Mon State striving for development of agricultural sector making full use of land and water resources

Commander attends inauguration of Mayangon Sluice Gate in Thaton

YANGON, 28 May — A ceremony to inaugurate Mayangon Sluice Gate built by Construction 6 of Irrigation Department was held at the pavilion near the sluice gate in Thaton Township, Thaton District, yesterday morning.

First, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win delivered an address. He said that the opening of Mayangon Sluice Gate will contribute to prevention of flooding 10,000 acres of farmland near Mayangon Creek. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, it was the 186th dam of the nation and the 9th facility in Mon State.

The commander said that sluice gate was constructed with the aim of preventing the inflow of tide into the wetland near Hsar and Mayangon Creeks in the rainy season, draining the surplus water from the area, supplying water to monsoon paddy fields in the late-monsoon period, preventing the inflow of salty water into the farmland in the summer, and ensuring storage of fresh water. In the past, he said, water from the wetland could not flow into the sea due to blocking of a high laterite ground. Therefore, the land preparation task was carried out at the laterite ground. Thanks to construction of the sluice gate, local farmers will be able to cultivate more crops, and local people will have easy access to other villages through the bridge built near the sluice gate.

(See page 8)
Exert increased efforts for industrial development

As the development of industrial sector plays a vital role in the national progress, the government has been establishing industrial zones all over the country.

The government is speeding up the building of factories and workshops for the development of the industrial sector. It is also establishing industrial zones in the regions that have favourable conditions and prospects for the industrial development after mobilizing private industries that scattered across the nation.

Of the industrial zones, Mandalay and Monywa zones and Ayethaya zone in Taunggyi have launched the manufacturing of machine parts. The government is rendering assistance to the industries which contribute towards the development of agriculture, agro-based industries, automobile industries, and plastics industries and industries on spare parts.

The government has granted permission to private entrepreneurs to assemble thousands of trucks, light trucks and jeeps in 2006-2007 financial year and Mandalay Industrial Zone alone will be able to assemble over 1,000 automobiles in the same period.

Concerted efforts are thus to be made to step up productivity, to ensure operation of factories at full capacity and to boost production of import-substitute industrial products and spare parts of high quality.

With the industrial development, there will be more job opportunities and that will make considerable contribution towards the development of industrial sector of the State.

The industrial zones are therefore urged to make increased endeavours to be able to produce value-added finished items for the industrial development by manufacturing quality export products at full capacity as well as the items that already have ready markets.

**Men’s and Women’s Age-wise Swimming Contest commences**

YANGON, 28 May — The Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Trophy Men’s and Women’s Age-wise Swimming Contest kicked off at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, here, at 2 pm today.

A total of 43 contests were held.

After the today’s competitions, MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded prizes to the winners in the men’s senior 400-m freestyle event and 200-m singles four strokes event.

Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, Chairperson of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Central Com-

**Hotels and Tourism Minister meets hoteliers**

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met executives of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Travels Association, and chairmen of hotel zones. — MNA

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials went to Karaweik Palace, here, yesterday evening, and they were welcomed by Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association Dr Khin Shwe and responsible persons.

At Dakkhina hall in Karaweik Palace, the minister met with executives of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Travels Association, chairmen of hotel zones and hotel and tourism entrepreneurs. They discussed development of the hotel and tourism industry.

Later, the minister heard reports on hotels and tourism matters by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Chairman of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association Dr Khin Shwe and Director-General U Htay Aung.

The minister extended greetings to the entrepreneurs, and posed for a documentary photo.

Next, the minister and party inspected Royal Nikko Hotel where Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, and officials reported to him on hotel services. The minister met Chairman of Myanmar Market Promotion Committee Dr Aung Myat Kyaw and executives at Kandawgyi Hotel, and discussed development of tourism sector.

The minister also inspected Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Traders Hotel and Sakura Tower office building.

MNA

**Myanmar Swimming Federation President Dr Khin Shwe presents prize to Ye Myint Hein who set new record in age 13-14 200-m breaststroke event.**

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**Daw Htar Htar Myint of Thumingala Housing Estate in Thingangyun Township recently donated K 100,000 to funds of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd).** — MNA

World No-Tobacco Day (31-5-2006)

“လူဦးရောင်းတင်းသွားသောဖုန်းခါးကြက် ”

Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise
Greece, China to boost mutually beneficial cooperation

ATHENS, 27 May — Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and visiting top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo on Thursday reached a consensus here to boost mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

During their meeting, Karamanlis and Wu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), discussed ways and means to expand mutually beneficial cooperation in fields such as maritime shipping and tourism, reaching a consensus.

Wu said China attached great importance to its development of relations with Greece and would strengthen strategic dialogue and coordination with the European nation to push forward the all-round strategic partnership between the two countries.

Karamanlis said Greece also attached great importance to the development of its relations with China. The Greek Government gave positive support to its departments to carry out agreements reached between the two sides and encouraged the exploration of new areas for bilateral cooperation.

The Chinese leader pointed out that cooperation in shipping between China and Greece had great potential. The Chinese side supported enterprises from the two sides to strengthen cooperation in ship-building and repairing, shipping, and harbouring.

Wu added that China encouraged more Chinese ships to use Greek ports and supported Chinese companies to invest in port construction in Greece.

Karamanlis said cooperation in sea shipment is a major area in bilateral economic and trade relations. Rapid economic development and the expanding foreign trade of China inaugurated a broader foreground for maritime shipping cooperation between the two countries.

Experts from home and abroad visit the full superconducting experimental Tokamak fusion device, independently developed by China and nicknamed “artificial sun”, in Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui Province, on 26 May, 2006. The project, which aims to generate infinite and clean nuclear-fusion-based energy, is under debugging stage. —INTERNET

Cuba, Botswana agree to boost cultural links

HAVANA, 27 May — Officials from Cuba and Botswana signed an agreement on Thursday to increase cultural links between the two nations.

Cuban Labour Minister Rafael Bernal and his Botswanan counterpart Moeng Pheto signed the agreement during the ninth session of the Joint Inter-Governmental Committee, told an open conference for noon EDT (1600 GMT). The temporary cofferdam at the site of the Three Gorges Dam is to be demolished. Preparation work is underway.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 27 May — The US Capitol was briefly locked down on Friday as police investigated the sound of gunfire in the garage of a House of Representatives office building, officials said.

The sounds were heard in the garage level of the Rayburn building, which houses offices of members of the US House of Representatives. The lockdown barred people from entering or leaving Capitol buildings.

Police said there was a firing range two floors away from the garage and the Rayburn building and tunnels below the Capitol remained closed during the police investigation. Police planned a news conference for noon EDT (1600 GMT).

Senate Sergeant at Arms Bill Pickle told Reuters there were no reports of any arrests or injuries though several ambulances were brought to the scene.

“We have been told by staff of shots fired and the smell of smoke,” Pickle said. He later raised the possibility that a firecracker might have been the cause. Security at the Capitol and across official Washington was tightened after the 11 Sep- tember attacks. Congressional buildings have been evacuated quickly and locked down several times since in the face of perceived threats. There was a shooting incident in July 1998 when two Capitol Police officers were killed.

Pickle said police had cordoned off the area where they believed the shots came from. Representative Peter Hoekstra, a Michigan Republican and head of the House Intelligence Committee, told an open committee hearing of the reports of gunfire. —MNA/Reuters

“Cessna” headed off by fighters while closing with Bush flight

WASHINGTON, 27 May — One small private plane was forced to land by the US F-16 jets while it was entering the restricted airspace during President George W Bush’s visit to Pennsylvania, said Major Maria Quon, spokeswoman for the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), on Thursday.

“It’s a single engine Cessna, the pilot was in radio contact and was submissive,” said Quon. “NORAD fighters were already in the air on an irregular air patrol. So they diverted to that patrol to meet him,” said the spokeswoman.

“The NORAD fighters escorted him out and he landed in a town called Cross Keys in New Jersey,” she added.

Experts visit Rayburn building. —MNA/Xinhua

A car drives on a street damaged by an earthquake in the district of Bantul, in Yogjakarta, central Java, on 27 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Chirac lauds Bolivia’s nationalization of energy industry

BRASILIA, 27 May— Visiting French President Jacques Chirac on Thursday praised the nationalization of fossil fuel assets in Bolivia on 1 May, saying it had “restored honour to a suffering people”. President Chirac made the remarks at a Press conference on Thursday during his visit to Brazil.

After a three-hour meeting with Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the Alvorada Palace, Chirac told reporters that Brazil and Bolivia were sure to find a peaceful solution to the dispute generated by the issue, in which Petrobras, the energy company owned by Brazil, had lost valuable assets. —MNA/Xinhua

Construction workers transport explosives at the construction site of the Three Gorges Dam in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province, on 26 May, 2006. The temporary cofferdam at the site of the third-stage of the construction of the Three Gorges Dam is to be demolished. Preparation work is underway.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Castro challenges “Forbes” over report on alleged personal fortune

HAVANA, 27 May—Cuba’s President Fidel Castro described as a “calumny” a US magazine report of his having a personal fortune of around 900 million US dollars, local media said on Thursday.

They cannot remain quiet. We must make them speak,” Castro said during a seven-hour programme, his second television show on the topic within 10 days, demanding the US Government and the Forbes magazine apologize for the “lies.”

In a 5 May article named “Fortunes Of Kings, Queens &Dictators”, Forbes said Castro was the seventh richest head of state in the world, ahead of Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II, who allegedly has around 500 million dollars.

Castro made the remarks during Wednesday’s “Round Table”, a daily public affairs programme.

In a previous speech, Castro said he would step down from the post he has occupied for more than 40 years, if anyone, including the US Central Intelligence Agency and all banks in the world, could prove he had even one dollar in an overseas bank.

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque told television that neither US intelligence agencies nor Forbes magazine had been able to respond to the challenge.

Forbes said it had assumed Castro had amassed his vast fortune from his control on some state-owned enterprises.

Other officials, including Central Bank Chief Francisco Soberon, also appeared on the programme in a show of solidarity with Castro.

British Parliament member George Galloway, appearing on the programme, also defended Castro against the report.

Stolen data of US veterans may cost as much as $500m

WASHINGTON, 27 May — The theft of the personal information of 26.5 million US veterans may cost American taxpayers as much as 900 million US dollars, Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson said on Thursday.

Testifying before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Nicholson said it might cost 100 million dollars and as much as 500 million dollars to prevent and cover potential losses.

He said there was no sign that the veterans’ stolen information, which included their names, Social Security numbers and birth dates, was being used for fraud at the moment. The data related to veterans discharged from the military since 1975.

The department employee who had taken the data home without authorization and had the information stolen from his residence was placed on administrative leave, he said.

Nicholson said he was “mad as hell” that he wasn’t told about the burglary until 16 May, nearly two weeks after it took place on 3 May. He told the FBI on May 17 and the incident was made public on 22 May.

IAEA chief calls on nuclear powers to give up N-weapons

WASHINGTON, 27 May — Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on Thursday called on nuclear powers to give up their nuclear weapons so that other nations would not seek to join the nuclear club.

In a speech at the Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, ElBaradei warned that nuclear powers failed to lead by example and give up the weapons, other countries would inevitably seek to join the nuclear club.

He said that as long as some nations continued to insist that nuclear weapons were essential to their security, other nations would also want them.

ElBaradei warned that the world was reaching “a fork in the road. Either we must begin moving away from a security system based on nuclear weapons, or we should resign ourselves to a world with 20 to 30 nuclear-weapon states.”

The world spent more than one trillion US dollars on weapons and 80 billion dollars on official development aid in 2004, according to ElBaradei.

Galloway says Blair murder justified

LONDON, 27 May — Maverick British politician and Iraq war opponent George Galloway triggered a storm of protest on Friday by saying it would be morally justified for a suicide bomber to kill Prime Minister Tony Blair in revenge for the war.

Asking by GQ magazine if Blair’s assassination by a suicide bomber would be justified as revenge for the Iraq war, he said: “Yes, it would be morally justified.”

“I am not calling for it, but if it happened I believe it would be of a wholly different moral order to the events of 7 July,” he said, referring to attacks by four suicide bombers on London’s transport system last year that killed 52 people. “It would be entirely logical and explicable. And morally equivalent to ordering the deaths of thousands of innocent people in Iraq as Blair did,” said Galloway, who formed his own party after being kicked out of Blair’s Labour Party in 2003.

A constant Blair critic, he started up a new anti-war political party and defeated Blair’s candidate in a poor London district in an election last year.

He also took his case to Washington in a much-publicized, televised showdown with a US Senator who accused him of profiting off Iraqi oil deals before the war, allegations he denied.

Galloway said Blair had betrayed the British public on 22 May.

INTERNET

With the Manhattan skyline shrouded in fog, a ferry makes its way across the Hudson River in Hoboken, New Jersey, on 27 May, 2006.

MNA/Reuters
WASHINGTON, 26 May— A US Defence Department report into Pentagon-financed propaganda efforts in Iraq warns that paying Iraqi journalists to produce positive stories could damage American credibility and calls for an end to military payments to a group of Iraqi journalists in Baghdad, The New York Times reported on Wednesday.

The review, by Rear Admiral Scott Van Buskirk, was ordered after the disclosure last November that the US military had paid the Lincoln Group, a Washington-based Pentagon contractor, to plant articles written by American soldiers in Iraqi publications, without disclosing the source of the articles. The contractor’s work also included paying Iraqi journalists for favourable treatment.

The report said the document did not mention the Lincoln Group, but Buskirk concluded that the military should scrutinize contractors involved in the propaganda effort more closely “to ensure proper oversight is in place”.

The Admiral also faulted the military for failing to examine whether paying for the placement of articles would “undermine the concept of a free Press” in Iraq, the summary of the investigation said.

It was not clear whether the investigation would have any immediate effect on the military’s actions in Iraq, and in interviews this week, several Pentagon officials said the Lincoln Group and other contractors were still involved in placing propaganda messages in Iraqi publications and on television, according to the Times report.

MNA/Xinhua

Petrol tanker blast kills 35 in Benin

COTONOU, 26 May— A petrol tanker exploded after crashing in Benin, killing 35 people and injuring 80 more as they tried to collect fuel pouring from the damaged vehicle, national radio reported on Thursday.

A local gendarmerie, or paramilitary police, office said the tanker crashed into a ravine in the town of Porga, on the border with Burkina Faso.

“When it fell into the ravine, the petrol was pouring out, and people nearby ran to collect the petrol as it poured out,”Lasia Mora, of the Porga gendarmerie, told Reuters by phone. “The pouring petrol came into contact with the heat from the motor and exploded,” she said. — MNA/Reuters

Auto crash kills at least 21 in S-W Nigeria

LAGOS, 26 May— At least 21 people were killed Wednesday on Ilorin-Jebba Road in Nigeria’s southwestern state of Kwara when a mini-bus had a head-on collision with a heavy-duty trailer from the opposite direction.

Local newspaper The Punch quoted an eyewitness as saying that the accident occurred at Ahere Village between Bode Saadu and Oloru road at midnight around 12:30.

Efosa Osawe, a local official from the Federal Road Safety Commission, confirmed the accident, saying 19 of the victims were burned beyond recognition, while two others were taken to the mortuary of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Swedish diplomat expelled from Russia

HELSINKI, 26 May— A young Swedish diplomat was expelled from Russia as retaliation for the arrest of a Russian botanist researcher at Uppsala, Sweden, Swedish Radio reported Wednesday. The decision was met with strong protests from Stockholm.

The Russian researcher was released two months later after it was made clear that the information he had passed on did not endanger Sweden’s national security. But he had to leave Sweden later as his residence permit was not renewed. — MNA/Xinhua

Irish trawler sinks off Britain, 3 feared dead

LONDON, 26 May — Bad weather forced British Coast Guards to call off a rescue operation on Thursday after an Irish fishing vessel sank off the southwest coast, killing one crew member and leaving two missing feared dead.

Two helicopters and a fixed-wing aircraft, assisted by four merchant ships, rescued seven crew members from the Irish-registered trawler, the Dinish, Coast Guard watch assistant Alex Greig told Reuters. The body of a Spanish man was recovered from the water and transferred to hospital in Cork at about 4 am (0300 GMT), said a spokeswoman for the Irish Department of Transport.

Two other crew members, including one from West Africa, are still missing, she said. — MNA/Reuters

Giant puppets designed by late Spanish artist Joan Miro parade, escorted by performers, across the Millennium Bridge over the River Thames in central London, as part of celebrations for Surrealist on 27 May, 2006. —INTERNET

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Visitors sit in electric cruise vehicle at the Shenyang International Horticultural Garden on 23 May, 2006. Up to 26 May, over 3,300,000 visitors have visited the on-going China Shenyang International Horticultural Exposition which runs from May 1 to 31 October. —INTERNET

Bush refuses to set timetable for pullout from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 May — US President George W. Bush on Thursday remain reluctant to offer a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq following the formation of Iraq's new government.

Speaking to reporters after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the White House, Bush said: “It’s important for the American people to know that politics isn’t going to make the decision as to the size of our force level.”

“We will keep the force level there necessary to win,” Bush said.

Blair, who visited Iraq early this week, told the Press conference that the international community should offer great support for Iraq’s new government, and help them defeat terrorism.

Commenting on Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s remarks that it is possible for Iraqi forces to be ready to take over security duties by the end of 2007, Blair said: “I think it’s possible for the Iraqi security forces to take control, progressively, in the country.” — MNA/Xinhua

Joint military exercise against shipments of WMD held in Turkey

ANKARA, 27 May — Turkey on Friday hosted a joint military exercise in the international waters of the Mediterranean Sea, which is aimed at stopping shipments of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, semi-official Anadolu news agency reported.

In the exercise, dubbed “Anatolian Sun 06”, frigates from Turkey, the United States, France and Portugal blocked a ship carrying chemical weapons, and escorted it to the Leylek Island.

Military and civilian observers from 34 countries watched the exercise, which was hosted by Turkey under the US-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Namik Tan said on Thursday that the exercise did not target any specific country and it was aimed at strengthen coordination among the relevant authorities on the weapons of mass destruction, and to consolidate cooperation with the third countries.

The PSI, supported by 60 nations, is a global initiative aimed at stopping illicit shipments of WMD and related materials, which was announced by US President George W. Bush on May 31, 2003. Turkey began supporting the initiative in December 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Rafsanjani warns US, Britain not to repeat Iraq mistakes in Iran

TEHERAN, 27 May — Iran’s ex-president Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday warned the United States and Britain not to repeat their Iraq mistakes in Iran.

Rafsanjani made the warning one day after US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair admitted during a Press conference at the White House that “mistakes” and “mistakes” had been made in Iraq. “You see, two big leaders of two great occupying countries are making such important confessions,” Rafsanjani said in his Friday prayer sermon, which was carried live on Iran’s state radio.

Rafsanjani said that the two would also make such confessions about Iran if they do not give up their hard stance toward Iran’s nuclear programme.

Rafsanjani’s remarks came amid diplomats’ comments that the UN Security Council plus Germany are expected to have more talks on a decision to offer Iraq a package of incentives in return for Iran’s suspension of its nuclear activities, after their London talks on 24 May stopped short of making a final agreement.

Diplomats from the six nations have made encouraging progress over the package to Iran, as a compromise proposal, which would drop the automatic threat of military action but still pack the threat of sanctions if Iran remains defiant, was reached. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia to sell air defence systems to Iran

MOSCOW, 27 May — Russia would fulfill a contract to supply its sophisticated Tor-M1 air defence systems to Iran, the Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Friday.

Ivanov, who is also Vice-Prime-Minister, made the announcement after talks with the visiting German Defence Minister Franz Josef Yung in St. Petersburg, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

“Russia has signed a contract with Iran for the supply of Tor-M1 close-range air defence systems to Iran,” he said. “The contract will undoubtedly be fulfilled if no major factors interfere.”

Up to 30 Tor-M1 units, will be used to defend key state and military facilities, foremost, nuclear facilities in Isfahan, Bushehr, Tehran and in the east of the country.

The contract, worth 1.4 billion US dollars, is the biggest arms deal Iran and Russia have ever made.

US Marines may be charged in Iraqi civilian deaths

WASHINGTON, 27 May — US Marines could face criminal charges, possibly including murder, for their involvement in the deaths of up to two dozen Iraqi civilians in Haditha last November, a defence official said on Friday.

A criminal probe by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which handles criminal inquiries involving Marines, has not been completed and no final decisions on charges have been made, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The Los Angeles Times reported that investigators were expected to call for charges including murder, negligent homicide, dereliction of duty and filing a false report.

The investigation involves a 19 November incident in Haditha, about 140 miles (220 kilometres) northwest of Baghdad. The military has said 15 civilians were killed, while a senior Republican lawmaker last week put the number at about 24.

The Los Angeles Times reported that military investigators had concluded that a dozen Marines acted improperly in an incident in which US troops, after a Marine was killed by a roadside bomb, wantonly killed unarmed civilians, including women and children, and then tried to cover up the incident.

Spectators on Japan Coast Guard vessels are seen during their annual fleet review and exercise demonstration at Tokyo Bay in Tokyo on 27 May, 2006. Coastguards from Japan, the United States, China, South Korea, Canada and Russia will launch naval exercises in the Japan Sea and East China Sea to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction, starting on Saturday, Japanese coastguard officials said. — INTERNET

A visitor views a random lines painting by William Fang at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, on 26 May, 2006. An Individual Painting Exhibition of William Fang was held here on Friday. Fang, born in Hangzhou and now a recognized artist in Canada, began his paintings with random lines in the 80s in the 20th Century in the United States. — INTERNET
Musharraf supports Iran’s right of peaceful nuclear energy

ISLAMABAD, 28 May—Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday expressed support for Iran’s right to peaceful use of nuclear technology under appropriate International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

President Musharraf was talking to the First Vice-President of Iran Parviz Davoudi, currently visiting Pakistan in connection with the 16th session of the Pak-Iranian Joint Economic Commission, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

“Pakistan wanted a peaceful settlement of this issue. It was important that confrontation should be avoided and flexibility should be shown by all sides. Pakistan would support efforts to reach an amicable settlement,” Musharraf told the Iranian First Vice-President.

He underlined Pakistan’s opposition to proliferation of nuclear weapons, the statement said.

Davoudi appreciated Pakistan’s principled stand and explained that nuclear weapons had no place in Iran’s defense strategy, the statement said.

“Iran was prepared to give necessary assurances to that effect,” it said.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and developments on regional as well as global issues of current interest. MNA/Xinhua

S’pore Govt to offer humanitarian assistance to Thailand

SINGAPORE, 28 May—The Singapore Government will offer humanitarian assistance worth 50,000 US dollars to Thailand to help those affected by the recent floods in the northern part of the country, a spokesman from Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Friday.

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has made a phone call to Thai caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to convey his condolences to the families of the victims of the disaster, the statement said.

In addition to the assistance in the form of medical supplies, blankets and tents, the Singapore Armed Forces has deployed three Chinook helicopters to Phitsanulok, Thailand, to assist in the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts.

“We are working closely with the Thai authorities to deploy these helicopters to assist in search and rescue missions, casualty evacuation, as well as the transportation of humanitarian aid, equipment and personnel,” the statement said. MNA/Xinhua

French military helicopter crashes in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, 28 May — A French military helicopter crashed in Ivory Coast on Friday, killing one of its crew and seriously injuring a second, the French Army in the West African country said.

The Gazelle light helicopter was on a transportation mission from the main city of Abidjan to Bouake, the rebel stronghold in the north of the country, when it crashed in an uninhabited area around Dimboko, close to the capital Yamoussoukro.

“The helicopter was completely destroyed. There is one dead and one seriously injured. There were only two on board, the pilot and co-pilot,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Philippe Perret, spokesman for the French peacekeeping force in Ivory Coast.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash. The former French colony has been split in two since rebels seized its northern half after failing in an attempt to oust President Laurent Gbagbo in September 2002.

About 4,000 French peacekeepers along with 7,000 UN soldiers monitor a buffer zone keeping the two sides apart.

The accident brought the total number of deaths in the French peacekeeping force to 23 since 2002, Perret said. MNA/Reuters

Local hospital needs more doctors to treat quake victims

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Dr Sardjito Public Hospital in Indonesian Province of Yogyakarta needs more doctors, medicine and tents for the victims of Saturday’s earthquake that shook the city and other parts of Central Java, official news agency Antara reported.

Hospital spokesman Budi Muloyalo said in Yogyakarta after the earthquake that at least 500 injured victims have been admitted to the hospital and more people continued to trickle in.

Budi said the medical supply at the hospital for the time being was sufficient but as the number of victims continued to rise, necessary anticipation should be made.

Masks, tents and beds are also needed because most of the victims at present are accommodated at the parking lots and the hospital yard due to limited rooms.

“For further anticipation we need more doctors, medical supply and makeshift tents for about 15,000 patients,” Budi said, expressing hope that the crisis management centre at the Health Ministry could meet the demand. MNA/Xinhua

The Gazelle light helicopter was on a transportation mission from the main city of Abidjan to Bouake, the rebel stronghold in the north of the country, when it crashed in an uninhabited area around Dimboko, close to the capital Yamoussoukro.
Mon State striving for development of agricultural sector...

(From page 1)

He added that Mon State is striving full development of the agricultural sector making full use of its land and water resources. Therefore, all are to maintain and safeguard durability of the dams and sluice gates built by the State, spending a large amount of money. And, it is necessary to follow rules and regulations related to dams and embankments.

In conclusion, the commander called on authorities and local people to safeguard Mayangon Sluice Gate for supplying water to cultivable lands and for contributing to better transport facilities.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint made a speech. He said that Mayangon Sluice Gate was built successfully for converting wetland area near Hsar Creek and Mayangon Creek into cultivable land and for supplying water to boost cultivation and production of summer paddy. Thanks to construction of the sluice gate, local farmers and their families will achieve higher living standard.

He continued to say that Mayangon Sluice Gate is the 186th facility put under various crops. Likewise, the country has about 2.6 million acres of irrigated areas. The cultivation capacity reached up to 157.1 per cent from 119.6 per cent in 1988.

The deputy minister asserted that while implementing water supply projects for cultivation purpose, the Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation is giving encouragement to local farmers for extending crop lands. Now, the ministry is making arrangements for meeting the production target of groundnut, sesame, sunflower, green gram, green pea, pigeon pea, long staple cotton, maize and sugarcane including paddy.

Nowadays, he said, all of the global nations are striving for ensuring efficiency of energy, and they focus on production and use of substitute fuel. In Myanmar, physic nut plant from which bio-diesel can be extracted grows readily to operate the diesel engine. The deputy minister added that the Government has spent K 680 million on construction of the concrete sluice gate with 15 valves measuring six feet by 12 feet each. Thanks to the building of the sluice gate, 10,000 acres of wetland will be converted into the farmlands, and the water facility will benefit cultivation of summer paddy and other crops.

In conclusion, the deputy minister urged all to ensure durability of the sluice gate and to boost the agricultural production for strengthening of the State economy.

On behalf of the locals, U Khun Min Htwe of Mayangon Village thanked the government for construction of the sluice gate.

Next, the commander and the deputy minister cordially greeted those present.

Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win unveiled the stone inscription. The commander and the deputy minister sprinkled scented water on it. Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister cut the ribbon to open the sluice gate.

Deputy Minister Office thanked the government of Mon State PDC, district and township authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people, totalling over 2,500.

Mayangon Sluice Gate is a concrete facility built on Mayangon Creek that has 27.5 square miles of watershed area. The sluice gate has 15 valves measuring six feet by 12 feet each. The water intake canal is 10,560 feet long and the outlet channel is 7,920 feet long. The sluice gate will benefit 10,000 acres of land.

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YANGON, 28 May — The Central Committee for Organizing the June-July Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006 held the first coordination meeting at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda, here, this afternoon, with an address by Patron of the Central Committee for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

All the participants of the meeting discussed arrangements for holding the special sales at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road and Myanmar Gems Emporium from 20 June to 4 July.

Officials of Management, Information and Security Sub-committees reported on progress of their respective sub-committees, invitation sent to gems merchants abroad and local entrepreneurs, rules and regulations for purchase of goods. Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and members reviewed the reports.

After giving necessary instructions, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint urged all to make concerted efforts for successful holding of the special sales and earning more foreign exchange. The meeting ended in the evening.

The gem merchants may display their jewellery at the June-July Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2006, not later than 3 June. MNA

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint speaking at the meeting. — MNA

Minister visits wood-based factories

YANGON, 28 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung visited this morning National Wood Industry Co Ltd in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. Managing Director U Kyaw Win reported on functions of the industry and Myanmar Timber Enterprise Managing Director U Win Tun, Forest Department Director-General U Soe Win Iliaing and officials gave supplementary reports.

Next, the minister inspected production line and packaging of sawn timber which is to be exported. The minister also visited NWS wood-based factory in the same township. Managing Director U Nay Win Swe reported on production process at the factory. Later, the minister inspected Zabu Yadana finished wood products factory in Dagon Industrial Zone 1 in South Dagon and left necessary instructions there. MNA

Minister back from China

YANGON, 28 May — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the 7th Western China International Trade Fair and Sichuan-SEA Economic Cooperation Forum held in Chengdu, the People’s Republic of China.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, departmental heads, officials of the Chinese Embassy and families of Myanmar delegation members.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Members of the delegation — Head of Office U Aung Naing Oo, Deputy General Manager of Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise U Aung Myint, Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Water supply to Yangon to be reduced for three days

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Measures to be taken for public schools to be free from tobacco, mosquitoes, garbage

Yangon, 28 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, attended a briefing on measures to be taken for public schools to be free from tobacco, mosquitoes and garbage held at No 6 Basic Education High School in Botataung Township this morning.

The commander formally unveiled a signboard saying tobacco, mosquito and garbage free school. Next, he together with officials grew commemorative physic nut saplings in the compound of the school. Afterwards, they viewed posters showing knowledge about dengue hemorrhage fever and clearing of bushes and shrubs, health staff and members of social organizations.

At Aung Kyaw Hall of the school, the commander briefed on active participation of departmental personnel including education staff, members of social organizations and public in taking measures to keep schools neat and tidy in order to successfully implement one of the four social objectives of the State — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. Wellwishers donated K 2,103,000 for school health activities. Daw Mar Mar Wai handed over 700 dust bins worth K 1,855,000 for 463 schools in the 14 towns ships in Yangon East District to District Education Officer U Tint Lwin. Next, Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted membership applications of MCWA and viewed documentary photos on school health activities. — MNA

Minister meets staff of Ministry of Culture

Yangon, 28 May — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint inspected the national library, the National Museum and the University of Culture (Yangon) on 26 and 27 May. Yesterday morning, the minister met with staff of the Ministry of Culture and it was also attended by directors and deputy directors of the departments under the ministry, the rector of the University of Culture (Yangon), officials and staff.

In meeting with staff, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint made a speech on how important it is to preserve the cultural standard of all the nationals with the Union Spirit and the meeting ended. — MNA

“Hardship and Victory” in circulation

Yangon, 28 May — The book named “Hardship and Victory” written by Chit Naing (Psychology) has been published and it includes the domes tic tours of Chit Naing (Psychology), the encouragement to readers for striving to increase the libraries in villages and 18 other articles.

It is illustrated in the book saying that the hardship and victory looks like the head and tail of a coin and it is impossible to achieve success without overcoming the hardship. Only beyond the hardship, there will be great success.

The book is published by Naing Sarpay at No 22-24 on Pansodan Street and sold at a cost of K 750 for each copy. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves for Malaysia

Yangon, 28 May — At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mr Syed Hamid Albar, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air this morning to attend the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Putrajaya from 29 to 30 May 2006.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Malaysian Ambassador Mr Shaharuddin bin Md Som and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Together with Minister U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Myint Aung, Director-General U Nyan Lin of Political Department and Director U Win Myint will attend the meeting. — MNA

Dinner to mark centennial of YMBB hosted

Yangon, 28 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the dinner to mark the centennial of YMBA at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road this evening.

Also present at the dinner were Patron of the YMBA Centennial Celebration Organizing Committee Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and members, the ministers, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Chairman of YMBA U Bo Ni and executives, ambassadors of foreign missions, wellwishers and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung extended greetings. Next, Chairman U Bo Ni expressed gratitude. Later, those present were served with dinner. — MNA

Religious Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung extends greetings at the dinner to mark the centennial of YMBA. — MNA

Minister U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport before his departure for Malaysia. — MNA
YANGON, 28 May — The fifth ceremony to present Awards for Literature on Buddhism founded by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Wepulla was held at Maha Sasana Wepulla Monastery on Kyatawya Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

First, the congregation received the Five Presents from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha - Maha Nayaka Committee Maha Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw Abhidaja Maha Ratthaguru Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Panindhabhivamsa.

Later, Adviser of Religious Affairs Department U Hin Myo presented awards to Ashin Dhammacariya. Bhaddanta Sirindabhivamsa (Yaw) delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

YANGON, 28 May — A ceremony to honour 48 members of the Sangha who passed the 58th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination was held at Tipitaka Dhamma Rekkhita Beikman at 15, Gyantawya Street in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Present were the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and secretary Sayadaws, the chairman Sayadaw of Tipitakadhara Ovadacariya Committee and secretary Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaws, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of the Committee Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhamma Mampudthara U Sein Tint, executives and association members.

Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts. U Sein Tint supplicated on religious affairs. The minister and responsible persons offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Next, Yaw Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sirindhabhivamsa (Yaw) delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

YANGON, 28 May — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Vice-Chairman Commandant of Central Supply and Transport Depot Col Win Naung, Secretary Commander of Yangon Division Police Force Police Colonel Hla Min, Joint-Secretary Police Lt-Col Aung Naing and members, departmental officials supervised functions of dry day inspection teams at the main points in downtown Yangon this morning and afternoon.

Dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill of departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm.
Mine accident kills eight in N-W China region

Urumqi, 27 May—Eight people were confirmed dead in a lead-zinc mine accident on Thursday in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the local government said Friday. The accident was reported at 3:30 pm at the scene of a lead-zinc mine in Shanshan County of the region’s Hotan Prefecture.

Investigators said the miners were suffocated by smoke and were killed when they were working on the fifth floor. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

FM says Iran not to talk Iraq issue with US

Baghdad, 27 May—Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said here on Friday that Iran would not hold talks with US on Iraq issue.

During a joint Press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Hoshyar Zebari, Mottaki said Tehran used to plan on such talks with the US but now Iran changed its mind. Mottaki said Teheran used to try to create a positive atmosphere and that is why the decision is suspended,” Ivanov said. “This is a very serious problem, international regimes should be strengthened, and in that sense the positions of Russia and Germany are fully identical,” he said.

Roadside bombs wound 23 in Baghdad

Baghdad, 27 May—Three roadside bombs rocked the Iraqi capital and wounded 23 people on Friday, while Iraqi police found three unidentified bodies in a northern Baghdad District, an Interior Ministry source said.

Two makeshift bombs went off in two places in Baghdad’s western district of Mansur at about 9:30 am (0530 GMT), wounding five people, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A third roadside bomb went off at about 10:30 am (0630 GMT) at the end of Eshrien Street in Baibaa neighbourhood, wounding 18 people, the source added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi police found three unidentified bodies in the northern district of Shahb, the source said. The bodies showed signs of torture and with bullet holes in their heads and chests, the source said.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Germany for dip solutions to Iranian N-problem

Moscow, 27 May—Both Russia and Germany came out for political and diplomatic settlement of Iran’s nuclear crisis, Russian Vice-Premier and Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Friday in St Petersburg after talks with visiting German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung.

“The world experience shows that sanctions prove ineffective, as a rule,” Ivanov said in reply to a question whether a possible resolution on Iran adopted by the UN Security Council might affect military-technical cooperation between Russia and Iran, the TTIR-TASS news agency reported.

“Ivanov said the two ministers focused on problems of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technologies not only in Iran but also in other countries. “New threats that did not exist earlier have appeared which makes us focus more attention than before on the nonproliferation problem,” Ivanov said.

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Thailand from floods and mudslides has risen to 62 while 53 people are still missing.—INTERNET

Thai workers repair a railway track after it was destroyed by floods in Sukhothai Province recently. The confirmed death toll in northern Thailand from floods and mudslides has risen to 62 while 53 people are still missing.—INTERNET
Daily tipple can bring health benefits for men

LONDON, 27 May — Moderate drinking reduces the risk of heart disease but the beneficial effects of alcohol seem to work differently in men and women, Danish researchers said on Friday.

They found that for men drinking daily seems to have the biggest positive effect on health while in women the amount of alcohol consumed may have more of an impact.

“The risk of heart disease was lowest among men who drank every day,” said Jane Tolstrup of the National Institute for Public Health in Copenhagen. But a daily tipple did not cut the odds of heart disease in women, according to the findings reported in the British Medical Journal.

Tolstrup and her colleagues said the beneficial effects of moderate drinking in cutting heart disease risk are well documented but they warned that heavy alcohol consumption is linked to liver diseases, cancer and road accidents.

Most of the research into alcohol and heart disease has been done on men. Little is known about the impact on women.

The researchers studied the effects of alcohol on more than 50,000 men and women over more than five years. Men in the study who drank one day or seven days a week had a 7-per-cent reduced risk of heart disease compared to non-drinkers, but daily moderate drinkers were 41 per cent less likely to suffer from heart disease.

Women consumed an average of 5.5 alcoholic drinks a week, about half of what the men drank. But in women the percentages of reduced risk were similar, regardless of whether they drank one day or seven days a week.

Australian climber found alive after night on Everest

SYDNEY, 27 May — An Australian mountaineer left for dead near the summit of Mt. Everest has been found alive after spending a night out on the world’s highest mountain, according to reports.

Lincoln Hall, 50, was initially reported to have died of cerebral edema, or swelling of the brain, or drowning in the brain, as he descended the mountain, according to expedition leader Alexander Abramov, on internet site.

However, climbers ascending the next day discovered Hall still alive near the peak and launched an immediate rescue operation.

Hall’s survival comes a week after British climber David Sharp died after getting into difficulties on his descent from the 8,850 metre (29,035 foot) summit. Several groups of climbers passed Sharp but did not stop to help.

Abramov said on the website that Hall was being checked by a doctor at the North Col camp at 7,000 metres, but remained in an extremely serious condition.

Another member of the expedition, Thomas Weber, died on the mountain.

Survey shows tobacco use by teens common worldwide

NEW YORK, 27 May — Nearly one in five 13- to 15-year-old students worldwide use tobacco products, according to findings of a new survey released Friday.

The new findings come in anticipation of the World Health Organization’s World No Tobacco Day, which is held every year on 31 May. The theme for this year is “Tobacco Deadly in Any Form or Disguise,” emphasizing that it’s not just cigarette smoking that is harmful.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey was begun in 1999 as joint effort by the WHO, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Canadian Public Health Association. The CDC report included data obtained up to 2005.

Students from more than 130 countries responded to questions about tobacco, including personal use, secondhand exposure and advertising. The countries were divided into six geographic regions: Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific.

The report indicates that 17.3 per cent of all respondents reported that they currently used some type of tobacco product. The overall rates of cigarette smoking and other tobacco use were 8.9 per cent and 11.2 per cent, respectively.

Europe and the Americas had the highest rates of cigarette smoking at approximately 17.7 per cent, while Southeast Asia had the lowest rate at 4.3 per cent.

An environmental-friendly car is demonstrated on Central China International Automobile Exhibition in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 26 May, 2006. The Fourth Central China International Automobile Exhibition opened here on Friday to display vehicles, auto parts and auto appliances made by 360 enterprises from China and other parts of the world. — INTERNET

Human-to-human bird flu infection taking place in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 May — Indonesian bird flu researcher CA Nidom MS said he was convinced that human-to-human bird flu infection had been taking place in Indonesia, official news agency Antara reported on Friday.

“I am convinced human-to-human infection has been taking place because studies have found the development of H3N2 and H1N1 strains of bird flu virus which originated from H5N1 virus. Much more, fowl-to-human infection cannot yet be proven since the death of Iwan in Tangerang,” he said on the sidelines of a seminar on bird flu in Surabaya, East Java, on Friday.

Nidom, a researcher of the Tropical Disease Centre (TDC) of the University of Airlangga (Unair)’s Medical School, made the remarks in response to a statement by a World Health Organization official that bird flu infection from human to human had been found in the village of Kubu Sembelang, Tanah Karo District, North Sumatra, Indonesia.

According to Nidom, who is also a lecturer at the Unair’s Medical School, the WHO’s official’s statement was logical because the avian influenza was just like a common flu so that there was no need to be panicked. “I have disclosed this conclusion in Pontianak last April,” he added.

An artist impression design by La Vegas Sands of Marina Sands event plaza. Las Vegas Sands has won the bid for Singapore’s first casino licence, giving it the right to develop a multi-billion dollar gaming, entertainment and convention complex, the government said recently. — INTERNET

Photo taken on 25 May, 2006 shows a sculpture shown at the Yu Qingcheng sculptures garden in the Sun Island Park of Harbin, capital of northeastern China’s Heilongjiang province, on 25 May, 2006. A total of 20 sculptures in 8 groups by Chinese famous artists Yu Qingcheng make their debut in the park on Tuesday. Yu was awarded the “Folk Craft Arts Master” by UNESCO in 1996, his works usually feature the rural life of Chinese farmers. — INTERNET

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Switzerland, Ivory Coast draw in friendly

BASEL (Switzerland), 28 May— Switzerland and Ivory Coast played out a 1-1 draw on Saturday as both nations continued their World Cup build-ups.

The Swiss took the lead after 32 minutes through Bayern Leverkusen’s Tranquillo Barnetta but the Ivorians hit back just after halftime through substitute Ermer Fae. FC Basel’s David Degen made his debut for the national side when the 23-year-old came on in the 77th minute to cheers from the 22,000 home crowd.

Swiss midfielder Hakan Yakin, recalled from his holidays earlier this week to replace injured striker Johan Vonlanthen, took part in the game but watched from the stands.

“Hakan is one of the 23-strong team, not more not less,” Swiss coach Kosti Kuhn said in a news conference.

“He is a part of the team and that’s all there is to it.”

Switzerland have been drawn in Group G for the World Cup along with South Korea, Togo and 1998 World Cup hosts France.

Ivory Coast, making their first appearance at the World Cup finals, will play in Group C along with Argentina, Serbia and Montenegro and the Netherlands. —INTERNET

Van Nistelrooy seals Dutch win against Cameroon

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 28 May— Ruud van Nistelrooy struck midway through the first half to seal a 1-0 victory for the Netherlands over Cameroon in a World Cup warm-up match on Saturday.

Dutch coach Marco van Basten started with Robin van Persie on the right flank and the in-form Arsenal man proved a handful for the Cameroon defence.

First he combined with Mark van Bommel to create a chance for van Nistelrooy who had his close-range effort saved by goalkeeper Idriess Kamene and he was involved again when Kamene denied Philip Cocu.

The winning goal arrived after 22 minutes when Cocu’s long pass reached central defender Andre Ooijer and his header found van Nistelrooy who converted the chance. Cameroon’s best chance came shortly before the interval when Ousmane’s Pierre Webo got on the end of a pass by Salomon Olembe to force a fine reflex save from Edwin van der Sar. —INTERNET

Zidane celebrates 100th cap with win over Mexico

PARIS, 28 May— Zinedine Zidane celebrated his 100th cap for France with a 4-1 win over Mexico in a World Cup warm-up game on Saturday.

Midfielder Florent Malouda scored the winner when he fed under the crossbar from a Djibril Cisse cross just before halftime in one of the few highlights of a close, tactical match against opponents also on their way to the finals in Germany.

The 33-year-old Zidane, who will retire after the World Cup, was playing for the last time in his glittering career at the Stade de France, where he scored twice in France’s 3-0 defeat of Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final.

The three-times World Player of the Year could only offer a below-par performance and was substituted early in the second half under deafening cheers from the crowd. —INTERNET

Toothless Spain held 0-0 draw by Russia

ALBACETE (Spain), 28 May— Spain displayed their customary problems in attack as they were held to a 0-0 draw by Russia in a World Cup warm-up in Albacete on Saturday.

Coach Luis Aragones tried out the new 4-3-3 formation he wants to use in Germany with Fernando Torres, Luis Garcia and David Villa starting up front and all three had good chances in the opening 20 minutes but could not find the net.

Although monopolizing possession, Spain failed to build on the promising start and failed to breach a well-drilled defence.

“In the first half we had some good chances but it’s difficult when your opponents only set out to defend,” said Aragones.

“We tried to win and I just hope we can put away the chances we missed today when we play a more important game.”

Midfielder Xabi Alonso said that the team were concerned by their failure to get on the scoresheet.

“You can only win games by scoring goals and obviously we are worried by the fact that we are not getting them at the moment,” the Liverpool player told reporters. Spain are now unbeaten in 20 games but will need a major improvement to seriously challenge for the World Cup.

—MNA/Reuters

Pauleta hat-trick gives Portugal easy win

LISBON, 28 May— Striker Pauleta scored a hat-trick as Portugal crushed Cape Verde Islands 4-1 in a World Cup warm-up in Evora on Saturday.

Pauleta opened the scoring in the first minute when, unmarked inside the box, he latched on to a long pass by defender Fernando Meira.

Cape Verde, with many of their squad playing in Portuguese clubs, equalized when Meira, under pressure from Lato, deflected a Calu cross into his own net after 19 minutes.

—MNA/Reuters

Germany get in rhythm with 7-goal win

FREEBURG (Germany), 28 May— Miroslav Klose, Lukas Podolski and Oliver Neuville struck two goals apiece as World Cup hosts Germany helped themselves to a 7-0 win over Luxembourg on Saturday.

Germany were 3-0 up by halftime after Klose scored in the fifth minute, Torsten Frings converted a penalty and Podolski swept in from Tim Borowski’s long pass. Klose smacked into the roof of the net in the 59th minute, Podolski converted another penalty six minutes later and substitute Oliver Neuville scored two injury-time goals to confirm his lethal form.

It was the first, and what will surely prove by far the easiest, of three pre-World Cup tests for Germany.

“It did us some good,” said coach Juergen Klinsmann. “It was a small but important test and we got going straight away.”

Michael Ballack was absent but there was never any likelihood that he would miss him against Luxembourg, who are down in 152nd place in the FIFA rankings.

In fact, the match was further proof that Borowski can be a useful replacement for the skipper, who stayed behind at Germany’s Swiss training camp for treatment on a minor ankle injury.

Borowski ran the midfield with calm authority, spreading around passes for Podolski, Klose and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Klinsmann had asked his team to put in practice the direct style they have been working on in Geneva and he will have been thrilled to see Podolski burst through the defence in the first minute.

The 20-year-old striker’s touch just took him too wide on that occasion but he did much better when he accepted another long pass from Schweinsteiger in the fifth minute.

—MNA/Reuters

Switzerland’s Ludovic Magnin, left, and Ricardo Cabanas, right, fight for the ball with Ivory Coast’s Kader Keita, center, during a test match between the nations continued their World Cup build-ups. Switzerland will play in group G with South Korea, France and Togo. Ivory Coast will play in Group C with Argentina, Serbia Montenegro and The Netherlands. —INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

R U U E D T W E L L I N G

E R L I N

V E R G E T U N I S I A

E S H A U N

L E T S S A T E R R E D

E L I G E

R A R E L Y S C H E M E

E R E T A N

E F K H O R

A N I M A T E H R A C E

T E G R E X E

S A D D E N D R E E N

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua news agency, a girl demonstrates a doll of football star at a store in Hangzhou, east China, on 27 May, 2006. —INTERNET

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua news agency, a girl demonstrates a doll of football star at a store in Hangzhou, east China, on 27 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Virginir Naraphongphorn, of Thailand, lines up her putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the LPGA Corning Classic golf tournament in Corning, NY, on 26 May, 2006. —INTERNET
The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, 29 May, 2006

Indonesian Red Cross provides Internet service to help quake victims

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) in cooperation with the International Red Cross is providing Internet services to people seeking family members who might have become victims of Saturday morning’s earthquake in Yogyakarta and some areas in Central Java Province, Indonesia.

“The service can be accessed through our tracking and mailing service”, the Antara news agency quoted Dede Suryadi, head of PMI’s Tracing and Mailing Service, as saying on Saturday.

Dede said PMI was also providing satellite telephone connections to facilitate communication between quake victims and their family members and relatives in other regions.

MNA/Xinhuas

WEATHER

Sunday, 28 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest Monsoon has advanced into the whole country. Weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy fall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (3.78) inches, Pataung (1.70) inches, Hkamti (1.41) inches, Pathein (1.30) inches and Yamein (0.62) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 28-5-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-5-2006 was (82%). Total sunshine hours on 27-5-2006 was (4.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 28-5-2006 were (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (14.25) inches at Mingaladon, (17.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (19.14) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 27-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-5-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. 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 (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Construction tasks of Bwetkyi Bridge inspected

YANGON, 28 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials from Public Works inspected the construction of roads and bridges along Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Road, and arrived at Bwetkyi Bridge construction project at the mile post 211/4 on 26 May.

Bwetkyi Bridge is of reinforced concrete type. It will be 1,770 feet long and 28 feet wide. The bridge will have 3-foot pedestrian way on both sides. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard a report on work progress presented by an official, and attended to the needs.

Bwetkyi Bridge is of reinforced concrete type. It will be 1,770 feet long and 28 feet wide. The bridge will have 3-foot pedestrian way on both sides. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Later, the minister and party arrived at the construction site of Yaw Creek Bridge (Kangwin). The minister heard reports on progress of work and future tasks by an official. In the past, the bridge was of bailey type. At present, it is being upgraded into a reinforced concrete one. The bridge will be 520 feet long and 24 feet wide, and it will be flanked by a 3-foot pedestrian lane on either side. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Power Stations in Yangon under close supervision

Arrangements made to install 100,000 electric meters in Yangon

YANGON, 28 May — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with Col Khin Maung Soe and officials of Yangon City Power Supply Board yesterday inspected natural gas fired Power Station in Thakaya. The minister gave instructions on supplying of power, and stressed the need for security of the power station and maintenance of the machines.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and party proceeded to the construction site of Bayintnaung Power Station (Branch) in Hline Township. Deputy Chief Engineer U Aye Thaw reported on construction of the station, collecting of materials and installing of Hlinethaya-Bayintnaung river crossing power grid. The minister instructed officials to take safety measures and to carry out tasks in time.

Later, the minister viewed around the running of machines at Ahlon Gas Turbine. He heard the reports on supplying of power presented by the station manager. The minister met with service personnel and gave instructions. The minister also looked into Test Lab. In meeting with service personnel, he said that arrangements are being made to install 100,000 electric meters in Yangon.

So far, 72,507 electric meters have been allotted to the consumers. The minister stressed the need for thorough inspection of meters.

Weather Forecast for (29-5-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas
One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

The government has granted permission to private entrepreneurs to assemble thousands of trucks, light trucks and jeep cars in 2006-2007 financial year and Mandalay Industrial Zone alone will be able to assemble over 1,000 automobiles in the same period.