True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

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

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

Over 40,000 acres put under monsoon paddy in Thayawady District

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than in Thayawady District in the division will put 11,100 acres of land under the plant in 2008-2009.

At Taguntaing village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on harvesting and winnowing of summer paddy, and monsoon paddy plantation, presented by the commander and officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than spoke of the need to grow monsoon crops according to targets and to cultivate physic nut from manageable scale to commercial scale for producing biodiesel for farm machinery.

Thayawady District has already grown over 40,000 acres of monsoon paddy out of the target of 760,000 acres.

During stopover in Pyay, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with division agriculture co-ordinators, saying that Myanma Agriculture Service, Irrigation Department and Settlements and Land Records Department should make coordinated efforts to supply water for crops in Bago Division (West). As in the previous year, the division should strive to meet the crop targets including three-million-acre mark for monsoon paddy.

(See page 8)
Quality jade, gems and pearl special sales

The gems industry of the Union of Myanmar is developing rapidly. In the past, exploration and extraction of gems was carried out by only the State but now the government and national private gems companies are engaged in this business on a joint-venture basis.

Phakant area of Kachin State, Hkant area of Sagaing Division are well-known jade belting areas. Although these areas are situated far apart, they have the same bedrock. Mogok has been famous as a ruby land since the time of Myanmar kings and precious stones have been extracted for hundreds of years. In Mongshu and Pyinulong gem lands, joint-venture extraction of jade and gems are being carried out on a wider scale and it has been found that production is considerably high.

Like jade and gems, the production of pearl is also encouraging. Pearl has been cultured in Myanmar waters for many years and the State and national entrepreneurs are now working together in pearl culture for mutual benefits. As many as hundreds of thousands of pearls have now been produced.

The 2006 Myanmar jade, gems and pearl special sales are going to be organized at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon from 20 June to 4 July. Companies that have officially organized registered for exploration and extraction of jade and gems and joint-venture companies are taking part in the special sales.

The auction for pearl and the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium held in February and March this year respectively were complete success. As many as hundreds of thousands of pearls have now been produced.

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The auction for pearl and the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium held in February and March this year respectively were complete success. And we believe that the special emporium will boost the sales of jade, gem and pearl lots by offering products of good quality to gems merchants.

Ottwin, DaikU and Bago Townships grow physic nut plants

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 May — A physic nut plants growing ceremony was held at 100-acre plantation in Shweluang village-tract in Ottwin Township, Bago Division on 25 May. It was attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife, local authorities and farmers.

The commander and wife distributed physic nut plants to those present.

The commander, wife and party planted physic nut saplings at designated places and encouraged those taking part in the ceremony.

Later, the commander viewed ploughing of 3,000 acres land to cultivate monsoon paddy. A total of 21,000 acres of physic nut will be cultivated within 3 years in Ottwin Township.

A similar ceremony was held at West Kyakkasak village in DaikU Township in the division. A total of 19,200 acres of land will be put under cultivation of physic nut.

Similarly, a physic nut growing ceremony was held at Wahamayan village-tract in Bagon Township.

The commander and wife viewed the successful operation of a quadruplet at Bago People’s Hospital and provided K 100,000 for the parents of the quadruplet.

Later, the commander, wife and party greeted the expectant mothers and presented iron tablets and nutritious food to them. —MNA

Men’s and Women’s Age-wise Swimming competitions conclude

An official of MWSF presents prize to a winner.—NLM

YANGON, 29 May — The last day’s matches of men’s and women’s age-wise swimming competitions for the trophy of Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee for 2006 were held at the National Swimming Pool on U Wizara Road this afternoon.

After the events, a prize presentation ceremony followed. Patron of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation (Swimming) Daw Mu Mu Win presented prizes to winners of men’s senior 400-m singles and men’s and women’s 400-m singles (age 13 and 14). Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Nyan Tun gave away prizes to winners of men’s senior 200-m singles and men’s and women’s 200-m freestyle (age 13 and 14). Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Cho Maung awarded prizes to winners of men’s event (age 13 and 14) and men’s and women’s senior 100-m backstroke.

Similarly, Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Maung Win awarded prizes to winners of men’s event (age 11, 12, 13 and 14) and women’s event (age 13 and 14) 100-m event (backstroke) while Secretary of MSF Assistant Director of SPED U Kyaw Oo gave away prizes to winners of 50-m backstroke of men’s and women’s (age 9 and 10) and 25-m backstroke of women’s U-8. Likewise, General Secretary of MSF U Kyaw Oo gave away a prize to Ye Myint Hein who set a new record (one minute and 12.9 seconds) in 100-m breaststroke by breaking Yan Lin Aung’s record (one minute and 15.62 seconds in 2002). Responsible personnel of the Ministry of Sports and MSF also presented prizes to winners from remaining matches. — NLM

Mayor inspects construction tasks in Mandalay

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 May — Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, accompanied by officials inspected Tar Factory of MCDC on 25 May.

Later, the mayor also inspected sanitation work in Maha Aungmyay Township, repaving of 56th road in Chamayathazi Township with asphalt and construction of No 4 water works in Aungmyaythazan Township and attended to the needs.

Upon completion of the water works, the people would have easy access to 2 million gallons of safe drinking water.—MNA

UMFCCI Vice-President leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 29 May—Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin and CEC member U Tun Aung this morning left here by air for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to attend the Hanoi World Bank ASEAN Secretariat Workshop to be held in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 30 and 31 May. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of the federation U Sein Win Hlaing and officials.—MNA

Family of Daw Yin Saing of No 10 (B) in Ahnawratha Housing Estate, Hledan in Kamayut Township recently donated K 100,000 to Hinzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home.—N
Austria, China celebrate 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties

VIENNA. 28 May—A grand reception was held in the Chinese Embassy in Vienna to mark the 35th anniversary of Austria on Friday.

Hans Winkler, state secretary of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, was among more than 400 guests present at the reception hosted by Ambassador Lu Yonghua.

In his opening speech, Lu highly praised the China-Austria relations in all fields as a good example of cooperation between countries with different social systems. Over the past 35 years, he said, with the efforts of both sides, diplomatic and economic cooperation between the two countries had been constantly expanded. “Trade volume between the two countries has been growing, and reached 2.49 billion euros (3.26 billion US dollars) in 2005. China has been the biggest trade partner of Austria in Asia,” he added.

Winkler highly praised the contribution of late Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and other Chinese leaders of the first generation involved in the development of China-Austria relations.

He also acclaimed the economic achievements made by the Chinese after the implementation of its reform and opening up since the late 1970s, and gave his assurance that the Austrian Government would consistently promote friendly co-operation with China.

Pakistan issues 5,000-rupee note

ISLAMABAD, 28 May — The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday launched the highest denomination currency note of 5,000 rupees and a newly-designed bill of 10 rupees, and announced that all other notes would be replaced by the end of the year, according to a Dawn newspaper report on Saturday.

SBP governor Dr Shamshad Akhtar addressing a Press conference after the launching ceremony faced a volley of questions from media personnel who insisted that the 5,000-rupee note reflected a sharp decline in the value of the rupee.

Currently one US dollar equals about 60 rupees. “Printing of 5,000-rupee notes is nothing to do with inflation. It does not reflect that prices have gone up,” she said. The proposal to issue 5,000-rupee note was approved by the Cabinet in 2004.

UN sends supplies to Indonesian quake victims

UNITED NATIONS, 28 May—The United Nations is sending aid to victims of the Indonesia earthquake, including medical goods, tents and water supply equipment, UN officials said on Saturday.

The 6.2 magnitude quake struck at dawn on Saturday when many were still in bed, killing an estimated 3,000 people. It was the third major temblor to hit Indonesia in 18 months, the worst being the quake on 26 December, 2004, and the resulting tsunami that left some 170,000 people dead or missing.

UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund, said it had sent staff to the earthquake area and was sending thousands of tents, tarpaulins and lanterns, as well as water supply equipment.

More goods will follow, including medical supplies for the injured, said Ann Veneman, the agency’s executive director. “So often in natural disasters children and the elderly suffer disproportionately because they are least able to react quickly,” she said.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was “deeply saddened by the loss of life, the hundreds of injuries and destruction suffered by the people of Indonesia.” He also offered to mobilize an international response if required.

Family of British nerve gas victim wins compensation

LONDON, 28 May—The family of a British soldier who died over 50 years ago after taking part in a deadly nerve gas experiment have finally won compensation for his death. Ronald Maddison died after having droplets of the lethal agent sarin dabbed on his arm at a chemical warfare laboratory in southern England in 1953. He was just 20 years old. The government at the time, led by Winston Churchill, ordered an inquest into the death which concluded he had died due to misadventure. Maddison’s family have campaigned against the verdict for years and in 2004 won a ruling from a coroner’s court which said the Royal Air Force man was a victim of “unlawful killing.” The Ministry of Defence confirmed on Friday it had agreed to accept that verdict and pay compensation.

“We very much regret the unfortunate death of Ronald Maddison,” an MoD spokesman said.

More than 1,000 UK soldiers desert since Iraq war

LONDON, 29 May—More than 1,000 British soldiers have deserted the armed forces since the Iraq war started in 2003, according to a BBC report on Sunday.

During 2005 alone, 377 soldiers deserted and are still missing, the report said. So far this year another 189 are on the run. Some 900 have evaded capture since the Iraq war started, BBC world affairs said. The report comes as Britain’s Parliament debates a law that will forbid military personnel refusing to participate in the occupation of a foreign country.

Member of Parliament from Labour Party, John McDonnell, told the Parliament last week there had been a tripling in cases over the past three years. He was speaking in a debate about new laws which would make refusal to take part in the occupation of a foreign country punishable by a maximum life sentence in prison. It is unclear how many soldiers are deserting because they do not want to go to Iraq and how many are doing so because of personal reasons such as family problems.

Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Kendall-Smith was sentenced to eight months in prison last April for refusing to follow orders in connection with a deployment to Iraq.

Hungarian pilot Peter Besenyei flies his Edge 540 aircraft during the Red Bull Air Race at Berlin’s Tempelhof Airport on 27 May, 2006. US pilot Kirby Chambliss won the race ahead of Besenyei and US pilot Mike Mangold.

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“We very much regret the unfortunate death of Ronald Maddison,” an MoD spokesman said.
China, Austria sign manifesto to promote student exchanges

BEIJING, 27 May — China and Austria signed a joint manifesto to enhance higher education co-operation on Friday.

The manifesto aims to increase students and scholar exchange programmes, strengthen scientific research collaboration, and promote language learning and joint academic degree recognition.

More than 60 delegates from China, Austria and other European countries discussed the opportunities offered by higher education co-operation in a seminar after the signing ceremony.

The event was organized by China’s Ministry of Education and supported by the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, the Delegation of the European Commission in Beijing and Beijing Foreign Studies University.

European Union Ambassador to China Serge Abou told the seminar: “Educational exchange is one of the best and effective ways to consolidate and intensify person-to-person contact.”

“Along with various exchanges between colleges, enterprises from both sides should also be active in supporting scientific research,” said Education Minister Zhou Ji. — Internet

Brunei’s crime rate soars as criminals walk free

LONDON, 29 May — The level of violent crime has been rising in England and Wales while convictions for violent offences have been plummeting since Labour Party came to power in 1997, according to The Observer investigation.

The investigation, published on Sunday’s Observer, shows that recorded rapes of females were at 6,281 in 1997, down to 5.5 per cent in 2004-2005. The robberies recorded were at 63,072 in 1997, as compared to 88,710 in 2004-2005, while the conviction rate for robbery was at 10.2 per cent in 1997, down to 8.9 per cent in 2004-2005, the investigation said.

The woudings or other acts endangering life were recorded at 12,531 in 1997, up to 19,425 in 2004-2005, but the conviction rate was at 14.8 per cent in 1997, compared with 9.7 per cent in 2004-2005.

The Observer’s analysis shows that violent crimes in Britain are getting worse and the chances of criminals being caught are lower than ever. The record presents a fresh political challenge to the Labour government.

WHO tests show Indonesian girl died of bird flu

JAKARTA, 28 May — A 10-year-old Indonesian girl who died on Tuesday in the city of Bandung was killed by the H5N1 bird flu virus, a senior health official said on Saturday, citing results from a WHO-accredited laboratory in Hong Kong.

“The girl is confirmed by the WHO as well as the local lab,” 1 Nyoman Kandun, director-general of communicable disease control, told Reuters.

The girl’s 18-year-old brother, who also died on Tuesday, tested positive locally for H5N1 this week, but was not considered a bird flu case by the Hong Kong laboratory.

“It’s a borderline case, he tested negative for some procedures. It may be because of the procedure of specimen collection, handling, maybe the Hong Kong lab had problems. We had the same experience before in another case,” Kandun said.

This latest confirmation of the cause of the girl’s death would bring the death toll in Indonesia from bird flu to 34, and the worldwide total to 125.

Although the brother would not be classified as a case of H5N1, Kandun said the teenager exhibited the same clinical symptoms as his sister.

Fire put out in Pakistan natural gas town

QUETTA (Pakistan), 28 May — Firefighters put out a blaze in Pakistan’s main natural gas town after suspected militants blew up two pipelines that disrupted supplies but caused no casualties, officials said on Saturday.

The fire that erupted late on Friday night gutted some 50 shops in the town of Sui in southwestern Baluchistan Province, where the country’s largest gas field is located. “The fire has been brought under control and engineers have reached the site to do damage assessment,” a local police official told Reuters.

A spokesman for the state-owned Pakistan Petroleum Ltd which owns the Sui gas field, said there was a temporary disruption in supplies after the incident.

Officials of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL), which is responsible for gas distribution from the field, said supplies to some power plants in the central province of Punjab were affected after the attack. “We have already started restoring the supplies and hopefully the situation will normalize pretty soon,” said a company official.

Hong Kong singer Karen Mok smiles as she poses for photographers during a promotional event of a jewellery shop in Hong Kong on 28 May, 2006. — Internet

Malaysia urges NAM member countries to play due role

KEILA LEMPER, 28 May — Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar on Saturday urged member countries of the 45-year-old Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to play their due role actively instead of questioning the continued relevance of the movement.

In a world dominated by one super power, the NAM’s existence is vital in efforts to further promote and strengthen multilateralism while checking unilateralism “which is encroaching more and more on the international scene”, Albar said.

The Foreign Minister made the remarks when opening the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

Noting that the movement’s relevance has been persistently questioned, both by NAM members as well as its critics, since the end of the Cold War, Albar stressed these questioning remarks and acts have done a disservice to the movement to the point of undermining it.

In fact, NAM’s current large membership of 114 bears the clear testimony to its continued relevance, said Albar, adding two more members will be added during the meeting.

He urged those member countries to continue to wage their struggle to achieve the goals set up by the NAM and address challenges facing the movement.

“The objective reality of today’s world is that the existing international systems and institutions are still heavily tilted towards the developed countries, while the developing world continues to be sidelined and marginalized and is left behind in an ever-widening gap,” Albar said. — MNA/Xinhua
Chavez pledges $1.5b in energy investment in Bolivia

SHINAHOTA (Bolivia), 28 May—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez pledged 1.5 billion US dollars in energy investments in impoverished Bolivia on Friday, receiving a hero’s welcome from coca farmers who applauded his anti-US message. Shouts of “Viva Venezuela!” rang out as Chavez, clad in an Andean-style red poncho and wool hat, spoke in Shinahota, a dusty town in the coca-growing Chapare region some 370 miles (600 kilometres) southeast of La Paz. Chavez’ investment promises marked his latest effort to spread his oil largess — Venezuela is the world’s fifth largest crude exporter — and boost his political influence across Latin America with moves that have included offering neighbours cut-rate oil deals and offers to buy their debt. Chavez addressed the crowd flanked by leftist allies Bolivian President Evo Morales and Cuban Vice-President Carlos Lage and used the occasion to denounce US President George W Bush, saying he had “given the green light to conspire against the Bolivian democracy”. Morales, a former coca farmer, has formed close ties with Chavez since being elected in December. “Bolivia has found its path because the Bolivian people have found the leader they were lacking,” said Chavez, congratulating Morales on his 1 May decision to put Bolivia’s energy industry in state hands.

MNA/Reuters

UN conference backs crackdown on illegal fishing

UNITED NATION, 28 May—Delegates to a UN conference reviewing a 1995 treaty aimed at protecting dwindling ocean fish stocks urged governments and regional fisheries managers on Friday to intensify their efforts to crack down on illegal and unregulated catches.

The 57 nations that have ratified the pact agreed all fishing vessels on the high seas should carry equipment enabling them to be tracked by satellite. They also said governments should put more independent observers on boats and take steps to ensure that fish unloaded at their ports had been legally caught.

But the weeklong meeting came to no conclusions on how to deal with a significant global oversupply of commercial fishing vessels, said US Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries David Balton, who chaired the conference.

The conference was due to end late on Friday with a vote to adopt a final declaration. The vote was delayed while delegates discussed the timing of the next review conference.

Fishing nations generally agree there is an overcapacity that threatens ocean stocks. But rich and poor countries are divided over how to cut back on the number of boats.

Developing nations accuse industrialized countries of over exploiting sea life and want to be able to build up their own fleets even as the rich nations are required to cut back.

The treaty, while approved by the UN General Assembly in 1995, entered into force just five years ago. With the pact in effect for so short a period, Balton said delegates felt it was too soon to consider revisions.

Instead, they concentrated on im-proving its enforcement and implementation, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Eight killed in lightning in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 May—Eight persons were killed, seven others were injured in lightning in southwestern Satkhira and southern Pirojpur of Bangladesh on Friday night and Saturday. When reached by phone, Sunil Baran, an official in southern coastal Pirojpur District, 310 kilometres from Dhaka, said three fishermen were killed by lightning while they were fishing in a river. Another fisherman was wounded. The victims died on the spot. Ruhul Quddus, an official in southwestern Satkhira, 343 kilometres from Dhaka, said five people were killed and six others were injured in lightning in the district. He said two persons were killed while they were standing under a tree during a storm near a village market. They died on the spot. Another man was hit by thunderbolt while he was returning from a market at around 9:00 Friday night. Two others were struck by lightning when they were working on their crop land. The injured persons are undergoing treatment at Satkhira hospital.

MNA/Ninhu

Spain smashes British-run timeshare racket

MADRID, 28 May — Spanish police have smashed a British-run timeshare racket on Spain’s Costa del Sol that swindled up to 15,000 people and earned criminals around 18 million euros (23 million US dollars), police said on Friday. Police in the beachside city of Malaga arrested many of its leaders — four Britons, two South Africans, one Belgian and a Norwegian — during “Operation Trafalgar”. One of the South African men is alleged to have master-minded the scam.

These sums represent more than 90 per cent of fraud involving the resale of timeshares on the Costa del Sol that we have seen in recent years,” a police statement said.

Fraudsters sold the same timeshares sold to numerous British tourists who had “given the green light to conspire against the Bolivian democracy”. Morales, a former coca farmer, has formed close ties with Chavez since being elected in December. “Bolivia has found its path because the Bolivian people have found the leader they were lacking,” said Chavez, congratulating Morales on his 1 May decision to put Bolivia’s energy industry in state hands.

MNA/Reuters

Women take their children to a dispensary for polio drops in Singimari, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of Guwahati, India, on 28 May, 2006. The World Health Assembly has urged polio-endemic countries of Nigeria, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan to step up their efforts to eliminate polio.—INTERNET

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MNA/Ninhu

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Floods destroy homes, kill six in Morocco

**RABAT, 28 May —** Floods caused by torrential rains have destroyed homes and left six people dead in a poor region of southern Morocco, officials said on Saturday.

Three nomads were killed when the cave they were sheltering in collapsed near the town of Rich in the region of Er-Rachidia, while three other people died in Merzouga on Friday, according to state news agency MAP.

It said many of the destroyed homes were made of pise, a mixture of dried clay and gravel or straw. Emergency services were on the scene but many roads were blocked and several villages still cut off on Saturday afternoon, according to members of a local human rights group.

They said 60 homes had been seriously damaged by the floods.

**MNA/Reuters**

Good oil found on Lake Akbert in Uganda

**KAMPALA, 28 May —** Efforts to explore oil in Uganda have gained momentum following the discovery of a carbon dioxide free oil well on Lake Akbert by an Australian company.

An official with the Ministry of Energy, quoted by New Vision on Saturday, confirmed the finding at Mputa II, Kaiso-Tonya on Lake Akbert by Hardman Oil and Gas Company.

The relevant tests on the oil were conducted last week. The oil is now at appraisal level to assess its environmental impact, ascertain its flow in the reservoir and pipeline construction and storage.

Ernest Rubondo, the assistant commissioner in charge of petroleum in the Ministry of Energy, revealed that the oil contains hydro-carbons that certify its purity as the standard commercial fuel.

“The local petroleum sector is promising despite the international crisis. All indicators show that there is a chance to get commercial wells in plenty and this is encouraging,” he said.

He added that many oil wells were discovered in the Lake Akbert region but they contained carbon dioxide, which is a negative element in petroleum exploration.

He did not specify the exact time-frame when drilling starts, saying, “it is a transitory process but on fast track.”

**MNA/Xinhua**

Helicopter crash in southern Russia kills one

**MOSCOW, 28 May —** An Mi-2 helicopter crashed in Russia’s southern Krasnodar Territory on Saturday, killing the pilot and injuring some others, the regional branch of the Emergencies Ministry said.

The incident happened at 4.38 pm Moscow Time (1238 GMT), 30 kilometres northeast of the city of Belorechensk, the TAR-TASS news agency reported.

The helicopter belonged to a local resident and was on a pleasure trip, Anatoly Khmyz, the duty officer of the Emergencies Ministry’s branch in Krasnodar Territory said.

While approaching for a landing, the helicopter suddenly started falling from 100 metres above the ground. The pilot died and one of the passengers was hospitalized in severe condition. Two other passengers — the son of the helicopter’s owner and his wife — refused to be taken to hospital.

Police have sealed off the area and started an investigation.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Ten killed in road accidents in S Africa

**JOHANNESBURG, 28 May —** Five people died when the vehicles in which they were travelling were involved in a head-on collision in the North-West Province, South Africa, police said on Saturday.

Only the drivers of the two cars survived the crash on Friday afternoon and were taken to Swartwattens Provincial Hospital, the police said.

In five other separate accidents in the East Rand, near Johannes- burg, on Friday, five people were killed instantly.

Police spokesman Kobeli Mokheseng said that on Friday afternoon a 33-year-old male motorist was killed as his vehicle crashed into a wall in the Germiston suburb of Lambton after apparently fainting in his car.

Around two hours later, a 25-year-old motorcyclist died in a collision with a delivery vehicle at the corner of Dekema and Sheffield roads, also in Germiston.

The driver of the vehicle was seriously injured and taken to the Union Hospital in Alberton.

On Friday evening a pedestrian crossing the M2 was flung into the back of a delivery vehicle that had hit him, said Mokheseng.

Later that night, at Kempton Park, the driver of a double cab bakkie died after being hit from behind by a vehicle whose driver apparently lost control on the R21.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Australian company.

The relevant tests on the oil were conducted last week. The oil is now at appraisal level to assess its environmental impact, ascertain its flow in the reservoir and pipeline construction and storage.

Ernest Rubondo, the assistant commissioner in charge of petroleum in the Ministry of Energy, revealed that the oil contains hydro-carbons that certify its purity as the standard commercial fuel.

“The local petroleum sector is promising despite the international crisis. All indicators show that there is a chance to get commercial wells in plenty and this is encouraging,” he said.

He added that many oil wells were discovered in the Lake Akbert region but they contained carbon dioxide, which is a negative element in petroleum exploration.

He did not specify the exact time-frame when drilling starts, saying, “it is a transitory process but on fast track.”

**MNA/Xinhua**
Now, special attention is paid to environmental conservation in the long-term interests of world people. Myanmar has been stepping up the protecting of forests and biological diversity in it. With respect to the environmental conservation, the National Commission for Environmental Affairs established in 1990 is joining hands with congenial ministries and private companies for protection of forests, biodiversity, mountains and watershed areas in the nation.

Ecotourism seeks to minimise environmental damage and help conserve diversity of fragile habitats. So, ecotourism ensures a balanced existence of environment and human beings.

In an interview about Myainghaywun Elephant Camp of Asia Green Travels and Tour Co Ltd, in-charge Dr Soe Myint said that the company hired 20-acres of Myainghaywun Elephant Research Camp in Okkan protected forest, Thayawady timber extraction region, Bago Division (West) of the Ministry of Forestry based on joint venture on 1 April 2005 and launched Myainghaywun Elephant Camp; that the camp is 72.5 miles from Yangon and has five double rooms for local and foreign tourists for night stops; that arrangements are being made for building five more two-unit double rooms; that at the camp, hot and cold showers are available along with Chinese and Myanmar dishes; and that Kayin traditional dance programmes are presented to the foreigners at night.

He continued to say that now the camp has 13 elephants that can entertain the visitors; that visitors can tour nearby timber extraction camps riding an elephant; that visitors can make short or long trips, go mountaineering in the jungle, take a bamboo raft along the creek that links Paunglin Dam and Ngamoeik Dam in the rainy season, and study the way of life of the elephant keepers; and that visitors can watch more than 100 species of birds in the camp, study over 60-year-old Pyigadoe (ironwood tree) plantations in the north of the camp, and tour Bago Yoma mountain range and nearby villages.

He added that a health care centre has been set up with a wide range of medicines in the camp for the elephants; that a small keddah has been built to control elephants if they go wild; a programme is presented to explain how to feed supplementary foods to the elephants with poor health; and that equipment for draught elephants and pack elephants.

Myainghaywun Elephant Camp is situated in the west of Bago Yoma mountain range. Near the camp are tropical deciduous forests, and in the forests, there grow a wide range of species of hardwood including teak, Pyingadoe (ironwood tree) and Ingyin (pentacme suavis) along with various species of bamboo.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 22-5-2006

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Tourists enjoy riding elephants in Myainghaywun Elephant Camp.
Over 40,000 acres put under monsoon paddy in Thayawady...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and officials took part in planting physic nut at a plot near Pyay airport. They also conversed with the people putting 50 acres of land under physic nut. Bago Division (West) has already put 7,526 acres of land under physic nut against the target of 36,900 for 2006-2007.

At the extended area of the Pyay industrial zone, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on erection of a 66/11 kv generator and power distribution plan for industries. He also observed production of parts for light trucks, and husk-fired engines that can mill rice and oil crops, and generate power. The following day, he met with Tatmadawmen and families of Pyay station, urging them to join hands with the people for the successful implementation of the rural development project and to grow physic nut according to target.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party planted physic nut together with the local people, Tatmadawmen and social organizations who were cultivating the plant on 600 acres of land at Tiook Village in Dhammaukak village-tract in the township. The village-tract has already grown 5,000 acres of physic nut. — MNA

USDA Secretary General leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 29 May— At the invitation of the President of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization, a delegation led by Secretary General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo left here by air for Vietnam this morning. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by USDA CEC member U Maung Pa, responsible persons of USDA headquarters.— MNA

School enrolment activities held in Yangon

YANGON, 29 May— 6 BEHS in Botahtaung school age children at No. 6 BEHS in Botahtaung Township, Yangon East District this morning. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, MWAF Vice Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay, Parton of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai, director-general of the ministry of education, responsible officials, headmasters, teachers and students.

At the ceremony, the minister extended greetings. Later, the officials donated exercise books and stationery to students in townships of Yangon East District and Daw Khin Thet Htay explained the purpose of the donation. The Township Education Officer U Tin Lwin spoke words of thank. Similarly, the school enrolment activities were held at No BEHS in Thaylin Township in Yangon South District. School equipment donated today are worth K 7.2 million for Yangon East District and K 9.2 million for Yangon South District. — MNA

Commander inspects extension of Pyinmana-Pinlaung Road

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May— Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye arrived at the briefing hall of special road construction-13 in Lwegyi Village in Pinlaung Township on 23 May. Engineer in charge U Htay Lwin reported on extension of Pyinmana-Pinlaung two-lane road.

After inspecting construction tasks, the minister went to the construction site of Leinli Creek suspension bridge in Leinli Village. Officials reported on the site chose for construction of the bridge and finding of an axis road.

Next, the commander visited the site for construction of Pinlaung-Konhong Road. Officials of road construction-13 reported on construction work to the commander, who gave necessary instructions. Later, the commander inspected cultivation of 150,000 physic nut plants in Pinlaung Township, cultivation of 100,000 physic nut plants in Kalaw Township and the physic nut plantation in Ingaung Village in Sihoung village-tract. — MNA

Gifts for Mandalay General Hospital

YANGON, 29 May— A ceremony to present cash donations for hospital equipment including patient monitor worth K 6.3 million to be donated to Mandalay General Hospital was held at the office of the hospital on 24 May.

Present on the occasion were Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Tin Tin Moe, Maiton Daw Khin Yl, Professor Dr Sein Myint, Professor Dr Daw Khin Maw, Professor Dr Khun Soe Moe, Professor Dr Nyan Tun, officials and well-wishers. — MNA
Coord meeting of BSI, PD held

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the coordination meeting of Bureau of Special Investigation and Prisons Department. — MNA

Yangon, 29 May — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo addressed a coordination meeting of Bureau of Special Investigation and Prisons Department held at Drug Elimination Museum this morning.

Present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, staff officers and the head of CID and police brigadier generals of Myanmar Police Force and officials. Addressing the meeting, the minister stressed the need for upholding of Our Three Main National Causes and nationalistic spirit, law enforcement measures, security measures, response to attacks of foreign media and exposing of crimes and cultivation of physic nut plants and participation of departments in boosting livestock breeding. — MNA

Minister inspects power stations

Yangon, 29 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, together with Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Power Supply Committee, visited Hlawga natural gas-fired power station yesterday and inspected operations of machines at the station. At the meeting hall, the station manager reported to the minister on generating and supply of electricity.

The minister stressed the need for full supply of power to the public and successful implementation of power supply tasks. Next, the minister went to Ywama natural gas-fired power station where the manager reported on operations of machinery and electric power distribution. The minister called on officials to closely supervise power supply tasks and actively cooperate in realizing the ministry’s set objectives as the State has spent large amount of money on building power supply stations.

Later, the minister visited 230 KV Hlinethaya sub-power station and inspected building of power grid and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Industry-2 Minister inspects Indagaw Industrial zone

Yangon, 29 May — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin yesterday inspected Indagaw Industrial zone in Indagaw region, Bago Division, where Managing Director U Aung Kyi of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services reported to him on progress of work and tasks to be carried out.

The minister gave instructions on finishing work and presenting work progress to officials concerned.

On arrival at foundry workshop of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, the minister heard a report presented by Managing Director U Soe Thein and officials on process of the workshop and iron frames produced.

The minister gave instructions on production of various kinds of iron frames meeting the set standard.

Next, the minister inspected the production process of aluminium wires of Myanmar Machine Tools and Electrical Industries where Managing Director U Kyaw Win and General Manager U Than Ngwe conducted him round the place.

The minister left instructions on meeting the target and the set standard.

 Afterwards, he inspected production of electric motors and gave instructions on regular production of the motors and seeking the market.

At the Automobile Electric Equipment Factory, the minister inspected production of spare parts and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Physic nut plants grown, cash donations accepted in Thongwa

Yangon, 29 May — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung arrived at Thongwa Township this morning and attended a collective growing of physic nut plants carried out by Township USDA members.

Next, the minister attended a third cash donation ceremony to build Township Sasana Beikman and accepted cash donation K 18.6 million. The cash donation was made for three times and a sum of cash donation amounted to K 39.6 million. After the inspection of construction of Sasana Beikman, the minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar Hockey Federation delegation leaves for Macao

Yangon, 29 May — A Myanmar Hockey Federation delegation led by Vice-President of MHF U Kyaw Naing (Foreign Affairs In-charge) left here by air this morning for Macao, the People’s Republic of China to attend workshop on development of hockey clubs of Asian Hockey Federation to be held from 29 May to 1 June there.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by President of MHF Brig-Gen Myo Myint (Retd), executives and others. During their stay in Macao, they will hold discussions with those from India, Republic of Korea and Japan in addition to Asian Hockey Federation for development of Myanmar hockey techniques.

The delegation members are Joint Secretary of MHF U Kyaw Thein Htay and Executive U Kyaw Min. — MNA

Donate Blood

Myanmar Hockey delegation members seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for China to attend Hockey workshop. — MNA
Cash donated for school enrolment

YANGON, 29 May — Organized by Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a ceremony to donate cash for the school enrolment was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township yesterday.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw San Nu, Deputy Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department also clarified facts about the school enrolment.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win accepted K 1.45 million donated by the wellwishers.

Chairperson Daw San Nu, District Education Officer spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Minister inspects hotels in Yangon

YANGON, 29 May—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials this morning visited Summit Parkview hotel and officials reported to him.

Later, the minister inspected Yangon International hotel, Pan Sea hotel and Savoy hotel. At Yuzana Condo tower, the minister heard a report by vice-president of Myanmar Tour Association and gave instructions.—MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt makes a speech at the coordination meeting for upgrading the development affairs tasks on 27 May.

IPRD D-G inspects district, township offices

YAMETHIN, 20 May — Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and party inspected the site for construction of new building for Pyawbwe Township IPRD and attended the needs on 6 May. The director-general met Staff Officer U Ye Nyunt and service personnel of Yamethin District IPRD. He explained 14 objectives of the Ministry of Information and urged them to carry out development of self-reliant libraries with goodwill. Director-General U Chit Naing gave instructions on maintenance of the office and nurturing of physic nut plants. — Kyemon

Tailoring course opens in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 20 May — An opening ceremony of the tailoring course co-organized by Shwegyin Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization was held on 6 May at the office of Township MCWA in Bago District, Bago Division, with an address by Chairperson Daw Myint Myint of Shwegyin Township MCWA.

It was also attended by executives of Shwegyin Township MCWA, members of Shwegyin Township WACO, course instructors and trainees. Altogether 20 trainees are attending the four-week course. — Kyemon

Mohnyin District gets new court

MOHNYIN, 16 May — An opening ceremony of newly-built Mohnyin District Court was held on 16 May in front of the new building. Director-General U Bo Kyi of Supreme Court (Mandalay) and Kachin State Judge U Hein Win cut the ribbon to open the court and Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt unveiled the signboard of the new building.

It was attended by Mohnyin District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Aung Din and members, Mohnyin Township PDC Chairman U Zaw Min Han and members, township level officials and responsible persons. The Mohnyin District Court measuring 82 feet and 36 feet was built at a cost of K 15 million in 2005-06 fiscal year. — Kyemon

Director-General U Bo Kyi and Judge U Hein Win cut the ribbon to open newly built Mohnyin District Court.

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Shwegyin Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Myint Myint and executives look into the learning of trainees on tailoring.
China signs treaty with Namibia on combating crimes

BERLIN, 29 May — China has signed 21 bilateral judicial assistance treaties on criminal matters with 21 countries, which will enhance China’s judicial cooperation with the international community, sources from the Ministry of Justice said.

The latest one was signed between China and Namibia on 26 May during the China visit of Namibian Minister of Justice, Attorney General Pendukheni Ivuluthana.

This treaty will provide an important legal foundation for future bilateral cooperation in such fields as law enforcement and fight against transnational organized crimes, State Councilor Zhou Yongkang said here on Monday when met with Ivuluthana.

China is actively carrying out judicial cooperation with foreign countries in recent years. Since 1993, China has signed extradition treaties with more than 20 countries.

On 29 April, China signed an extradition treaty with Spain, the first one between China and developed countries, which will help China weave a global extradition net to bring back corrupt officials who have fled abroad to seek asylum in developed countries in Europe and North America and pave the way for more such judicial cooperation with other Western countries.

According to Zhou, the Chinese Government is willing to work with the Namibian side to further enhance bilateral judicial cooperation, promote and ensure trade and personnel exchanges, and to deepen friendly cooperation between the two countries.

Ivuluthana said Namibia will continue to strengthen cooperation with China side, especially in the judicial field. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia declares state of emergency after quake

JAKARTA, 29 May — The Indonesian Government declared a state of emergency after an earthquake killed more than 4,600 people on Java Island and an estimated 50,000 people displaced by the disaster. — MNA/Reuters

Berliner stabs victims given HIV prevention

BERLIN, 29 May — Twenty-eight people stabbed on a crowded street by a drunken German teenager are receiving protective treatment for the next four weeks after it emerged that one victim was HIV positive, authorities said on Sunday.

A drunken knife-wielding teenager stabbed randomly at people leaving a ceremony to dedicate Berlin’s new central rail station just before midnight on Saturday, according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory Sunday.

The epicentre was determined to be located at 19.2 degrees north latitude and 121.2 degrees east longitude, about 510 kilometres north of Manila, Philippines.

There has been no immediate casualty report by the Press time. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake rocks southern Luzon Strait

HONGKONG, 29 May — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale shook the southern part of the Luzon Strait at about 5:02 pm (0902 GMT) Sunday, according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory Sunday.

The epicentre was determined to be located at 12.2 degrees north latitude and 121.2 degrees east longitude, about 510 kilometres north of Manila, Philippines.

There has been no immediate casualty report by the Press time. — MNA/Xinhua

Moldovan cargo plane intercepted by Italy’s warplane

ROME, 29 May — An Italian Air Force fighter jet on Saturday intercepted a Moldovan cargo plane which entered Italian air space without filing all its flight plans, the Air Force said.

The Moldovan cargo plane, which flew from Libya into Italian air space, was intercepted by Italy’s F-16 fighter jet in the skies above Ponza, a small island off Italy’s west coast.

The F-16 escorted the cargo plane to its destination, Rimini Airport on Italy’s east coast, the Air Force said.

An investigation has been launched to find out why the Moldavian Aeromold cargo plane’s crew had not communicated their flight plans to the control centre as they were supposed to. — MNA/Xinhua

ADB President assures assistance following earthquake in Indonesia

MANILA, 29 May — Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Haruhiko Kuroda on Sunday offered ADB’s sympathy and assistance following a strong earthquake hit the island of Java, Indonesia on Saturday morning.

“On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to the people of Indonesia, and to the families of the victims,” an ADB report quoted Kuroda as saying.

The ADB is closely monitoring the situation through its resident mission in Jakarta, Kuroda said, assuring the Government of Indonesia of ADB’s fullest support and cooperation in rebuilding lives affected by the devastating earthquake near Yogyakarta, central Java.

The ADB can draw on long experience of dealing with disasters, including the recent Asian tsunami, which also hit Indonesia, as well as the South Asia earthquake.

Early reports said that more than 3,000 people were killed and thousands more were injured in the earthquake. There is also extensive damage to the buildings and other infrastructure around the ancient city of Yogyakarta. — MNA/Xinhua

Passenger fatally stabbed on British express train

LONDON, 29 May — A passenger was stabbed to death on a British express train Saturday, becoming the latest victim of a series of recent knife crimes that has seen two schoolboys stabbed — one fatally — over the last few days.

British Transport Police (BTP) said the passenger was travelling on the 10.05 am Glasgow to Paignton in Devon Express when they were stabbed.

“Officers went to Oxenholme railway station, near Kendal in Cumbria but there are no other details,” a BTP spokesman said. Concern over knife attacks has grown in recent years and earlier this week a knife was found in a bag in the streets of thousands of weapons.

On Friday a 14-year-old schoolboy in Birmingham was stabbed in the abdomen and last week a 15-year-old Kiyan Prince, knifed to death trying to stop a fight outside his school gate in London.

Earlier this month part-time policewoman Nisha Patel-Nasri was knifed to death outside her London home.

Statistics show that 6 per cent of all violent crimes nationally are knife-related and out of 820 homicides in 2004/05, 236 involved sharp instruments. In London alone, there were 12,589 knife-related incidents last year. — MNA/Reuters

A Chinese couple celebrate their wedding in Nanjing, eastern China’s Jiangsu Province, on 28 May, 2006. Some Chinese have chosen 28 May to get married as the Chinese pronunciation of the date sounds like ‘Wo Liang Fa’ (Both of us get rich). — Internet


On 29 April, China signed an extradition treaty with Spain, the first one between China and developed countries, which will help China weave a global extradition net to bring back corrupt officials who have fled abroad to seek asylum in developed countries in Europe and North America and pave the way for more such judicial cooperation with other Western countries.

According to Zhou, the Chinese Government is willing to work with the Namibian side to further enhance bilateral judicial cooperation, promote and ensure trade and personnel exchanges, and to deepen friendly cooperation between the two countries.

Ivuluthana said Namibia will continue to strengthen cooperation with China side, especially in the judicial field. — MNA/Xinhua

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Five charged in 10-year telemarketing scam in Canada

OTTAWA, 28 May—Canada’s federal regulators have charged five people and three companies with scamming more than 150 million Canadian dollars (135 million US dollars) from more than 50,000 Canadian and American businesses over a decade.

The individuals, who are principals or decision makers in the companies, are accused of running telemarketing operations that sold listings in business directories to businesses that did not exist or were useless. Don Mercer, assistant deputy commissioner of the federal agency Competition Bureau, told reporters Friday.

The bureau alleges the telemarketers contacted small—and medium-sized businesses in Canada and the United States, claiming that they were updating information in their business directory listings and implying that the business had ordered a listing in the past. Mercer said the tactic is called a “presumed sale”, and it takes advantage of people’s trust.

At the peak in 2002, the three companies with similar names—Datacom Marketing Inc, Datacom Direct Inc and Datacom Marketing Inc—duped over 50,000 Canadian and American businesses out of more than 23 million Canadian dollars’ (21 million dollars’) worth of business, the bureau said—MNA/Xinhua

Uganda’s non-coffee exports value rises to $59m

KAMPALA, 28 May—The value of Uganda’s non-coffee exports has increased to $59.27 million US dollars in March from $55.5 million dollars in February, with fish and maize fetching the highest value, according to a Bank of Uganda (BOU) report.

Saturday’s New Vision daily quoted the report as saying that fish exports fetched 17.2 million dollars in March from 13.4 million dollars in February on the back of increased demand from the international market.

BOU’s research department director David Kihangire attributed the trend to the good quality of Uganda’s fish products while consumers resort to alternative is fish,” he said.

Meanwhile, Rakhmonov said Russia’s help would boost the security of the border between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as Tajikistan has a long border line with Afghanistan.

Russia would help Tajikistan in the fight against drug-trafficking, extremists and cross-border crimes, said Tajikistan in the fight against drug-trafficking, extremists and cross-border crimes, said Tajikistan’s interior ministry.

The two countries would boost the security of the border between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as Tajikistan has a long border line with Afghanistan.

The two countries are willing to work with other partners in helping Tajikistan’s efforts to resume the latter’s border defense force by providing support in personnel training, technology and equipment, Putin said.

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WHO launches global alliance to overcome medical shortages

GENTVA, 28 May—The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new global alliance aimed at overcoming the severe shortage of medical workers worldwide, said a Press release posted Friday on the WHO website.

The new group, named Global Health Workforce Alliance, will work together and mobilize key stakeholders engaged in global health to help countries improve the way they plan for, educate and employ health workers.

The secretariat of the new group will be hosted by the WHO, the Press release said.

The alliance will also promote increased funding for medical training and exchanges of students and teachers between the developed and the developing world.

The WHO has cited a worldwide shortage of doctors, nurses and other medical workers which totals four million overall and includes 2.3 million in the developing world.

It said in a report published last month that in 57 countries, serious shortages of medical workers were hampering vaccination programmes for children, pre-natal care, and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis treatment.

Of the 57 countries, 36 are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The initial partners of the new alliance include the WHO itself, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Canadian International Development Agency, the European Commission, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Equity Initiative at Harvard University, the International Council of Nurses, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, and others.

Researchers say chimp poop reveals AIDS origins

WASHINGTON, 28 May—Researchers who picked up and analyzed wild chimp droppings said recently they had shown how the AIDS virus originated in wild apes in Cameroon and then spread in humans across Africa and eventually the world.

Their study, published in the journal Science, supports other studies that suggest people somehow caught the deadly human immunoodeficiency virus from chimpanzees, perhaps by killing and eating them.

“It says that the chimpanzee group that gave rise to HIV ... this chimp community resides in Cameroon,” said Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who led the study.

“But that doesn’t mean the epidemic originated there because it didn’t,” Hahn, who has been studying the genetic origin of HIV for years, said in a telephone interview.

“We actually know where the epidemic took off. The epidemic took off in Kinshasa, in Brazzaville.” Kinshasa is in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, and faces Brazzaville, in Congo, across the Congo River.

Studies have traced HIV to a man who gave a blood sample in 1959 in Kinshasa, then called Leopoldville. Later analyses found the AIDS virus.

In people, HIV leads to AIDS but chimps have a version called simian immune deficiency virus that causes them no harm.

“Humans are the only animals naturally susceptible to HIV,” Hahn said.

HIV has been found in captive chimps but Hahn wanted to show it could be found in the wild, too.

Her international team got the cooperation of the government in Cameroon and they hired skilled trackers. The trackers managed to collect 599 samples of droppings. Hahn’s lab found DNA, identified each individual chimp and then found evidence of the virus.

British music group “Sanctuary” sacks CEO

LONDON, 28 May — Sanctuary, the world’s biggest independent music label and home to Elton John, said on Friday it had sacked Chief Executive Andy Taylor in the wake of how he handled the company’s financial accounts last year.

“The board’s decision to remove Mr Taylor followed their conclusion that certain of the prior year adjustments made in the 2005 accounts should have been presented as a correction of fundamental errors and not as changes in accounting policy,” the company said in a statement.

Taylor has been replaced by Frank Presland, chief executive of Twenty-First Artists Management, which was acquired by Sanctuary last year.

Presland, 62, has worked as a solicitor specializing in music and copyright for over 25 years and advised acts such as the Beatles, Dusty Springfield, the Troggs and Elton John. He will hold the CEO post for the rest of the year at which point the position will be reviewed, Sanctuary said.

Sanctuary shares were up 7.1 per cent at 49 pence in early trading, valuing the company at around 108 million pounds (201.9 million US dollars).—MNA/Reuters
Ukraine crush hapless Costa Rica 4-0

KIEV, 29 May — Ukraine received a perfect send-off to the World Cup on Sunday when they crushed fellow qualifiers Costa Rica 4-0 in their final warm-up on home soil.

Ukraine, who have qualified for their first finals, had to go without injured captain and striker Andriy Shevchenko but they still struck three times in the opening 40 minutes.

Serhiy Nazarenko opened the scoring in the 29th minute, capitalizing on a fumble by Costa Rica goalkeeper Wardy Alfaro. Andriy Vorobiei made it 2-0 five minutes later, cutting into a favourable Costa Rica defence and Maxim Kalynychenko added a third five minutes before the interval.

Oleksy Belik finished off the hapless visitors with the fourth 13 minutes after the break. Despite the emphatic victory, Ukraine coach Oleg Blokhin was not totally pleased with his team’s performance.

“In a warm-up the result doesn’t count,” he told reporters.

“What really counts is discipline on defence, team work and the ability to play an all-round game. We need to work on all those aspects of the game,” Shevchenko, the 2004 European Player of the Year, is still recovering from a knee injury he suffered playing for his club AC Milan earlier this month but is expected to fit for Ukraine’s World Cup opener against Spain on June 14.

Costa Rica will need to improve quickly as they face hosts Germany in the World Cup’s opening match on June 9. — MNA/Reuters

Strange secures solid win in Philippines

HOUSTON, 29 May — American Jay Haas clinched his third consecutive title on the Champions Tour by winning the Senior PGA Championship in an extra playoff at Edmond, Oklahoma on Sunday.

“I feel pretty excited. It was tough out there,” said Strange, who picked up a cheque for $31,700 US dollars. “The weather was pretty exhausting, four days of it and to come through with this trophy and a win, I’m pretty excited about it,”

Strange moved up to 10th place on the Asian Tour’s order of merit.

Hornish beats Andretti to win Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS, 29 May — Sam Hornish junior blasted past rookie Marco Andretti at the finish line to win the Indianapolis 500 on Sunday.

Hornish, who started from the pole, finished a car length ahead of 19-year old Andretti, whose father Michael was third.

“That kid drove a heck of a race and he raced me clean,” Hornish said in Victory Circle. It was a record 14th victory for car owner Roger Penske. Defending champion Dan Wheldon of Britain led for most of the race before finishing fourth.

On lap 150 of the 200-lap, 500-mile (800-kilometre) race Hornish attempted to leave the pits but his fuel hose became detached to his Dallara/Honda. Although he stopped to have his crew remove the hose, Indy Racing League officials called a drive-through penalty.

Last-gasp penalty gives Croatia draw with Iran

OSAKA (Japan), 29 May — A Marko Babic penalty deep in stoppage time salvaged a 2-2 draw for Croatia against Iran in a World Cup warm-up international on Sunday.

Iran, who are also in the finals in Germany, were on the verge of a notable victory when their goalkeeper Ebrahim Mirza slid into one of his own defenders and then clipped Croatia’s Ivica Olic as the ball ran free.

Bayer Leverkusen’s Babic calmly converted the kick. Iran took the lead after 21 minutes when a shot from Mohammad Nosrati was not cleared and the ball fell to Ali Karimi who drove it into the net.

Croatia drew level 10 minutes later when Jurica Vranjes’ cross was knocked back by Hajduk Split’s Niko Kranjcar and Dado Proš shot past Mirza. The match became disjointed after the break with both sides making several replacements. — MNA/Reuters

Haas wins maiden major in playoff at Oak Tree

HOUSTON, 29 May — American Jay Haas clinched his third consecutive title on the Champions Tour by winning the Senior PGA Championship in an extra playoff at Edmond, Oklahoma on Sunday.

The 52-year-old edged out compatriot Brad Bryant with a par at the third extra hole after the pair had finished level on five-under-par 279 on another hot, blustery day at Oak Tree Golf Club. PGA Tour veteran Haas got up and down from a greenside bunker and sealed his maiden victory in a major championship when Bryant missed a par putt there from five feet.

“This is pretty sweet, but I feel bad for Brad,” Haas told reporters after winning his fifth title at senior level. “He played a lot of good shots today. He deserves it just as much. He’s been playing awfully well.

“I tried my darndest to win a major on the PGA Tour but it didn’t happen,” added Haas, a veteran of three Ryder Cups and two Presidents Cups who turned professional in 1976.

“I won’t even say this is the next best thing, this is just like one of them to me. It had a major championship feel and the crowds were unbelievable this week.”

Four off the pace overnight, Haas flipped further back with bogeys at the third and second before a spectacular run of five birdies from the fourth put him two ahead by the turn.

“Six in a row is the most I’ve ever done, but never in a major tournament, never right by the lead,” he said. “I had some stretches and everything, but to do it on this golf course and to get in the hunt was unbelievable special.” — MNA/Reuters

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Croatia drew level 10 minutes later when Jurica Vranjes’ cross was knocked back by Hajduk Split’s Niko Kranjcar and Dado Proš shot past Mirza. The match became disjointed after the break with both sides making several replacements. — MNA/Reuters
Children face same conditions as adults at Guantanamo

WASHINGTON, 29 May — Up to 24 children may have been held up at the US prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and many of them face the same conditions and interrogations as adult inmates, the Time magazine reported Sunday.

The number of prisoners under 18 could have been higher as date-of-birth data are imprecise, Time said.

“Many of these youths were subject to the same conditions and interrogations as the adults,” it said.

“Some kids — including three Afghans thought to be 10, 12 and 13 when they arrived — were segregated from adults, allowed to play sports and given lessons,” it said.

“But in many ways, they were viewed as no different from their grownup fellow inmates,” the magazine said.

Some children inmates at the prison have claimed through their lawyers that they have been beaten or abused, it said.

International laws, including the Geneva Conventions, require that child prisoners be separated from adults and given education. The US federal law has similar requirements. Some 460 prisoners are held at Guantanamo, which opened after the US-led war in Afghanistan in 2001, — MNA/Xinhua

Significant Water Level Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hr MST on 29-5-2006)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level (9616) cm of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina shows a rise of (291) cm (about 10-feet) within (24) hrs. The Ayeyawady water level may rise about (210) cm (about 7-feet) at Bhamo, Katha, Mandalay, Sagaing and Nyaungoo above the present water level during the next (2) to (6) days.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level (478) cm of Chindwin River at Hkamti shows a rise of (291) cm (about 10-feet) within (48) hrs. The Chindwin water level may rise about (210) cm (about 7-feet) at Bhamo, Katha, Mandalay, Sagaing and Nyaungoo above the present water level during the next (2) to (5) days.

WEATHER

Monday, 29 May, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kayin State, scattered in Mon State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division and wide spread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (2.47) inches, Kyauktan (2.65) inches, Katha and Phyapon (2.87) inches each, Bhamo and Mogok (1.45) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 28-5-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 29-5-2006 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 29-5-2006 was (79%). Total sunshine hours on 28-5-2006 was (5.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 29-5-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (0.23) inch at Kab-Aye and (Tr) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (14.45) inches at Mingaladon, (17.99) inches at Kab-Aye and (19.14) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kab-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (15:00) hours MST on 28-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 30-5-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls is 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 (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2006: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Minister U Aung Thaung inspects machinery equipment in Zeyawady Sugar Mill.

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Minister inspects factories in Bago Division

YANGON, 29 May — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected sales of Winthuza Shop in Bago, Bago Division yesterday and gave instructions.

On arrival at Tapioca Powder Factory of Myanma Foodstuff Industries in DaikU, the minister inspected tapioca plantations. The minister called upon the officials to grow the tapioca on manageable scale, to transform manual farming into mechanized one and to reclaim more virgin lands for growing physic nut plants.

Later, the minister oversaw extension to the factory and maintenance of machinery equipment and gave instructions on future work.

He also met with the officials of the factory and discussed matters related to work being done with them.

The minister went to Zeyawady Distillery in Zeyawady, met the officials and the staff and left instructions.

The minister proceeded to Zeyawady Sugar Mill and inspected samples of cane carrier chain slat, roller shell, secondary fan feed pump bearing housing and others.

In meeting with the officials of the factory, the minister heard reports on stockpiling of sugarcane from during the period from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007 financial year, production and distribution of sugar and measures to be taken in 2006-2007 financial year.

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Weather Forecast for (30-5-2006)

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%).

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54 resign as they have witnessed government working overtime to realize firm political, economic and social objectives, while keeping in fore Our Three Main National Causes

NLD’s acts incompatible with time and conditions

54 quit NLD as they totally lose interest in the party whose main self-seeking misconduct is to grab power which it has long coveted

YANGON, 29 May — Fifty-four members including three executives of Myitkyina Township National League for Democracy in Kachin State collectively resigned from the party after presenting the signed letters to NLD headquarters, and the respective local authorities.

They presented their resignation in person to the Myitkyina Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission on 10 May.

U Aung Nyein, on behalf of the 54, explained the reason behind their resignation, saying that they quit the party of own volition as they have witnessed the government working overtime to realize the firm political, economic and social objectives, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy. They with their own eyes have seen the education, health, transport and clean water supply in the villages, the successful results from the government’s rural development project. Even in border areas, rural-urban gap is narrowing significantly.

Not with words, but with deeds the government has been laying a firm foundation for health, education, transport and socio-economy. They after making a resolve to join hands with the Tatmadaw and the people as a force in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, quit their party functions. He reiterated that all of them have made the resignation not because of other’s urging, but because of their own view that time has arrived for changing their belief and opinions. The government has internationally proclaimed the seven-point future policy programme of the state, and the National Convention has already completed 70 per cent of the tasks. At a time when the emergence of a modern and developed nation is not far, the NLD’s acts are incompatible with time and conditions against the interests of the nation and the people. They quit the NLD as they totally lose interest in the party whose main self-seeking misconduct is to grab power which it has long coveted.

Joint secretary of the township NLD U Soe Aung presented the letters of resignation and the office equipment they used in performing party functions to the chairman of Township MDPGESC.

Chaired by U Khin Maung Win of the township NLD, the collective resignation ceremony was also attended by officials and local authorities.

MNA

INSIDE

With respect to the environmental conservation, the National Commission for Environmental Affairs established in 1990 is joining hands with congenial ministries and private companies for protection of forests, biodiversity, mountains and watershed areas in the nation.

ARTICLE BY HTAY AUNG (KYEMON) & PHOTOS BY ASIA GREEN