is believed to be from the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC–476 BC) and was in good condition when it was found in Haixing County, Wang said. The helmet-shaped filter is 22 centimetre tall with the inside diameter of 13.7 centimetre and the outside diameter of 19.5 centimetre. Winding gullies were found inside the filter.

Along with the filter, a drain, fragments of pottery, metal ware, plant ash and a brine well were unearthed. — MNA/Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts Indonesia, no casualties

Jakarta, 13 May — An earthquake measuring 5.9 rocked the southern tip of Indonesia’s Sumatra Island on Friday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the Bureau of Meteorology and Geophysics said.

Residents in the capital, Jakarta, also felt the quake, whose epicentre lay in the Sunda Straits about 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Bandar Lampung City. The straits separate Sumatra and the main Java Island, and Bandar Lampung City lies 175 kilometres (110 miles) west of Jakarta. — MNA/Reuters

The Secretary General Message on the International Day of Families

Yangon, 15 May — The following is the message sent by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of International Day of Families, which falls on today.

The theme for this year’s International Day for Families, “Changing Families: Challenges and Opportunities”, highlights the profound transformations which this vacillant unit of society has been undergoing in recent years. The average family size has decreased all over the world; young people are getting married at later age; the average age of mothers at first birth has increased; infant mortality rates have declined; and couples are having fewer children.

The traditional, extended family is being replaced by the nuclear family, even as grandparents are disappearing and several family generations are living side by side. Alternative forms of family union have grown more common, such as unmarried cohabitation, or marriages of migrant workers not living in the same city or country as their spouses. Divorce has increased, accompanied by remarriage, with more and more children living in a family with a step-parent. Significant numbers of both single-parent families and single-person households have emerged, including a rising number of older persons living alone. And the HIV/AIDS pandemic is wreaking havoc on families, often depriving children of their parents, leaving grandparents to care for children.

Many of these transformations call into question the structure of society as we know it. They require us to work together to adapt, to shape public policy in a way that addresses the needs of families, to ensure that basic services such as education and health are provided to all citizens—especially children—irrespective of their family situation.

Some of the changes in family structure have also brought new opportunities, such as new and wider options for girls and women. They have provided impetus for Governments to develop new policies in collaboration with civil society. And as countries work to integrate a family perspective into national policy-making, the United Nations is striving to reflect this perspective in the global intergovernmental process.

During this time of ongoing change, we need to build an environment that sustains and supports families, while reinforcing the opportunities for fulfilment that a positive family life provides. On this International Day, let us recommit ourselves to that mission.—UNICEF

Mothers protest Iraq war at White House

Washington, 14 May — A group of mothers led by prominent war opponent Cindy Sheehan, who lost her soldier son in Iraq, started a 24-hour vigil outside the White House to protest the war in Iraq.

“Four years after the invasion, there are 400,000 troops in Iraq, and it is time to come home. We want our troops out of Iraq now,” an official of the women’s movement, which calls itself CodePink, said.

“Today, May 14, 2006, this war will not end. We are putting the White House on notice that if the war in Iraq doesn’t come to an end, we’ll be outside the White House all day and all night demanding that our children come home from Iraq and not be sent to another military attack against Iran. “I don’t want any more moms to grieve for a child lost in this unjust, unnecessary war in Iraq,” said Sheehan, who has become a leading war protesters since her 24-year-old son was killed in Iraq.

“This Mother’s Day we’ll be outside the White House all day and all night demanding that our children come home from Iraq and not be sent to another reckless war in Iran,” she said in a statement. Women prepared to spend the night outside the White House before dispersing at the same time Sunday.

Sarandon was to attend from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Sunday, when “organizers plan a dramatic action,” according to the anti-war group Code Pink.

Events include a concert, film screenings, workshops on legislative strategies, writing letters to First Lady Laura Bush, a pink pajama party, an interfaith service on Sunday morning, and a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to deliver roses to mothers and wives of injured soldiers, the group said.—INTERNET

Four Nile cruise ships catch fire

Cairo, 13 May — Four vacant cruise ships anchoring next to one another caught fire on Friday in a pier in Egypt’s famed tourist city of Luxor, some 680 kilometres south of Cairo, the official MENA news agency reported.

Police and firefighters rushed to the wharf and stamped out the fire, the report added, saying that no tourist was on board of any of the four ships when the fire broke out.

The accident was under investigation, it said. Travelling on cruise ships for several days and nights up and down the Nile, the world’s longest river, is popular with foreign tourists, who go to the Upper Egypt largely to get a glimpse of Egypt’s ancient civilization. — MNA/Xinhua

Anti-war protesters form the words “Mom says no war” on the Ellipse near the White House (background) in Washington, as part of the CodePink Women for Peace 24-hour Mother’s Day peace vigil. — INTERNET

Keiko the killer whale swims in the Skaadrik Fjord, some 400 km (250 miles) northwest of the Norwegian capital Oslo, in this file photo. Governments in rich nations sometimes write virtual blank cheques to protect exotic animals — even as thousands of less glamorous creatures and plants slide silently into oblivion. In one of the most costly examples, animal lovers paid $20 million to retrain Keiko, star of the “Free Willy” movies, for life in the wild. Keiko died of pneumonia in a Norwegian fjord in 2003, 18 months after he was freed. — INTERNET
Questions and Answers

U Myat Khin (Great Journal and Good News Journal)

I would like to put some questions. Which arrangements does the government make for insurgents to return to the legal fold, and how do they make contacts with the government? I have learnt that the government has set up a model village in Thabyenyunt Village, but the model village has been destroyed twice. I would like to know how the government is making arrangements for protecting the village from such danger. There exploded a time bomb in Penwegen yesterday leaving a person dead. I would like to know whether it was correct or not. Lastly, some foreign broadcasting stations are making counter accusations that the bomb blasts are responsible for the government and the military intelligence. Make clarification to that point, please.

Saw Lay (battalion (5) of KNU brigade (2))

I returned to the legal fold in April last year. The reasons why I did so are that all the acts of KNU leaders are unjust. KNU leaders of same position are hostile to each other. And they always try to cheat one another. I am not satisfied with these points. They designate status such as Paku, Bwe and Gaybar. Major Ar Si of Brigade (2) is of Paku status. Subordinates of battalion (5) are of Bwe status. Supposing a cash assistance of 10,000 kyats for subordinates like us has been received by Major Ar Si, we receive about 2,000 kyats only. They are angry with each other regarding that problem. Such acts were completely intolerable and we decided to return to the legal fold. I wanted to lead a peaceful life and so I returned to Thabyenyunt Village. But, to my dismay, KNU members had already torched the houses of my village, and my house was also destroyed. They also killed a friend of mine. The torching of villages is totally unacceptable to me. Some friends of mine were among those who were killed by KNU. I had to return to the legal fold. Military columns do security work and military operations in respective regions. Those insurgents who want to return to the legal fold can contact these military camps or columns. Residents of respective villages have been informed that such insurgents can return to the legal fold by doing so. There have been so many insurgents who have returned to the legal fold in groups such as Major Saw Feri Moe and party.

Regarding No 2 question, the government is taking security measures systematically for the villages. Tatmadaw outposts have been stationed in every strategic site. So, the government has already taken necessary measures to protect all the villages including Thabyenyunt Village.

U Hein Latt (Popular Journal)

Have learnt that KNU insurgents attacked, robbed and torched Thabyenyunt Village and surrounding villages. Why did they do so? Is there anyone who experienced that?

U Myint Zaw (villager), Thabyenyunt Region

I have learnt that KNU insurgents attacked, robbed and torched Thabyenyunt Village and surrounding villages. Why did they do so? Is there anyone who experienced that?

U Myint Zaw (villager),

They abducted two of my friends. I am not sure as to whether they are still alive or not. Major Ar Si variously plotted schemes against battalion (6) commander Steel Bar. Major Ar Si also accused Jigi of having gone with a nurse. So, Jigi was punished. I did not know how the central body handled the action regarding that case. The commander of battalion (6) was planning to return to the legal fold. But, Major Ar Si noticed that and they sent Steel Bar to the central body. Major Ar Si killed five villagers of Hsindawpo Village. Indeed, the villagers were innocent.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan,

Regarding the first question, the Tatmadaw’s military camps have been stationed in various regions for many years to receive insurgents who hold, then they have to welcome such an insurgent. The government makes arrangements to provide necessary assistance for such insurgents. For instance, for those in Thabyenyunt Village, the government built low-cost houses, gave a yoke of oxen and a cart, and reclaimed lands. These arrangements are for individuals. The government has taken necessary measures for the insurgents who bombs were blasted, we managed to expose the majority of the culprits. And they committed these acts under arrangements of KNU. We and the KNU member we had arrested already explained at the previous press conference that KNU masterminded the bomb blast that took place in Toungoo. Similarly, respective culprits had already confessed to the bomb explosions in the places such as Penwegen and Pyuthay they committed under the cash offers and coercion of KNU. So, it is apparent that KNU and accomplices are committing such destructive acts.

U Aung Thu Myaing (Jiji Press News Agency)

How far is Thabyenyunt Village from Toungoo? Is Thabyenyunt Village located in Kayin State or in Bago Division? What is the village’s population? What are the populations of Kayins and Bamars there? And when was it established?

Bago Division PDC

The village is located in Thandaung Township, Kayin State, and is about 30 miles far from Toungoo. It is situated at the borders of three townships — Htantabin, Kyataikyi, and Thandaung. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan,

Thabyenyunt Village is made up of more than 300 houses with a population of over 2,000 people. Among them, some are Pa-O nationalities and some are Kayin nationalities. There are other national races in the village. Naturally, there is no village in Myanmar in which people of a single national race live. And every village and township is like a small Union. Similarly, Thabyenyunt Village is made up of Kayin and Pa-O national people and people of other national races.

U Hein Latt (Popular Journal)

I have learnt that KNU insurgents attacked, robbed and torched Thabyenyunt Village and surrounding villages. Why did they do so? Is there anyone who experienced that?

U Myint Zaw (villager), Thabyenyunt Region

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U Myint Zaw (villager),

I have learnt that KNU insurgents attacked, robbed and torched Thabyenyunt Village and surrounding villages. Why did they do so? Is there anyone who experienced that?
They want us to lack access to the KNU. I feel treated. And he added that they burnt down four villages. What was worst was that most people are afraid to destroy our village. So, our village was set to fire and dead? Four villages were destroyed by the KNU insurgents. Our village has been beset with different kinds of difficulties and in addition, there are a lot of disabled persons suffering from landmines planted by the KNU insurgents in our village. And last year a KNU insurgent group came to our village and extorted money from the villagers. At that time, we have no easy access to our living thanks to the Tatmadawmen discharging their duties in our village. As far as I know, the KNU insurgents have been sending their hard-core family members to the neighbouring country. He added four villagers were shot dead in Bonmatee village on 3 March 2005. We villagers provide assistance to the KNU. It is true that Thabyenutyu village was set on fire. There was no food problem in the country because of the anti-government organizations make accusations that there is food problem. I would like to explain all the facts as it is. You journalists arrive at Thabyenutyu Village through villages in Toungoo and Swa. As a saying “Seeing is Believing” goes, there are plenty of summer paddy fields along the road. There are no people to identify citizens in the country due to lack of food. There is no human death in the country because of starvation. There is no demand for food assistance from the UN and other nations. It is obvious that there is no food problem in our country. As far as I know, in some countries almost all family members have to work. In our country the head of the household or he and his son need to work for living. On the way to Thabyenutyu, we went past villages and we saw a herd of cattle, fish, coconuts, bananas, fowls and paddy. It is obvious that they are making false accusations. I invite those who speak ill of others from abroad to come to the country.

**Two mines explode, two men wounded in Mong of Kyauktaw Township**

**Yangon, 14 May — In league with terrorists, insurgents are disturbing peace and stability of the State, committing human rights violations in violation of the laws and order, and inflicting death and injury to innocent people by using various ways and means.**

A man was killed in a mine explosion on the lane, two miles east of Mone from 7:30 am on 10 May. U Than Lwin, aged 45, of Ward 4, Mong, Kyauktaw Township, Bago Division, who left his home for picking out vegetables, stepped on a mine. The explosion blew off his left foot into pieces. At 7:30 am on 13 May, a similar explosion occurred in Kalyang Village of Kyauktaw Township. While picking out vegetables, U Kyaw Min Oo, aged 35, from Ward 4 of Mone stayed on a mine. Due to the explosion, his right ankle was cut off and left leg was injured.

Officials are providing medical treatment to U Than Lwin and U Kyaw Min Oo. Security officials and locals are in hot pursuit of the terrorists. — MNA
Like those of Mone region, others from rural areas where KNU insurgents are active subject to atrocities

Government cleared up the areas for security purpose and protecting lives and property of the people

YANGON, 14 May — Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Maung Khin of Mone Station Hospital clarified sabotage acts of KNU to harm the lives of the people by planting land mines in busy places and disable the people, and medical treatments being provided by the Government, to local and foreign journalists on their arrival at Mone region of Kyaukkyi Township in Bago Division.

The local people individually recounted their troubles caused by atrocities and terrorist acts such as massacres, killing, threatening, torturing, destruction of oxen and carts, and planting of mines by KNUs, and difficulties to carry out their works in the fields. They replied to the questions of the journalists. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave a supplementary clarification.

The following is the clarification, replies and answers and supplementary clarification.

Dr Maung Maung Khin (Medical Superintendent of Mone Station Hospital): I have been discharging duties at Mone Station Hospital for 11 months only from June 2005 to date. During the period of my term, common complaints at the hospital were patients of malaria, maternity, snake bite and explosions of land mine. In compiling the data on patients of mine explosions for three years, there were 16 patients in 2004, 14 in 2005 and 18 in 2006 from January to date. Hence, the patient numbers this year is at the highest level. In 2005, one patient lost life due to mine explosion. At present, a total of 15 patients are being treated at the hospital. Of them, nine were patients of mine explosions. One of them was warded at the hospital at 9.15 am today. He was resuscitated before the surgical operation. In studying the mine blasts in Mone region from 1980 to 2006, there was no person who lost leg in mine blasts, and there were no person who lost big toe, thumb and hand hit in the explosions. In collecting data of those who lost one leg and both legs in 26 years up to 2006, a total of 81 disabled persons are residing in the villages.

With the assistance of International Red Cross Societies, they were provided with artificial limbs. So far, the International Red Cross Societies had provided artificial limbs for 52 patients in addition to two patients with wheel-chairs. The remaining three patients do not fit the artificial limbs of their own accord. Other patients should not be fitted with artificial limbs because of their present condition. Though the patients in 2006 are ready to be fitted with artificial limbs, they cannot.

U Myat Kyaw (Mwaydaw Village): I have been residing in Mwaydaw Village about four years. In 2005-06, all the people in eastern part of Mone region, Mwaydaw region and hill region were in trouble. In January and February this year, we could not sleep at home, but had to hide at the hilly region.

We cannot leave the region for various reasons. In 2005-06, people lost their lives in mine blasts and acts of insurgents. I did not know where they discriminate as Myanmar Buddhists or not. We felt sadness that the terrorists arrested Buddhist monks to carry bucket of alcohol and beat them. It was a sacrilege. They took cattle. And, we were subject to their atrocities.

Dr U Tun Naing (Mone): I live in Ward 4 of Mone. Local people suffered the evil consequences of mine blasts and battles every year. I myself was arrested by KNU on 19 January 2006 while going fishing, southeast of Mone region. On 16 February, we were released. They made us work there. They supplied us food with salt and chillies. We experienced the worst...
Like those of Mone region, others from rural areas...

(From page 6)

Later, they asked some questions and said to keep going and they threatened that they would kill if we did not listen to them. Then, I drove away after taking advice from the young men of the front carts. At last, we left carts and ran away from KNU insurgents. Later, when we returned to our carts, we met a Kayin lady on the way and she said that all carts were chopped off and set on fire and the other one came out pulling a cow. When we got to our carts, we put out fire with the water from water canteens. Next, though we tried to look for our carts, we found nothing and returned to Kawtpyin village. Totalling 16 cows were carried and that was all I would like to say.

U Wai Phyo of Weekly Eleven News Journal: I have learned that many people in Mone region were hit by land mines. Were all the mines planted by KNU insurgents or not?

U Khin Thein (Chairman, Mone village-tract): As far as I know, in the region, there were no mines planted by the Tatmadaw and they were planted by only KNU insurgents.

U Wa Nu: How did you know exactly that the mines were planted by KNU?

U Wai Phyo: The Tatmadaw and they were planted by only KNU.

U Khin Thein: Because we found bamboo mines, bottle mines and fragments of glasses in the bottle shop and that proves the acts of KNU.

U Myat Soe (Myo Myanmar Journal): In the region there are more and more cases of bomb explosions and local people are facing the danger of bomb explosions. So, we would like to know how the local people are living in fear? Is there anyone from the region who can explain to us?

U Ohn Kyauing of Mone village-tract: I’ll explain how atrocities of KNU affect socioeconomic life of local people. A boy of Ward-4 in Mone is now undergoing treatment at Mone Station Hospital after he had been hit by a mine as he was out of the village in search of some greens. Although some local people are well off, some have to live from hand to mouth. So, you all, journalists, can know the present situation in which the local people have to live in fear of KNU insurgents. It was the spine-chilling incident that happened within only one mile far from the village. What’s more, they (KNU insurgents) threw a hand grenade into the compound of Malar Myaing Monastery in Mone village-tract on the night of 19-3-2006 after a novitiation ceremony had been held. It also coincided with the time when the matriculatin examination was taking place in the village BEHS. Moreover, those insurgents are in the habit of grabbing the cattle of local people while collecting firewood and greens in the jungle. Sometimes, the people had to leave their cattle behind in order to run for their lives. KNU’s land mines are indeed a threat to the local people. Now the people dare not go into the jungle for fear of land mines although the rainy season is setting in. Besides, according to nature of their work, they will have to get out of the village for their farm work. But they dare not.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Information: To be honest, I believe you all have realized the real situation because the village people have explained how they had to suffer because of KNU’s atrocities. Like those of this Mone region, others from rural areas where KNU insurgents are active are now suffering a lot. We took the journalists to Mone region to let them know the actual facts as there is easier transport. Rural people in nearby areas in Bago and Toungoo regions as well as those in Phuphan and Thandaung witness these experiences like the ones in Mone region. The government protects those people as much as it can. We Tatmadaw members have no position to protect them as the region is very wide and there are mountain and forest barriers. The Tatmadaw launched offensive in order to protect the rural people in those regions beginning January 2006. The government combated the areas for security purpose and protected lives and property of the people. It is true that people in the adjacent areas are suffering atrocities of KNU.

U Myint Zaw of Thabyen-nyunt village replies to the queries raised by journalists.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan comforts a mine victim who is undergoing treatment at Mone Station Hospital. —MNA

To the refugees.—

Although the US is shouting at the top of its voice that a certain nation does not practise democracy and has no human rights, it is obvious that the US itself is discriminating the refugees. —MNA

Questions and Answers

(From page 5)

We have food in plenty. If they have sincere goodwill, they can come and provide assistance on education, health, transport and social affairs as the country needs progress. They say in words only. But they never provide any assistance to the country. They interfere in our internal affairs. According to the report of the NLD, the issue may be discussed at the conference. You journalists can think that whether the special statement or announcement of the NLD which reports there is food problem or difficulty in the country is true or not.

Dr Zaw Than (Sankei Shimbun): I heard that foreign news agencies broadcast that thousands of Kayin nationals had fled to the refugee camps in border areas due to the Tatmadaw’s offensive. The government would allow the refugees to enter its country by waiving its immigration law. What is the attitude of the government regarding this?

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan: The KNU started committing destructive acts and detonating bombs in Bago and Toungoo regions as well as along the railway section between Bago and Toungoo in the beginning of 2006. As the time coincided with that of which peace is being discussed with the KNU, we informed personnel of KNU that such events ought not to happen at a time when peace is being negotiated. However, the KNU intensified a series of atrocities and inhuman acts. They planted mines with powerful explosives on the railways. If the security members are unable to expose those bombs, a number of people will suffer death and casualties as a consequence. To protect lives and property of the people, the government had to take security measures in Bago and Toungoo areas, along the railways and adjacent areas. The security personnel combated the areas where KNU could take refuge. In this connection, the KNU and its cohorts in collusion with some western broadcasting stations manufactured rumours to the effect that a large number of villagers in the region had to flee their houses and property due to the attacks of the Tatmadaw and reached refugee camps in the border, where they were in trouble and poverty. And pressure should be put on the government. In the course of history, the refugee camp was used by the KNU as a tactic. For the time being also, when the government had to unavoidably protect lives and property of the people like that, the KNU applied the tactic to the effect that the Tatmadaw drove out of the villagers from the region to the border and the latter reached the refugee camps. In the past, there were KNU camps along the border. As all the KNU camps were under the Tatmadaw’s control, KNU had to hide in the refugee camps in the border. Such being so, the legal loophole of US immigration law does not cover the refugees of other nations but those under the name of refugees to their nation. Those under the name of refugees are just only KNU and their families and relatives. If the US do so, the ones who are taken to the US will be just the KNU and their families and relatives. In the past, there was an event. That event was the Bay of Pigs Invasion. The present President of Cuba Fidel Castro and members of revolutionary forces were able to throw the Cuban government led by Batista in 1959. That made Batista and his some followers to flee Cuba. Those Cuban expatriates were mobilized and given accommodation and foods by the US. And they were also given military training and armed. In 1961, they were ordered to attack Cuba through the Bay of Pigs. But, the armed forces of Fidel Castro were able to drive them out of the country. Now, the legal loophole of US immigration law does not cover the refugees of other nations but those under the name of refugees to their nation. Hence, the present acts of the US have turned out to be those to be considered seriously. Although the US is shouting at the top of its voice that
Government is not in favour of war that it is taking…

(from page 1)

For revealing the misdeeds of Ah Si and ignorance of KNU (central), the late brigade-2 commander Baw Ni’s wife Daw Naw Hilda lodged a complaint at the KNU (central). Then, the KNU (central) could no longer remain indifferent and recalled Ah Si to the central in January 2005 temporarily to settle the case. In the absence of Ah Si, KNU brigade-2 battalion-6 commanding officer Steel Bar rescued his younger brother Jiji from detention. When Ah Si returned from the central, he tried to take action against Steel Bar. Then, Steel Bar and Jiji made arrangements to return to the legal fold on one hand and to fight back Ah Si on the other. However, Ah Si knew the plot and pursued to kill Steel Bar and Jiji who fled to KNU (central) was afraid of Ah Si’s fury. Thus, many KNU members got divided and demoralised and they attempted to surrender and escape. To prevent followers from returning to legal fold, Ah Si sent families of KNU members to the border and kept them as refugees. In this way, he tried to take political advantage and obtain foreign aids and funds.

Now, Steel Bar and Jiji could no longer stay with KNU brigade-2 and they are taking refuge at other KNU units, it is learnt. Relying on arms and his father, Ah Si bullied others. Thus, he was not given administrative and military duties. He was given only military duty and it-col Saw Naw was given administrative duty. However, Saw Naw was just nominal and Ah Si manipulated the affairs. Hence, Saw Naw left for KNU (central) since April this year on the ground of receiving medical treatment.

Hence, there were many insurgents from KNU brigade-2 who surrendered and some were absent without leave and fled. Some KNU members dare not surrender or flee as their families are kept at refugee camp as hostages. Likewise, the national people of those villages fled to safe urban areas and villages along the railroad and motor road where their relatives reside.

This Thabyay Nyunt village was set up for those KNU members who have returned to the legal fold and the Kayin nationals who have fled. The village is facilitated well in accordance with it was where the former KNU members who surrendered or deserted reside, where the Kayin villagers who defied and fled reside. The damages and scars inflicted by the KNU atrocities on this village.

Dean of Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Madame Phoebe A. Gomez and journalists seen during the study tour of journalists in Bago Division.—MNA

Mr Dirk Augustin of German Embassy, assistant resident representative of UNHCR Mr Si Canka Dhanapapa, Mr Jean Benoit Manhez of UNICEF and attendance seen during the study tour of journalists in Bago Division.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan replies to the questions raised by local and foreign journalists. —MNA

Saw Lay Htoo (KNU brigade-2) who enters into the legal fold. —MNA
Government not in favour of war that it is taking...

(from page 8)

people from surrounding villages who had time and again suffered KNU atrocities such as planting of mines, massacres, setting of fire, etc. You journalists can interview them.

Ah Si is opposed to peace talk and negotiation between the Government and KNU. He is always in favour of war and he has been collecting extortion money, bullying the people, misappropriating funds and seeking his own interest by taking advantage of the regional instability. As Ah Si does not wish peace he is in favour of war, he committed terrorist acts in succession in Bago, Nyuanglebin, Toungoo and surrounding areas to harm the stability. Some of his terrorist acts were the explosion in the Penwegon market on 2-11-2005; the explosion in front of No 1 State High School in Bogo on 3-1-2006; the blowing up of power grid-254 on 12-1-2006; the explosion on the north of Toungoo station on 15-1-2006; the bomb explosion in Pyu market on 30-1-2006; the planting of mines to blow up railroad between Ka-nyut-kwin and Taw-kywe-inn stations on 7-3-2006; the planting of mines along Bago-Toungoo railroad and in the surrounding areas of East Yoma mountain range in order to harm the residential people and making those villagers who did not obey their forcible displacement to be unable to earn livelihood peacefully.

Hence, a large number of local people have lost their lives or become amputees by stepping on mines planted by KNU. The local people had to suffer great troubles in earning livelihood. Arrangements have been made for you journalists to interview those in Mone town whose relatives lost lives by KNU mines, those who were severely wounded by KNU mines, those whose cattle, carts and farm implements were robbed by KNU, those who were forced by KNU to work in farms and those who fled from their natives.

In fact, the Government is not in favour of war that it is taking security measures. As KNU has been launching sabotage acts for harming the lives and property of the people, destabilizing the political situations and for destroying peace negotiation with KNU. In addition, he launched sabotage acts such as planting of mines along Bago-Toungoo railroad and in the surrounding areas of East Yoma mountain range in order to harm the residential people and making those villagers who did not obey their forcible displacement to be unable to earn livelihood peacefully.

As mentioned above, Ah Si has been launching sabotage acts for harming the lives and property of the people, destabilizing the political situations and for destroying peace negotiation with KNU. In addition, he launched sabotage acts such as planting of mines along Bago-Toungoo railroad and in the surrounding areas of East Yoma mountain range in order to harm the residential people and making those villagers who did not obey their forcible displacement to be unable to earn livelihood peacefully.

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In fact, the Government is not in favour of war that it is taking security measures. As KNU has been time and again jeopardizing and harming the lives and property of the people, the Government has to take security measures. The national people dare not live in their native villages due to power struggle, massacres, bullying and coercion of KNU. Actually, KNU drove out the people to prevent from contacting with the Tatmadaw and to displace them. To prevent its followers from surrendering or fleeing, KNU moved families of its members to the border forcefully. It is the KNU that plant mines to harm the local people in order to threaten them not to work or earn livelihood freely under the protection of the Tatmadaw. Large number of rural people lost lives and limbs due to booby traps of KNU.

Actually, it is only a plotted scheme by foreign masters and KNU insurgents in synchronization of underground attack and internal and external above-ground attack. By taking advantage of the Government’s efforts for secure peace, the KNU sent sabotage teams to inner regions. By planting mines on roads, motor roads and in urban areas again and again, they assumed that the Government had to take security measures. Then, they intended to instigate and preach the international community that the villages were displaced by the Tatmadaw offensive. And the villagers had to flee as refugees. By giving the limelight to the fabricated stories of refugees, they intended to make accusation that Myanmar, in the eyes of international community, has become a threat to the region and finally the UN Security Council would be prompted to take action against Myanmar.

Like a thief shouting “thief, thief!”, they are launching propaganda campaign to the effect that about 10,000 Kayin villagers fled and some 1800 reached the border. The Kayin Women Organization (KWO) formed by KNU and some NGOs which are minions of the colonialists are shouting at the top of their voice in collusion with BBC, VOA, RFA, DVB broadcasting stations. Consequently, the USA took a step by waiving its immigration law to receive the so-called Kayin refugees. Actually, the majority of the so-called refugees are KNU terrorists, their families, relatives and hardcores as well as those families of KNU members who were forced to become hostages.

The foreign masters trying to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs are ignoring the terrorist acts causing losses of lives and limbs of the people, massacres, planting of mines at railroads and motor roads, bomb blasts, etc. by KNU.

I have clarified points on power struggle within KNU brigade-2; driving out and displacement of residential people intentionally; and massacres, robberies and setting villages on fire, planting of mines by KNU. In conclusion, I would like to say that you journalists can ask questions and interview the residential people who had suffered the troubles.—MNA
Local and foreign journalists study development ...

and planting of mines by KNU. The second-day study tour consisted of a visit to Education High School and journals were in the local and foreign magazines and newspapers. Respondents of Myanmar of UNICEF, members of KNU Brigade-2 who returned to the legal fold replied to the questions.

Next, the group of excursion tour members visited and viewed progress of Thabyenyunt Village. Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to Mone of Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Division, in the afternoon.

At the hall in Mone, the second session of the briefing followed. It was attended by townsenders, members of social organizations and the local people who suffered from destructive acts caused by KNU.

Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Maung Khin comforted the mine victims. — MNA

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A atrocities committed by KNU in Southern Command area

1. An explosion occurred at Shop No 1-2 of Sibin Market in Pyidwathu Ward, Penegwon. At 6:30 pm on 2-11-2006. The culprit, Saw Tin Win (a) Saw Lay Wa, 36, of KNU Brigade-3 was arrested.

2. An explosion occurred at the left side of the gate of Bagu BEHS No 1 at about 7 pm on 3-1-2006. Another explosion occurred at about 8 pm near the pavement on Mawma סו� Pho Road in front of the house of the headmistress of BEHS No 1. A packet of gun powder together with a detonator was found in the conduit pipe of the pavement, about 20 feet from the scene of the second explosion.

3. The base of No 254 pylon was damaged as it was blasted by a planted bomb at about 4 am on 12-1-2006. A TEL truck carrying some workers, who repaired the pylon, on its way back was torched and destroyed by KNU insurgents on Leiktheho-Yado Road on 14-1-2006.

4. At about 4:30 am on 15-1-2006, a bomb exploded under the rail track, about 200 yards from the north of Taunggo Station causing a little damage to the rail track and a one-and-a-half square-foot hole. Conducting a thorough search also led to the finding of a mine under the rail track, about 300 yards to the south of the station.

5. Acting on information provided by the duty-conscious people on 30-1-2006, authorities seized a time bomb from a pile of dried fish at a grocery shop of Sibin Thaya Market in Pyu. The bomb exploded but caused no damage as it was moved to a safe place in time where bags of sand and rice were kept.

6. At about 2 am on 7-2-2006, authorities managed to defuse two mines planted on Yangon-Mandalay railway between mile post Nos (120/12) and (121/13). According to the investigation, it was found that the two mines contained seven and a half pounds of TNT. If the case could not be exposed in time, the rail track could be seriously damaged and railway carriages could derail and causing many deaths of passengers.

7. Clearing the surrounding area of the mines, authorities found a 3.5-inch grenade shell in a field, about 400 yards from the scene. It was KNU insurgents that attempted to blow up the rail track and launch the bomb to the passenger train.

8. A home-made bomb planted on an earth road leading to the site of Thayakhyat Hydro-electric power project was also exposed at 5:30 pm on 15-2-2006.

9. On the morning of 23-2-2006 acting on a tip-off, members of a security force managed to defuse in time a high-explosive land mine planted by KNU insurgents under the rail track near mile post No (176/28) on Yangon-Mandalay railway between Yedashe and Kyungon Station.

10. A bomb went off in front of Taunggo BEHS No 1 on the morning of 2-3-2006. Two hours later an explosion also occurred at a transformer near Panysoma women’s hostel in Ward-2, Taunggo. Authorities in cooperation with local people rushed to the scene and nabbed Saw Gay The Mu (a) Nay La, 27, an operative of KNU Brigade-5 and his accomplices together with explosive devices.

11. Acting on a tip-off from a local person, authorities exposed a mine planted 800 yards from the rail track between Yedashe and Kyungon Stations on 19-3-2006. The mine was kind of SOC used by KNU insurgents. It was speculated that the mine was left behind before going off after KNU members had fled the scene as they failed their attempt at an inopportune time.

12. A person lost his left ankle as he stepped on a land mine planted by KNU, five yards from Yangon-Mandalay Road between mile post Nos (193/9) and (194/9) in Khingyi Village, Penegwon, Kyaukda Village, at about 7 am on 2-4-2006. Conducting a thorough search led to the finding of a time bomb made with four pounds of TNT.

13. An explosion occurred at a transformer near a branch road leading to Penegwon-Kyaukkyi in Kyaukda Village at about 8 pm on 4-5-2006. (The above-mentioned cases have been exposed, and eight KNU members who were involved in the cases have been arrested in cooperation with the public.) — MNA
Chinese Vice-President meets Lee Kuan Yew

BEIJING, 13 May — Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong met here Friday with Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

Zeng reviewed the, for his long-term efforts and contribution to the improvement of bilateral friendship and cooperation. He also briefed Lee on the development of Hong Kong and the Chinese Government's basic policy on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Lee said Singapore was delighted with China's achievement in its economic and social development and the growing momentum that Hong Kong had shown in its development under the policy of "one country, two systems".

He also reiterated that Singapore would abide by the one-China policy and oppose "Taiwan independency". Lee arrived in Beijing on Wednesday morning on an eight-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Minutemen, protesters square off at US Capitol

WASHINGTON, 13 May — Illegal immigration protesters wrapped up a cross-country caravan on Friday with a rally in the shadow of the US Capitol, as immigrant-rights activists chanted for them to "go away".

Members of the Minuteman Project and other border-patrol groups warned the United States was in danger of being overrun by Mexicans if the Senate passes a bill that would give millions of illegal immigrants a chance to earn citizenship.

"They should be rounded up and deported, every single one of them," John Clark of the American Immigration Control Foundation said to a cheering crowd of about two dozen. "Leave them here and in 10 years this will not be the United States of America."

Fifty yards away a similar number of counter-protesters chanted "Minutemen go away, immigrants are here to stay" behind a line of police.

Millions of Latinas have taken to the streets in massive protests to demand greater civil rights in recent weeks. Minutemen founder Jim Gilchrist said such protests underlined the growing threat posed by the estimated 11.5 to 12 million illegal immigrants now in the country. "They are not assembling to protect their rights. They are assembling to strip us of our rights," Gilchrist said.

MNA/Reuters

Japan reports 16 people of suspected H5N2 infection

TOKYO, 13 May — Sixteen people in Ibaraki Prefecture, eastern Japan, may have been infected with the less virulent H5N2 strain of avian influenza, Kyodo News reported Thursday, citing test results.

The number of people having been suspected of H5N2 infections in Japan thus rose to 93. Several outbreaks of H5N2 strain occurred in poultry farms around the region last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Ethanol demand boosts corn prices

WASHINGTON, 14 May — As demand for ethanol zooms higher, Kansas corn farmer Ken McCauley expects higher prices for his crop.

"That's kind of the story across the country," said McCauley, who grows corn and soybeans in northeast Kansas. "There's a lot more buyers out there because of these ethanol plants and other ways to use the corn."

The amount of corn used to make ethanol should increase by 34 percent over last year's use to 2.15 billion bushels, the department said Friday in its monthly crop report.

Meanwhile, the nation's soon-to-be-harvested winter wheat crop is on track to be the smallest since 2002, analysts said. Farmers are expected to produce 1.1 billion bushels of winter wheat, down 12 percent from last year.

Drought in Texas, Oklahoma and throughout the central and southern Great Plains has dramatically reduced yields, which should average 42.2 bushels an acre, down two bushels from last year, the report said. Wheat prices should be $3.50 to $4.10 a bushel, up from $3.42 last year.

For corn, demand from ethanol plants as well as from foreign countries improved the price forecast to $2.25 to $2.65 a bushel, compared with last year's $1.95 to $2.05.

Demand has risen so sharply, the amount of corn in storage is expected to drop to half of last year's levels, the department said. — Internet
WHO confirms first human case of H5N1 in Djibouti

GENEVA, 13 May — The World Health Organization confirmed on Thursday a baby in Djibouti has infected with the H5N1 virus, the first human case of bird flu in the country.

The two-year-old girl was still alive, WHO spokesman Dick Thompson said, but he did not give any details about her health condition.

The Djibouti Government confirmed the case in capital Djibouti, saying three chickens had also been infected with the virus. But whether it was related to the human case was not clear for the time being.

“Djibouti thus becomes the first country in the Horn of Africa to have detected a human case and bird cases of H5N1,” the Djibouti Government said on the website of the official Djiboutian Information Agency.

The country’s Health Ministry said the government would further increase surveillance of the disease.

Hungary opposes radical reform of EU agriculture

BUDAPEST, 13 May — As a largely agricultural country with an export-oriented wheat market, Hungary cannot support any radical agricultural reforms in the European Union (EU), a Hungarian Government Minister said on Thursday.

Joszef Graf, Hungary’s Minister of Agriculture and Regional Development, told a two-day joint congress of the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council and the European trade association COCERAL in Budapest, that Hungary’s agricultural sector had been export-oriented over the past 15 years.

Hungary’s annual cereal output of around 12 million tons exceeds the need for domestic consumption, which is around 8 million tons per year, he noted.

For the past two years following its EU accession, Hungary has accumulated substantial stocks of surplus cereals, partly as the result of an exceptionally good harvest last year, he said, adding that the country’s contribution to the EU of its surplus wheat constitutes 50 per cent of the intervention stock of the 25-member bloc in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Hungary’s maize contribution alone accounted for 82 per cent of the EU intervention stock, which has swollen from 3 million tons in 2004 to 18 million tons at present, calling for reform of the grain market.

Key topics on the congress agenda also include agricultural negotiations at the World Trade Organization, impact of EU enlargement and sustainability goals, including expansion in biofuels trade.

Bolivia accuses foreign oil firms of operating illegally

VIENNA, 13 May — Bolivian President Evo Morales on Thursday accused foreign oil companies of having long evaded taxes and smuggled out Bolivian oil under “unconstitutional” contracts.

The President told a news conference after a three-day EU-Latin America summit in Vienna that Bolivia’s nationalization of the energy sector was aimed to reclaim its national resources. Morales warned that some companies may not be compensated after the energy nationalization.

“If they have recovered their investment then there is no reason to compensate them whatsoever,” he said.

Morales said foreign firms have been pillaging the resource-rich Bolivia for more than five centuries and “this has to end now”.

“What we are looking for... are partners, not bosses to exploit our natural resources,” he said.

Morales said more than 70 contracts with foreign companies are “unconstitutional” ones negotiated secretly. “Any new contract, bilateral or multilateral must be ratified by Congress,” he said.

Marienela Nunez as the Lilac Fairy performs during a dress rehearsal for the ballet “The Sleeping Beauty” at The Royal Opera House in London, on 12 May, 2006. The first public performance of the ballet will be on 15 May, 2006.—INTERNET
China to arrange overseas exams for certified accountants

HONG KONG, 13 May—China’s Ministry of Finance will arrange overseas examinations for certified accountants, said a Chinese official here on Friday.

Wang Jun, Deputy Finance Minister, said at the one-day international conference on China and Global Capital Markets that the move is to be taken to help implement the globalization strategy of the Chinese Mainland professional accountants, and foster the overseas certified accountants forces.

The conference is jointly held by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Wang also secretary-general of China Accounting Standards Committee, said Chinese ventures’ entering into the international capital market, their obtaining of overseas funding all impose practical requirements to the Chinese professional accountants.

Chinese Mainland accountants will be encouraged to obtain certifications of overseas certified accountants, he added.

Alligator kills Florida jogger near canal

MIAMI, 13 May—An alligator grabbed and killed a Florida woman who disappeared while jogging near a canal, a medical examiner determined on Thursday.

Construction workers found the woman’s dismembered body floating on Wednesday in a canal in Sunrise, a northwest suburb of Fort Lauderdale. An autopsy showed she died of bleeding and shock from alligator bites.

“The alligator attacked her and basically amputated her arms, bit her on the leg and back and pulled her into the water,” said Dr. Joshua Perper, the Broward County medical examiner, who performed the autopsy. “She died extremely fast. By the time she was pulled into the water, she was already dead.” — MNA/Reuters

French aircraft manufacturer to expand Chinese market

BEIJING, 13 May—The France-based regional aircraft manufacturer ATR announced here Thursday plans to expand further into the Chinese aircraft market with a representative office in Beijing.

Avions de Transport Regional, the world leader in the 50 to 70-seater turboprop aircraft, planned to strengthen its cooperation with Chinese airlines, said Filippo Bagnato, chief executive officer, in Beijing.

“We should further strengthen ties with Chinese industry, grow market opportunities in the region, and have a permanent presence in this important market,” Bagnato said.

Since 1998, China Southern Airlines Xijiang Company has been operating five ATR 72-500s, the only turboprop regional aircraft in China.

China, with a population of 1.3 billion, has a total of 784 passenger aircraft, including 76 regional aircraft. The United States, with a population of less than 300 million, has 8,650 operational passenger aircraft, including 3,200 regional aircraft. The US has 1,534 turboprop regional aircraft.

“In the coming 15 years, the commercial aviation market will expand significantly in China,” Bagnato said. “ATR will supply state-of-the-art aircraft with jet-like comfort.” The revival of the turboprop was due to the soaring price of crude oil, to the growth in regional air traffic, and to pressure on airlines to reduce costs.

MTV to expand into Internet, mobile value-added services in China

BEIJING, 13 May—Global broadcaster MTV Networks will expand into Internet and mobile value-added services in China, China Daily reported on Friday.

“I am not discouraged, but encouraged by what is happening in China,” William Roedy, vice-chairman of MTV Networks and president of MTV Networks International, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

There are more than 340 million families with access to TV broadcasting, over 400 million mobile phone users and 111 million Internet users in China. These figures are expected to continue growing in coming years with more demand for value-added services, the newspaper said.

Although China has allowed foreign broadcasters to establish joint ventures relating to content production, broadcasting is still forbidden.

MTV, the entertainment channel that is owned by media giant Viacom, is aired in the Pearl River Delta in South China and a number of luxury residences and hotels in other parts of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists identify “routes” of sandstorms in China

Hohhot, 13 May—Chinese meteorologists claim to have identified the “routes” used by winds that cause sandstorms in China.

A ten-year research project found that sandstorms affecting China were closely related to the cold front from Siberia, said Kang Ling, deputy head of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional Meteorological Station. The front swirled through large desert areas, including the Gobi Desert, often combining with cyclones in Mongolia and bringing sandstorms to China, said Kang. Kang said the front arrived in China via three routes.

On the east, the front runs southward through central and eastern Mongolia, affecting northeast China, central and eastern Inner Mongolia, Shanxi and Hebei Provinces and areas to the south of these regions.

The central route goes southward through central and western Mongolia, affecting central and western Inner Mongolia and eastern areas of northwest China, central and southern parts of north China and regions to the south of these areas.

To the west, the front blows southward through western Mongolia and northeast Kazakhstan, affecting northeastern part of Xinjiang, the westernmost region of China, north China and areas to the south of these regions. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s Merapi volcano releases a huge cloud of hot gas on 14 May, 2006 as seen from Pekam village on the outskirts of Yogyakarta, the provincial capital of Central Java province, Indonesia. Villages on Mount Merapi were left virtually empty, although some residents returned to its slopes Sunday to tend their animals and crops after officials raised the alert status of the Merapi volcano to the highest level, meaning that an eruption is imminent. — INTERNET

Udo Jost of the International Tracing Service (ITS) is seen in the ITS archive in central German town of Bad Arolsen, on 10 May, 2006. Picture taken on 10 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Melissa Etheridge applauds graduates of the Class of 2006 at the Berklee College of Music commencement in Boston, Massachusetts, on 13 May, 2006. Etheridge was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music.—INTERNET

 Grammy winner singer songwriter Melissa Etheridge applauds graduates of the Class of 2006 at the Berklee College of Music commencement in Boston, Massachusetts, on 13 May, 2006. Etheridge was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music.—INTERNET
Reina the hero as Liverpool win final shootout

CARDIFF, 14 May — Liverpool won the FA Cup for the seventh time on Saturday beating West Ham United 3-1 on penalties after the teams drew an epic final 3-3 after extra time.

Liverpool keeper Jose Reina saved three of the four West Ham penalties he faced, becoming their hero after handing West Ham two goals with errors earlier in the match.

One of the greatest of all the 125 FA Cup finals was taken into extra time by a stunning last-minute 30-metre shot by Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, equalizing for the second time in the match.

West Ham had gone ahead when Jamie Carragher turned a low shot by Liverpools Peter Crouch attempts an overhead kick against West Ham United during the FA Cup Final soccer match at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, on 13 May, 2006. — MNA/Reuters

West Ham coach Thomas Doll. “It really hurts.”

Lille clinch last Champions League ticket

PARIS, 14 May— Lille claimed a Champions League third qualifying round spot after a 2-2 draw at Stade Rennes in a nail-biting last round of matches in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

The northerners finished third in their standings with 62 points, two more than arch-rivals RC Lens, who beat Nantes 3-1. Lens finished fourth and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

Espanyol escape relegation, Sevilla beat Barca

MADRID, 14 May — King’s Cup winners Espanyol escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth on Saturday after a dramatic stoppage time goal from midfielder Ferran Corominas earned them a 1-0 win at home to Real Sociedad. Fellow strugglers Alaves looked as if they were the team who would drop down after they took a 1-0 lead against Deportivo Coruna, but Corominas’ late strike destroyed their hopes of survival and sent the Basque team down. Dimitry Pietrner’s side will join Malaga and Cadiz in the Second Division next season.

UEFA Cup winners Sevilla continued a week of celebrations and boosted their hopes of earning a place in the Champions League when they beat a second string Barcelona 3-2. Barca, resting eight first choice players for Wednesday’s Champions League final against Arsenals, fought back with a neat volley from time which lifted them to a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes and went on to a 2-0 up eight minutes later when Dean Ashton pounced after Reina saved three of the four West Ham penalties he faced, becoming their hero after handing West Ham two goals with errors earlier in the match.

Bremen beat Hamburg, snatch 2nd place in finale

BERLIN, 14 May— Werder Bremen snatched second place and direct qualification into the Champions League with a thrilling 2-1 victory at Hamburg SV on the final day of the Bundesliga season.

Miroslav Klose scored the winner 18 minutes from time which lifted Bremen up from third at the expense of Hamburg, who now enter the third qualifying round for the Champions League. “It’s hard to find words for this, the disappointment is so great,” said Bremen coach Thomas Doll. “It really hurts.”

Hamburg had been second most of the season but lost two of their final three matches, while Bremen’s win gave them 17 points in their last seven games.

Germany’s IBF middleweight champion Arthur Abraham, right, and his challenger Kofi Jantuah (unseen) during their world title boxing bout in Zwickau, eastern Germany, on Saturday night, 13 May, 2006. Abraham won by decision. — MNA/Reuters

Scott slips back into tie for Byron Nelson lead

HOUStON, 14 May— Australia’s Adam Scott lost momentum after a fast start to drop back to tie for the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship in Irving, Texas on Saturday.

The 25-year-old from Adelaide bogeyied three of the last seven holes on the TPC at Las Colinas for a one-under-par 69, ending the third round at 11-under 199.

Level with Scott was South African Trevor Immelman, who charged into contention with a flawless 64 in bright sunshine to match Jeff Shuman for the best score of the day. American Brett Wetterich, co-leader with Scott overnight, returned a 70 to sit third at 10 under with compatriots Joe Ogilvie (69), Charley Hoffman (65), Omar Uresti (69) and Chad Campbell (65) a further two strokes back in a tie for fourth.

“It was a little disappointing not to keep it going after playing so well over the front nine,” world number nine Scott told reporters.

“I got caught out a couple of times with the wind direction and found myself in a bit of bother out there.

“But I’m still in the same position as when I teed off and I’m looking forward to playing with Trevor tomorrow,” added the Australian, who is chasing his fourth PGA Tour title.

“Now I’m swinging well. I’ve just got to do it again tomorrow. Hopefully I’ll also make a few putts.”

Producing superb form with his pitching wedge, Scott birdied four of the first eight holes to forge four strokes clear of the chasing pack at 14 under.

He struck approach shots to four feet at the second, third, seventh, eighth and ninth, all staying on course with a putt that had the crowd on their feet.

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“I’ve just got to do it again tomorrow. Hopefully I’ll also make a few putts.”

Lille clinch last Champions League ticket

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The northerners finished third in their standings with 62 points, two more than arch-rivals RC Lens, who beat Nantes 3-1. Lens finished fourth and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

Olympique Marseille, who had still hoped to qualify for the Champions League, ended almost empty-handed. The Provence side, who were reduced to 10 men after defender Abdoulaye Meite was sent off for a second bookable offence on 70 minutes, were held 1-1 at second-placed Girondins Bordeaux.

Franck Ribery, who hopes to be included in France’s 23-man squad for the World Cup on Sunday, missed a penalty in the 27th minute. Marseille finished fifth and will play in the Intertoto Cup.

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Scott slips back into tie for Byron Nelson lead

HOUStON, 14 May— Australia’s Adam Scott lost momentum after a fast start to drop back to tie for the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship in Irving, Texas on Saturday.

The 25-year-old from Adelaide bogeyied three of the last seven holes on the TPC at Las Colinas for a one-under-par 69, ending the third round at 11-under 199.

Level with Scott was South African Trevor Immelman, who charged into contention with a flawless 64 in bright sunshine to match Jeff Shuman for the best score of the day. American Brett Wetterich, co-leader with Scott overnight, returned a 70 to sit third at 10 under with compatriots Joe Ogilvie (69), Charley Hoffman (65), Omar Uresti (69) and Chad Campbell (65) a further two strokes back in a tie for fourth.

“It was a little disappointing not to keep it going after playing so well over the front nine,” world number nine Scott told reporters.

“I got caught out a couple of times with the wind direction and found myself in a bit of bother out there.

“But I’m still in the same position as when I teed off and I’m looking forward to playing with Trevor tomorrow,” added the Australian, who is chasing his fourth PGA Tour title.

“Now I’m swinging well. I’ve just got to do it again tomorrow. Hopefully I’ll also make a few putts.”

Producing superb form with his pitching wedge, Scott birdied four of the first eight holes to forge four strokes clear of the chasing pack at 14 under.

He struck approach shots to four feet at the second, third, seventh, eighth and ninth, all staying on course with a putt that had the crowd on their feet.

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Massive anti-US candle-lit vigil in Seoul

Seoul, 14 May — Thousands of South Korean students, labour union members and residents gathered on Saturday near the US Embassy in downtown Seoul on a candle-lit vigil to protest a plan of US military base expansion in the country.

The protesters, from more than 100 civic groups, called for the release of the protesters arrested during a bloody conflict with police on 4 May in Pyongtaek, where the government is planning to build the largest

US military base in South Korea. The gathering is part of a plan to stop the expansion of the US Camp Humphreys in Pyongtaek, 65 kilometres south of Seoul. The protesters will move to a university campus in Seoul at about 10 pm local time (1300 GMT) and march to Pyongtaek on Sunday morning. Hundreds of protesters held rallies near the US Embassy and the Defence Ministry earlier on the day.

The organizer of the vigil said in a statement that they would hold rallies “as scheduled in a peaceful and popular manner, with people from all walks of life participating”.

More than 6,000 riot police were deployed around the US Embassy in case of violent clashes.

The traffic near the US Embassy is almost paralyzed, but no physical conflict between protesters and police were reported.

The Yonhap News reported that more than 8,000 riot police and 3,000 troops had already been dispatched to Pyongtaek and will block the way from Seoul to the US military base.

On 4 May, more than 120 people, including both protesters and police, were injured during bloody clashes when police tried to evict protesters from a building in the compound of the US Camp Humphreys.

More than 400 others were arrested by the police during the clashes. — MNA/Xinhua

Canada’s emissions of greenhouse gases are now 35 per cent above the level it promised to reach under the Kyoto climate change accord and the country would have to ground every train, plane and car to meet its target, Environment Minister Rona Ambrose said on Wednesday.

In this file photo a sport fisherman stands on rocks at the mouth of the Capitano River in North Vancouver, British Columbia, as the early morning fog covers the Lions Gate Bridge.— INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 14 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Kayin State, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below normal in Shan State, and Bago Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kachin State and Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (40°C) and Magway (39°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Gwa (7.22) inches, Heho (2.24) inches, Kungtung (2.05) inches, Pathin (1.97) inches, Kutha (1.57) inches, Hsipaw (1.53) inches and Mogok (1.50) inches.

Maximum temperature on 13-5-2006 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 14-5-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 14-5-2006 was (79%). Total sunshine hours on 13-5-2006 was (6.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 14-5-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (7.01) inches at Mingaladon, (8.39) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.13) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (12:30) hours MST on 13-5-2006.

Bay interference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin State, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, and Mandalay Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 15-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 15-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 15-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Local and foreign journalists study development of Southern Command area in Bago Division, troubles of local people caused by racism, power struggles and bullying of KNU insurgents, terrorist acts such as massacres, torching and mine blasts committed by KNU

YANGON, 14 May — Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, together with journalists, on 13 May went on a study tour to witness measures taken for ensuring security and the rule of law and all-round developments in Htantabin Township and Thabyenyunt Village on the eastern side of Sittoung River and Mone region of Kyaukkyi Township in Bago Division of Southern Command as well as troubles of residential people caused by racism, power struggles and bullying among KNU insurgents and terrorist acts such as massacres, setting of fire.

(See page 10)

NLD not serving interests of locals becoming group of good-for-nothing
Tarnishing image of the nation in collision with terrorist groups
28 members resign from Moguang Township NLD

YANGON, 14 May — Twenty-eight members of Moguang Township National League for Democracy including Township executives U Sein Aung and U Z Kham Guam of Moguang Township National League for Democracy, Monyin District, Kachin State, resigned from the National League for Democracy signing their resignation letters of their own accord and sending the copies of resignation to NLD headquarters and local authorities. At a ceremony held at the Moguang Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission Office, on 7 May, the 28 NLD members submitted their resignation letters.

Present on the occasion were the chairman of Moguang Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, the township law officer, the township justice, the township education officer, the head of township Immigration and National Registration Department, the executive officer of township Development Affairs Committee, head of township revenue department, head of township forestry department and the 28 NLD members. Member of Moguang Township NLD U Hla Aung acted as masters of ceremonies.

On behalf of the 28 NLD members, U Z Kham Guam explained the cause of their resignation from NLD saying that NLD did not serve the interests of locals but instead became a group of good-for-nothing seekers who were concentrating on grabbing power. He continued to say that NLD was in no position to take a leadership role in the region and they failed to show a good example in carrying out the tasks of national unity. Moreover, there was division among party members as all party members stuck to personality cult and sectarianism. The activities of NLD did not contribute to regional and national development and posed danger to regional stability. Although the entire people have witnessed development of the State, NLD, with negative views and in collusion with external terrorist groups, was tarnishing the image of the nation. Moreover, according to the decision of the so-called party leader, NLD walked out of the National Convention which is designed to shape a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Deviating from the original goals, NLD relied on external elements and thus party members no longer had trust in the party. Turning a blind eye to the national development, NLD stayed aloof from the people and became a separate class. In conclusion, he said that they resigned from NLD of the own volition as they want to truly serve the interests of the nation and the people.

Next, on behalf of the 28 NLD members, Moguang Township NLD party member U Tin Ngwe presented the resignation letters and materials they used when they were membership to the NLD, to the chairman of the sub-commission. —MNA

INSIDE
At a time when the world is seeing the expeditious development of ICT in all sectors, it is incumbent upon e-National Task Force, Myanmar InfoTech Corporation, Myanmar Computer Federation and their congenial organizations to try their best for development of ICT in Myanmar.

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Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Dean of Diplomatic Corp and members, local and foreign journalists ask after the patients lost parts of body due to mine blast committed by KNU insurgents. —MNA

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