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<th>5th Waning of Kason 1368 ME</th>
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<td>Permission granted for retirement</td>
<td>The State Peace and Development Council has permitted the following ministers to retire with effect from today.</td>
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| **Union of Myanmar**   |                             |                      |
| **State Peace and Development Council** | (Order No 5/2006) | 4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME (15th May 2006) |
| Ministry reorganized | In order to effectively carry out the economic, nation-building and development tasks, the State Peace and Development Council has reorganized the Ministry of Electric Power as follows: |
| (1) Ministry of Electric Power No (1) |
| (2) Ministry of Electric Power No (2) |
| By Order, Sd/Thein Sein Lieutenant-General Secretary-1 State Peace and Development Council |

| **Union of Myanmar**   |                             |                      |
| Reassignment of duties of Ministers | The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned the following ministers to the portfolios shown against their names. |
| (1) Maj-Gen Tin Htut Ministry of Cooperatives |
| (2) Col Zaw Min Ministry of Electric Power No (1) |
| By Order, Sd/Thein Sein Lieutenant-General Secretary-1 State Peace and Development Council |

| **Union of Myanmar**   |                             |                      |
| **State Peace and Development Council** | (Order No 9/2006) | 4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME (15th May 2006) |
| Appointment of Deputy Ministers | The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as deputy ministers with effect from today. |
| (1) Maj-Gen Aung Kyi Ministry of Immigration and Population |
| (2) Dr Paing Soe Ministry of Health |
| (3) Maj-Gen Kyi Win Ministry of Defence |
| (4) Maj-Gen Aye Myint Ministry of Defence |
| By Order, Sd/Thein Sein Lieutenant-General Secretary-1 State Peace and Development Council |

| **Union of Myanmar**   |                             |                      |
| **State Peace and Development Council** | (Order No 4/2006) | 4th Waning of Kason, 1368 ME (15th May 2006) |
| Permission granted for retirement | The State Peace and Development Council has permitted the following ministers to retire with effect from today. |
| (1) Maj-Gen Soe Naing Ministry of Hotel and Tourism |
| (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint Ministry of Electric Power No (2) |
| (3) Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement |
| (4) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint Ministry of Culture |
| By Order, Sd/Thein Sein Lieutenant-General Secretary-1 State Peace and Development Council |

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Crush destructive elements within and without the Union

Nowadays, the government of the Union of Myanmar is systematically implementing plans for parallel development of various regions across the Union and for social and economic development of the entire national people and, as the people and the Tatmadaw are fully cooperating with the government, there have been tangible results in the political, economic and social sectors.

While the government is creating favourable conditions for peace and stability of the nation and for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democracy, the terrorists are committing a series of destructive acts such as murder, arson and planting mines to jeopardize the peace and stability of the nation, especially around Bago, Nyaunglaybin and Toungoo. Terrorists planted mines along the railroad between Penwegon, Bago, Toungoo, Pyu, Kanyutkwin, Tawkwein, Yedashe and Kyunghon and in Kyaukphyi Township in Bago Division, killing and wounding innocent people. Not only that, these terrorists subjected the rural people living at the foot of the east Yoma mountains to forced labour and torture.

However, in order to deceive the international community foreign masters and media, in cahoots with the terrorist destructionists, broadcast rumours that rural people had to flee their villages because of the attacks by the Tatmadaw. In reality, rural people had to flee because they were bullied and tortured by the KNU. KNU also forced families of the KNU rank and file to move to border areas to prevent them from meeting with the Tatmadaw. As the onus on the Tatmadaw to protect the life and property of the people, it is taking security measures to prevent the KNU from carrying out sabotage.

No matter what the insurgents and terrorists within and without the Union are doing to harm the interests of the nation and the people, we believe that the government and the people, always in oneness and in unity, will be able to crush destructive elements inside and outside the nation.
Elbaradei says US must address Iran’s security concerns

THE HAGUE, 14 May — Iran has legitimate security concerns that the United States must address if the crisis over Teheran’s nuclear programme is to be resolved, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday.

“This is primarily a regional security issue,” Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told a debate in The Hague.

“Iran is surrounded by countries that have nuclear weapons. Russia has nuclear weapons, Pakistan has nuclear weapons, Israel has nuclear weapons, Iran has used chemical weapons against them. There is a sense of insecurity,” he said. “When you talk about the Iranian issue, the only solution is a package that should inter alia include security issues.”

ElBaradei said only full engagement by the United States could address Iran’s security concerns, as well as other grievances that have accumulated over the last 50 years.

“I’m happy to see that the US is becoming more and more engaged because … a final solution to Iran needs the full engagement of the US,” he said.

“When you are talking about security, there is only one country that can talk to Iran and that is the US, it’s not Europe. Europe can talk trade, economics, it can talk trade … but it cannot talk about hard security issues.”

ElBaradei said while Iran still had to clarify a number of issues with the IAEA, inspectors had not seen any “significant” nuclear material being undeclared or diverted into weapons. “We haven’t seen a clear and present danger. We haven’t seen an imminent threat,” he said, adding he agreed with suggestions by US officials that Iran was five to 10 years from a nuclear weapon. —MNA/Reuters

Bolivia needs partners, not masters, Morales tells Europe

PARIS, 14 May — European companies must accept the role of “partners and not masters” in the exploitation of Bolivia’s natural resources, President Evo Morales told AFP in an interview as he visited France. Morales has given foreign energy companies 180 days to agree to new contracts with Bolivia’s state oil firm YPFB, which will then become the majority shareholder in energy companies operating there.

Along with Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, he is at the vanguard of a leftist turn in Latin America which has Western oil companies and their political backers on edge.

“The Europeans must understand that we want to rebuild Bolivia and we’re counting on democratic and peaceful structural changes, that is to say, without falling into armed conflict as in Colombia or Peru,” Morales said.

“To that end, one of the changes is the nationalization of natural resources. We have started to nationalize hydrocarbons and we will continue this process with other natural resources.” After Venezuela, Bolivia has the second largest reserves of gas in Latin America.

Activist seeks ban on livestock trade

CAIRO, 14 May — An activist dressed as a sheep under the watchful eye of Egyptian security, presented a large bouquet of flowers to the Australian Embassy in Cairo on Sunday as part of a campaign for a ban on live livestock exports.

Jason Baker, director of Asia Pacific for the animal rights PETA, gave the flowers to consul officer Andrew Macksey to thank the Australian government for the temporary ban it imposed in February after a film showed animal abuse in Egypt.

“For once they (Australia) have made the right decision. Live exports of animals now have to be banned permanently,” Baker told reporters outside the embassy later.

The film, shot at Egyptian ports and abattoirs, shows sheep and cattle dragged off ships by their legs and ears and later slaughtered within sight of other animals.

After the film appeared on Australian television, the Australian government sent a veterinary officer to investigate.

Australian ambassador Bob Bowker said his government hoped to have the live trade to Egypt resumed once it was confident that animals will receive humane treatment.

“We need a system for us to track the progress of Australian animals though the Egyptian system. We’re working constructively with Egypt to improve animal welfare,” he told Reuters.

But PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, says the long-distance trade in live animals is inherently cruel and should be banned worldwide.

Mobile phone explosions worry Brazilians

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 14 May — At least five mobile phones have exploded over the last two months in Brazil, causing anxiety among phone users and making news headlines.

The incidents, representing only a fraction of the 89 million phones in circulation in Brazil, all involved Motorola phones.

The company said it was investigating and Brazil’s telecommunication agency is pursuing the case as well.

In the most recent incident on 30 April, the 34-year-old victim in Formosa, Goias State, had surgery for burns on her thighs and ears and later slaughtered within sight of other animals.

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A truck carrying supplies passes through walls of snow after the Srinagar-Leh highway is thrown open for traffic in Zojila, 108 km (67 miles) east of Srinagar, on 14 May, 2006. —INTERNET

A PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) activist dressed as a sheep walks out of a taxi near the Australian Embassy in Cairo on 14 May, 2006. The activist delivered a bouquet of flowers to the embassy as a part of campaign. —INTERNET

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A PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) activist dressed as a sheep walks out of a taxi near the Australian Embassy in Cairo on 14 May, 2006. The activist delivered a bouquet of flowers to the embassy as a part of campaign. —INTERNET
CARACAS (Venezuela), 13 May — Oil prices will jump if the United States Government moves against Iran, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday.

“If the United States attacks Iran openly, militarily, the price (of oil) will shoot up much more,” Chavez told reporters in Vienna, comments that were broadcast over Venezuela’s state television.

He said threats against Iran had “made consumers nervous,” which has pushed up the price of oil.

US light crude dropped 1.32 US dollars to 72.00 US dollars a barrel on Friday on signs that high oil prices were hurting the economy.

The United States has threatened to sanction Iran if it does not suspend its nuclear enrichment programme.

Chavez, a harsh critic of US President George W Bush, was speaking at the sidelines of a summit of Latin American and European leaders in Austria.

Claudio Fava of Italy, charged with writing a European Parliament committee report on possible secret CIA prisons and detainee transfers in Europe, did not identify the journalists, newspapers or television networks he said had been pressured.

“We think that the detailed confirmation we have of pressure being exerted by the White House on journalists not to name certain European countries is an extremely important point for our work,” said Fava, who was visiting Washington as part of a 13-member delegation from the European Parliament, the European Union’s legislature.

Administration officials were not immediately available for comment. Speaking at a news conference, Fava did not say why he believed the Bush Administration would want to stop media outlets from identifying European countries and he provided no further details.—MNA/Reuters

Los Angeles, 14 May — It was bottoms up for “Poseidon,” as the cruise ship disaster remake failed to topple “Mission: Impossible III” from a second week atop the nation’s box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Mission: Impossible III” cling to No 1 with a $24.5 million take during an anemic North America box office weekend that saw the Tom Cruise action film drop 49 percent from its opening weekend.

Internationally, “Mission: Impossible III” raked in another $70 million to bring its two-week earnings overall to $214 million. “It’s not a bad start,” said Rob Moore, Paramount’s president of worldwide marketing, distribution and operations. “Poseidon,” which reportedly cost $150 million-plus to make, debuted in second place with what was described as a solid weekend opening of $20.3 million.

“This is a movie with the top spot and each earned over $20 million. I think that’s pretty strong for Mother’s Day weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian of Exhibitor Relations Co Inc, which tracks box office performance.

But the overall North American turnstile takings were more than 13 percent behind the comparable 2005 period, the first time in four years that box office receipts dropped over last year’s figures.

“The top 12 films for this weekend are down about 13.5 percent for comparable weekend last year. Hollywood has been on a roll for seven weeks,” Dergarabedian said, adding the upcoming weekend has two potential blockbuster that could again float all boats.

“This was a solid but not spectacular weekend leading up to a big weekend ahead with ‘The Da Vinci Code’ and ‘The Hobbit.’ This will be classic counter-programming,” he said.

The Robin Williams comedy “RV” was third with $9.5 million. Lindsay Lohan’s “Just My Luck” debuted in fourth with $5.5 million and “An American Haunting” was fifth with $3.7 million. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations. Final figures will be released Monday.

2. “Poseidon,” $20.3 million.
4. “Just My Luck,” $5.5 million.
7. “Stick It,” $3.2 million.
9. “Silent Hill,” $2.2 million.
10. “Hoot,” $2.1 million.—Internet

A man films a mural of the Huaca Cao Viejo, a grand pyramid of the ancient Moche phe-hispanic Peruvian culture, located at a ceremonial site called El Brujo (the Wizard) dated from around 100 to 500 years AD, on the northern coast of Trujillo, on 12 May, 2006. The site of Huaca Cao Viejo was opened for visitors after the Wiese Foundation restored and covered the site. —INTERNET

**Nigeria boosting protection for pipelines**

Ilodo (Nigeria), 14 May — President Olusegun Obasanjo ordered stepped-up protection for pipelines after a gas explosion killed up to 200 people, but Nigerians said Saturday that impoverished villagers would keep tapping the pipes to pilfer fuel.

Rescue workers tried to finish collecting the dead for burial in mass graves by sundown. But at least 22 charred bodies floated in the tideland swamps east of the main city of Lagos — miles from the site of Friday’s disaster in Ilado village.

Police said there was no sign that the fire at a ruptured pipeline was sabotage and they assumed villagers had punctured it to steal fuel.

They said 150 to 200 people died in the flames when the gas pipeline ignited.

Obasanjo, who was on a state visit to Indonesia, ordered an investigation into the cause of the inferno.

Radio Nigeria reported. He also called for increased protection of the country’s vast web of pipelines, the radio said.

But Nigerians said little could keep poor villagers from rupturing the pipelines that are ubiquitous across Nigeria’s south because the allure of free fuel outweighs the well-known danger.

**Two killed while making bomb in S-W Bangladesh**

Dhaka, 14 May — Two persons were killed and four others wounded while the bombs they were making exploded in Bangladesh’s southwestern Satkhira District Friday, local officials confirmed Saturday.

Satkhira District government official Ruhul Quddus said the sound was heard and a police team sent to see the matter. He said the blast occurred while some gangsters were making bombs for attacking their rivals of dispute on land.

Quddus said the gangsters occupied 150 acres of government land and forced 250 landless families to leave the area.

A South Korean woman in a traditional scholar costume uses a laptop at the digital version of a state examination, which were carried out to prepare government officers during the Chosun Dynasty, at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, on 14 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Police officers stand behind fuel containers belonging to victims on 13 May, 2006 after a gas pipeline exploded on Friday, at Ilado, Nigeria.—INTERNET
Colombian Navy seizes nearly three tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 13 May— Colombia’s Navy seized around 2.94 tons of cocaine in a biding place near the Pacific port of Tumaco in the southeastern province of Narino, Navy sources said on Thursday.

The drug, hidden in the jungle close to the shore, was ready for shipment overseas, most likely to the United States via Mexico or Central America, the sources said. No people were arrested when the drug was seized. Naval forces found another 800 kilos of cocaine on Sunday on the banks of the Guiza River. In addition, Marines and Coast Guard seized 700 kilos of cocaine in Tumaco Bay on three motorboats last week.

So far, the Colombian Army has seized 23.5 tons of cocaine. In 2005, Colombian forces seized more than 186 tons of cocaine in a series of operations. Colombia is the world’s largest cocaine exporter, where 550 tons of the drug flow to other parts of the world annually, mostly to the United States or Europe. MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia hopes for safe, stable Iran

PRAGUE, 13 May— Saudi Arabia paid close attention to the stability in Iran and Iraq, hoping a safe and stable Iran would emerge, visiting Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said here on Thursday.

Al-Faisal made the call at a meeting here with his Czech counterpart Cyril Svoboda. Saudi Arabia favours that Iran, a country with a long history and playing an important role in the Middle East, should be handled cautiously, al-Faisal said, adding that wielding nuclear weapons does not surely amount to a safety guarantee. MNA/Xinhua

Storm kills 10, hurts dozens in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 May— At least 10 Bangladeshis were killed and dozens of others injured in lightning strikes during a violent rainstorm, weather officials said on Saturday.

They said the country experienced this year’s heaviest rainfall on Friday, including about two inches recorded in the capital Dhaka. The deaths were reported from outside Dhaka — in Gopalganj, Patuakhali and Jessore towns — and were mostly caused by lightning during the 50 miles per hour storm. MNA/Reuters

White House’s defence of eavesdropping programme not convincing

LOS ANGELES, 14 May — The Bush Administration’s defence of its controversial domestic eavesdropping programme, which indiscriminately targets both the innocent and the (possibly guilty), is not convincing, the Los Angeles Times said in an editorial. “The practice to eavesdrop on its citizens may be a vast dragnet that ensnares the innocent as well as the (possibly) guilty”, and “the Administration’s explanations are no longer operative, to use a phrase its agents will understand,” the editorial said.

Even under the Patriot Act, there are judicially supervised rules on how investigators may use technology — known as “pen registers” and “trap and trace” — that monitor telephone traffic without actually listening in on conversations, it said.

So the legality of this programme is debatable at best. Congress, which has shown no backbone for challenging the previously revealed NSA programme, must press the administration to explain and try to justify this much more pervasive operation,” it said. USA Today reported that after 9/11, the NSA asked telecommunications companies to turn over the “call-detail” records of millions of customers. The records — essentially a list of phone numbers — reportedly have been used by the agency to identify patterns that would help identify terrorists. The newspaper said that the data turned over by telephone companies like AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth did not include customers’ names or personal information. But it would not be hard for the agency to connect those dots. MNA/Xinhua

World’s largest floating dock starts operation in Dalian

DALIAN, 13 May— A 300,000-ton floating dock, the largest of its kind in the world, went into production on Wednesday in northeast China’s coastal city of Dalian.

The dock, which is 340 metres long, 76 metres wide and 27 metres deep, is capable of repairing 300,000-ton crude oil carriers, bulk freighters, and container ships, and rebuiding or converting other large watercraft.

The dock was developed and built by the COSCO Shipyard Group Co Ltd, a leading company for ship repair and conversion in China. It began trial production in October 2005. Managed by the COSCO (Dalian) Shipyard Co Ltd in Dalian, a subsidiary company of the COSCO Shipyard Group, the floating dock has undertaken the repair of more than 30 vessels from Canada, Russia, Greece and Iran since its trial operation, according to the company. MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia sign largest publishing deal

CHANGSHA, 13 May— China and Russia signed the largest deal in Sino-Russian publishing trade history on Friday to boost cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The Copyright Agency of China and Phoenix Publishing of Russia signed a deal at the Conference on International Copyright Cooperation in Changsha, Hunan Province, that Russia will import 75 varieties of Chinese books.

The deal was part of the Year of Russia in China, said Lu Wei, director of the Information Office of the State Council. The 75 books included volumes on Confucius, Taoism and Buddhism and other aspects of traditional Chinese culture.

Valdman Leonid, head of Phoenix Publishing, said the publishing house would complete publication of the books in two years.

He said the company had imported more than 100 Chinese books and hoped to enhance exchanges and cooperation in copyright trade with China.

Europe and the United States are the main sources of imported books in Russia, but Valdman believed more Chinese books would be published because “Russian readers are more interested in Chinese culture”. MNA/Xinhua

Models display creations by Indian designer Ana Singh at the Idea Zee Fashion Awards in Mumbai, India, on 13 May, 2006. —INTERNET
Britain narrows gap between rich and poor

LONDON, 14 May—Britain is closing the gap between its richest and poorest citizens, but the average income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of Britons was 21 times that of the least well-off, official data showed on Friday. The Office for National Statistics said that before tax and benefits, the average income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of Britons was 66,300 pounds in 2004/05, while that of the poorest 20 per cent was just 4,300 pounds. That is an improvement from 1987, when comparable figures were 11 per cent.

However, that figure has been broadly steady since 1987. The ONS said that cash benefits such as income support, child benefit, incapacity benefit and state pension payments accounted for 60 per cent of gross income of the poorest Britons and just 2 per cent of the incomes of the nation’s richest. And while the wealthiest Britons paid a quarter of their gross incomes in direct taxes, the poorest paid just 10 per cent.

Senegal demands apology from Canada

OTTAWA, 14 May—Senegal’s Foreign Minister on Saturday demanded apologies from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the treatment of the Senegalese head of the International Francophone Organization at Toronto’s airport.

During the opening session of the Francophonie’s conference on preventing conflict, Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio demanded “sincere and public apologies” from Harper. Abdou Diouf, secretary-general of Francophonie and former Senegalese president, was reportedly body-searched earlier this week upon his arrival at Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

According to a text of Gadio’s remarks handed by Senegal’s delegation, Gadio asked the Canadian Government to investigate the incident and offer “an apology rather than merely express regret.” The incident was “extremely serious” for Senegal, Gadio told the Press after the session.

iran warns Europe to avoid the “August experience”

TEHERAN, 14 May—Iran’s foreign minister told European states not to repeat the mistake of forcing an end to talks on Teheran’s nuclear programme by demanding it stop uranium enrichment, official news agency IRNA reported on Saturday.

Iran is accused of nuclear research and development activities. “The European countries should not repeat the ‘August experience’”, IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as saying at a meeting in Indonesia.

Typhoon toll rises to 24 in Philippines

MANILA, 14 May—A typhoon whipped through the northwestern Philippines on Saturday, killing at least 23 people in stormy seas and leaving more than 10,000 people stranded as air and ferry services were suspended. Most of those killed were from a boat that capsized off Masbate Island in the south of the Luzon region, the Coast Guard said.

At least 21 people on the vessel, named the Mor Ann 5, were killed and 18 were rescued, Coast Guard spokesman Joseph Coyme told reporters in Manila. A fisherman drowned while four others were rescued when their boat sank in rough seas off the coast of Negros Occidental Province in the central Philippines, Coyme said.

In Batangas Province, near Manila, a 36-year-old woman was killed when a fence swept by floods crashed into her hut, officials told local radio.

US governor indicted on misdeanchor charges

WASHINGTON, 14 May—Ernie Fletcher, governor of the eastern US state of Kentucky, has been indicted on charges that he illegally awarded state jobs to political supporters, news reports said on Friday.

Fletcher was indicted on Thursday by a special state grand jury after a year-long investigation on three counts of criminal conspiracy, official misconduct and political discrimination.

If convicted, he would have to step down, and face up to 12 months in jail and a 500-US-dollar fine, The New York Times reported.

The indictment alleged Fletcher “ordered, directed and otherwise approved the development and implementation of the ‘Governor’s Personnel Initiative,’” which was designed to place political appointees beholden to the governor in merit-based state jobs.

Thirteen former administration officials and Fletcher associates have previously been indicted in connection with the investigation, and the Republican governor issued blanket pardons in August last year to those caught up in the probe but excluded himself.

Fletcher, 53, who became the state’s first Republican governor since 1967 when he took office in 2003, has reportedly vowed to complete his first four-year term and seek reelection next year.

In an unrelated development, the US Justice Department has begun investigating the activities of Representative Jerry Lewis, a Republican from California and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The probe partially focuses on Lewis’ dealings with a lobbying firm that hired some of his former staff members, The Washington Post reported.

Protesters from different groups march during an anti-war rally on the Mall, on 13 May, 2006, in Washington. The march was one of a series of anti-war protests scheduled in Washington for the Mother’s Day weekend.—INTERNET

11 Indonesian diggers trapped after landslide

JAKARTA, 14 May—Eleven workers were trapped under a pile of sand following a landslide at an unauthorized sand-digging location in western Indonesia, police said on Saturday.

The workers were digging a hill on the outskirts of the West Java capital of Bandung when an avalanche of sand and gravel came down on them, Wowon Haryono, a local police chief, told Reuters.

“The search is still going on. None of the victims have been evacuated due to the sheer-size of the sand pile,” Haryono said.

fishing boats berth in an inlet to shelter from the wind in Haikou, capital of south China’s Hainan Province, on 14 May, 2006, ahead of the coming of Chanchu, which means ‘pearl’, the first tropical storm of the year that intensified into a typhoon and roared over the South China Sea on Saturday, will bring high winds and heavy rain to many parts of south China in the coming three days, including Hainan Province, meteorologists said on Sunday.—INTERNET

A resident shows an eight-kilogramme fish caught in the Yellow River in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China’s Gansu Province, on 12 May, 2006. In recent years, it is not rare for local residents to catch such a big fish in the Yellow River due to the improvement of ecological environment.—INTERNET

A typhoon whips China’s Hainan Province, on 14 May, 2006, ahead of the coming of Chanchu, which means ‘pearl’, the first tropical storm of the year that intensified into a typhoon and roared over the South China Sea on Saturday, will bring high winds and heavy rain to many parts of south China in the coming three days, including Hainan Province, meteorologists said on Sunday.—INTERNET

A typhoon, named Chanchu, moved into the South China Sea. Two days later, it moved into Guangdong Province on the border with Hong Kong. The Typhoon Chanchu was a category 2 typhoon. Its peak winds reached 130 km/h. When it crossed Hainan Island on May 15, the Friends of Taiwan and the Chinese government issued warnings to the Chinese public to pay attention to the typhoon. The Friendship of Taiwan warned that the strong typhoon would bring heavy rain, strong wind, and high waves to the coastal areas of Hainan Province. The Chinese government also issued warnings that the typhoon would lead to strong waves and heavy rain in the coastal areas of Guangdong Province.

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**Report says British troops suffer mental health problem in Iraq**

**London, 15 May**— Thousands of British troops have experienced serious mental health problems following service in Iraq, British newspapers reported on Sunday.

A major government study will reveal this week how depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder among service personnel in Iraq has increased dramatically since the war was declared in March 2003, said The Observer, according to the most authoritative study ever undertaken into the psychological impact of war on British soldiers.

The research was carried out by a specialist unit at King’s College London, and was funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Iraq has exerted an unforeseen level of psychological illness among British Armed Forces, the research shows.

The study will criticize the MoD for not doing enough to support soldiers and their families. In particular, it says the 8,000 Territorial Army recruits who have served in Iraq are most at risk from suffering stress disorders because they receive even less support than regular soldiers following a tour of duty.

According to the report, the King’s College researchers detected that an incidence of mental health problems was far higher than official MoD statistics indicate and above rates recorded from the 1991 Iraq war when thousands of British troops claimed they suffered so-called Gulf War syndrome.

Those findings conflict with regulations adopted last year by the US Army against the use of antidepressants for “extended deployments”.

The US Army’s top mental health expert, Elspeth Ritchie, admitted that some deployment practices, such as sending service members diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome back into combat, have been driven in part by a troop shortage.

**Indonesia’s Merapi Volcano spews steam, hot ash**

**Yogyakarta** (Indonesia), 15 May — Indonesia’s Mount Merapi Volcano spewed hot clouds and ash rain early on Monday, a volcanologist said, but there was no confirmation of reports of fresh lava flows.

Yogyakarta Administration Secretary Bambang Susanto had earlier told Elshinta news radio that, according to information he had received, the mountain “exploded” in the pre-dawn hours with lava and hot ash.

However, Ratmono Puluro, the head of the volcanology centre in Yogyakarta near the volcano, told reporters that he had confirmation only of clouds and hot ash rains.

**Mexico concerned with proposed “militarization” of US border**

**Mexico City, 15 May**— Mexico’s President Vicente Fox on Sunday called his US counterpart George W. Bush to express concern over what he feared the “militarization” of the US border.

Fox called Bush before Washington was set to announce on Monday night the deployment of thousands of the National Guard to the southern border with Mexico and before the US Senate was to debate an anti-immigrant legislation, according to a statement from Fox’s office.

Bush assured Fox that the US is not contemplating a militarization of the border, said the statement.

“National Guard logistical and administrative support, not Army support, of border zone policy is under consideration,” said the statement quoted Bush as saying.

The United States recognized Mexico as “a partner and a friendly nation”, Bush told Fox, reiterating his conviction that “migration can only be solved in the framework of complete and comprehensive reform.” — MNA/Xinhua

**S Korea hopes to hold inter-Korean summit this year**

**Seoul, 15 May**— South Korean Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok said Sunday that South Korea is desirable for a new round of inter-Korean summit this year.

“President Roh is more determined than ever to hold an inter-Korean summit,” Lee Jong-seok said on a radio programme.

Lee’s remarks came just one day before a government delegation leaves for North Korea. The delegation, headed by former unification minister Jong Se-hyun, is expected to meet with North Korean officials and North Korea’s top leader Kim Jong-il.

Jong-il was to discuss details about the upcoming visit of Kim Dae-jung, former president who held the first-ever inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong-il six years ago, to North Korea.

Kim Dae-jung’s trip is widely regarded as an opportunity to promote the second round of inter-Korean summit.

South Korean President Roh said earlier this week during his trip to Mongolia that he is willing to have talks with Kim Jong-il regardless of subject and venue, adding South Korean Government plans to provide unconditional support to Pyongyang without undermining the fundamental validity of South Korea’s ideology and system.

The two Koreas agreed this week to conduct test runs of two cross-border railways on 25 May.

Kim Dae-jung has expressed that he would like to travel to North Korea by train with one of the cross-border railways.

In June 2000, Kim Dae-jung visited Pyongyang and held the first inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong-il, which was regarded as a milestone in inter-Korean history and paved the way for economic cooperation and exchanges in various fields between the two Koreas. — MNA/Xinhua

**The heaviest rains in a decade pounded Massachusetts and New Hampshire on Sunday, forcing hundreds of people from their homes and prompting governors to declare states of emergency. No injuries or power outages were reported as of late 24 May, partly because no strong winds accompanied the storm. Picture taken on 13 May.**

**The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Tuesday, 16 May, 2006

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**Report says US sends mentally unfit soldiers to Iraq**

**Washington, 15 May**— The US military has been dispatching mentally unfit soldiers to Iraq, even as authorities are aware of their illness, the Hartford Courant reported Sunday.

The Connecticut-based newspaper said there are numerous cases in which the military failed to follow its own regulations in screening, treating and evacuating mentally unfit troops from Iraq.

**Twenty-two US troops committed suicide in Iraq last year, accounting for nearly one in five of all non-combat deaths, and it is the highest suicide rate since the war started, according to the report.**

Some soldiers who committed suicide in 2004 and 2005 were kept on duty despite clear signs of mental distress, sometimes after being prescribed antidepressants with little or no mental health counselling or monitoring, it said.

**Thousands of British troops suffer stress disorders in Iraq**

**LONDON, 15 May**— A major government study will reveal this week how depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder among service personnel in Iraq has increased dramatically since the war was declared in March 2003, said The Observer, according to the most authoritative study ever undertaken into the psychological impact of war on British soldiers.

The research was carried out by a specialist unit at King’s College London, and was funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Iraq has exerted an unforeseen level of psychological illness among British Armed Forces, the research shows.

The study will criticize the MoD for not doing enough to support soldiers and their families. In particular, it says the 8,000 Territorial Army recruits who have served in Iraq are most at risk from suffering stress disorders because they receive even less support than regular soldiers following a tour of duty.

According to the report, the King’s College researchers detected that an incidence of mental health problems was far higher than official MoD statistics indicate and above rates recorded from the 1991 Iraq war when thousands of British troops claimed they suffered so-called Gulf War syndrome. — MNA/Xinhua

**New Airbus A380 seen in flight at Schoenefeld Airport in Berlin on Monday, 15 May, 2006, as it arrives in Germany. The plane is one of the attractions of the International Air Show (ILA) from 16 May until 21 in Berlin.—INTERNET**
Diplomats, journalists view regional…

(from page 16)

Consumption reached 600 million baskets. After, 1988, the Tatmadaw Government set the target of 1,200 million baskets of paddy in a year and implemented extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Hence, paddy is in surplus in Myanmar. In an effort to supply irrigation water sufficiently, 185 dams and 293 river water pumping projects have been constructed in one and a half decades and some are under construction. Therefore, food will also be in surplus while the country’s population reaches 100 million.

Regarding the electricity consumption, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said Myanmar consumed over 5,000 million megawatts in 2006 compared to 1,500 million units in 1988. A total of 30 hydroelectric power projects and nine other electricity projects were implemented in a period of 18 years. In Bago Division, there are 15 projects including electric power projects, at present he said. Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam is 1,050 feet long and 250 feet high and can store 931,800 acre feet of water. The earthy type dam is expected to irrigate 118,500 acres of farmland. The dam has been completed and hydro power station is under construction. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Commandant of the Southern Command Col Wun Myint, diplomats and journalists, proceeded to Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Ottwin Township. Officials of the Irrigation Department and Hydel-power Department briefed (See page 9)
Diplomats, journalists view regional...

don construction tasks of the project.

In an effort to supply electricity produced by the Khabaung project to regions throughout the country, to prevent flooding in Sittaung Valley and to supply irrigation water to farmland in Sittaung Valley, Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is implemented, and on completion, the project is expected to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland and to generate 120 million kilo-

onding to the Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Coun-cil Lt-Col Thein Lwin, despite its target of 290,000 acres of summer paddy, Bago Division cultivated over 300,000 acres. It is expected that per-acre yield can reach over 82 baskets. At present, 300,000 acres of summer paddy and over 3 million acres of monsoon paddy were put under cultivation in the region.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan replied to queries of journalists saying that Bago Division is making efforts to meet its target of 600,000 acres of paddy within three years and so far, 400,000 acres of paddy were put under cultivation. As part of an effort for extended cultivation in the region, farmlands were reclaimed from swamps. Use of modern farming methods and natural and chemical fertilizer resulted in an increase in paddy cultivation.

After visiting the summer paddy fields, they went back to Toungoo. — MNA
Minister visits oil-gas field in Magway Division

YANGON, 15 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected well No 33 in Letpanto, Myaung, Magway Division. — ENERGY

The minister inspected well No 33 in Letpanto, Magway Division, on 13 May. At the briefing hall of the factory, the minister heard a report on the operations and production. The minister laid down plans to meet the production target and to operate at full capacity and future production programmes.

During the inspection of the production process, the minister arranged constant supervision programmes and gas production for power.

In Myaung Township in the division, he visited Kyaukhwet/Leinpanto oil and gas field where he gave instructions on the production of oil and gas, drilling new wells at places where prospects are high and conservation of environment.

He then observed drilling of No 67 well at the field with advanced machinery and production of No 33 well. The field is producing about 830 barrel of oil and eight million cubic feet of gas per day. — MNA

Vietnamese broadcasting delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 May — Under the cooperation programme between Voice of Vietnam and Myanmar Radio and Television, a three-member Vietnamese delegation led by Mr Tran San Ngoe, Chief of VOV’s Bureau in Central Vietnam from the Voice of Vietnam–VOV arrived here by air this evening.

The Vietnamese delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vietnamese broadcasting delegation members seen with officials at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Minister adds talks to productivity

YANGON, 15 May — A saloon car caught fire due to gas leak at No 2 Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha Township, at about 5 pm on 13 May.

The fire that started during ignition burned down some engine parts, the battery and seats causing about K 200,000 in damages to the owner U Tin Sein.

The incident occurred in front of U Tin Sein’s bean warehouse on U Shuin Street in the industrial zone.

In another incident, a fire razed 22 homes at Aingsauk village, Natmauk Township, at 3 pm on 13 May.

The fire started from the house of Daw Mya Kyi, while she was boiling clothes to wash them. Although the village is seven miles from Natmauk, fire-fighters got to the place to extinguish the fire.

In Kamayut, Yangon, a fire broke out at a monastery at 4.30 am today, destroying some property and the monastery itself.

The cause of the fire was due to the candle light offered to the Buddha Image at the building in Ward 5, where U Piñãsami, the abbot monk resided.

Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung and the director-general of the Fire Services Department gave close supervision to the firemen trying to put out the blaze. — MNA

Fires break out in three townships

Young woman loses left leg in landmine blast

NAY PI TAW, 15 May — A 25-year-old woman was wounded by a terrorist-planted mine while she was picking fruits together with her three companions in a forest in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, on 9 May at 10.10 am.

The blast ripped off the leg of Ma Nwe, daughter of U Ngwe Hlaing, of Shankye ward in Shwegyin, from the ankle. Officials rushed Ma Nwe to Shwegyin Township People’s Hospital, where she is receiving intensive care and medical treatment.

The authorities in cooperation with the people are trying to expose and crush the terrorist insurgents who are committing various kinds of destructive acts to jeopardize State stability, community peace and the rule of law and cause public death, injury and alarm. — MNA

Minister inspects construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall in Ingapu Township

YANGON, 15 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall in Mezali Village, Ingapu Township, on 13 May.

The CEC member and party inspected destruction of Yekyaw Village functions of law affairs andDeputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang of Henan Province’s Office of the People’s Republic of China called on Attorney-General U Aye Maung at his office this morning.

With a view to exchanging views concerning legal affairs and enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries, visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang of Henan Province’s Office of the People’s Republic of China called on Attorney-General U Aye Maung at his office this morning. Present at the call were Deputy Attorney-Generals Dr Tun Shin and U Myint Naing, Deputy Director-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Tin Myint and directors.

The Chinese delegation earlier visited Shwedagon Pagoda and made cash donations for all-round renovation.

At the meeting hall of the Attorney-General’s Office, Attorney-General U Aye Maung discussed functions of law affairs and Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hengyang, set-up of Attorney-General’s Office of Henan Province and its functions. Both sides held frank discussions on law functions.

In the evening, the Chinese delegation visited National Races Village.

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin hosted dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation members at Karaweik Palace. — MNA

Chinese delegation members call on Attorney-General

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YANGON, 15 May — Attorney-General U Aye Maung receives Chinese delegation members at his office. — MNA

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At the briefing hall of the factory, the minister heard a report on the operations and production. The minister laid down plans to meet the production target and to operate at full capacity and future production programmes.

During the inspection of the production process, the minister arranged constant supervision programmes and gas production for power.

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CIA leak case court filing focuses on Cheney

WASHINGTON, 15 May — The US prosecutor in the CIA leak case has told a court he plans to use as evidence a newspaper article with notes that he says were handwritten by Vice-President Dick Cheney referring to Valerie Plame shortly before she was exposed as a CIA operative.

The notes show Cheney and his former chief of staff, Lewis “Scooter” Libby, were “acutely focused” on the 6 July, 2003, article written by Plame’s husband, Bush Administration critic and former US ambassador Joseph Wilson, said Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald in the pre-trial filing made on Friday.

Fitzgerald said the notes show that Cheney and Libby were focused on Wilson and “on the assertions made in his article, and on responding to those assertions.”

The article asked whether the Administration manipulated intelligence in the run-up to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. In the article, Fitzgerald wrote he went to Niger in 2002 at the CIA’s request to check out reports that the African nation had sold uranium yellowcake to Iraq in the late 1990s. The processed ore can be used to make a nuclear weapon.

Wilson said he concluded on his tip that it was unlikely such a transaction ever took place. Later, the alleged African uranium connection was cited by the war’s backers as evidence that Iraq had developed or had tried to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Shortly after Wilson’s article appeared, the identity of Plame, his wife, as a covert CIA operative was leaked to journalists. Fitzgerald is probing who blew Plame’s cover.

An undated photo of Bausch & Lomb’s ReNu contact lens solution. The company on Monday said it has extended a recall of its ReNu with MoistureLoc to all markets worldwide, effective immediately. —INTERNET

Resolving Iran row would brake oil price

NUSA DUA (Indonesia), 15 May — A peaceful solution to the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme would help stabilize oil prices, Indonesian Energy Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said on Saturday.

“Iran is locked in a dispute with some countries led by the United States over whether its nuclear projects are peaceful or have military aims. The other countries want Iran to curb its programme and have talked about possible sanctions.

Asked about the effect of that situation on oil prices, Yusgiantoro told reporters: “If we can find a peaceful solution, I think we can put a brake on the oil price.”

He was speaking on the sidelines of the Delegating Eight (D-8) summit on the resort island of Bali. Iran is one of the members of the group.

“We want the price to drop but we know precisely that the price is mostly influenced by geopolitical factors,” Yusgiantoro said.

Asked what the oil exporters cartel OPEC might do at its coming meeting in June, he said: “If the quotes can be maintained, that will be quite enough.” Oil prices have been hovering around 70 US dollars a barrel in recent weeks. International Energy Agency (IEA) director Claude Mandil has said he expects them to remain high for at least two to three years because of high global demand and tight supply.

NZ Women’s Refuge call for law review

WELLINGTON, 15 May — About 400 mail-order brides and women married for dowry money are seeking refuge each year in New Zealand after being abused and dumped by their husbands, said Women’s Refuge on Sunday.

It calls for reviews and changes to immigration laws after being overrun with the cases.

According to law, the women have no legal status in New Zealand because their husbands withdraw sponsorship for residency and their temporary permits expire.

They do not qualify for Work and Income assistance. Most cannot return home where they are unwanted and face further violence.

The women come from countries including China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Fiji, said Women’s Refuge.

Women’s Refuge national manager Heather Henare estimates about 400 such women stayed in the country’s 47 refuges each year.

Many families lived in their safehouses for over a year while waiting on immigration applications, putting the already cash-strapped service under increased stress, said Henare.

The refuges are funded for less than 20 per cent of their estimated 26 million NZ dollars (19 million US dollars) running costs. Some cannot afford to feed families in their care.

Power failure hits southern Metro Manila in tropical storm

Manila, 15 May — Power failure hit most parts of southern Metro Manila on Saturday, due to strong winds brought about by the tropical storm Chanchu, the local authority said.

Fallen trees and billboards toppled by winds damaged several power lines, Lennie Nazario, spokesman of Meralco, the largest power company here said.

Gusty winds brought down billboards in the east and west service roads of the South Luzon Expressway, in the western service road of Muntinlupa and east service road of Taguig near a manufacturing power firm, he added.

In Magallanes Village in Makati, where is the central business district, tree branches would be cut to clear power lines, he said. In Quezon City, several power lines has yet to be restored.

In the Intramuros, Tondo and Binondo districts of Manila, Meralco needs to clear tree branches entangled in Meralco power lines, the spokesman said. —MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s local tests show 5 positive on bird flu

Jakarta, 15 May — Five Indonesian people from a family related by blood were positively infected by avian influenza virus after tested by the country’s laboratory, Health Ministry official said here Saturday.

Director-General of Disease Control of the ministry, 1 Nyoman Kandun said that the five from Indonesia’s North Sumatra Province had had contacts with fowls and pigs. He said that their blood samples had been sent to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong. They have been tested, the results were positive, Kandun told Xinhua.

The five are 29-year-old woman, two men of 19 years old and 35, whom have died since at the end of last month, and two others men of 25 years old and 35 years old man, whom survive, according to the director. They are from one family tree, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

A petroleum terminal and storage facility is seen in Linden, New Jersey, recently. Developing nations will urge rich countries to show more leadership in combating global warming at talks of almost 190 states in Bonn from Monday that will underscore deep rifts on climate policies. —INTERNET
SINGAPORE, 14 May—A programme called “Handling Underaged Gambling” has been launched in nine schools in Singapore, Channel News Asia report said Saturday.

The anti-gambling initiative aims to bring home to students the causes, warning signs, damages and cures of this dangerous hobby, so that they can influence their peers and family members to stay away from it.

About 50 teacher-facilitators are expected to engage some 1000 students from these schools in this programme in August, according to the report.

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced in April last year that two integrated resorts with casinos would be built by 2009 to give a boost to the country’s tourism industry.

It was for the first time that the Singapore Government gave great light to opening casinos in the island state since its independence from Malaysia in 1965.

The government has taken comprehensive measures to minimize the social consequences of casino gambling, which include charging a high entrance fee to restrict the admission of locals and setting up fund for education and prevention programmes against gambling problems.

The city state is also working on a Casino Control Act.

KAMPALA, 14 May—Senior US officer has been working to restore the morale of some 600 Ugandans guards, most of them serving abroad for the first time, following the allegations that they were sexually abused while working with the US forces in Iraq.

Some of the Ugandan recruits at Alasad Airbase, northwest of Iraq, one of the biggest US fortresses, were allegedly sodomized by foreign soldiers and admitted at the Gettysburg health facility inside the fortress, according to a report of Daily Monitor on Thursday.

Sources said two Ugandans, Enoch Bas-haija and Geoffrey Kawuka, slipped into a coma due to brutal assaults at the hands of foreign officers at Alasad Airbase after they queried terms of the contract.

Ugandans would have gone on strike and protest the beatings of Bashajja and Kawuka, if it has not been intervened by Fred Lynch, the retired Commanding Officer of the US Army at the airbase and Paul Hegue, the executive officer of SOCSMG, a private contractor that manages the airbase, according to the report.

But the United States Embassy in Kampala could not confirm or deny the allegations emerging out of Ugandans involving Ugandans. “We cannot comment; only the Defence Department (in Washington) can answer those questions,” Alyson Grunder, the US Embassy spokesperson told the paper.

Documents obtained from sources in Iraq and Kampala said all is not rosy between Ugandans and the private firms contracted by the US Government to recruit them.

Ugandans are unhappy after leaving Uganda they are forced to change from one contractor to another, some reported to be middlemen.

Ugandans reportedly face abuse under US forces in Iraq

180 kilos of marijuana seized in Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 May—Thai Police on Saturday seized 180 kilos of marijuana in the central Pathum Thani Province and foiled an attempt to smuggle the drug out of the country.

After receiving tip-off, police arrested Pithakchai Thongkaew, an alleged courier, at a fuel station in Pathum Thani’s Klong Luang District at 1:30 pm.

They netted 180 kilos of marijuana hidden in his pick-up truck, reported The Nation newspaper’s website.

Police Lieutenant-Colonel Kittissak Thiangkamol of the Provincial Police Bureau 1 said Pithakchai was allegedly paid to take the drug to Bangkok and the drug would be transported to the South and then smuggled to Switzerland.
Royal Mint issues coins warning as copper price rockets

LONDON, 14 May — The Royal Mint issued a warning on Friday to any speculators who might be tempted to cash in on the rocketing value of copper by melting down 1 pence and 2 pence coins.

Newspapers have been quick to point out that as demand from the booming economies of China and India pushes copper steadily towards 9,000 US dollars a ton, the metal in the humble coins is now worth almost double their face value.

Since September 1992, Britain’s 1 pence and 2 pence coins have been made of copper-plated steel. But before that date they were made of 97 per cent copper, which as the best conductor of electricity is the metal that traditionally benefits most from building booms.

The Royal Mint, which makes and distributes Britain’s coins, said in a statement there were 6.33 billion 2p coins in circulation — although it did not break down the number into pre and post 1992 — and warned that it was an offence to “deface” the coinage.

“Even if it were legal, the practicalities involved in melting down such huge quantities of coins would seem to us to make it a highly improbable task for the average consumer,” it added. MNA/Reuters

Chinese art show opens in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 14 May — A Chinese art show opened on Friday in the Argentine resort Mar del Plata, featuring films, video works and photos.

The show, part of the programme “building a long bridge between Argentina and China,” also features an exhibition called The Chinese Environment, which displays photographs and pins made by students from two local public schools.

Daniel Katz, the mayor of General Pueyrredon, a Buenos Aires Municipality, will hold a formal ceremony later to thank the Chinese Embassy here for providing films, photos and texts for the show.

The exhibits will be donated to the National University of Mar del Plata and a local primary school after the show. MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows old computers make for unhappy workers

LONDON, 14 May — Dealing with the frustrations of ageing and unreliable office computers contributes to workers’ unhappiness and more sick leave, a survey showed.

“Even if it were legal, the practicalities involved in melting down such huge quantities of coins would seem to us to make it a highly improbable task for the average consumer,” it added. MNA/Reuters

A poll conducted by Tickbox.net of over 2,700 European office workers from the Britain, France and Germany found that workplace dissatisfaction increased significantly with the age of computer equipment.

British and French respondents said working on outdated computers was the most irritating aspect of office life. Almost 40 per cent of workers surveyed in the three countries were using computers at least three years old, with clerical and administrative workers among those using the oldest equipment.

About a third of Britons said they work on office equipment that was three years old or more.

Just under a quarter of those using outdated computers in Britain — defined in most cases as five years or more — said they were “quite” or “very dissatisfied” with their everyday job compared to 16 per cent of those benefiting from up-to-date technology.

Overall, 75 per cent of those working with old equipment agreed that an upgrade would lead to more productivity, the independent survey commissioned by computer screen maker ViewSonic found.

The survey also said that among workers dealing with outdated equipment, there was a 35-per-cent greater likelihood they would take six or more days of sick leave per year compared with the average worker. In France, where more workers use older computers, the likelihood jumped to 55-per-cent. MNA/Reuters

Work conditions raise risk of having a small baby

NEW YORK, 14 May — A variety of occupational conditions experienced by pregnant women can increase the likelihood of having a small infant, according to a report in the American Journal of Public Health. One of the main risk factors is having an irregular or shift-work schedule.

Typically, their birth weights fall below the 10th percentile. SGA infants are at increased risk for a number of problems, including low levels of oxygen and blood sugar at birth. The present study is one of several in recent years to examine the link between work conditions and the effect on pregnancy outcomes. While many have reported findings supporting an association, others have not.

In the current study, Dr. Agathe Croteau, from Universite Laval in Quebec, Canada, and colleagues assessed the impact of occupational conditions on the risk of having an SGA infant by analyzing data from 1,536 mothers with SGA babies and 4,441 mothers with normal babies. All of the subjects were interviewed by telephone following delivery. MNA/Reuters
Shakhtar edge Dynamo 2-1 to clinch Ukraine title

KIEV, 15 May — Shakhtar Donetsk beat Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in a one-off “golden game” on Sunday to clinch their second successive Ukrainian league title.

Nigerian striker Julius Aghahowa headed the winner 10 minutes into extra time after the teams battled it out 1-1 in regulation.

Shakhtar’s Romanian striker Ciprian Marika opened the scoring with a powerful header in the 9th minute before Brazilian substitute Rodolfo levelled 20 minutes later by beating two defenders in the box.

Dynamo threw themselves forward in desperate attacks in the final minutes after Aghahowa’s goal but to no avail.

It was the second tight game between the two teams after they drew 2-2 in Wednesday’s last round of matches to finish the 30-game season on 75 points each, setting up the deciding fixture.

With 11 minutes left on the clock, Dynamo substitute Iliya Paeceus fired in a header from a free-kick to level.

With 10 minutes left in the match, Dynamo substitute Iliya Paeceus had his goal disallowed for offside.

Victorious Panathinaikos miss out on champions league

ATHENS, 15 May — Panathinaikos beat Larissa 3-0 on the last day of the Greek championship on Sunday but were still pipped to a place in the Champions League qualifiers by AEK Athens.

With 10 minutes left in the match, Dynamo substitute Iliya Paeceus had his goal disallowed for offside.

Russia’s soccer players celebrate victory against Czech Republic in the final soccer match of the UEFA Under-17 Championships at the Josy Barthel Stadium in Luxembourg on 14 May, 2006. — INTERNET

Rasiq shines as Poland beat Faroe Islands 4-0

WROCLAV (Poland), 15 May — Two goals by Southampton’s Grezgorz Rasiq sealed victory for an understrength Poland over the Faroe Islands in their last friendly before coach Pawel Janas picks his World Cup squad.

The striker crashed home a 25-yard volley just three minutes after coming on at half-time and headed an immaculate second in the 84th minute from a Kamil Kosowski cross to cap an easy 4-0 win.

Poland were under strength as a number of their first-choice players were ruled out of the squad.

Argentine soccer champion Boca adds 2-0 victory

BUENOS AIRES, 15 May — Boca Juniors beat Argentine rivals Olompo Bahia Blanca 2-0 adding a final victory on Sunday, its seventh consecutive win, to the Argentine Opening championship, which it had already won on points last week.

Scoring opened for the match, in Boca’s home stadium La Bombonera (The Box of Sweets), in minute 14 with a header by Matias Silvestre. Rodrigo Palacios scored again in minute 59.

Boca has now won four cups in less than a year: the South American ReCopa, the Copa Sudamericana and the Closing championship. Boca had 43 points at the end of the championship, Lanus ended with 35, River Plate could win third place if it beats Quilmes. The results mean that Boca, Gimnasia, La Plata, Rive, Banfield and Velez have qualified for the 2007 Copa Libertadores and that two teams — Instituto and Tiro Federal — have been relegated to the Second Division. — MNA/Xinhua

Al Ahli win derby, take Egyptian title

CAIRO, 15 May — Two goals in the first 10 minutes set Al Ahli up for a 2-0 win over arch rivals Zamalek in the Cairo derby and a 31st Egyptian league title.

Al Ahli needed only a draw to retain the championship but were goals from international Emad Motreab and Mohamed Aboutirka settled the affair.

With two matches left, Al Ahli cannot be caught after winning 21 of their 24 matches with three draws. They are 11 clear of Zamalek, who are guaranteed to finish in second place.

Al Ahli, coached by the Portuguese Manuel Jose, are seeking to end the season unbeaten for a second successive year.

The defending African champions have not lost a match in Egypt since June, 2004. — MNA/Reuters
Chavez sees oil at $100 per barrel if US hits Iran

London, 15 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday that if the United States attacked Iran in its dispute with Teheran over nuclear technology, the price of oil could soar to triple figures, describing the Iraq as "the Vietnam of the 21st Century.

Chavez was welcomed to London by Livingstone, who opened the meeting by accusing US President George W Bush of running "a gangster regime".

"We salute you Mr President," Livingstone told Chavez. "Londoners stand with you, not with the oil companies and the oligarchs."

Chavez is in London for two days to meet various figures from the British left. He will not meet Prime Minister Tony Blair, who he criticized for his close alliance with Washington.

The ex-soldier was greeted by jubilant supporters as he took the platform in a stuccoed ballroom. Hundreds more gathered outside in a futile bid to hear him speak.

The atmosphere inside was more like a rock concert than a political meeting.— MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Monday, 15 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Kayin, Kayah States and Ayeyawady Division, scattered in Mon State, Magway and Bago Divisions, widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy falls in Mandalay Division and isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State, lower Sagoing and Magway Divisions. Day temperatures were (4°C) to (5°C) above normal in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kakhin and Shan States, (7°C) to (4°C) below normal in Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Hpa-an and Magway (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (3.11) inches, Sittway (2.95) inches, Gwa (2.80) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (2.33) inches, Kayinse (2.20) inches, Namhsan (1.96) inches, Meiktila (1.85) inches, Myinnmu and Mawlamyine (1.41) inches each, Magway (1.62) inches and Sagoing (1.46) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 15-5-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 15-5-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 14-5-2006 was (4.8) hours.

Rainfalls on 15-5-2006 were (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.19) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.98) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (7.17) inches at Mingaladon, (8.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (8.11) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Northwest at (15:00) hours MST on 14-5-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the East Central and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 16-5-2006: Rain or thunder showers will be widespread in Kakhin, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagoing Division, scattered in Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Day temperature of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attunes off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (55) to (60) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally increase of rain in the lower Myanmar area.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 10:00 hours M.S.T, Today) A slight earthquake of intensity (4.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about (110) miles Southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory, was recorded on (04) hrs (45) min (52) sec MST on 15th May 2006.
Diplomats, journalists view regional development in Southern Command Region

YANGON, 15 May — Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez, diplomats, officials and resident representatives of the UN agencies and journalists on 12 May visited Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project site in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Division, Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Ottwin Township and summer paddy plantations in Swa, Yedasse Township in Bago Division.

First, they went to Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam project located in Kyaukdaga Township. According to the officials of the project, the project equipped with two 12.5-Magawatt-generators is expected to produce 123 kilowatt hours yearly. Out of 15 hydropower projects, 12 will be completed in 2006-2007 fiscal year, then total production of power will reach over 10,000 Magawatts. Director of the Dam Construction Project-1 under Irrigation Department U Myint Than said thanks to 185 dams and 293 river water pumping stations constructed after 1988, supply of irrigation water has increased in parallel with an increase in production of hydro-electric power.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also said that in 1988, Myanmar produced only 654 million baskets of paddy while the country’s domestic supply of irrigation water has increased in parallel with an increase in production of hydro-electric power.

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