Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Argentine President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Right Honorable Mr Nestor Carlos Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25th May 2006.

Yangon Airport eyes int’l standard

YANGON, 24 May — The runway of the Yangon International Airport is being upgraded and the extended building of the airport is under construction in an effort to upgrade the airport to meet the international standard.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung yesterday went to the Airport and inspected the extended construction of the runway and the building.

Upon completion, the runway, 11,200 ft long and 200 ft wide, will be able to handle Boeing 747-400 jets.

During the tour of inspection, the minister and the deputy minister assisted in the construction works.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe called for timely completion of the building meeting the international standard and fulfilled the requirements.

The building is being constructed by Asia World Company.

Yangon Airport eyes int’l standard

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects extended construction tasks at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

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

INSIDE

* A sprayer needs to know the harmful effects of the pesticide residue as it contains poisonous substances and contaminated matters. But even the maximum content of residue in a pesticide is not high enough to kill a man instantly.
* It takes a lot of time to meet the amount of toxic that is enough to kill a man. But drinking of pesticide strong solution may cause human death. Sprayed vegetables harvested and sold before the end of prescribed time limit may contain the residue.

Weather Forecast for (25-5-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Boost the sales of precious stones

Myanmar is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources. Gold, silver, pearl and such precious stones as jade, ruby and sapphire of Myanmar are world-famous because of their fine quality. Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines used to hold gems emporiums two or three times a year previously to boost the sales of gems and earn more foreign exchange.

But now the Ministry of Mines holds the gems emporiums based on the amount of production without setting a fixed timetable. Arrangements are being made to hold the June-July special sales of jade (2006) at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township in Yangon.

Nowadays, the world jade and gems market is developing and so neighbouring countries of Myanmar and those in other parts of the world have become more interested in gems emporiums of Myanmar. Myanmar is also taking measures to keep harmony between the production and the sales.

Gems industry calls for huge investment and hard work. This being the case, the government is taking steps for speedy sales and for the gems to fetch deserving prices.

In the past, gems exploration and extraction industry was handled only by the government. But now, both the government and private companies owned by national entrepreneurs are engaged in this industry on a wider scale for mutual benefits.

Expansion of gems industry can increase the national income. Therefore, we would like to call on all those concerned to boost the sales of gems in the interests of the nation and private companies.
Rights abuses rise due to US-led war on terrorism

LONDON, 23 May—The US-led war against terrorism has sparked a rise in human rights abuses as countries turn a blind eye to violations by their allies, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

Accusing countries such as the United States of double standards, the group said in its annual report for 2006 that their credibility had been weakened by reports of prisoner torture in third countries and other rights abuses. Rights groups have often accused governments backing the war against terrorism of being reluctant to criticize allies that have a poor human rights records to avoid losing the support of those countries.

Amnesty said the war on terrorism had damaged ordinary people’s lives and some governments had “sacri-ficcd principles” and turned a blind eye to rights violations in its pursuit.

“The increasing brutality of such incidents throughout the world last year is a further bitter reminder that the ‘war on terror’ is failing and will continue to fail until human rights ... are given precedence over narrow national security interests,” Amnesty chief Irene Khan said.

Most Americans do not get preventive healthcare

NEW YORK, 23 May—Many Americans are failing to get the preventive medical care that could help them live longer, healthier lives, according to a new study.

Preventive measures, like a daily dose of aspirin, colon cancer screening and smoking-cessation therapy, are all effective ways to save lives and healthcare dollars, but fewer than half of Americans who need these services are getting them, the study found.

The findings, published online by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, are based on an analysis of more than 8,000 previously published studies. Researchers with the non-profit groups Partnership for Prevention and Health Partners Research Foundation ranked 25 recommended preventive services according to their potential health benefits and medical-cost savings. Besides aspirin therapy, colon cancer screening and smoking cessation, the most effective preventive services include childhood vaccinations, blood pressure screening, Chlamydia screening for young women, and immunizing adults against the flu and pneumonia, the researchers conclude.

Yet, with the exception of childhood vaccinations, the majority of Americans may be missing out on at least one of these services, according to the report.

“Inputs these services were more consistently offered to the American people, fewer people would die and fewer people would suffer from diseases that are preventable,” study co-author Ashley Coffield, an analyst with the Washington, DC-based Partnership for Prevention, said in a statement.

For example, low-dose aspirin therapy has been shown to be a cheap, effective way of lowering the risk of heart disease and stroke.

If doctors discussed aspirin therapy with all at-risk patients, the study authors conclude, it could save 80,000 lives annually.

Similar benefits could be seen if doctors asked all patients about their smoking habits, then offered smokers on brief counselling and recommendations for cessation therapies, according to the researchers—MNA/Reuters

Two Italian “F16” jets collide, pilots safe

ROME, 24 May—Two Italian Air Force F16 jets collided off the island of Sardinia, but the two pilots managed to eject to safety, Italian news agency ANSA reported on Tuesday.

The Italian Defence Ministry was quoted as saying that the mid-air collision took place on Monday evening, and the two aircraft fell into the Mediterranean sea some 16 kilometres off the coast of Sardinia.

The incident occurred during Operation Spring Flag, the most important Air Force military exercise of the year. It began on 8 May and is set to conclude on Saturday, involving more than 1,000 personnel from Italy and other countries of the European Air Group.

The F16 is considered a transition fighter jet between the old F104 and the new Eurofighter, the first of which are being delivered. —MNA/Xinhua

Foreign mountaineers die while descending Mt Everest

LHASA, 23 May—Three mountaineers from Russia, France and Brazil died while descending the world’s highest peak Mount Everest, a source with the China Tibet Mountaineering Association said Monday.

The Russian climber, Plyushkin Igor, 54, felt extremely uncomfortable at an altitude of 7,800 metres on his way back from 8,600 metres, and died on Monday, said Zhang Mingxing, secretary-general of the association. —MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier secures a car bomb site in Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 May, 2006. A car bomb in the Afghan capital killed three people on Sunday, Afghan security officials said.—INTERNET
Kabul, 23 May — Aircraft from US-led force in Afghanistan attacked Taleban stronghold on Monday and may have killed up to 50 of the guerillas, a military spokesman said. Residents of the area said up to 35 civilians were killed. The attack was launched in the Panjwai District of Kandahar Province where heavy fighting erupted last week between Taleban and Afghan and foreign troops.

"There was a coalition air strike — as part of a co-ordinated operation against known Taleban strongholds," said the spokesman for the multi-national force, Major Scott Lundy. "We believe up to 50 Taleban may have been killed," he said.

Lundy said there were unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties, which were being investigated. Violence has surged in Afghanistan since last Wednesday, most of it in the south and east.

Not including Monday's casualties, about 150 people, most of them militants, were killed.

The dead included four foreign soldiers — two French, an American and a Canadian.

Kwon Sang-woo to help earthquake victims in Japan

HUKUOKA (JAPAN) — Actor Kwon Sang-woo, one of the Korean stars leading the Korean Wave throughout Asia, will hold a live talk show in Hukuoka, Japan in July to help earthquake victims there.

The talk show was planned as Kwon had expressed the hope of doing something to encourage victims after hearing about the earthquake in Hukuoka in March last year. He will donate part of the proceeds from the show to help in the restoration of the region.

Earlier in February, Kwon held an auction in Japan where he sold costumes he wore in the movie "Running Wild," to help those in need. He donated the proceeds from the auction to Make A Wish, the non-profit organization for children with incurable diseases.

Seven-year-old swimmer ‘escapes’ from Alcatraz

San Francisco, 23 May — A 7-year-old boy swam from Alcatraz Island to the San Francisco shore in less than an hour on Monday, becoming one of the youngest ever to successfully cross the cold, choppy waters.

Braxton Bilbrey of Arizona, was accompanied by his coach and two other adults on the 1.4-mile (2.25-kilometre) swim in San Francisco Bay, where the water temperature is about 55 degrees Fahrenheit (12.8 degrees Celsius).

Once a maximum security prison, Alcatraz is famous for housing Chicago mobster Al Capone and Robert Stroud, the “Birdman of Alcatraz”.

The prison was shut down in 1963 and is now a popular tourist site.

Several prisoners tried to escape from Alcatraz by swimming across the bay but none of them are known to have made it.

Bilbrey — who trained for two hours a day, four days a week for the crossing — said he was inspired by a magazine story about 9-year-old Johnny Wilson, who completed the swim last October in under two hours.

MNA/Reuters

The Republic of Korea (ROKAF) selected the F-15E Strike Eagle for its Next Generation Fighter Programme in 2002. Under a $3.6 billion contract, Boeing will deliver 40 aircraft to the ROKAF beginning this year and ending in August 2008.

MNA/Reuters

Seven-year-old swimmer dressed as angels take part in the ‘Procession in Honour of the Holy Cross and Our Lady of Fatima’ at the island of Cheung Chau in Hong Kong on 21 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Condoleezza Rice faces silent protest in Boston

Boston, 23 May — Dozens of faculty and students turned their backs and waved protest signs when US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice received an honorary degree from Boston College on Monday.

But the protest against Rice, a central player in President George W Bush’s Iraq policy, was smaller than had been expected and those among the 25,000 crowd who gave her a standing ovation outnumbered those who sat in silence.

Rice’s selection as commencement speaker had stirred controversy at the Jesuit school, where many oppose the war and say it contradicts Catholic teaching.

“We’ve spent the last four years learning how to appreciate and work for social harmony, and to have a woman who is part of an administration that has launched a very unjust war, it’s just outrageous,” said Emily Jendzejec, 22, one of about 60 students who turned their backs on Rice.

Like dozens of students, Jendzejec wore a protest armband and sticker on her graduating robe reading “Not in my name.”

At one point, a propeller plane flew overhead dragging a sign saying: “Your war brings dishonour”. About 100 protesters outside chanted “Stop the Lies. Troops out now” and waved placards including one reading “No degrees for terrorism.”

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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Internet
Iraqi prisoner abuse trial begins for US soldier

FORT MEADE (Md), 23 May — A US Army sergeant went on trial on Monday on charges of abusing Iraqi inmates with his dog in the military’s latest prosecution of low-ranking soldiers in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

The court martial of Sergeant Santos Cardona, 32, could be more significant than those of the 10 American soldiers previously convicted of abuse of Iraqi prisoners because testimony is expected from Major-General Geoffrey Miller, who helped shape policies at Abu Ghraib.

Miller would be the highest ranking officer to testify in the case and was a commander at Guantanamo Bay Prison, where captives from Afghanistan and Iraq are held. Cardona is accused of maltreatment of prisoners, dereliction of duty and assault while allowing his unmuzzled dog to intimidate detainees in 2003 and 2004. If convicted on all charges, he could be sentenced to 16 1/2 years in prison.

Cardona and another dog handler, Sergeant Michael Smith, was convicted on similar charges in March and sentenced to 179 days in prison, allegedly played a “game” in which they tried to scare prisoners so badly they urinated and defecated on themselves.

The morning and early afternoon sessions of the trial were spent selecting a panel to hear the charges. Two potential members were excused after expressing strong opinion about the notorious photographs of prisoner abuse that leaked out of Abu Ghraib. They said the photos, which showed sometimes—men prisoners being humiliated by Army personnel, inspired hatred among Iraqis and increased the risk for US soldiers.—MNA/Reuters

International boat show wraps up in Beirut

BEIRUT, 23 May — An international boat show has wrapped up in the Lebanese capital of Beirut following a five-day showcase of various boats and yachts, local media reported on Monday.

The 5th International Boat and Super Yacht Show, which opened at Joseph Khoury Marina docks in northern Beirut on Wednesday, exhibited a variety of motorboats, sailboats, yachts and super yachts from various dealers and manufacturers, said organizers.

The event was not just a floating show of the world’s luxury boats and yachts brands, it also featured on-land display of marine products, such as maritime equipment and instruments, engines, boat and yacht accessories. Organized by Lebanese International Fairs and Promotions Group (IFP), the fair attracted about 100 exhibitors from Germany, Britain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahamian and Lebanon.

Within the context of the expo, an international conference on developing the sea front in the Middle East was held in parallel with the five-day exhibition.

KDDI Corp’s new Walkman brand music phone, made by Sony Ericsson, is displayed at an unveiling in Tokyo on 22 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Nottingham the “most dangerous city in England”

LONDON, 23 May — Nottingham is the most dangerous city in England and Wales with a crime rate four times greater than the safest towns such as Southend and Poole, according to a study released on Tuesday.

According to the public services think tank Reform, Nottingham had 115 crimes per 1,000 people in 2005 compared to just 30 in Southend, Essex and 32 in Poole, Dorset. Nottingham also had a higher crime level than areas of similar size such as Wolverhampton (49 crimes per 1,000 people) and Reading (43 per 1,000). Reform said its findings were based on a comparison of seven types of offences — murder, robbery, rape, burglary, vehicle crime, gun crime and assault — in urban areas with populations over 100,000.

It called for local police to be made more accountable, saying “dramatic” differences in urban crime levels were often masked by official national figures, which have shown the overall number of offences falling in the last decade.

“The government’s key message that crime has been falling masks a huge variation between the safest and most dangerous urban areas,” said Blain Gibb, the report’s co-author. Nottingham has seen a spate of gun crime in recent years, blamed mainly on drugs, including the high-profile shooting of female police officer Rachael Bown in February and the fatal gunning down of Danielle Beccan, 14, in October 2004.

One test-tube baby born in Uganda every month

KAMPALA, 23 May — At least 22 test-tube babies have been born in Kampala in nearly two years, meaning that an average of one is born per month.

“We have had 22 successful births since September 2004 and we currently have 24 pregnant patients,” said Tamale Ssali, the owner of the Kampala Fertility and Gynecology Centre.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni opened the centre in September last year when 12 test-tube children had been born.

Museveni also ordered Uganda Revenue Authority to stop taxing the materials used by the clinic, but Ssali complained they still suffer delays at the airport.

Test-tube babies are born through an In-Vitro Fertilization or IVF process when an egg from the ovary of a potential mother is fertilized with sperm drawn from the father in a special glass bowl.

The fertilized egg is then kept in a test tube for two to three days for it to develop into an embryo before it is introduced in the woman’s womb to allow for a pregnancy.

The minimum cost of having a test-tube baby at the clinic is four million Ugandan shillings (2,200 US dollars), with a success rate of 40 per cent.

Singapore’s PM reshuffles Cabinet

SINGAPORE, 23 May — Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong reshuffled the Cabinet with immediate effect on Monday after leading the People’s Action Party to win the country’s 10th general election on 6 May.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam will concurrently serve as the Second Minister for Finance.

Raymond Lim will relinquish his positions as Second Minister for Finance and Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, while retaining his post as the Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry.

Vivian Balakrishnan, who will continue to be the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, has been appointed Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) to replace his former position as the Second Minister for Trade and Industry. Balaji Sadasivan has been appointed Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs while retaining his post as the Senior Minister of State in MICA.—MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Two more bird flu deaths confirmed in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 24 May — Local tests have confirmed two more people have died of bird flu in Indonesia, a senior Health Ministry official said on Monday.

One of the victims belonged to a Sumatran family at the centre of fears of human-to-human transmission after six members of the family died this month of bird flu.

“One man from the same Sumatra cluster died this morning. He is the father of the child who died on May 13. He ran away after he received Tamiflu,” said I Nyoman Kandun, director-general of communicable disease control at the Health Ministry. “He was found in the village later but refused treatment.”

Kandun told reporters. Local results on bird flu cases are not considered definitive and need confirmation from the World Health Organization.

Cold weather leaves five dead in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 23 May — At least five people have died as a result of freezing temperatures in South African Eastern Cape Province, local SABC news reported on Monday.

Snow and freezing temperatures hit the province and other parts of the country at the weekend.

Two mountain passes were closed because of snow in the Karoo and many towns experienced power cuts as strong winds damaged infrastructure.

The South African Weather Services issued a warning that sly weather experienced over the country was set to continue until about Thursday.

The Weather Service predicted that Johannes burg’s lowest temperature was set to be minus 1 in Celsius on Monday. The warmest temperature that can be expected will be upper 10 in Celsius.

Vietnam’s state-owned shipbuilding giant Vinashin will launch a 53,000 ton-capacity vessel, the largest ever built in Vietnam, in northern coastal Quang Ninh Province. —INTERNET

US airstrike kills 80 Taleban, 16 civilians in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 May — The US-led Coalition force’s air raid in the Afghan southern province of Kandahar left up to 80 Taleban militants and 16 civilians killed, authorities said on Monday.

The operation launched early Monday morning in the Kandahar Region near the village of Azizi resulted in the confirmed deaths of possibly up to 80 Taleban members, the Coalition said in its latest statement, raising the death toll from 50.

Initial assessments have confirmed 20 Taleban militants killed with an unconfirmed 60 additional Taleban casualties, it said. Five Taleban militants have also been detained. — MNA/Xinhua

Five people killed in Louisiana shooting

WASHINGTON, 23 May — Five people were killed on Sunday morning in a shooting incident in the southern US state of Louisiana, local media reported.

A man shot at a church in Baton Rouge, the state capital, fatally wounding four people and then fled after abducting his wife and their infant child.

The man, Anthony Bell, later shot his wife to death at another place, but their child was not hurt.

Bell was captured at an apartment complex near the church, and the couple’s two other children were staying at home when the shooting occurred.

The motive for the shooting was not immediately known. — MNA/Xinhua

Three missing after boat overturns on Canada’s Rice Lake

OTTAWA, 23 May — Four people were rescued while three others still missing after their boat overturned in stormy conditions on a lake in eastern Canada’s Ontario Province on Sunday afternoon, local police said.

The pleasure craft was carrying seven people when it overturned at around 4:30 pm local time on Rice Lake, about 100 kilometres from Toronto, provincial capital and the country’s largest city, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported citing local police.

The boat has been found, upside down and partially submerged, in an area that had reported wind gusts of up to 75 kilometres per hour and heavy waves.

The search and rescue team assisted by helicopters are still trying to locate the missing people, according to the police. — MNA/Xinhua

Two earthquakes hit Zimbabwe

HARARE, 23 May — Two moderate earthquakes measuring about 4.0 on the Richter Scale hit Zimbabwe’s Mashonaland East Province at around midnight on Sunday, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

“The epicentres of these earthquakes were in Wedza area, near Nyamuzi River,” said Hector Chikowore, acting director of the Meteorological Department.

He said the first earthquake, measuring 3.9 on the Richter Scale, occurred at 23:55 on Sunday and the second one, measuring about 4.0, hit at 00:27 on Monday morning. — MNA/Xinhua

Southeast Asian cyber attacks still way off

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 May — Southeast Asian extremist groups have turned to technology to recruit people and raise funds but they have not yet been able to mount cyber attacks, a security expert said on Monday.

Rohan Gunaratna, head of the political violence and terrorism centre at Singapore’s Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, said regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) used Internet extensively to spread its propaganda.

“It will take a very long time for Southeast Asian groups to develop the capability to attack the Internet,” he said. “Instead of attacking the Internet, they are using the Internet.”

A Malaysian counter-terrorism official told the meeting that the threat from cyber attacks in the region was real but offered no information of any specific threat. — MNA/Xinhua

Digital lighthouses guide vessels safely away from “Chanchu”

SHANGHAI, 24 May — China’s new digital lighthouse system passed its first major test with tropical storm Chanchu last week, guiding all vessels in Chinese waters to safety.

Chanchu, the first tropical storm of the year in the South China Sea, sank at least 10 vessels off Vietnam and left dozens of seamen dead or missing.

No casualties were reported in Chinese waters primarily due to the automatic identification system (AIS) adopted by China’s Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), said Liu Gongchen, MSA executive director-general.

The operation launched early Monday morning at 00:27 on Monday. He told the attending 16th Conference of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) that the AIS had given advance warning to all vessels at sea in the path of Chanchu.

MNA/Xinhua

Actress Deborah Gibson arrives for the 51st Annual Drama Desk Awards which honours excellence in theatre, on 25 May 2006, in New York. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

INTERNET
Salient points on pesticides-1

Ko Ye (Agriculture)

Pesticides have to be used inevitably when harmful insects infest crops. However, for the safety of consumers, systematic use of pest killers is required, especially in vegetables farms.

Directions for the use of pesticides usually state the period, after which the sprayed vegetables can be harvested for marketing. In Myanmar, all the pesticides, insecticides and herbicides must be registered in accord with the law for distribution. The law stipulates the type of insect killer agents, the size of containers as well as the directions that are to be written in Myanmar language.

Following the rules and directions ensures safety, but ignoring them invites dangers. Pesticides are effective if used systematically, but their wrongful use will be harmful.

A sprayer needs to know the harmful effects of the pesticide residue as it contains poisonous substances and contaminated matters. But even the maximum content of residue in a pesticide is not high enough to kill a man instantly. It takes alot of time to meet the amount of toxic that is enough to kill a man. But drinking of pesticide strong solution may cause human death. Sprayed vegetables harvested and sold before the end of prescribed time limit may contain the residue.

People should wash the vegetables thoroughly before cooking them. But harmful agents in the pesticides containing oily substance cannot be eliminated easily.

On the other hand, eating residue-contaminated vegetables cannot cause immediate risk. For instance, harmful amount of consuming contaminated cabbage is at about 150 tons.

Instead of bringing instant death, the residue if it accumulates in the body may cause hepatitis, nervous system disorders, cancer, uncommon growth of tissues and skin diseases, and may also harm reproductive organs or even the embryo.

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Asia Cooperation Dialogue Conference opens in Doha

DOHA, 24 May — The fifth ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) opened here on Tuesday as Qatar’s Crown Prince called for “gradual economic integration” of the continent.

Qatar’s Crown Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani launched the two-day meeting which will be mulled among participants.

The establishment of an ACD energy forum will be mulled among participants. South Korea and Japanese foreign ministers agreed on the sidelines of the conference to hold another round of talks in June over the disputed maritime border in the East Sea (Sea of Japan) on Tuesday, South Korea Yonhap News reported.

The agreement was reached at an one-on-one meeting between South Korea Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso.

The bilateral meeting, which had been suspended since 2000 and will be the fifth of this kind, was set for June 12-13 in Tokyo, Yonhap said.

South Korea and Japan both claim sovereignty to a series of disputed islets off the eastern coastline of the Korean Peninsula, which is controlled by South Korea and called Dokdo by Korean and Takeshima by Japanese. — MNA/Xinhua

Hamas, Fatah agree to end violence in Gaza

GAZA, 24 May — The ruling Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Fatah Movement have agreed to end violence in the Gaza Strip sparked by dispute over control of the security forces, a Palestinian source said on Tuesday.

Jamil Al-Majdalawi, a member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told reporters that the agreement was reached at a Monday meeting in Gaza between Prime Minister and senior Hamas leader Ismail Haneya and Rawhi Fattouh, representative of President Mahmoud Abbas who is also Fatah chairman.

— MNA/Xinhua
YANGON, 24 May — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association held its annual meeting and prize presentation ceremony at Myatpyinnya hall of Yankin Education College, Yankin Township, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife, Chairperson of Yangon Division SCMCWA Daw Mar Mar Wai, chairmen of District PDCs, the secretary and executives of Yangon Division SCMCWA, chairpersons and executives of District and Township SCMCWAs, township education officers, heads of Township Health Departments and guests.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech on the occasion and Chairperson of Yangon Division SCMCWA Daw Mar Mar Wai reported to the commander on performances of the associations at different levels.

Next, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and Secretary Dr Hla Myint presented prizes for townships to officials concerned. Afterwards, secretaries reported on endeavors made in 2005. Secretary Dr Hla Myint reported on endeavors made in 2006.

After that, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai made concluding remarks and she together with members viewed photos on movements launched by the associations. — MNA

Mass movement on prevention against DHF launched in Mingala Taungnyunt

Acting Head of Health Department of YCDC Dr Daw Shu Kyi, Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Ohnmar Myint and Dr Hla Myint of Yangon Division Health Department reported to the vice-mayor on measures taken for prevention against dengue fever in townships and outbreak of dengue fever in the townships with the help of charts.

Similarly, mass movement on prevention against dengue fever was launched in Dagon Myothit (North), Hline, Thakayta, Kamayut and Dawbon Townships at the same time. — MNA

Reminder issued for trawlers

YANGON, 24 May — The Fishery Department issued the reminder No 2/2006 that trawlers are not to carry out fishing from 1 June to 31 August 2006 for prevention against depletion of fish and prawn resources in Myanmar fishing area.

The limited areas are the fishing block A-20 in Rakhine State from north latitude 18°00’ to 18°30’ and from east longitude 94°00’ to 94°30’; the fishing blocks B-15 and B-20, and blocks C-3 and C-4 in Ayeyawady Division from north latitude 15°30’ to 17°00’ and from east longitude 94°00’ to 95°00’; the fishing blocks D-23 and D-28, and E-11 and E-17 in Mon State and Taninthayi Division from north latitude 13°30’ to 14°30’ and from east longitude 97°30’ to 98°00’, and from north latitude 12°00’ to 13°00’ and from east longitude 97°30’ to 98°00’.

MNA

Follow-up news

YANGON, 24 May — Regarding the news of 23 May dailies on the ceremony to present gift of Khind Electrical & Electronics, more information for Khind products are available Tel: 38045 and Tel: 242307.

MNA

YANGON, 24 May — Ceremonies to open a traditional medicine hospital and to hoist a sacred umbrella atop Koyantaung Pagoda were held in Yanbye, Rakhine State, on 11 May.

Chairman of Kyaukpyu District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Tint, Yanbye Township PDC Chairman U Myo Tint and Thihia Thudhamma Manijotadhaja Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhaja Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhaja U Than Naing and wife Thihia Thudhamma Theingi Daw Kyi Kyi Swe and family of Thamada Robes Shop in Yangon hoisted the sacred umbrella atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage.

Donor U Than Naing explained the purpose of the establishment of the hospital. Hman Cho, Htet Lin, Yun Shwe Wah and Kaythi Pan companies presented traditional medicines for the hospital.

The congregation shared the merits gained.

‘Soon’ was offered to 108 members of the Sangha. Traditional boat races, traditional wrestling matches and entertainment programmes were also held.

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MNA
**Coordination meeting for observing Myanmar Women’s Day held**

**Yangon, 24 May** — The coordination meeting of Leading Committee for Observing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2006 organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, was held at MWAF Office in Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning with a speech by Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe, vice-presidents, the general secretary and members of the leading committee and guests.

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe made a speech. Afterwards, those present reported on the activities to mark Myanmar Women’s Day and officials of supporting committees reported on the tasks for the arrangement.

**World Population Day commemorative poster, essay and photo contests to be held**


The title set for the contests is “Young People”.

The poster contest is categorized into five levels: (1) age 6-8, (2) 9-12, (3) 13-15, (4) 16-18, and (5) 19 or above.

Levels 1 to 4 will be organized by states and divisions Immigration and National Registration Departments at respective cities on 10 June, and the contestants are to use 15” x 20” drawing paper provided by IMRD.

Those wishing to participate in these levels are to apply not later than 8 June. Contestants of level 5 or open division may use any type of 18” x 24” drawing paper and are to send their entries to respective state/division IMRDs by 14 June or the Population Department (Head Office) in Yangon by 27 June. The contests of Yangon Division are to send the entries in person to the head office by 27 June.

For levels 1 to 4, the first prize is K 100,000, the second prize, K 75,000, the third prize, 50,000, and five consolation prizes K 20,000 each. For level 5, the first prize is K 150,000, the second prize K 100,000, the third prize K 50,000, and five consolation prizes K 30,000 each.

Essay entries are to be done in Myanmar. Three levels of the essay contest — university/college level, basic education high school level (8th, 9th, 10th standards) and middle school (5th, 6th and 7th standards) — will take place in respective cities of states and divisions from 9 am to 11 am on 11 June. For university/college level, the first prize is K 50,000, the second prize, K 40,000, the third prize, K 30,000, and five consolation prizes K 20,000 each. For high and middle school levels, the first prize is K 40,000, the second prize, K 30,000, the third prize, K 20,000, and five consolation prizes K 10,000 each.

Contestants of photo contest may send 10” x 14” print entries as many as they like, and the first prize is K 200,000, the second prize, K 150,000, the third prize, K 100,000, and five consolation prizes K 50,000 each.

The entries are to be sent in person to Assistant Director U Maung Maung Myint of the Population Department at 416, Maha Bandoola Street, Yangon by 4 pm on 15 June. Entries are to be attached with a testimony that entries are own creations, are not prize-winning works at home or abroad, two passport-size photos and brief biography along with captions.

First, second and third prize winners of the contests will be awarded at the World Population Day commemorative ceremony to be held in Yangon on 11 July. Consolation prizes will be sent to the winners through respective state/division Immigration and Population Departments.

For further details, those wishing to participate in the contests may dial 382107, 385913, 385916, 385910 or 373167.

**Public Works conducts three refresher courses**

**Yangon, 24 May** — Three refresher courses for engineers of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction were opened today at the central training school of the ministry here.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the courses which will last four weeks each.

A total of 99 trainees will attend the courses.

**Commerce Minister to attend int’l trade exhibition of PRC**

**Yangon, 24 May** — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein left for the People’s Republic of China today to attend the 7th international trade exhibition of the western part of China.

The Myanmar delegation includes Head of the Office of the Ministry of Commerce U Aung Naing Oo, Deputy General Manager of Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise U Aung Myint, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration U Htay Aung, Director of the Department of Investment and Companies Administration U Htay Aung, Director of the Department of Investment and Companies Administration U Htay Aung, Director of the Department of Investment and Companies Administration U Htay Aung, Director of the Department of Investment and Companies Administration U Htay Aung.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental heads, Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and officials.

**Myanmar Insurance holds work coord meeting**

**Yangon, 24 May** — Myanmar Insurance held its coordination meeting at state, division and township levels during 2006-2007 fiscal year at the meeting hall of the enterprise this morning.

Present on the occasion were officials concerned of Myanmar Insurance, officers at state, division and township levels and heads of department.

First, Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance U Thein Lwin made a speech on the occasion. Next, officers read out reports on work procedures while heads of departments gave supplementary reports.

The work coordination meeting continues tomorrow.
Talks on cigarette and tobacco held in Ahlon Township

YANGON, 24 May — The Health Sub-Working Group, under the Social and Cultural Working Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, and Yangon West District Women’s Affairs Organization held the talks on cigarette and tobacco in commemoration of the World No Tobacco Day which falls on 31 May 2006 at the town hall in Ahlon Township this afternoon. Secretary of Ahlon Township WAO Daw Mi Mi Maw extended greetings.

Member of Yangon West District WAO Dr Yi Yi Myint gave lectures on dangers of cigarette and tobacco, cigarette and health, diseases caused by cigarette, danger of cigarette and facts about expectant mothers. A total of 50 women answered the questions related to dangers of cigarette and tobacco. — MNA

Minister stresses need for textbooks to ...

PHILIPPINES TO ALLOW JOURNALISTS CARRY FIREARMS

MANILA, 24 May — The Philippine Government favours allowing journalists to carry firearms even outside their homes in wake of the rising of killing cases against them in the country, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said on Tuesday.

Such a proposal was discussed at a Cabinet meeting, Gonzalez told reporters at a Press briefing, following the killing of another Filipino journalist on Monday, the fifth in this year. All of the victims were holding firearms to protect themselves," the Secretary said.

However, Gonzalez said members of the media would have to undergo thorough "screening" by the authorities to make sure that illegitimate reporters would not be able to arm themselves. MNA/Xinhua

THE DEPUTY MINISTER BRIG-GEN AUGT AUNG THEIN SPEAKS AT THE WORK COORDINATION MEETING

Sub-committee for Printing and Distributing School Textbooks Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and committee members met with their respective sectors. The meeting ended with necessary instructions given by the minister. — MNA

ANNAN SAYS CHINA KEY TO RESOLVING NUCLEAR CRISIS

BEIJING, 24 May — China is crucial to the success of talks on reining in North Korea’s nuclear programmes, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday.

In a speech to students at Beijing University, Annan said he spent “a good deal of time” talking with Chinese leaders about the nuclear crises in Iran and North Korea and the importance of nuclear non-proliferation.

"As host of the six-party talks on the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula, China has played a crucial role," he said.

China’s ongoing leadership will be essential to ensure that multilateral diplomatic efforts result in a peninsular free from nuclear weapons. We cannot allow the current stalemate to continue."

Christopher Hill, the top US negotiator to the talks that also group the two Koreas, Japan and Russia, is due in Beijing on Wednesday in a renewed push to restart the negotiations. The delegations agreed in principle in September that Pyongyang would dismantle its nuclear programmes in exchange for aid, security assurances and improved diplomatic ties.

But the last session in November ended without progress and North Korea has refused to take part since then.—MNA/Reuters
Nearly 100,000 women trafficked annually in South Asia

KATHMANDU, 24 May — Experts of South Asia Region (SAR) said that about 100,000 people are trafficked annually in SAR, state-run Radio Nepal reported here on Tuesday.

“Majority of the trafficked are young women and girls and many of them are trafficked for the purpose of exploitation and prostitution,” speakers said at the three-day Regional High Level Meeting on Human Trafficked and HIV: Sharing of Good Practices, Stock-taking and Moving Forward that kicked off here on Monday.

“Human trafficking in SAR has taken many forms and occur for a variety of purpose like organ transplant, bonded labour, domestic servitude, sex trade, hazardous labour, marriage, illegal adoption and pornography,” the radio quoted the speakers as saying.

The meeting was jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme Regional Centre in Colombo and United Nations Development Fund for Women.

The meeting has been organized with the aim to provide platform for dialogue between policy-makers and victims of human trafficking building upon gender sensitive and rights based approach.

The meeting also aimed at providing platform for inter-regional dialogue and collaboration amongst regional and sub-regional institutions for information sharing and for exploration of a collaborative action on human trafficking and HIV/AIDS within the context of gender and human rights and development.

Civil society partners, government and United Nations officials from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Nepal have been participating the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi PM makes official visit to UAE

DHAKA, 24 May — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia left here on Tuesday for Abu Dhabi on a two-day official visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which she will hold talks with UAE President on manpower and commodity imports from Bangladesh.

Zia will also seek purchase of petroleum products from the Gulf state at a concessional price and on credit as the country is suffering from foreign currency shortage for the last few months.

This is the first visit of Zia to UAE during the current tenure. Earlier Zia visited UAE in 1993 during her first tenure. UAE is the first Gulf state to recognize Bangladesh since independence in 1971.

“This is a goodwill visit aiming to boost relations between the two countries. This will create an opportunity for the two heads of state to meet and discuss the entire range of bilateral relations freely and frankly to further strengthen bilateral ties,” said Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin. — MNA/Xinhua

Amnesty says doublespeak undermines war on terrorism

LONDON, 24 May — Doublespeak by nations like the United States and Britain has undermined their own war on terrorism and increased human rights violations from Colombia to North Korea, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

Accusations that the United States — with the complicity of some European nations — while banning torture at home had been flying prisoners around the world for interrogation by countries with no such qualms had dented their moral authority, it said.

“Duplicity and doublespeak have become the hallmark of the war on terror,” the human rights watchdog’s secretary general Irene Khan told a news conference to publish its annual report.

“There is evidence of widespread torture in US detention centres,” she said. “The United States outsources torture to countries like Morocco, Jordan and Syria.”

She said that at least seven European countries had sanctioned or turned a blind eye to the use of their airspace for so-called extraordinary rendition flights carrying prisoners for interrogation outside the United States.

“Powerful governments are playing a dangerous game with human rights,” Khan said. “The scorecard of prolonged interrogations, human rights abuses is there for all to see.”

“Nothing can justify torture or ill-treatment … You cannot extinguish a fire with petrol.” Despite international protests, the US jail at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba remained full of prisoners who had not been charged or tried, and many European governments had tried to wriggle out of their legal human rights obligations, Amnesty said.

Early Recovery Plan for Pakistani quake-hit zone launched

ISLAMABAD, 24 May — Pakistani Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) and the United Nations have launched an Early Recovery Plan and presented it to the donor community in Islamabad, according to local media reports on Tuesday.

The plan will spearhead the donors to commit the pledged money into concrete project proposals for the early recovery of Pakistani quake-hit areas, thus providing essential services and restoring livelihoods for the people displaced by the quake, according to the statement released by an UN humanitarian affairs body on Monday.

“UN will have a lighter footprint and scale down its presence in the affected areas in the recovery phase,” said Jan Vandemoortele, the United Nations Resident Coordinator of Pakistan.

The emphasis will be on training and capacity development of the human resources of the local governments in the affected areas, the UN official said.

The United Nations plans to set up 150 basic health units and 32 plus schools this year alone, and provision of seeds, farming tools and live-stock will be one of the priorities for restoring livelihoods especially of females as in the affected areas, the statement said.

ERRA is advocating an owner-driven policy for the reconstruction of houses, and some 600,000 housing units are being planned with a cost of almost 3,000 US dollars for each unit, according to the statement. — MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

FLOODING TRAPS 57 IN CHINA MINE: Rescuers outside the mine have brought pumping equipment to the scene. Rescuers in China say they now believe that an estimated 57 coalminers are trapped underground in a flooded mine in the northern province of Shanxi.

INTERNET

A raccoon sits in a tree in an undated file photo. A raccoon suffered an 11,000 volt electric shock when it scrambled up a pylon in Cyprus but escaped with burns on 18 May, 2006. — INTERNET

Piranhas, A shoal of piranha fish on show at a British aquatic centre have had to be put on a diet after piling on the pounds in captivity on 18 May, 2006. — INTERNET

INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 25 May, 2006
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He noted that Nigeria is

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economic transformation and that produces competent and flexible human resources are critical prerequisite which demanded for skilled workers. According to him, the loan will complement the efforts of the Nigerian Government to revitalize vocational and technical education.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s “Antara” urges government to clarify status

JAKARTA, 23 May — Top executives of Indonesia’s Antara news agency met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono Monday asking the government to clarify whether it is an official state agency or a private firm. “Antara’s legal status remains unclear until now,” the agency’s president Asro Kamal Rokan told reporters after his meeting with Susilo at the Presidential Palace here.

Asro said the meeting discussed options for the future of Antara, whether it becomes a private company, a semi official news agency or an official news agency. The management also reported to the President the financial conditions, in which Antara has suffered deficits in budget over the last several years, Asro said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, Antara reported that Susilo in a closed-door meeting ordered relevant ministers to decide Antara’s status within three months.

“I give you three months. Come again in this forum in August with decision of what Antara legal status is,” Susilo was quoted as saying. The meeting was attended also by among others Vice-President Jusuf Kalla, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Boediono, Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare Aburizal Bakrie, Minister of Communication and Information Sofyan Djajat, Minister of State Enterprises Sugiharto and Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati.

Malaysia to install third buoy for tsunami detection

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 May — Malaysia is expected to install a third buoy for the detection of tsunami in the Sulu Sea next month, a meteorological official said Monday.

The Malaysian Government is still discussing the exact location and date of installation with the Philippines. Malaysia will need to send out information to the Malaysian Tsunami Operation Centre, and then the centre will activate steps under the tsunami early warning system, he said.

Within 15 minutes, the information will reach the public through various means including short message system (SMS), telefax, website, siren, media broadcast and others.

The first Malaysian buoy was installed near Pulau Rondo in Sumatera, Indonesia last year while the second in March this year near the Layang Layang Island in South China Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

ADB grants $43m for Nigeria’s education project

ABUJA, 23 May— The African Development Bank (ADB) President Donald Kaberuka on Sunday said the bank’s $43 million-US-dollar grant to finance skills training and vocational education is the bank’s intervention in Nigeria’s education sector.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of the loan in Abuja, the capital, Kaberuka said “education and the social sector in general investment in priority areas in the bank’s support to its regional member countries”. “We recognize it as a key ingredient in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and toward longterm sustainable development,” he said.

He noted that Nigeria is

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COLOMBIA ‘FRIENDLY FIRE’ KILLS 11: Colombian police stand guard near the scene of the shooting. Colombia’s fight against drugs involves different security forces.

Colombian troops have accidentally shot dead 10 undercover police officers working on an anti-drugs operation in southern Colombia, officials say on 23 May, 2006. —INTERNET

China, Russia seek more eco, trade cooperation

GIANGGI, 23 May — A China and Russia seminar here on Monday discussed how to strengthen regional cooperation in bilateral economic and trade exchanges.

The seminar was one of the eight programmes of the “Year of Russia” in China, hosted by the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Senior officials of the Russian Federation Council (Upper House) and more than 150 entrepreneurs in such fields as light industry and high technologies attended the seminar.

Dmitry Mezentsev, vice-chairman of the Russian Federation Council, said the seminar is of great significance in promoting China-Russia economic and trade cooperation.

He said the two countries have rapidly expanded regional economic and trade cooperation beyond the border areas of both countries which have so far dominated bilateral trade exchanges.

Chen Haosu, president of CPAFFC, said China and Russia have great potential for economic and trade cooperation. Bilateral import and export volume was 5.7 billion US dollars in 1999 and in 2005 the number soared to 29.1 billion dollars, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Annan calls for protection of biodiversity

UNITED NATIONS, 23 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday called for “decisive action” to protect the planet against ecological degradation.

In a message marking the International Day for Biological Diversity, Annan noted that the degradation of drylands, which constitute 40 per cent of the planet’s land surface, is having dramatic effects with some 2,300 species endangered or facing extinction, significant losses in agricultural output, and an economic cost estimated at more than 42 billion dollars a year.

“These consequences are especially troubling because they are borne disproportionately by the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people,” he added.

Annan stressed the need to reverse desertification, a process not only exacerbating poverty but also largely caused by it.

“This year’s biodiversity commemoration coincides with the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,” he said.

“A visitor looks at a polar bear through an acryl capsule at Asahiyama Zoo in Asahikawa, northern Japan on 22 May, 2006. The zoo, known as its unique attraction. —INTERNET

“Case these two complementary observances illustrate the strong links between environmental issues, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and global approach to address these concerns.” — MNA/Xinhua

Child cancer survivors face employment troubles

WASHINGTON, 23 May— People who survived cancer as children were twice as likely to be unemployed than those without a history of childhood cancer, Dutch researchers reported on Monday.

Survivors of brain cancer or other central nervous system tumours were five times more likely to be unemployed, A.G.E.M. de Boer of the Coronel Institute for Occupational Health at Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam and colleagues reported.

Those who survived blood-cell and bone marrow cancers like leukemia also had a slightly higher risk of being unemployed, the researchers reported in Monday’s issue of the journal Cancer.

The analysis showed women and Americans were especially vulnerable.

People who survived other types of cancer in childhood had no extra risk of being unemployed, the researchers said.

The Japanese daily Sankei Sports introduced young Korean actress Goh A-ra to its readers as a rising Korean star who will lead the next-generation Korean Wave. Printing a detailed interview with her in its Saturday edition, it said that Goh has just started to spread her wings to reach not only Korea and Japan but also the whole world. —INTERNET

Mexican police seize eight tons of marijuana in Nuevo Leon

MEXICO CITY, 23 May — Mexico’s anti-narcotics police have seized 8.14 tons of marijuana in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, a record seizure for the state, the Federal Attorney General’s Office (PGR) said on Monday.

The drug was seized in the early hours of Monday morning in a truck carrying fertilizer on the Monterrey-Allende road near Santa Catarina, a municipality within the metropolitan area of Monterrey, capital of Nuevo Leon.

The drug was hidden among the fertilizer in a bag to disguise its distinct odour. — MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**Brazil coach says Ronaldo fit**

WIGGS (Switzerland), 24 May —Brazil striker Ronaldo has recovered from the nagging thigh injury which forced him to miss the last six weeks of the Spanish season, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said on Tuesday. Parreira intends to field Ronaldo in Brazil’s opening World Cup match against Croatia on June 13, even though the 29-year-old will only regain full match fitness during the tournament.

“arounds that Ronaldo is better, he’s been working with the ball and doing exercises of medium intensity,” Parreira told reporters on Tuesday.

“Ronaldo has been running and he just needs to regain match fitness. His weight is perfect.”

Ronaldo was plagued by a string of minor injuries last season with Real Madrid whose fans believed he was overweight.

He last played in Real’s 1-1 draw at home to Real Sociedad on April 8 when he scored before limping off after an hour with an injury to his right thigh.

Parreira said he had no intention of resting Ronaldo from Brazil’s two warm-up games against a local selection on May 30 and New Zealand in Geneva on June 4.—MNA/Reuters

**S Korea held 1-1 by Senegal in warm-up**

SEOUL, 24 May —South Korea were held to a 1-1 draw by Senegal on Tuesday in the first of four warm-up matches for next month’s World Cup.

South Korea’s Park Chu-young coolly collected a cross on his chest to set up Kim Do-heon for a low strike in the 74th minute in the Seoul World Cup Stadium. Five minutes later the Africans shocked the home fans when Moussa Ndiaye struck a fine effort from outside the area to beat South Korea keeper Lee Woon-jae.

“I was very happy with the game because we are, as you know, in the middle of preparations for Germany,” South Korea coach Dick Advocaat told a news conference.

“It was an excellent exercise for us especially on the physical side.”

The home side at times struggled to quell a pacey and physical Senegal who were missing a trio of England-based players including El Hadji Diouf.

“Defensively we still made some mistakes but we still have three weeks to find out, and we will find out, the reason,” Advocaat said.

South Korea are drawn in Group G with France, Switzerland and Togo for the World Cup in Germany. Their opening game against Togo is on June 13.

“We all know we like to win, but in this period everything is related to the first game in Germany,” Advocaat added.

South Korea striker and fan favourite Ahn Jung-hwan had a goal disallowed for offside just after the break and a penalty appeal turned down in a frantic last 10 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

**Manchester United sack Rooney doyen**

LONDON, 24 May —Manchester United club doctor Mike Stone, who was overseeing England striker Wayne Rooney's recovery from a broken foot, has been sacked by the Premier League club, British media reported on Wednesday.

Stone, who had been with United for 10 years, was put in charge of Rooney’s rehabilitation after the forward broke the fourth metatarsal on his right foot on April 29 at Chelsea.

“We can confirm that Mike Stone has left the club,” a United spokesman was quoted as saying by The Sun newspaper.

The paper added that the doctor wrote to his former colleagues saying: “I’m leaving with immediate effect, it’s been a pleasure working with you all.”

Rooney, who spent his first few months at United in 2004 under the care of Stone following a metatarsal injury suffered at Euro 2004, will have a scan on his latest injury on Thursday.

The Independent newspaper said responsibility for getting Rooney fit for the World Cup would now pass to United’s assistant doctor, Tony Gill.

United manager Alex Ferguson and director Bobby Charlton have already warned that Rooney will not be allowed to play at the World Cup if he is not fully fit.—MNA/Reuters

**Skinner Reyna injured as US fall to Morocco**

NASHVILLE (Tennessee), 24 May —The US opened the first of three World Cup tune-up matches in six days with little to show on Tuesday as a 90th-minute strike by Mohamed Madihi gave Morocco a 1-0 victory.

US skipper Reyna injured as US fall to Morocco.

The US enjoyed the majority of the chances against a lacklustre first-half, and a blistering free kick unchallenged into the area to beat South Korea keeper Lee Woon-jae.

“I was very happy with the game because we are, as you know, in the middle of preparations for Germany,” South Korea coach Dick Advocaat told a news conference.

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South Korea striker and fan favourite Ahn Jung-hwan had a goal disallowed for offside just after the break and a penalty appeal turned down in a frantic last 10 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

**Arsenal sign Czech midfielder Rosicky**

LONDON, 24 May — Czech Republic midfielder Tomas Rosicky joined Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday. The 25-year-old has signed a long-term contract for an undisclosed fee, the Arsenal website reported without giving further details. Czech media reported Rosicky’s deal was for four years.

The move is a second boost to the London club following their 2-1 defeat by Barcelona in the Champions League final last Wednesday. On Friday France striker and captain Thierry Henry decided to stay.

“I’m really happy to be here at Arsenal, it is a great day for me,” said Rosicky.

The attacking midfielder was contracted to Dortmund until 2008 and is a key member of the Czech Republic’s World Cup squad. He has been a long-standing Atletico Madrid target.—MNA/Reuters

**Eriksson dismisses Charlton’s fears for Walcott**

WATFORD (England), 23 May —England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has dismissed fears voiced by Bobby Charlton that 17-year-old Theo Walcott is too young to play at the World Cup.

Charlton, England’s 1966 World Cup winner, told reporters on Monday he thought that taking Walcott to Germany may be “a bit too much to ask of the young player”.

But Eriksson, who surprised everyone, including Walcott, when he named the teenager in his World Cup squad two weeks ago, brushed aside Charlton’s comments, saying he had no regrets.

“I have not regretted it at all,” the Swede told reporters near their training base. “If only you had seen the two goals he scored in training on Friday — they were very good.

“He’s a huge talent, no doubt about that, and I think he’s mentally ready for it.

“I don’t think anyone expects him to come on against Brazil and score three goals. But he deserves to be here and, who knows, at the next World Cup he may start.”

Eriksson also dismissed the notion that Walcott, who has yet to make his debut for Arsenal since joining them in January, would be worried about playing on the world’s stage.—MNA/Reuters

**Phil Neville in for Reo-Coker with England**

LONDON, 23 May —Midfielder Nigel Reo-Coker has withdrawn from England’s World Cup squad by-list and has been replaced by Phil Neville, the Football Association said on Monday.

West Ham United’s Reo-Coker has been sidelined by a back injury and his place on the list of 23 reserve players has now been taken by Everton utility man Neville, who will join the squad on Tuesday.

Tottenham Hotspur central defender Michael Dawson was drafted in as a stand-by on Sunday to replace Charlton Athletic full back Luke Young, who has an ankle injury.

“Defensively we still made some mistakes but we still have three weeks to find out, and we will find out, the reason,” Advocaat said.

South Korea are drawn in Group G with France, Switzerland and Togo for the World Cup in Germany. Their opening game against Togo is on June 13.

“We all know we like to win, but in this period everything is related to the first game in Germany,” Advocaat added.

South Korea striker and fan favourite Ahn Jung-hwan had a goal disallowed for offside just after the break and a penalty appeal turned down in a frantic last 10 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

**Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao watches German Chancellor Angela Merkel playing with a taiji soft ball during their visit to Changshu Park in Beijing on 22 May, 2006.**

**INTERNET**

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Thursday, 25 May, 2006
Greek, Turkish jets collide in interception moves

ATHENS, 24 May — Greek and Turkish warplanes which collided in mid-air on Tuesday were shadowing each other above the Greek island of Karpathos in the South-eastern Aegean Sea, the Greek Defence Ministry said.

“The planes collided during interception manoeuvres above Karpathos,” a Defence Ministry official said.

“We don’t know what has happened to the pilots yet,” he told Reuters.

The Greek plane was an F-16 but it was not clear what type of Turkish plane had crashed.

The Turkish Defence Ministry was not immediately available to comment on the incident.

There were no scheduled military exercises in the area, Greek officials said.

A search and rescue operation was immediately mounted.

“Several Super Puma rescue helicopters are on their way to the area,” a Greek government official told Reuters.

A frigate was also ordered to sail towards Karpathos to take part in the search and rescue operation.

Rivals Greece and Turkey regularly criticize each other for causing mock dogfights between warplanes over the Aegean sea.

Greece’s Defence Ministry says it daily scrambles several fighter jets to intercept Turkish jets that it claims have invaded its air space.

The two countries, who came close to war as recently as 1996, have considerably improved ties but have not resolved territorial disputes in the Aegean Sea and over the divided island of Cyprus.

Pakistan moves to be screened in India

ISLAMABAD, 24 May — Five Pakistani films will be screened in India next month, marking the latest “breach” in a four-decade cinema blockade between the two countries, state-run media reported on Monday.

The five Pakistani films are Daku Rani, Majajan, Yeh Dil Aapka Hua, Salakhain and Koi Tuhsa Kahan, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported, quoting an Indian website.

These films will be launched simultaneously in the Indian capital New Delhi and another major city Mumbai on 25 June in a 10-day film festival, the APP reported said.

Pakistan banned Indian films in 1965, and recently it has allowed the release of two Indian films, “Mughal-e-Azam” and “Taj Mahal”, in the country.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, the Southwest monsoon is advancing into the Central Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan State, upper Saging, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaying Division, (5°C) above normal in Kayah State, (3°C) below normal in Mon State, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Shwebo (39°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Mawlamyine (2.36) inches, Kawthoung (1.97) inches, Thatgon (1.81) inches, Dawei (1.49) inches, Bago (1.38) inches. Hpa-an (1.18) inches, Shwebo and Kayan (1.06) inches each and Magway (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-5-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 24-5-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-5-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 23-5-2006 was (1.8) hours appox.

Rainfalls on 24-5-2006 were (0.36) inch at Mingaladon, (0.39) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.43) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (13.86) inches at Mingaladon, (16.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (18.58) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 23-5-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States, Bago, Tanintharyi, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Shan, Chin, Kayah States, lower Saging, Mandalay and Magway and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of thundery conditions in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-5-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-5-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Minister stresses need for textbooks to reach students in time at right price

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — The Committee for Printing and Distributing Textbooks held the coordination meeting 1/2006 at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, with an address by Committee Chairman Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

In his address, the minister explained printing and distribution of textbooks for 2006-07 academic year, and he stressed the need to work similar tasks for 2007-08 academic year.

The textbooks for 2006-07 have been sent to all distribution centres since April. Measures have been taken to distribute the textbooks to students at the beginning of new academic year. The textbooks could not be sent to some areas of the country on schedule last year. Therefore, all are to take care of performing their tasks this year, and the textbooks are to be distributed to students at fair prices in June.

The minister added that the distribution sub-committee is to report back progress of work to the Committee.

In doing so, all the difficulties in the distribution task are to be solved and these difficulties are to be submitted to the committee. So also, officials are to inform the students of distributing the textbooks at the school opening season.

Furthermore, arrangements are to be made in accord with directives of officials concerned to send textbooks to students at fair price in time, to print the textbooks with the use of the government presses, to pass the textbooks from one student to another, and to limit the printing works by practising thrifty.

... (See page 10)

NLD in collusion with some foreign nations, underground and aboveground saboteurs working against national interests but for party and few

YANGON, 24 May — Forty-three members of Phakant Township National League for Democracy in Kachin State including vice-chairman U Maung Ko resigned from the party of their own volition.

Six executives including the vice-chairman and 37 members sent the signed letters to NLD headquarters and local authorities. The 43 persons submitted their letters of resignation to Phakant Township Multi-Party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission in person at 10.50 am on 9 May.

Executive U Chit Htwe, on behalf of the 43, explained the purpose of their resignation, saying that they are disappointed with the NLD and lost interest in it due to its destructive acts for self-interest and grabbing power at the expense of others’ interest. They have witnessed harmonious efforts of the people and the government working overtime for the progress of the nation and the people. They are now interested only in the national politics rather than party politics. They joined the NLD with the aim of doing clean politics and serving locals’ interest. The NLD first took part in the National Convention, the lifeblood for the emergence of a new constitution. But it walked out of the Convention when all its demands for manipulation based on self-interest were not met. NLD did not attend the National Convention that resumed in 2004, although the government invited it. The NLD in collusion with some foreign nations and underground and aboveground saboteurs has been working against the national interest but for the good of the party and few people. The entire nation including Kachin State is enjoying peace thanks to the government’s policy of national reconsolidation. They resigned from the NLD that is crazed with self-interest for power.

U Mon Lin of Ayemyathaya Ward of Phakant Township, National League for Democracy, submitted the letters of resignation to the chairman of Township MPDGESC.

Chaired by U Maung Ko, the ceremony was also attended by officials and local authorities.

... (See page 10)