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

### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

### Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

---

**Assistance to be rendered to private gems companies to manufacture and sell polished jade and gems through technology sharing and market research**

YANGON, 26 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at June-July Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006 at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

After leaving necessary instructions to officials, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye viewed display of jade lots.

Accompanied by Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and officials, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at Myanmar Convention Centre at 10.30 am. They were welcomed by the Minister for Mines, the Yangon Mayor and officials.

At the hall, Patron of the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported that the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales will be held in June-July (See page 16)
Twantay Bridge emerges over Twantay Canal

Secure and smooth transport is an important factor in the regional development and brings prospects for higher socio-economic life of local people. So, the government has been building a network of river-spanning bridges and roads that covers the entire nation.

The Twantay Bridge across Twantay Canal in Twantay Township, Yangon South District, was inaugurated the other day. The main bridge of the steel cable suspension type facility is 840 feet long and it has a 28-foot-wide motorway on it.

In the past, local people in Dalla, Twantay and Kungyangon townships had to rely on crafts and motorboats to get to Yangon. Thanks to the newly-opened bridge, local residents in Dalla, Twantay and Kungyangon townships can enjoy a direct access to Yangon by car. In addition, they can conveniently travel to Ayeyawady Division via Dalla-Twantay-Hlinethaya Road, thereby making commodity flows swifter between the two regions.

So far, Yangon Division has been served with 26 large bridges including the Twantay Bridge. And Thanlyin Bridge No 2, Kamarkyi Bridge across Ngamoeyek Creek, and Kayancharung Bridge across Kayan Creek are under construction.

Due to the emergence of Hline River-crossing bridges in Yangon such as Bayintnaung, Aungzeya and Shwepyitha, the townships and rural areas on the other bank have directly linked with Yangon, and that has added momentum to the development of Hlinthaya Industrial Zone.

These are not all. People can travel conveniently between Dalla, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships in Yangon Division and Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyaukla and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Division. Ayeyawady Division can transport its regional goods such as rice, beans and pulses and marine products to Yangon in a short time.

The government is pouring huge investments, using manpower and heavy machinery and applying advanced technologies in the road and bridge projects. As a result, the entire nation has witnessed 215 180-foot-and-above bridges so far. Owing to these fine transport facilities, the entire people will be able to lead a more prosperous and rewarding life in the economic, education, health and social sectors.

Coord meeting of Customs Department held

YANGON, 26 May — The Customs Department held the coordination meeting for 2005-06 financial year at its training school, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General U Khin Maung Lin of the Customs Department, officers and staff.

UMFCCI Vice-President meets Indian delegation

YANGON, 25 May — A five-member delegation led by Secretary Mr Vaithaluma of Trade and Commerce Department of Mizoram State, India, called on Vice-President U Win Aung and the CEC member and executives of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at its office on 24 May. They held discussions on increasing trade between two countries, smooth border trade and banking services, and agreed to hold a discussion between entrepreneurs from both sides at the designated place.

Chinese Deputy Public Security Minister arrives

YANGON, 26 May — At the invitation of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, a Chinese delegation led by Deputy Minister for Public Security and Deputy Commissioner for National Drug Abuse Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China Mr Zhang Xinfeng arrived here this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and officials.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe served them with a luncheon at Sedona Hotel.

Next, the Chinese delegation visited Myanmar Gems Museum, and also paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.
China opposes US annual report on its military power

BEIJING, 25 May — China was strongly resentful of and firmly opposed to a US annual report on its military power, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here on Wednesday.

The 2006 China Military Power Report, issued by the US Defence Ministry recently, has continued to spread “China’s threat” and severely violated the principles governing international relations, said Liu when responding to Press.

He said the report, still with the “Cold War” mentality, has exaggerated China’s military power and military expenditure with ulterior motives and wantonly interfere in China’s internal affairs.

“He is a peace-loving nation and has insisted on a way of peaceful development, with a national defence policy that is defensive in nature. The international community has generally acknowledged that China is an important force of promoting peace in the Asia-Pacific Region and the world at large,” said Liu. He said it is natural for China, a sovereign state, to develop its national defence construction which is aimed at defending national security and safeguarding territorial integrity.

“Taiwan is an inseparable part of China’s territories. The Chinese Government sticks to the policy of ‘peaceful reunification and one country, two systems’,” said Liu.

He said the Chinese Government will exert its utmost effort and show all sincerity to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification of the motherland. However, Liu said, China will never tolerate “Taiwan independence” and will never allow anyone to separate Taiwan from China in any way.

Liu said China has urged the US side to stick to its commitments of adhering to the one-China policy, abiding by the three communiqués between China and the US and opposing to “Taiwan independence”, stop selling weapons to Taiwan and not to send any wrong signal to the splittist forces of “Taiwan independence.” — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait values ties with China

KUWAIT CITY, 25 May — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met separately with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Tuesday, saying that Kuwait values its ties with China.

During the meetings, the emir and the prime minister said that the peoples of the two countries enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges, and the two countries are sincere friends.

They said that Kuwait spoke highly of China’s important role in upholding justice and promoting world peace in international affairs and thanked China for its valuable support in a variety of areas.

They said that Kuwait and China, both developing countries, have shared interests in a number of areas, stressing that Kuwait is fully prepared to advance ties with China and expand bilateral cooperation.

Kuwait will observe the one-China policy, they said.

For his part, Li said that Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab country to forge diplomatic ties with China.

“We cherish a sincere friendship between the peoples of the two countries,” he said.

He said that the two countries have supported each other and bilateral ties have developed steadily since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1971.

Bilateral cooperation has been fruitful, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chavez says Bush bad for world peace

CARACAS, 25 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez complained on Tuesday that the United States is making peace in the world impossible, a comment he said was a response to recent criticism from President George W Bush.

“We are very worried because your imperialist and warlike government is dangerously eroding the possibility of peace and life in the world,” said Chavez, a fiery critic of the Iraq war. Bush said on Monday he was concerned about what he called the erosion of democracy in Venezuela and fellow Andean country Bolivia.

The exchange was the latest salvo in a war of words between Washington and Caracas. The United States charges that the populist Chavez is an anti-American, pro-Castro and pro-Bolivarian President Evo Morales nationalized the country’s energy industry on 1 May, upsetting international investors. He and Chavez are close allies and, with Cuban President Fidel Castro, have formed an alliance that aims to stifle what they say is US hegemony.

The United States announced this month it would no longer sell arms to Venezuela, insisting the country had failed to cooperate in global efforts to fight terrorism.

MNA/Reuters

Three hurt in cargo area fire at Istanbul airport

ISTANBUL, 25 May — A large fire broke out in a cargo area of Istanbul’s main Ataturk Airport on Wednesday, injuring three people but not causing any air traffic delays, officials said.

Fire engines and ambulances rushed to the scene of the fire where huge plumes of black smoke billowed up from the airport which serves Turkey’s largest city.

Planes normally used for water bombing forest fires swooped down to douse the flames.

“There are no delays in air traffic, takeoffs and landings are continuing. Planes are being pulled away from the area. Work on putting out the fire is continuing,” airport director Inan Balta told CNN Turk.

Istanbul Deputy Governor Fikret Kasapoglu told Turkish NTV television news channel that three people had been hurt. NTV also reported the Transport Ministry as saying the fire had been brought under control.

The fire broke out around 3:30 pm (1230 GMT) in the cargo section of Terminal C, which is used by smaller airlines.

MNA/Reuters

Qatari pays $2.75m for mobile phone number

DOHA, 25 May — The tiny Gulf state of Qatar, famed mainly for having the Arab world’s largest reserves of natural gas, added another record to its name on Tuesday—one of the world’s most expensive telephone number.

At a charity even in the capital of Doha, a Qatari bidder paid 2.75 million US dollars for the mobile phone number 666-6666.

The winner, who made the highest bid 16 minutes into the auction, declined request for interviews. Eight people took part in the auction, organized by Qatar Telecom to help raise funds for charity, paying 1,000 Qatari riyals 824.60 US dollars per ticket.

Funds from the ticket sales were given to a charity, while the 10 million riyals from the sale of the number will be used to expand medical services.

MNA/Reuters

Three formation of US Navy Blue Angles fly by skyscrapers of Manhattan in New York, the United States, on 25 May, 2006. US Navy Blue Angles performed for the fleet week which opened on Wednesday. —INTERNET
**Chocolate may boost brain power**

**NEW YORK, 25 May — Chocolate lovers rejoice. A new study hints that eating milk chocolate may boost brain function.**

“Chocolate contains many substances that act as stimulants, such as theobromine, phenethylamine, and caffeine,” Dr Bryan Raudenbush from Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia noted in comments to Reuters Health.

“These substances by themselves have previously been found to increase alertness and attention and what we have found is that by consuming chocolate you can get the stimulating effects, which tend to increased mental performance.”

To study the effects of various chocolate types on brain power, Raudenbush and colleagues had a group of volunteers consume, on four separate occasions, 85 grammes of milk chocolate; 85 grammes of dark chocolate; 85 grammes of carob; and nothing (the control condition). After a 15-minute digestive period, participants completed a variety of computer-based neuropsychological tests designed to assess cognitive performance including memory, attention span, reaction time, and problem solving. “Composite scores for verbal and visual memory were significantly higher for milk chocolate than the other conditions,” Raudenbush-told Reuters Health.

And consumption of milk and dark chocolate was associated with improved impulse control and reaction time. Previous research has shown that some nutrients in food aid in glucose release and increased blood flow, which may augment cognitive performance.

**MNA/Reuters**

---

**Bomb goes off in car wash near Tel Aviv**

**JERUSALEM, 25 May — A small bomb went off at noon Wednesday near a car wash owned by an underworld kingpin at an exchange near Israel’s commercial city of Tel Aviv, no injuries were reported.**

Israeli best-selling daily Yedioth Ahronot said on its website that the blast occurred at 12:10 pm near the car wash on Dov Friedman Street, where the Diamond Exchange complex is located.

The kingpin was at the scene when the blast went off, but his attorney said later the kingpin was not hurt. “The explosion took place in an old structure—a shed. Part of the roof was completely blown off. It was a very loud blast,” one eyewitness said.—MNA/Xinhua

---

**Vietnam may test bird flu vaccines on human in August**

**HANOI, 25 May — Vietnam is likely to test vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 on human in August, after successful tests on animals, local newspaper Young People reported on Wednesday.**

The National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology has submitted its proposal on the issue to the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Science and Environment and the Health Ministry, and the tests will be conducted in August if it gets the council’s approval, the paper reported, quoting sources from the Vietnamese Health Ministry.

The institute will conduct clinical trials on 20-30 local volunteers first, and then on some 300 ones. The trials are expected to start on 23 August and be completed on 29 September. About 60 Taleban reported dead in Afghan clash

**KABUL, 25 May — About 60 Taleban fighters and four Afghan Government soldiers were killed in a battle in the southern province of Uruzgan, an Afghan news agency reported.**

More than 300 people have been reported killed in a series of battles, ambushes and bombings since last Wednesday, according to the US military and Afghan officials. It is the worst spell of violence since US and Afghan opposition forces ousted the Taleban in late 2001 after they refused to hand over Osama bin Laden.

Most of the dead were militants but dozens of Afghan police, soldiers and civilians have also been killed, along with four foreign soldiers.

The commander of Afghan forces in the south, General Rahmatullah Raufi, told reporters the bodies of about 60 militants had been found after the battle on Tuesday night, according to the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press.—MNA/Reuters

---

**British plane catches fire in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 25 May — A British military aircraft caught on fire after landing in the southern Afghan province of Helmand on Wednesday, a spokesman of British troops confirmed.**

It was a Hercules C-130 aircraft which had an accident but there was no casualty,” Lieutenant David Dounie told Xinhua. Commenting on the cause of the incident, he said the case would be investigated.

The eyewitness said that the ill-fated Hercules C-130 was on fire after landing at an airbase close to Lashkargah, capital of Helmand Province.

Most of the dead were militants but dozens of Afghan police, soldiers and civilians have also been killed, along with four foreign soldiers.

The commander of Afghan forces in the south, General Rahmatullah Raufi, told reporters the bodies of about 60 militants had been found after the battle on Tuesday night, according to the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press.—MNA/Reuters

---

**Kuwait, Russia seek peaceful means to solve Iran’s nuclear issue**

**KUWAIT CITY, 25 May — Kuwait’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Salem Al-Sabah said on Tuesday that Kuwait supported Russia’s efforts to find political and diplomatic means to solve Iran’s nuclear issue.**

Both Kuwait and Russia called on the international community to make joint efforts to resolve the crisis and urged Iran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the minister told a joint news conference with Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Sheikh Mohammad said it was very important for Iran’s nuclear issue to be resolved in a peaceful, political and diplomatic manner.

The visiting Russian Foreign Minister said “we both thought that Iran’s nuclear issue should be solved through peaceful means and we supported the desire of Kuwait and most countries in the region to solve the crisis through peaceful and diplomatic means.”

Lavrov said that Russia did not believe that the use of force in international relations was a means of resolving crises.

“What is important — is that Iran takes a positive stance and we hope Teheran accepts the negotiated initiatives and that it accepts total cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency,” Lavrov said. — MNA/Xinhua
Belarussian President favours relations with Russia, China

MOSCOW, 25 May—Union with Russia was a historic choice of Belarus and China a foreign policy priority, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko said in his annual address to the Parliament and the nation in Minsk on Tuesday. "The advantages of union with Russia are undoubted," Lukashenko was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying, "this is our historic choice".

Lukashenko said joint efforts of the two countries "are concentrated on the quest of the optimum model of relations in the framework of the Union State". "It is characteristic that we have passed on from dealing exclusively with organizational and legal matters to specific work in the areas of social security, education, the health services, the tax policy and free travel," he said. "China, which shares and supports many of our political steps, is a key priority of Belarussian foreign policy," Lukashenko said. Belarus favours full-scale cooperation with the United States and the European Union, he said. And Belarus is for preserving the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and for continuing cooperation in the framework of that organization. "We will continue cooperation in the framework of the CIS," Lukashenko said. "We have common interests, so any form of integration is useful. We must develop more actively in the framework of the CIS the transit component, social and humanitarian cooperation. "At the same time there’s no denying that the Commonwealth is in need of a reform, mainly in order to enhance the effectiveness of the decisions taken and responsibility of each state for fulfilling the obligations assumed," the President said.

Experts gather in Cuba to discuss fighting disease-carrying insects

HAVANA, 25 May—Experts from 29 countries gathered in Cuba on Tuesday to attend the third International Symposium for Fighting Vectors, a Pan-American conference which analyzes the control of disease-carrying insects. Specialists from Cuba's National Hygiene and Epidemiology Agency, and the National Workers Health Institute will give details of Cuba's progress in fighting these disease carriers.

The meeting was designed to fight Aedes Aegypti and other malaria- and dengue-fever carrying mosquitoes. The two diseases strike more than one million people each year.

China pushes for more energy-efficient buildings

BEIJING, 25 May—China has launched ambitious plans to make its residential and office buildings more energy-efficient. In the first five months of the year, industrial standard makers announced three sets of new national standards; namely, regulations on energy saving for civil buildings, standards for residential buildings and standards for technical evaluations of residential buildings.

Chinese legislators are also actively involved in the process. Both the Law on Energy Saving and the Law on Architecture are being revised to accommodate the new standards. A new decree on energy-saving for buildings is also high on the agenda of the State Council, Minister Wang said recently.

China's efforts to improve the energy-efficiency of its buildings is important for itself, but it also affects the rest of the world.

French hotel group seeking expansion in China's PRD region

HONG KONG, 25 May—French hotel group Accor announced on Tuesday that it plans to double its hotel presence in Pan-Pearl River Delta (PRD) region including Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong Province.

Michael Issenberg, Accor Asia Pacific's managing director, said at a Press conference that Accor operated seven hotels in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Dongguan by early 2006. The number is likely to increase to at least 12 in the two places by 2008.

He said, Accor's expansion in Hong Kong and Guangdong is part of the company’s rapid development in China that will see the company grow its network from current 34 hotels to over 50 hotels in the next two years.

US Embassy in Japan warns of possible threat

TOKYO, 25 May—The United States Embassy said on Wednesday it had received a possible threat against US facilities in Japan and urged US citizens to exercise caution. "The US Embassy has learned of a possible threat against American facilities in Japan, the credibility of which has yet to be determined," the US Embassy in Tokyo said in a statement. "Given the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, we advise American citizens to exercise caution and report any suspicious activities to authorities."

America's Memorial Day holiday is on Monday, 29 May.

Japan's top government spokesman, Shinzo Abe, said he had no information that suggested there would be an attack in Japan. "We do not have any concrete information that a terrorist attack will be carried out in Japan," he told reporters. Since the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States, security has been tight around the US Embassy and other facilities related to the United States in Japan.
Thai Monarch calls for rapid rescue of flood victims

BANGKOK, 25 May — Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Wednesday called for all parties concerned to offer rescue efforts for flood-trapped people in the north and ordered the help from the military in combating the grave national disaster.

In an announcement issued by the Office of His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary, the King and the Queen are greatly concerned about their subjects who are suffering the consequences of heavy flash floods and mudslides which have caused a great human and property loss to people in the five northern provinces of Uttaradit, Sukhothai, Phrae, Lampang, and Nan.

The King also instructed the country’s Army, Navy and Air Force to conduct joint efforts in cooperation with other agencies in order to carry out urgent relief operations for those affected by the natural disaster.

In response to the royal instruction, the Armed Forces pledged immediate action to provide emergency assistance for those affected.

Almost 300 Vietnamese fishermen remain missing and 28 have been reported dead, three days after Typhoon Chan Chan sank at least 11 ships in the South China Sea.—INTERNET

World water giant sets foot in China

BEIJING, 25 May — With its water supply and waste management business in China soon expected to be worth a billion US dollars a year, the world’s largest environmental service provider, Veolia Environment, is taking steps into China’s energy and transport market.

Henri Proglio, Chairman and CEO of Veolia Environment, said in Beijing on Tuesday that China’s increasing demand for energy savings and transport management is leading his company to expand.

According to Proglio, Veolia Energy was recently awarded its first contract in China, to operate the air conditioning system at Guangzhou University in south China. Meanwhile, Veolia Transport has just opened up a representative office in Shanghai, said Proglio. As one of the 29 special business advisers to Beijing’s mayor, Proglio is visiting Beijing for the 7th Meeting of International Business Leaders Advisory Council for the Mayor of Beijing.

Colombia seizes smuggled goods

BOGOTA, 25 May — Colombian Navy seized smuggled goods worth more than 3 million Colombian pesos (1.2 million US dollars) and six million dollars in cash on Tuesday, said Alfonzo Diaz, commander of Colombia’s Caribbean naval forces on Tuesday.

During the operation, the naval forces also arrested nine people, who were later transferred to the Cartagena prosecutors office and the National Tax and Customs Administration.

The Don Diner boat, with 80 tons of goods aboard, was stopped in the Gulf of Uragba, between the departments of Antioquia and Choco when it was entering Colombian waters from Panama.

The naval forces searched the boat at the port of Cartagena and captured the goods and the cash.

Russia to set anti-missile post in neighbouring countries

MOSCOW, 25 May — Russia intends to create anti-missile posts in neighbouring countries in response to US plans for a similar base in Eastern Europe.

The development will form part of Russia’s military building plans for 2006-2010, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Wednesday.

“We know about plans to create an anti-missile post in Poland. These plans very seriously worry us. We take them into consideration in the military building plans for the next five years.” Ivanov was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Ivanov’s statement follows reports about the Pentagon’s plans to deploy an interceptor missile base in one of the Eastern European countries as part of a missile defence system programme.

Budgets for development and upkeep of the Armed Forces will reach a 50-to 50-per-cent ratio by 2010, Ivanov told reporters.

Ivanov said that “at present, 60 per cent of the budget is spent on keeping the Army and the fleet, and 40 per cent on their development”. The ratio was 70 to 30 per cent five years ago.

Ivanov called “an optimal variant” achieving a 50-50 balance by 2010.

“These figures have been confirmed by a plan of military building for the next five years, during the implementation of which the Russian Army will receive modern weapons,” Ivanov said.

Wartime bombs killing more and more Cambodians

PHNOM PENH, 25 May — More than 30 years since the end of the Vietnam War, more and more people in impoverished Cambodia are being killed trying to cut up unexploded bombs and shells for scrap metal, a report said on Wednesday.

According to the latest update from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the country’s main mine-clearing agency, there were 506 casualties from unexploded ordnance (UXO) in 2005, compared to 391 in 2000.

Despite public education campaigns telling farmers and children in particular not to go near — let alone cut up — any bombs, most of which were dropped by the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, the message does not appear to be sinking in.

“Almost all the UXO victims are poor villagers who break the bombs apart because they need the metal to sell,” action centre spokesman Leng Sochea said.

One kilo of scrap sells for about 0.25 US dollars, but with more than a third of the country’s 13 million people living on one US dollar a day or less, many are forced to play a deadly game of Russian roulette in order to survive.

The trend is such that in the past five years, unexploded wartime bombs and shells have killed or injured more people than landmines in what is regarded as one of the most heavily mined nations on earth.

Almost 300 Vietnamese fishermen remain missing and 28 have been reported dead, three days after Typhoon Chan Chan sank at least 11 ships in the South China Sea.—INTERNET

New Yorkers take cover from the rain recently. Northeast of New York, a four-day deluge has hit New England.—INTERNET

Annan calls for decisive action to protect the planet

UNITED NATIONS, 25 May — With the economic cost of environmental degradation rising to 42 billion dollars per year, the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has called for “decisive” action to protect the planet.

In a message on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, he said the degradation of drylands — which constitute 40 per cent of the planet’s land surface — is having dramatic effects.

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

Drylands host eight of the 10 least developed countries in the world, and developing nations are home to the overwhelming majority of the 2 billion people who rely on dryland ecosystems.

“As a result, their decline has far-reaching implications for efforts to fight poverty, hunger and disease,” Annan said.

“Indeed, significant steps to preserve drylands will help determine whether we will achieve the Millennium Development Goals,” he added, referring to the targets set by the UN Millennium Summit of 2000 to eliminate or significantly reduce a host of the world’s ills.

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

INTERNET
Salient points on pesticides — 2

Ko Ye (Agriculture)

Pesticides and insecticides are used in two sectors — health and agriculture. As for the health sector, insecticides with long-lasting effects are manufactured for killing disease-carrying insects such as flies and mosquitoes. On the other hand, agricultural-used pesticides die fast. Durability may be good from the economic point of view, but residues of agriculture-used agents are harmful to all living beings and the environment.

To be short-lived and harmless to the environment are requirements the Intentional Convention has prescribed for farm-used pesticides. And the prescription stands as the main difference between the farm-used pest killers and insecticides for health purpose.

All pest killers have their own instructions every user must follow strictly. In the instructions states the period between the last spraying and the harvesting for producing residue-free crops.

Consumption of agricultural produce containing the residue may not cause instant death, but its accumulation in the body can have ill effects on nervous system, liver, reproductive organs and the embryo, while invoking diseases such as skin disorder and cancer.

Causes behind the content of residue exceeding the limit fixed by the experts of WHO and FAO include wrongful choosing of the type of pesticide in spraying the fields for infestation of a particular pest species; mixing of pesticide agent in the solution more than the required amount; unnecessary use of pesticides; harvesting of sprayed crops before the prescribed time; mechanical failure and faulty nozzle that make sprayer force out more pesticide than necessary; use of sub-standard pesticides; incorrect mixing ratio; unsystematic use of pesticides; and improper dumping of unused pesticides and used pesticide containers.

Myanmar permits registration and sale of only the less-harmful pesticides. WHO categorises the level of the toxicity in pest killer agents into four different types. Myanmar prohibits the use of substances with high levels of toxicity.

An international conference was organized in the Swedish capital of Stockholm for the world to get rid of highly toxic pest killers with the aim of saving the environment from pollution and living beings from dying. It approved to end production and distribution of 12 chemicals — nine farm-used chemicals and three industrial-used chemicals. Except the DTT that can still be used for malaria eradication under strict supervision of the experts, the other three well-known insecticides have already been forbidden totally in Myanmar.

In 1980, World Environmental Conservation Organization and the FAO initiated a programme to exchange information on the import and use of chemicals. International codes of conduct concerning chemicals were prescribed in 1985. Myanmar has been strictly adhering to the codes. She has already enacted the law prohibiting the harmful pesticides. Systematic use of the permitted pest killers will not harm the environment and the living beings.

(Ko Ye) (Translation: TMT)

Vocational course on horticulture, tailoring, bakery opens

YANGON, 26 May — Organized by Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a ceremony to open vocational course on horticulture, tailoring and bakery in conjunction with the ceremony to provide financial assistance to Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations was held at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township, Yangon East District yesterday.


Later, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein presented the financial assistance to township MCWAs in the district.

Secretary Dr Daw Sanda of Yangon East District MCWSC explained facts about the course.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai also attended school enrolling ceremony in South Okkalapa Township. At the ceremony, the chairperson presented stationery and school equipment to the students.

Entries invited to article and colour photo contests

YANGON, 25 May — With a view to disseminating lofty aims and activities of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation to the people, the MWAF will organize the article and colour photo contests to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2006.

The entry for the article contest must be the one which has never been printed and it must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words. The contestant is to send two copies of manuscripts together with two licence size photos and a brief biography. The entry must be own creation.

The contestant may participate in the colour photo contest with his works measuring 10” by 14”, together with two licence size photos and brief biography.

The articles are to be sent, not later than 4 pm on 10 June and the photos, at 4 pm on 20 June, to Secretary of the Organizing Committee U Aye Kywe, Deputy Chief Editor, Information and Public Relations Department, 22/24, Pansodan Street, Tel: 371340 and 371342. — MNA

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai presents financial assistance to Township MCWAs. — MNA
Myanma Gems Emporiums and efforts being made for selling more jade lots at the June-July special sales and earning more foreign exchange.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Ministry of Mines is to make arrangements for enabling private companies that were allotted jade and gems blocks and all companies that are undertaking joint venture tasks with the State, to participate in the Jade and Gems Special Sales. The companies that cannot take part in the sales are to review their tasks and they need to carry out necessary preparedness.

He stressed the need to render necessary assistance to private gems companies to manufacture and sell jade and gems finished goods similar to value-added wood products by sharing technologies and seeking the market. Ministries concerned are to strive for exhibiting value-added wood products and jade and gem products at the international trade fairs. On their return from the sales abroad, the companies are to make arrangements for promotion of sales by reviewing the demands of the products.

He noted that various sorts of jade, gems and pearl lots are to be put on display. In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that departments concerned are to perform their respective tasks for convenience of gem merchants abroad, transport of the materials purchased and security measures.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected display of jade lots at the reception hall and in the compound of the centre and left necessary instructions. In the afternoon, they left the Myanmar Convention Centre.

YANGON, 26 May — The Supervisory Committee for Greening 30-mile Radius of Yangon City all the year round held the coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

The commander explained water supply for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, sugarcane, pulses and beans, edible oil crops and others to implement the project of Greening 30-mile Radius of Yangon City all the year round.

Secretary of the Supervisory Committee U Kyi Win reported on growing of edible oil crops, pulses and beans, sugarcane and other crops including paddy in the division for 2005-06, cultivation target for 2006-07, water supply tasks, greening tasks along the landing route of airplane and future tasks.

Officials submitted their respective reports. Later, the commander gave necessary instructions.
Agricultural, forestry and livestock... (from page 16)

Medical Science, Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science and Myanmar Academy of Technology Science and invited guests.

In his opening speech, the Secretary-1 said it is heartening to see academics and researchers from agricultural, fish and meat and forestry sectors attending the annual general meeting and the research conference. And it will help realize the State’s objectives for national development through the strength of academicians. Nowadays, in building a modern, developed nation, it is necessary to have high technology as well as peace and stability, strong economy, national unity, patriotism and Union Spirit. In particular, only through high technology will a nation catch up with others, said the Secretary-1.

So, the government has been practising a policy on nurturing intellectuals and intelligentsia in order to promote the technological sectors such as modern electronics and information technology. As technicians and academics play an important part in the developing respective technological sectors, academies are being formed in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. As a result, respective technological sectors have seen a significant progress, he added.

On behalf of the government, the Secretary-1 said, he appreciated the efforts of the academies including Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences.

All academicians are urged to continue their participation in their respective sectors to promote science and technology of the State in order to catch up with international community and to protect national interest. Like other development sectors, agricultural, forestry and livestock and fishery sectors need a high technology to realize the State’s objectives. Besides, these sectors concern the development of national economy, production of hygienic food, forest and environmental conservation and protection of biodiversity and eco system. That is why it is required to have high technologies to promote the sectors.

The Secretary-1 said the participation and technological leadership of MMAFLFS play a crucial role in the drive to achieve the goal. For the sake of national interest, the State can make full use of its invaluable resources such as agriculture, fish and meat and forests only through the application of modern high technologies. Today, the world has seen biotechnology making a rapid progress. It is required to apply biotechnology in an effective way. And now steps are being taken for boosting production through biotechnology.

Myanmar has a wide range of biodiversity. So, it is to pay serious attention to the applying of biotechnology systematically without compromising biodiversity as well as to conserve biodiversity and to protect wildlife and flora harmoniously.

He called on academicians and researchers to exert increased efforts in doing research subject-wise to catch up with international level and to take innovative measures without infringing the conservation of flora and fauna.

In carrying out research, systematic paces are to be taken for the development of human resources and upgrading of technologies. And self-reliant efforts are to be made to keep abreast of international community in the field. In particular, it is needed to harmonize human resources with the jobs.

In the agricultural sector, modern technologies are to be applied and research work to be carried out harmoniously in order to effectively exploit the natural resources, raise cultivation capacity, boost crop production, extend use of heavy machinery, and to apply modern agricultural methods and high-yield crop strains.

The government is pursuing its goal of covering the entire nation with lush and green forests. Now, the central Myanmar and arid zones have become green. Moreover, with the motto that only with the development of wards and villages, will mountains and forests be covered with green and lush trees, the government is implementing rural development work programmes for rural development.

He also urged the academicians to take a leading role to achieve the objectives on forestry the government has laid down — to extract timber efficiently for environmental conservation and ensuring temperate climate, production of value-added goods, nurturing and greening of forests, and balanced existence of biodiversity and eco system.

More or less Myanmar people already have a certain degree of fundamental knowledge in farming and fisheries as it is their ancestral business. Integration of their inherent knowledge and advanced techniques will lead to significant progress of the business and market stability. Instead of relying on foreign poultry strains, entrepreneurs should try to develop the local strains, while applying means suitable to the nation’s climatic and geographic conditions for all-round progress of farming.

Entrepreneurs urged to boost cultivation

During the meeting, the Secretary-1 said, he appreciated the efforts of the academies including Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences.

All academicians are urged to continue their participation in their respective sectors to promote science and technology of the State in order to catch up with international community and to protect national interest. Like other development sectors, agricultural, forestry and livestock and fishery sectors need a high technology to realize the State’s objectives. Besides, these sectors concern the development of national economy, production of hygienic food, forest and environmental conservation and protection of biodiversity and eco system. That is why it is required to have high technologies to promote the sectors.

The Secretary-1 said the participation and technological leadership of MMAFLFS play a crucial role in the drive to achieve the goal. For the sake of national interest, the State can make full use of its invaluable resources such as agriculture, fish and meat and forests only through the application of modern high technologies.

Today, the world has seen biotechnology making a rapid progress. It is required to apply biotechnology in an effective way. And now steps are being taken for boosting production through biotechnology.

Myanmar has a wide range of biodiversity. So, it is to pay serious attention to the applying of biotechnology systematically without compromising biodiversity as well as to conserve biodiversity and to protect wildlife and flora harmoniously.

He called on academicians and researchers to exert increased efforts in doing research subject-wise to catch up with international level and to take innovative measures without infringing the conservation of flora and fauna.

In carrying out research, systematic paces are to be taken for the development of human resources and upgrading of technologies. And self-reliant efforts are to be made to keep abreast of international community in the field. In particular, it is needed to harmonize human resources with the jobs.

In the agricultural sector, modern technologies are to be applied and research work to be carried out harmoniously in order to effectively exploit the natural resources, raise cultivation capacity, boost crop production, extend use of heavy machinery, and to apply modern agricultural methods and high-yield crop strains.

The government is pursuing its goal of covering the entire nation with lush and green forests. Now, the central Myanmar and arid zones have become green. Moreover, with the motto that only with the development of wards and villages, will mountains and forests be covered with green and lush trees, the government is implementing rural development work programmes for rural development.

He also urged the academicians to take a leading role to achieve the objectives on forestry the government has laid down — to extract timber efficiently for environmental conservation and ensuring temperate climate, production of value-added goods, nurturing and greening of forests, and balanced existence of biodiversity and eco system.

More or less Myanmar people already have a certain degree of fundamental knowledge in farming and fisheries as it is their ancestral business. Integration of their inherent knowledge and advanced techniques will lead to significant progress of the business and market stability. Instead of relying on foreign poultry strains, entrepreneurs should try to develop the local strains, while applying means suitable to the nation’s climatic and geographic conditions for all-round progress of farming.

Instead of relying on foreign poultry strains, entrepreneurs should try to develop the local strains, while applying means suitable to the nation’s climatic and geographic conditions for all-round progress of farming.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses the meeting on boosting agricultural products. — A & I

Charity fair to raise funds for monastic education school

YANGON, 26 May — With the sponsorship of Myanmar Motion Picture Association and Myanmar Monastic Friendship Interchange Association, a charity fair to raise funds for the monastic education school in Hlinethaya Township to be built by Ven Mok Tak-Hye Eun of Republic of Korea will be held at the Ottara Hall of Karaweik Palace on 2 June 2006.

The fair will sell a wide range of Korean products such as handbags, garments, clothes, shoes, backpacks, consumer goods and others at reasonable prices. Artists of MMPA will present entertainment to those present at the fair. — MNA

Child specialists conduct medical check-ups on students of the pre-primary school of Early Childhood Development Department of Maternal and Child Welfare Association on 25 and 26 May. — MCWA

Indian milly delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda, King Zafar Shah's tomb

YANGON, 26 May — The visiting delegation of National Defence College Course of Republic of India led by Rear-Admiral Venkat Shanker, VSM Senior Directing Staff (Navy) together with Military Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra of India to the Union of Myanmar and officials visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The visiting delegation donated cash and paid homage to the pagoda. Later, they went to King Zafar Shah’s tomb on Ziwaka Street in Dagon Township and paid tribute. — MNA
Ministry of Information holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW—26 May—The Ministry of Information held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that departments and enterprises under the ministry are to make concerted efforts in accord with the instructions for the five-year project of the third short-term plan which call for boosting production, improving the industrial sector, increasing power generation, developing the energy sector and trade, and practising thriftily. He also stressed the need for every department to focus on doubling the targeted amount of earnings in 2006-2007, to thrifty use funds by spending 15 per cent less than the amount of target, to review measures that call for capital expenditure, to strive to earn more income while spending less. The minister also called for improvement of media both in form and essence.

In conclusion, the minister urged departmental personnel under the ministry to make efforts for successful realization of the resolutions of the meeting. Afterwards, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry reported on measures being taken and work to be carried out.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Training courses of Ministry of Industry-1 conclude

YANGON, 26 May — On-job training course No 1/2006 and Advanced Computer Course No 2/2006 concluded at the hall of Directorate of Industries at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Sethmu-1 Road, here, this morning.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivered a speech and awarded prizes to outstanding trainees of both courses. A total of 93 trainees attended the training courses that lasted four weeks each.

Member of Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister U Aung Thaung met secretaries, executives and organizers of Tamway, Bahan and Pabedan Township USDA's at the hall of the department.

Tamway Township USDA Secretary Daw Le Le Win Swe, Bahan Township USDA Secretary U Ye Thu Shwe and Pabedan Township USDA Secretary U Aung Naing reported on participation of USDA members in public welfare tasks, and future tasks.

The Secretariat Member gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Refresher Course for English, Mathematics and Physics Teachers winds up

YANGON, 26 May — The Refresher Course for English, Mathematics and Physics Teachers at Basic Education High School Level concluded at the hall of Yangon Institute of Education this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

In his address, the minister said that Refresher Courses for English, Mathematics and Physics Teachers at Basic Education High School Level were opened at 30 universities and colleges in accord with the guidance of the Head of State for enhancement of the teachers' efficiency. The minister urged the teachers to work their utmost for nurturing students who will become reliable human resources of the State.

Rector of the YIE Dr Khin Zaw reported on conducting the refresher course.

The minister awarded prizes to the outstanding trainee teachers, and presented certificates of honour to instructors.

Later, the rector gave completion certificates to the trainees. — MNA

Educative talks given in Hsintaung Village

YANGON, 26 May — Chairperson of Thazi Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Nu and members, members of Township Women’s Affairs Organization, officials from Township Health Department and Traditional Medicine Department met with national races in Hsintaung village yesterday.

The chairperson gave educative talks about MCWA and Dos and Don’ts for expectant mother and Secretary Daw Kyi Kyi San, on prospecting women against violence. The chairperson provided iron tablets and other medicines for young women through an official.

U Win Zaw of Traditional Medicine Department and Dr Lwin Hay of Yinmarbin Station Hospital provided health care services and medicines for national race people.

MNA

NLD brass’s ignorance of members’ wish deviates from democracy

YANGON, 26 May — Seven members including two vice-chairmen of Kalaw Township National League for Democracy in southern Shan State, resigned from the party of their own volition.

Vice-chairman 1 U Kan Shwin, vice-chairman 2 U Kyaw Tun, secretary U Myo Win, joint secretary U Ye Ko Ko Lwin, treasurer U Kyaw Win, social staff U Nyan and women’s affairs leader Daw Khin Khin Aye sent the signed letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and the respective local authorities.

In the letters, the seven stated that they joined the NLD with the aim of taking part in clean politics and serving local people’s interest.

However, the NLD brass are deviating from the cause of democracy, walking out from the National Convention in accord with its policy of confronting the government, while ignoring the members’ wish. The NLD instead of taking into account the internal strength, is dancing to the tune of alien masters, demanding foreign nations to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar. As they have lost interest in the NLD, they said that of own volition they quit the party and the party duties.

MNA

NLD dancing to alien masters’ tune, demanding economic sanctions on nation

Seven resign from Kalaw NLD as they lose interest in party

YANGON, 26 May — Seven members including two vice-chairmen of Kalaw Township National League for Democracy in southern Shan State, resigned from the party of their own volition.

Vice-chairman 1 U Kan Shwin, vice-chairman 2 U Kyaw Tun, secretary U Myo Win, joint secretary U Ye Ko Ko Lwin, treasurer U Kyaw Win, social staff U Nyan and women’s affairs leader Daw Khin Khin Aye sent the signed letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and the respective local authorities.

In the letters, the seven stated that they joined the NLD with the aim of taking part in clean politics and serving local people’s interest.

However, the NLD brass are deviating from the cause of democracy, walking out from the National Convention in accord with its policy of confronting the government, while ignoring the members’ wish. The NLD instead of taking into account the internal strength, is dancing to the tune of alien masters, demanding foreign nations to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar. As they have lost interest in the NLD, they said that of own volition they quit the party and the party duties.

MNA
YANGON, 26 May—Minister for Electric Power No-1 Col Zaw Min together with Deputy Minister U Myo Myint on 24 May heard reports on implementation of Khabaung Hydel Power Project, 15 miles from Ottwin presented by No 3 Construction Group Director U Tint Lwin and officials.

The deputy minister gave a supplementary report.

The minister inspected construction of the power plant, the water tunnel, the sluice gate and earth embankment.

Two 15-megawatt generators will produce 120 million kwh yearly.

At Pyu Creek Hydel Power Project in Pyu, Director U Tint Lwin and officials reported on progress of the project.

The minister inspected construction tasks and gave instructions.

The project will generate 121 million kwh yearly from two 20-megawatt generators.

The minister also inspected Kun Creek Hydel Project. The project will generate 190 million kwh yearly from three 20-megawatt generators.

YANGON, 26 May—The winners of the open essay competition to mark the World Environment Day 2006 sponsored by the National Commission for Environmental Affairs were announced today.

They are first prize winner Ma Aye Myint, second prize winner Ma Sein Sein (Green) and third prize winner U Soe Myint-Phoyaza (Thazi). The consolation prize winners are Ma Hninn Oo Yi and Maung Lin Aung.

Prizes will be presented at the ceremony to mark World Environment Day to be held in Mandalay on 5 June 2006.

—MNA
Pakistan produces 32 bln litres of milk annually

ISLAMABAD, 25 May— Pakistan is the fifth largest milk-producing country in the world as it produces 32 billion litres of milk annually. Pakistan’s state-run news agency APP reported on Tuesday. According to official sources, the dairy sector represents 10.8 per cent of the GDP and 48.6 per cent of the country’s agricultural GDP. The sources further said that whereas Pakistan was ranked the fifth largest milk producing country, only a small proportion of the total production of the milk was marketed and just 2 per cent of the total milk produced in the country was processed at the dairy plants in the country.

China produces 32 bln litres of milk annually

India lags behind among Asian countries in tourism

NEW DELHI, 25 May — Despite registering a growth in the number of foreign tourists, India continues to lag behind other countries in the neighbourhood, including China, Indonesia, Thailand and Hong Kong, in terms of tourist arrivals. While the number of foreign tourists who visited India in 2004, China received 47.11 million visitors, Hong Kong 23.40 million, Thailand 11 million and Indonesia 4.85 million. But India was better off than neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and Nepal which received 0.57 million and 0.35 million tourists respectively in 2005. While figures for Pakistan were not available for 2005, the neighbouring country received 0.50 million tourists in 2003 and 0.65 million visitors in 2004.

Malaysia, China to jointly set up petroleum refinery

KOALAS LUMPUR, 25 May — A Malaysian company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a China-based consortium on the establishment of a petroleum refinery in northern Malaysia, local media reported on Wednesday. With an investment of six billion US dollars, the joint venture, to be based in Perak State, will involve the construction of storage facilities for liquefied petroleum gas, a petrochemical plant, a condensate refinery, crude oil refinery and a jetty, the local English newspaper New Straits Times reported.

Wen Jiabao highlights science role in socio-economic development

BEIJING, 25 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said science and technology are playing the “supporting and the leading” role in China’s socio-economic development. At the seventh national congress of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), Wen said scientific development and innovation could solve a series of prominent problems occurring in China’s development.

China says to stop criminals fleeing abroad

BEIJING, 25 May — Chinese authorities vowed on Tuesday to stop suspected economic criminals of fleeing abroad. Gao Feng, an official at the Ministry of Public Security, said about 800 suspected economic criminals had escaped China in recent years and more than 300 of them had been repatriated in cases involving more than 70 billion yuan (8.73 billion US dollars).

“The Ministry of Public Security has intensified cooperation with the Audit Commission, People’s Bank of China and the State Administration of Taxation...to prevent suspects from transferring money and running away,” Gao told a news conference.

India to jointly set up petroleum refinery

The hardline President made the remarks at a ceremony at Khorramshahr, a port town in southwestern Iran, commemorating the recapture of the town from Iraqi forces in 1982, one of the bloodiest battles during the eight-year long Iran-Iraq war. “The enemies are looking to plot and want to create differences among Iranians to stop us getting our rights,” Ahmadinejad said. “If they do the slightest damage to the Iranian people, if they commit the slightest aggression, they will receive a historic slap.” Ahmadinejad’s remarks came as five hardline Presidents — plus Germany — are preparing to meet in London for new efforts to defuse the crisis. Teheran to give up its efforts to defuse the crisis to any attacker.
**Salt air helps patients with asthma**

NEW YORK, 25 May — Breathing salt dust in a chamber coated with salt for 40 minutes a day seems to improve the airway tightening experienced by people with asthma, according to a report in the journal *Allergy*.

Natural salt caves and salt mines have been used for years as complementary medicine for treating asthmatic patients in various parts of Europe and Asia, the authors explain, but data are still lacking regarding the benefits of salt chamber treatment for chronic asthma.

To investigate, Dr J Hedman from South Karelia Central Hospital, Lappeenranta, Finland and colleagues constructed a “halo chamber” to simulate the microclimate of salt mines. Its surfaces were covered with rock salt, and pulverized salt was blown into the chamber during active treatment at a rate of 3 grammes every 4 minutes.

The researchers evaluated the effects of salt chamber treatment in 32 patients with persistent asthma. They were randomly assigned to two weeks of treatment in the salt chamber — daily 40-minute sessions for 5 days per week — with the salt generator either blowing salt dust into the chamber or running but without salt being fed in.

The patients treated with the salt chamber showed less airway tightening than did comparison subjects. However, use of the chamber did not improve asthma symptoms or reduce the need for asthma medications.

**New York plans to debut video ad service**

**Los Angeles, 25 May —** Google Inc, the Internet search giant, will introduce a system for running TV-style commercials as it tries to capitalize on a fast-growing segment of online advertising.

The commercials may lessen the firm’s reliance on search-related advertising and attract a new type of marketer, such as those that advertise on television, according to a report on the Los Angeles Times website.

Google made the move after online advertising soared 30 per cent to 12.5 billion US dollars last year as advertisers shifted strategies.

The video ads will not appear alongside Google’s search results, just on the content websites of partners such as blogs and newspapers, said the report. It said Google’s system is also auction-based, similar to its method for matching targeted ads with search results, news stories or blog postings.

The commercials will appear as static Web ads, but with a small video player. Clicking the play button will start the video playing in the ad box. An advertiser will not pay for the ad unless the viewer clicks through to its website. If consumers fail to click on the ad, Google’s system will replace it with another, more relevant ad.

Web publishers that use Google’s AdSense service will start seeing the video ads on their sites sometime this week, said Gokul Rajaram, a Google product management director. He said he expected TV advertisers to test different cuts of a commercial through the Google system to decide which to air.

Entertainment companies such as 20th Century Fox and Paramount Classics have been testing the service with trailers for TV show DVDs and film releases.

**Fewer characters being used in written Chinese**

BEIJING, 25 May — The Chinese media is using fewer characters and to understand 90 per cent of the content in publications you need only to know about 900 of the thousands of pictographs that make up the script, state media said on Tuesday.

The findings of a survey conducted by the Education Ministry and language commission were based on 900 million characters used in more than 8.9 million files chosen from newspapers, magazines, the Internet and television, the Xinhua news agency said.

It did not give an explanation for the survey results. China began simplifying its script after the Communist revolution in 1949, aiming to improve literacy from an estimated 80 per cent.

Written Chinese is made up of around 50,000 individual characters, whose main function is to represent meaning, not pronunciation.

The average university graduate, however, may know only about 6,000, as many characters are archaic and some found only once in the whole history of the written language, often describing the names of people, places or mythical beasts.

**Canada’s software piracy rate down to 33%**

OTTAWA, 25 May — Canada’s software piracy rate dropped below the worldwide rate to place Canada among the 20 countries in the world with the lowest software piracy rates, a study released on Tuesday said.

The study by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft and the Business Software Alliance said Canada’s software piracy rate decreased three percentage points from 36 per cent to 33 per cent in 2005, falling below the worldwide piracy rate, which remained stable at 35 per cent.

Losses to the Canadian economy due to software piracy were 943 million Canadian dollars (848 million US dollars), down 166 million Canadian dollars from 2004, the groups said in a release.

The independent study, conducted by global market research and forecasting firm IDC, showed some improvements in a number of markets, the groups said.

However, losses from software piracy worldwide amounted to 41 billion Canadian dollars (37 US dollars) in 2005, an increase of 752 million Canadian dollars over the previous year, the study found.

“Fewer characters being used in written Chinese

The findings of a survey conducted by the Education Ministry and language commission were based on 900 million characters used in more than 8.9 million files chosen from newspapers, magazines, the Internet and television, the Xinhua news agency said.

It did not give an explanation for the survey results. China began simplifying its script after the Communist revolution in 1949, aiming to improve literacy from an estimated 80 per cent.

Written Chinese is made up of around 50,000 individual characters, whose main function is to represent meaning, not pronunciation.

The average university graduate, however, may know only about 6,000, as many characters are archaic and some found only once in the whole history of the written language, often describing the names of people, places or mythical beasts.

**Canada’s software piracy rate down to 33%**

OTTAWA, 25 May — Canada’s software piracy rate dropped below the worldwide rate to place Canada among the 20 countries in the world with the lowest software piracy rates, a study released on Tuesday said.

The study by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft and the Business Software Alliance said Canada’s software piracy rate decreased three percentage points from 36 per cent to 33 per cent in 2005, falling below the worldwide piracy rate, which remained stable at 35 per cent.

Losses to the Canadian economy due to software piracy were 943 million Canadian dollars (848 million US dollars), down 166 million Canadian dollars from 2004, the groups said in a release.

The independent study, conducted by global market research and forecasting firm IDC, showed some improvements in a number of markets, the groups said.

However, losses from software piracy worldwide amounted to 41 billion Canadian dollars (37 US dollars) in 2005, an increase of 752 million Canadian dollars over the previous year, the study found.

“Fewer characters being used in written Chinese

The findings of a survey conducted by the Education Ministry and language commission were based on 900 million characters used in more than 8.9 million files chosen from newspapers, magazines, the Internet and television, the Xinhua news agency said.

It did not give an explanation for the survey results. China began simplifying its script after the Communist revolution in 1949, aiming to improve literacy from an estimated 80 per cent.

Written Chinese is made up of around 50,000 individual characters, whose main function is to represent meaning, not pronunciation.

The average university graduate, however, may know only about 6,000, as many characters are archaic and some found only once in the whole history of the written language, often describing the names of people, places or mythical beasts.

**Canada’s software piracy rate down to 33%**

OTTAWA, 25 May — Canada’s software piracy rate dropped below the worldwide rate to place Canada among the 20 countries in the world with the lowest software piracy rates, a study released on Tuesday said.

The study by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft and the Business Software Alliance said Canada’s software piracy rate decreased three percentage points from 36 per cent to 33 per cent in 2005, falling below the worldwide piracy rate, which remained stable at 35 per cent.

Losses to the Canadian economy due to software piracy were 943 million Canadian dollars (848 million US dollars), down 166 million Canadian dollars from 2004, the groups said in a release.

The independent study, conducted by global market research and forecasting firm IDC, showed some improvements in a number of markets, the groups said.

However, losses from software piracy worldwide amounted to 41 billion Canadian dollars (37 US dollars) in 2005, an increase of 752 million Canadian dollars over the previous year, the study found.
Aguirre signs one-year contract to coach Atletico Madrid

MADRID, 25 May—Atletico Madrid appointed former Osasuna boss Javier Aguirre as coach on a one-year contract on Wednesday.

“I am excited about the challenge and want to lead this club back to where they deserve to be — at the top in Spain and back in Europe,” Aguirre told a news conference on Wednesday.

The 48-year-old Mexican stepped down as coach of Osasuna at the end of the season after leading the modest Navarrans into the Champions League for the first time with a fourth place finish in the Primera Liga.

Last June he took them to the final of the King’s Cup where they lost 2-1 to Real Betis.

The former Mexico coach, who replaces Pepe Murcia, has been praised for his skilful management of limited resources and his ability to motivate players.

Atletico finished a disappointing 10th last season, two points behind city neighbours Getafe.

“I don’t want to talk about the past and what has happened here,” Aguirre said. “I want to take the pressure off the players so that they take to the pitch focused.”

Sao Paulo beat Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 May — On-loan striker Ricardo Oliveira was in inspired form on Wednesday for Sao Paulo, who crushed local rivals Palmeiras 4-1 in the Brazilian championship.

Oliveira, who is expected to return to Spain’s Real Betis in time for pre-season training in August, scored two clinical goals and forced an own-goal to push Palmeiras into the relegation zone.

Sao Paulo moved up to third spot on 15 points, one behind Cruzeiro who strengthened their lead in the championship by beating Ponte Preta 5-1.

Second-placed Fluminense had an emphatic 5-2 win at Fortaleza.

Sao Paulo have already inflicted two damaging defeats on Palmeiras this year, dumping their rivals out of South America’s Libertadores Cup in the process.

Oliveira was on hand to inflict more pain and his cross-shot on five minutes forced full back Marcio Careca to head into his own goal.

Palmeiras responded positively, creating a number of chances before Marcio Careca forced home a rebound.

Sao Paulo player Ricardo Oliveira.

Skoko strike gives Australia 1-0 victory

MELBOURNE, 26 May — Australia began their World Cup preparations on Thursday with a 1-0 victory over European champions Greece before a record audience.

Josip Skoko’s 15th-minute volley separated the sides and the Socceroos showed enough technical ability and tactical nous to suggest they will not just be making up the numbers in their first finals appearance for 32 years next month.

“I enjoyed the goal but we’ve got a long way to go,” Skoko said in a televised interview.

“If you take into consideration the tough programme we’ve had over the last few days, we did okay. There were a very few tired boys out there. We will have to train hard from now on.”

After Skoko had a 10th-minute free-kick blocked, the Wigan midfielder broke the deadlock five minutes later.

The ball broke loose from Marco Bresciano’s shot and Mile Sterjovski’s cushioned header allowed Skoko to hit a floating left-foot volley into the top corner from 20 metres.

Bresciano’s 24th-minute free-kick shaved the outside of Antonios Nikopolidis’ post and Sterjovski forced a low save from the keeper three minutes later. Greece looked a pale imitation of the side that lifted the European title in Lisbon 22 months ago, with their best effort of the hall going to Angelos Charisteas who spooned over the bar after nine minutes.

Ottto Rehhagel’s side picked up after the break, roared on by a huge contingent from the city’s Greek community who helped set a stadium attendance record for soccer of 95,103.

Christos Patsios went close with a header and a two-long-range efforts from substitute Panagiotis Lagos just missed the target. Skipper Theo Zagorakis blasted a high and wide on 69 minutes moments before Sterjovski was inches away from heading Australia’s second.

Coupet storms out after Barthez dispute

TIGNES (France), 26 May — Reserve goalkeeper Gregory Coupet stormed out of France’s pre-World Cup training camp after a dispute over rival Fabien Barthez, before deciding to return.

“There was indeed a problem,” coach Raymond Domenech, who made Barthez his number one ahead of Coupet, told a news conference on Thursday. “Gregory had the blues for a moment. He cracked. Such things can happen.”

Domenech said Coupet left the camp in the French Alps resort of Tignes with his family and luggage on Wednesday before changing his mind and returning to the team hotel.

“He decided to come back,” Domenech said. “It all lasted 30 minutes. Nobody is making a big fuss about it, we had an explanation.”

“You have to understand that the France team is more important than the interests of any individual. The problem has been solved.”

A source close to the team said Coupet had argued with Domenech.

The Olympique Lyon goalkeeper was apparently upset because Barthez failed to complete a hike up an Alpine glacier, saying he had a sore calf.

Barthez and Coupet took part in a training session on Thursday, hardly talking to each other.

“It’s a good thing this has happened now (and not later),” France defender Lilian Thuram told reporters.

“Had it lasted, it could have got worse and damaged the atmosphere in the squad.”

“Everybody can understand Greg. He is a competitor and it’s normal that he finds it difficult to accept the number two,” Domenech said when he named his 23-man squad earlier this month that Olympique Marseille’s Barthez would be France’s number one goalkeeper at the World Cup ahead of Coupet.

A prominent member of the Olympique Lyon side that won a record fifth successive Ligue 1 title and reached the Champions League quarterfinals last season, Coupet had said that he felt he should be the number one.
South Asian meeting on human trafficking concludes

KATHMANDU, 26 May — The high-level meeting of South Asian Region (SAR) on human trafficking and HIV/AIDS concluded on Wednesday by expressing consensus on various topics, state-run Radio Nepal reported on Thursday.

“The meeting agreed to monitor the programmes carried out against trafficking and HIV/AIDS which are the common problems of SAR and to formulate and implement gender-sensitive policies for that purpose,” the radio reported.

The meeting suggested that those in the policy-making level should give special attention to address the burgeoning problems like poverty, vulnerability, discrimination and gender violence which are the main causes for the increasing number of HIV/AIDS infected women and children.

The three-day meeting was jointly organized by United Nations Development Programme Regional Centre in Colombo and South Asia Regional Office of United Nations Development Fund for Women. The meeting was participated in by the representatives of the governments, the judiciaries and police organizations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation member countries including Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan as well as the representatives of the HIV/AIDS infected persons.

Experts at the meeting said that about 100,000 people are trafficked annually in SAR. Majority of the trafficked are young women and girls and many of them are trafficked for the purpose of exploitation and prostitution.

Human trafficking in SAR has taken many forms and occurs for a variety of purpose like organ transplant, bonded labor, domestic servitude, sex trade, hazardous labour, marriage, illegal adoption and pornography, the radio reported.

New AIDS inhibitor produced in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 26 May — The production of a new AIDS inhibitor has started at Janssen Pharmaceutica near Belgium’s port city Antwerp, VRT News reported on Wednesday.

It is the first time that such a drug has been developed and produced in Belgium. The latest breakthrough in the treatment of AIDS was developed by both Janssen Pharmaceutica and its sister company Tibotec.

VRT news reported that the new AIDS inhibiting drug sets itself apart from existing HIV medicines by its ability to treat more resistant forms of the virus. Existing AIDS inhibitors are currently used in conjunction with other anti-HIV drugs.

This combination therapy has proved successful in blocking the reproduction of the human virus in a patient’s blood. Inhibitors prevent T-cells that have been infected with HIV from producing new copies of the virus.

Unfortunately, many patients have built up a resistance to the treatment as new strains of the virus adapt.

According to Stef Helyen from Tibotec, existing AIDS inhibitors now have little or no effect.

With this latest drug, even long term patients can be treated with success. It was reported that distribution licence applications have already been made with both European and American authorities. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 26 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon states, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas.

Rainfall in Kayah State and Magway Division and fairly widespread in Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas.

The significant day temperature was Hkami (37°C). The noteworthily amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (6.54) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.19) inches, Kyauktaw (2.87) inches, Tharrayaw and Machan Baw (2.40) inches each, Thandwe (2.28) inches, Sitwe (1.61) inches, Aunglan and Nay Pyi Taw (0.75) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 25-5-2006 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 26-5-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-5-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 25-5-2006 was (0.7) hour approx.

Rainfalls on 26-5-2006 were (0.15) inch at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.28) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (14.21) inches at Mingaladon, (17.60) inches at Kaba-Aye and (19.02) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mhp from South at (15:30) hours MST on 25-5-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is vigorous in the North and Central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-5-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Mon, Kayin, Kayah and Shan States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thunder conditions in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forcast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of June 2006: During the coming weekend, rain or thunder-showers will be fairly widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
Ministries concerned are to strive for exhibiting value-added wood products and jade and gem products at international trade fairs

(from page 1)
of 2006 in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State on establishment of the jade and gems market in Yangon, mutual interests of the State and gem entrepreneurs and gems production to be in conformity with the sales of gems. He continued his reports on arrangements for organizing the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006 at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road and Myanma Gems Mart from 20 June to 4 July 2006, sales of jade, gems and pearl in foreign currency and kyats, invitations to gem merchants abroad and local entrepreneurs, preparations for displaying jade, gems and pearl lots, sales of uncut jade stones in previous sales, holding of (See page 8)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views jade lots at the reception hall of Myanmar Convention Centre. — MNA

Agricultural, forestry and livestock and fishery sectors need high technology to realize the State’s objectives

Fifth AGM, sixth Research Conference of MAAFLFS commences

YANGON, 26 May — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the opening of the Fifth Annual General Meeting and the Sixth Research Conference of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences this morning at Yangon International Business Centre. Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Office, departmental heads, executives and academics of the Academy, chairmen of Myanmar Academy of (See page 9)

INSIDE
All pest killers have their own instructions every user must follow strictly. In the instructions state the period between the last spraying and the harvesting for producing residue-free crops.

PAGE 7
KO YE (AGRICULTURE)