Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Wednesday, 31 May, 2006

Make full use of aquatic and terrestrial resources

It hardly need be emphasized that agriculture, forestry, livestock breeding and fishery sectors are the main pillars of the national economy. Moreover, these sectors ensure sufficient food supply for the people and help conserve the natural environment and plant and animal ecology.

Therefore, measures are being taken to develop the agriculture sector by making full use of aquatic and terrestrial resources, helping to increase the cultivated acreage and production and providing quality strains and agricultural technology.

Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions are the regions where rice is mainly grown. Therefore, it is necessary to make concerted efforts not only to increase the per-acre yield in the cultivation of rice in these regions but also to extend the cultivation of cotton, sugar cane, corn and beans and pulses.

For the development of the forestry sector, greening projects are being implemented all over the nation, especially in the the dry and arid zones in central Myanmar. The dry zones are now lush and green. Work on reforestation, conservation of forests and harmonious ecological system should be carried out with the use of modern technology.

Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and Rakhine State are suitable for livestock breeding and fish and prawn farming and the meat and fish sector can develop with the use of modern farming methods. And it is necessary to raise the local quality strains rather than modern farming methods. And it is necessary to extend the cultivation of cotton, sugar cane, corn and beans and pulses.

If we can make full use of natural resources, including the resources in the agriculture, forest and meat and fish sectors, it will contribute a lot to rapid national economic growth.

The State Peace and Development Council...

(from page 16)

4. The expression “or with fine not exceeding kyats five hundred” contained in sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 14 of the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951 shall be substituted respectively by the expression “or with fine not exceeding kyats fifty thousand”.

5. In the schedule of the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951:
   (a) The expression “the Mines Act” contained in serial number 5 shall be substituted by the expression “the Myanmar Mines Law.”
   (b) Serial number 8 shall be deleted.

(Sd.) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

ASEAN to improve arts of wickerworks

YANGON, 30 May — In an effort to improve the arts of wickerworks in ASEAN countries, the paper reading session took place at National Museum here today.

Ten Resource persons from ASEAN countries read out papers on arts of wickerworks.

The paper reading session was opened with a keynote address by Director-General of the Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe. Also present at the opening ceremony of the paper reading session were high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Culture, Rector of University of Culture (Yangon), ambassadors from ASEAN nations to Myanmar, officials from Ministry of Cooperatives and Ministry of Forestry and guests.—MNA

Director-General of the Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe speaking at the paper reading session. — MNA

WM sends message of sympathy to Indonesian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, for the loss of lives and severe damage caused by a powerful earthquake that struck recently on the Island of Java, the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

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

Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise

Wushu competitions held

YANGON, 30 May—A total of 102 boys and girls took part in the gender-wise under-12 wushu competitions jointly sponsored by Myanmar Wushu Federation and Great Wall Traditional Medicine Company in Yangon today.

 Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and MWF presented prizes to the winners. Wushu fans and responsible personnel watched the competitions.—NLM

Vice-President of MWF U Kyaw Kyaw presents price to a winner. — NLM

Hole-In-One

YANGON, 31 May—Mr S S Jung scored in ace from 122 yards at the 2 hole pondy, City Golf Resort at 7.45 am on 28 May while playing with golf ball Wilson Staff 3 and Callaway Iron 8.

The partners at the time were Mr H C Chang, Mr B S Lee and Mr J H Oh, it was learnt. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Don't Smoke

World No-Smoke Day (31-5-2006)
Russia opposes use of force against Iran over nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 29 May—Visiting Russian National Security Council chief Igor Ivanov said on Sunday that Moscow opposed any use of force against Iran over its disputed nuclear programme, the state-run Iranian television reported.

“Unlike the United States, Russia believes Iran’s nuclear programme needs to be resolved only through dialogue. Any use of force will further complicate the issue and will cause tension in the region,” Ivanov was quoted as saying.

Ivanov made the remarks during a meeting with Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, the report said.

Arriving in Teheran late Saturday night, the senior Russian official’s visit to Iran is to focus on Iran’s controversial nuclear activities and new proposals by the European Union trio of Germany, France and Britain which offer incentives if Teheran suspends uranium enrichment and possible sanctions if it continues.

Diplomats of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany met in London on 24 May and discussed the new proposals of the EU trio but stopped short of making a final agreement.

Foreign ministers of the six nations are expected to hold more talks on the EU package late this week. Washington has accused Teheran of using its civilian nuclear programme as a cover to develop atomic bombs, a charge denied by Iran, which insists its nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes.

Russia offered last year to produce nuclear fuel on Russian soil for Iran in order to ease fears that Iran would divert uranium into warheads.

Talks broke down when Iran insisted uranium enrichment had to be carried out on its own territory.

The New Light of Myanmar Wednesday, 31 May, 2006

Blair reportedly beefs up Iran speech for Bush

LONDON, 29 May—British Prime Minister Tony Blair made significant changes to one of his most important foreign policy speeches after bowing to American objections, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

Blair changed key passages on possible action against Iran, climate change, and a proposed shake-up of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Friday when he delivered his landmark address at Georgetown University in Washington during his trip to the United States, the report said.

Objections by US President George W Bush’s inner circle played a key role in the alterations of Blair’s address, said the newspaper, according to British sources.

Only three hours before the speech was delivered, Downing Street officials were briefing journalists that Blair would stress that “change should not be imposed” on Iran, reflecting the British view that bombing or invading Iran is not a realistic option.

American officials had insisted, however, that the possibility of military action remained “on the table”, arguing that this helped to exert maximum pressure on Iran.

By the time he made his speech, Blair had significantly bowed to the American position, claiming “I am not saying we should impose change” and leaving the door open for a military attack, the report said. According to the report, most US officials privately support the British position and aides to both leaders concede that with their personal poll ratings plummeting neither has the political capital to attack Teheran. There are signs that Bush also recognizes this, MNA/Xinhua

The British military has reported 113 deaths; Italy, 31; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, Denmark three; El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, one death each.

INTERNET

2,467 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 29 May—As of Monday, 29 May, 2006, at least 2,467 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,943 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 113 deaths; Italy, 31; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, Denmark three; El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, one death each.

INTERNET

Death toll in Indonesian earthquake rises to 5,400

YOYAKARTA (Indonesia), 29 May — Death toll in the Saturday’s earthquake that struck Indonesia’s Yogyakarta Province has risen to 5,400 according to government’s official data released Sunday. The majority of casualties were in southern town of Bantul, where 5,400 people were killed in the disaster, according to a report from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Klaten Regency in Central Jakarta Province, just north of Yogyakarta, reported more than 1,200 deaths in the dawn earthquake.

Local geophysics agency has said another major quake is unlikely to occur despite more than 50 aftershocks in the last two days, TV news reported.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

A 59 day-old baby with three arms from Anhui Province waits for treatment at a hospital in Shanghai on 29 May, 2006. —INTERNET

A general view of phases 2-3 of the South Pars gas field in Assaluyeh seaport at the Persian Gulf about 1400 km (870 miles) south of Tehran, Iran on 27 May, 2006. —INTERNET

Workers install detonators to demolish the cofferdam of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in central China’s Hubei Province on 29 May, 2006. —INTERNET
**Russia launches research satellite from submarine**

**MOSCOW, 29 May** — Russia launched a research satellite on board a Sh прото rocket from a Northern Fleet submarine at the Barents Sea late Friday night, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday.

A rocket “with the research satellite Kompan-2 was launched from the Ekaterinburg missile submarine cruiser at 22:50 Moscow Time (1850 GMT),” said the head-quarters. “The launch was aimed at orbiting the Kompass-2 satellite in the interests of the Russian Federal Space Agency,” Assistant Navy Com- mander Igor Dygalo said.

“The successful launch of the satellite into the orbit specified proves high reliability of the naval strategic forces and the efficiency of the combat command and control system,” he said.

According to Dygalo, the submarine crew demonstrated high professional skills during the operation.

The launch, initially planned for Wednesday, was postponed because of problems “in preparations for the experimental shooting”, Dygalo said.

The Kompass-2 earth monitoring satellite has been developed by the Academician Makeyev Missile Design Bureau.

**Canadian soldiers wounded in Taleban ambush in Afghanistan**

**OTTAWA, 30 May** — Five Canadian soldiers were wounded when they came under attack from Taleban insurgents in southern Afghanistan early on Monday.

The soldiers suffered non-life-threatening injuries, and two of them have already returned to duty. Major Mario Couture told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Two others were expected back on duty soon. The fifth, who suffered serious wounds, had been sent to a US military hospital in Landstulhe, Germany, the officer said.

The soldiers were returning to their base after a patrol in a village in the Zhari area next to the Panjwai District, when they came under attack from a group of insurgents at about 1:30 am local time.

The attackers fired assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at the light armoured vehicle LAV III in which the soldiers were travelling.

**Two US television news crewmen killed in Iraq**

**WASHINGTON, 29 May** — Two British members of a US television news crew were killed and a correspondent was seriously injured in an attack in Iraq, raising the toll of media workers killed in the war to 96.

Paul Douglas, 48, a veteran cameraman, and sound technician James Brolan, 42, died when their convoy was struck by an improvised explosive device, while correspondent Kimberly Dozier, 39, who has both US and British citizenship, sustained heavy injuries, CBS News television said in a statement.

Also killed in the attack were a US Army captain and an Iraqi interpreter, according to the British Foreign Office.

The three journalists were reporting outside their “humvee” vehicle while on a mission embedded with the US 4th Infantry division and were believed to be wearing body armour when the bomb exploded, CBS said.

**Chavez says US working for coup in Bolivia**

**TIWANKU (Bolivia), 29 May** — Venezuelan Pre- sident Hugo Chavez on Sunday bluntly accused the US ambassador to Bolivia of trying to stir up military rebellion against his leftist ally Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Chavez, at the forefront of a leftist shift that is challenging US influence in Latin America, routinely trades insults with Washington, which he blames for a short-lived coup that briefly toppled Bolivia, and the US ambassador in Bolivia is the head of this plan,” he said during his weekly Venezuelan television show, broadcast from Tiwanaku in front of an audience of Bolivian indigenous leaders.

No one at the US Embassy in La Paz was immediately available to comment on Chavez’ accusation against Ambassador David Greenlee.

Chavez made similar comments earlier in his visit to Bolivia but did not point the finger at Greenlee.

Morales, who sat alongside Chavez in a matching poncho, has also made vague accusations of conspiracies against his government since taking office in January, though he has blamed foreign companies opposed to his nationalization drive.

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Chavez, at the forefront of a leftist shift that is challenging US influence in Latin America, routinely trades insults with Washington, which he blames for a short-lived coup that briefly toppled his own government in 2002.

“The (US) Embassy in Bolivia is already whispering in the ears of the Bolivian military to turn them against the government of Evo Morales,” said Chavez, wearing a traditional red poncho and bead necklace, at the sacred pre-Inca ruins of Tiwanaku high in Bolivia’s Andean plateau.

“There’s a plan against Bolivia, and the US ambassador in Bolivia is the head of this plan,” he said during his weekly Venezuelan television show, broadcast from Tiwanaku in front of an audience of Bolivian indigenous leaders.

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The attackers fired assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at the light armoured vehicle LAV III in which the soldiers were travelling.
WASHINGTON, 29 May—The killing of Iraqi civilians by US Marines has done more damage to America’s aims in Iraq than the Abu Ghraib Prison abuse scandal, a Democratic congressman and vocal war critic said on Sunday.

Representative John Murtha of Pennsylvania, a decorated retired Marine, told ABC News there was “no question” that the US military tried to cover up the killing of as many as two dozen Iraqi civilians last year in the town of Haditha. “I will not excuse murder,” Murtha said. “And this is what happened. There’s no question in my mind about it.” The military is investigating the 19 November incident, a case some American media are comparing to the 1968 My Lai massacre in Vietnam when US soldiers slaughtered up to 500 villagers. The US military has said 15 civilians were killed in Haditha, about 140 miles (220 kilometres) north west of Baghdad.

Other accounts put the number at around 24. While a senior Republican senator vowed to hold hearings on the Marines’ actions, Murtha said the killings hurt the United States’ ability to push its political agenda in Iraq, and repeated assertions that the war cannot be won militarily.

“We’re set back every time something like this happens,” he said. “This is worse than Abu Ghraib.” Murtha, who said he based his assertions on briefings he received from high-level military officials, added: “There was an investigation right afterward, but then it was stilled.”—MNA/Reuters

Eight tourists feared dead in Sri Lanka park blast

COLOMBO, 29 May—Eight Sri Lankan tourists were feared killed after a suspected landmine exploded as they were tracking wild elephants in a national park near Tamil Tiger rebel territory, an official said on Sunday.

Another group of Sri Lankan tourists in the park heard a large blast deep inside the park on Saturday, and went to the site to find a jeep in a ditch and body parts on the road, but police, military and wildlife officials were still on the way to the site.

“We believe that including our interpreter, eight people have been killed — all locals,” Dayananda Kariyawasam, director general of the Wildlife Department, told Reuters from the fringes of the Wilpattu National Park, wildlife sanctuary in the northwest of the country.

Pakistan, Bangladesh to hold meeting on FTA next month

ISLAMABAD, 29 May—Two ministries of commerce of Pakistan and Bangladesh will hold a meeting next month in Doha to further negotiate on Free Trade Agreement (FTA), an official said Sunday.

The official said that both ministries would hold a meeting next month in Doha and negotiate on the modalities of FTA as Pakistan and Bangladesh were determined to finalize the agreement by 30 September this year.

Pakistan and Bangladesh already signed four memorandum of understandings (MoUs) last year and agreed to finalize the FTA by September during a visit of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia here on Saturday in Islamabad.

The agreements were signed after talks between visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad.

Japan offers $10m to aid Indonesia

TOKYO, 29 May—Japan is to provide 10 million US dollars and emergency equipment, as well as to dispatch personnel to the earthquake-hit Indonesia, the Foreign Ministry said in a Press release on Monday.

Japan will send a 25-member emergency medical team and emergency items to the Java Island on Monday, the ministry said. Japan will also extend grant aid to assist post-disaster reconstruction.

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck the ancient Indonesian Province of Yogyakarta and part of Central Java Province on Saturday morning, killing more than 4,600 people and injuring 10,000 others so far.—MNA/Xinhua

US lawmaker says Iraqi killings in Haditha worse than Abu Ghraib

Southwest Airlines planes prepare for departure from Oakland International Airport in Oakland, California on 29 May, 2006.—INTERNET

Comoros volcano erupts, spews lava

MORONI, 29 May—Lava spewed from a volcano on the Indian Ocean island of Grande Comore on Sunday, lighting up the sky and sending scores of frightened residents onto the streets.

Residents of Moroni, the capital of the Comoros Islands, said they could see lava at the top of 2,361-metre (7,746-feet) Mount Karthala, one of the world’s largest active volcanoes.

“When I saw Karthala glowing we came out to see what was going on but I really don’t know, I’m worried,” said 35-year-old Houmadu Saindou.

Karthala last erupted in April 2005, affecting as many as 40,000 residents and forcing thousands to flee in fear of poisonous gas and a possible magma flow.

It was the volcano’s first eruption in more than a decade on the archipelago nation, 300 kilometres (190 miles) off the coast of east Africa.

Volcano scientist Hamidou Nassor said Sunday’s activity also amounted to an eruption but it was too soon to tell how dangerous this one would be.

“There is no danger yet if there will be any gas,” he said.

“There is a risk of a lava flow but we don’t know yet which direction. It is urgent that we get a helicopter there to assess what is going on.”—MNA/Reuters

The photo taken on 28 May, 2006 shows the exterior view of the newly-built underwater terra cotta warriors museum opened on Sunday in Xuzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province. Inside the museum, the scene of pit excavation and an unearthed array of terra-cotta warriors are displayed.—INTERNET

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An aerial view of damaged houses in Indonesia’s Bantul District, on 29 May, 2006.—INTERNET

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Minister inspects information tasks in Mon State

YANGON, 30 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by officials concerned, on 28 May inspected Alinpya Library in Mottama, Paung Township, and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to the TV retransmission station in Mawlamyine where he viewed round the retransmission of TV programmes to Mon State and Kayin State and gave instructions on full transmission of TV programmes, fire preventive measures, repair of power line of the station, maintenance of machines and minimizing loss and wastage.

On arrival at the District Information and Public Relations Department in Mawlamyine, the minister looked into work being carried out for information purpose.

In meeting with the information staff at the office of the District IPRDs, officials of Mon State IPRDs, Mawlamyine and Thaton District IPRDs, Mawlamyine, Chaungson, Kyakmaraw, Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, Ye, Lamine, Thaton, Kyaihkho, Bilin and Paung Township IPRDs reported to the minister on work carried out.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry are to make strenuous efforts in accord with the instructions for the five-year project of the third short-term plan which calls for boosting production, improving the industrial sector, generating more power, developing the energy sector and trade, and practising thriftiness. The minister also emphasized the need for every department to focus on doubling the targeted amount of earnings in 2006-2007, to thrifty use funds by spending 15 per cent less than the amount allocated of and to review measures that call for capital expenditure.

Moreover, the minister stressed the need for officials concerned to inform the people of nation-building endeavours through media for successful realization of the projects being implemented.

In the same way, they are to inform the people of fabrications, destructive acts and atrocities of internal and external destructive elements, to safeguard national solidarity on the basis of Union Spirit, to take part in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to engage in farming on manageable scale. Yesterday, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Mibagonyay Library in Kyaukkalat Village, Kyaikto Township and called for development of the library.—MNA

* Inform the people of fabrications, destructive acts and atrocities of internal and external destructive elements.
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Workshop on Property Transaction Report opens

YANGON, 30 May — A ceremony to open Workshop on Property Transaction Report jointly sponsored by Settlement and Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and Australian Transaction Report Analysis (AUSTRAC) was held at the meeting hall of SLRD on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Director-General of SLRD U Win Kyi made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Head of FIU Police Col Sit Aye and Mr Lindsay Chan of Australian Transaction Report Analysis (AUSTRAC) extended greetings, followed by the workshop.

The two-day workshop is being attended by 53 trainees from SLRD and state/division/district/township land records departments and observers.—MNA

Cash donation made hailing Literary Conference of MWJA

YANGON, 30 May — Hailing the Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, cash donation is being made and writer Dr Yi Yi Hla (Yuwadi Khin Oo) donated K 200,000, writer Daw Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

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YANGON, 30 May — A ceremony to open Workshop on Property Transaction Report jointly sponsored by Settlement and Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and Australian Transaction Report Analysis (AUSTRAC) was held at the meeting hall of SLRD on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Director-General of SLRD U Win Kyi made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Head of FIU Police Col Sit Aye and Mr Lindsay Chan of Australian Transaction Report Analysis (AUSTRAC) extended greetings, followed by the workshop.

The two-day workshop is being attended by 53 trainees from SLRD and state/division/district/township land records departments and observers.—MNA

In the same way, they are to inform the people of fabrications, destructive acts and atrocities of internal and external destructive elements, to safeguard national solidarity on the basis of Union Spirit, to take part in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to engage in farming on manageable scale. Yesterday, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Mibagonyay Library in Kyaukkalat Village, Kyaikto Township and called for development of the library.—MNA

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Minister calls for cooperation with...

(MANA also constituted division/district/ townships level associations and so far one divisional level association, seven district-level associations and 58 townships level associations have been constituted.

At the opening ceremony of the building near Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township, Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano, President of MANA U San Thein and Vice President Dr Kyaw Sein formally opened it.

Mr Nobutake Odano also explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the documents related to the building to MANA President U San Thein.

Afterwards, U San Thein presented commemorative pennants to Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano. After the closing ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and guests viewed documentary photos of the association displayed at the building.

Mayor attends ceremonies to open Gyobyu water pipeline

YANGON, 30 May — CEC Members of Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa attended ceremonies to open Gyobyu water pipeline and present USDA membership applications held in Hninzigon Ward-A, Thingangyun Township this morning.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally unveiled the stone plaque of Gyobyu water pipeline and sprinkled scented water on it. After turning water pipe bar to make it open, the mayor and the vice-mayor inspected condition of drinking water.

Afterwards, the mayor attended a ceremony to present USDA membership applications held at No 4 BEPS, Thingangyun and made a speech on the occasion.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin later accepted 1170 membership applications presented by townelder U Hla Soe and gave away certificates of honour to the persons who participated in making efforts to acquire drinking water.

The country is also carrying out surveillance tasks to prevent avian influenza, SARS and other diseases from being spread into the nation. In a bid to combat AIDS in Myanmar, the Ministry of Health and other congenial ministries are implementing the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2006-2011) in cooperation with the WHO and UNAIDS. Myanmar has paid special attention to the drive for the development of human resources in the health sector.

In the process, it is crucial to sharpen the skills of physicians, nurses and medical professionals who will play a major role in the health care services. Myanmar will open Public Health School in the near future. It is play a major role in the health care services. Myanmar physicians, nurses and medical professionals who will have to face an avian influenza pandemic. A study by the World Health Organization (WHO) warns that avian influenza will likely be an epidemic in the next 10 years. The WHO has listed the disease as a "pandemic threat".

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The minister held discussions with Director of WHO Southeast Asia Region Dr Samlee Phanuphak Chang, representatives of WHO Director-General Dr Tomris Turmen and Dr David Heymann, Director of WHO (Headquarters) TB Control Programme Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of Traditional Medicine Development Programme Dr Xiaorui Zhang, leader of tropical diseases control department Dr Denis Daumerie, Chairman of Japan Sasakawa Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Executive Director of International Extended Vaccination Funds Dr Julian Lob Levy, and Delegate-General of the International Red Cross Society in Geneva Mr Reto Meisto separately.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back here yesterday evening. The members were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, directors-general of the departments under the Health Ministry, officials, WHO Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo and their relatives. Members of the delegation — Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Than Myint, Manager of Extended Vaccination Project of the Department of Health Dr Than Htein Win and Deputy Director (Foreign Relations) of the Ministry of Health U Thet Lwin also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA
It was in the news report on the local and foreign journalists’ tour of the areas where local nationalities were suffering from robberies, arsons and land mines of the KNU and the article “Regional development as witnessed by an expedition” presented in two parts in the dailies that I have read about two parts in the dailies that I have read about the KNU atrocities the local nationalities have revealed were globally disseminated through the media and the Internet. Journalists of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club sent news on the matter to their mother agencies abroad. Duty conscious journalists of the local periodicals also featured the news report in their journals and magazines.

However the truth has been aired and published internationally, saboteurs from inside and outside the nation and some media under the influence of alien masters in accord with their lopsided policy towards Myanmar are still inciting their accusation on Myanmar to be true despite knowing that it is wrong. Instead of slamming the KNU they remain silent, although the KNU’s blowing up of powerful mines to massacre people has been revealed with concrete evidences. The same quarters that are silent on the KNU atrocities are orchestrating groundless and illogical slanders, saying that the Tatmadaw is forcefully relocating the local nationalities and oppressing them.

Even though those quarters too heard and saw like us the voices of the victims of KNU arson and mines saying whether they would have to face the KNU atrocities till posterity, they are still trying to ignore the villagers’ sufferings. We are astonished to witness that their stance is against the truth and their news stories are lopsided ones, saying, “Stop the offensive against the KNU! Please don’t force Kayins to flee their homes as refugees.”

What the alien masters and their minions and destructive cohorts like to say is, “Death and destruction caused by KNU bombs are not a serious case.”

“Let the KNU do as it wishes, and the Tatmadaw should do nothing but stay as a bystander.” But this attitude is like breaching the most important human rights — security of public lives and property.

As for me, I was asking myself, “What is the KNU? Where is it heading? Why are the foreign masters so much in favour of the KNU? I was trying to find the answers.

Our motherland is the Union of Myanmar. At present the country is made up of seven states and seven divisions where more than 100 national races live. The divisions are named in terms of respective regions and the states are named representing some of national races. Although Kachin State is so named, it is not inhabited by only Kachin nationals. And so is Kayin State. There is no state or division where only a single national race lives. Since yore, all nationalities have been living in amity in all the states and divisions. All national races have been residing unitedly and peacefully in all towns and villages which are like mini-unions in the whole Union. With better transport facilities built by the State, relationships between the national races have been further cemented.

(See page 9)

The number of remnant KNU insurgents of about 3,500 accounts for only 0.1 per cent if compared with the 3.5 million Kayin nationals that live in various parts of the nation. And it accounts for only 0.42 per cent if compared with the population of over 830,000 Kayin nationals of Kayin State. So, the ratio of Kayin nationals to KNU insurgents stands at 100 to less than one.

Hence, it is apparent that KNU members represent neither Kayin nationals in Kayin State nor Kayin nationals in the entire Union, and Kayin nationals in Kayin State are not in favour of KNU’s ‘Look West’ policy and terrorists acts. Kayin national people in other states and divisions do not recognize at all the existence of KNU insurgents.

Innocent people killed and wounded in mine blasts committed by KNU insurgents at Mandalay-Yangon Express Train near Pazundaung Station on 10-1-88.
In the past, KNU insurgents lorded it over the national people in Ayeyawady Division. Later local people including Kayin nationals could no longer tolerate KNU’s wrongful ‘Look West’ policy and terrorist acts, and joined hands with the Tatmadaw in eliminating KNU insurgents. As a result, Ayeyawady Division has been changed into a white area or insurgent free area with stability, peace and development. Similarly, local people inclusive of Kayin nationals living in other states and divisions have enjoyed fruitful results of unprecedented stability, peace and progress due to the fact that 17 major national race armed groups and other small armed groups returned to the legal fold and made peace with the government.

Indeed, the armed struggle line and wrong policies of KNU insurgents are disrupting the interests of the entire national people including Kayin nationals and the entire Union including Kayin State. In consequence, more than 5,000 members broke away from KNU and formed DKBA, and rose against KNU. Likewise, thousands of members of the group led by Phado Aung San and the group led by U Saw Tha Mu He, the group led by U Saw Phe Re Mo and the group led by U Ko Gyi left KNU and exchanged arms for peace. Now, the strength of KNU insurgents who stay on the border of the two nations under the pretext of refugee camps is only about 3,500.

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It is because KNU had committed a variety of atrocities on the people throughout its armed insurgency. Their sabotages and violent acts had been put on record with concrete evidences in the book titled “History of Internal Armed Insurgency”. In 1948 and 49, KNU committed violent and terrorist acts for 110 times and armed robberies 35 times, and robbed the government treasury 13 times. The acts they committed later are countless. They blasted the trains plying between Yangon and Mandalay and between Yangon and Mawlamyine and killed the passengers many times. It is very spine-tingling if one studies the massacre of entire local people in Maymyo (now PyinOoLwin) and Pyu townships. KNU insurgents committed in 1949 were like genocide the Nazis committed in the past. The acts of KNU are, in fact, ethnic cleansing. However, in spite of their knowledge, Western masters and their associates are levelling accusations against the government to cover the acts of KNU.

(See page 10)
**KNU in reality is ......**

(from page 9)

On 22 November 1953, Kayin insurgent Bo Ya Kyaw and members blasted the passenger train that left Sittoung and when it reached near Naungkalar Village and robbed all the belongings of the passengers. Besides, they abducted about 50 young women, 20 of them were raped by Bo Ya Kyaw and his followers. Such Kayin insurgents as Lin Htin, Hsa Lan and Pha Lu Kyaw were very notorious as womanizers. Lin Htin took 45 wives. Hsa Lan over 120 till 1963 when he was arrested by the Tatmadaw. Pha Lu Kyaw took more than 150 young wives. Thousands of national race young women such as Kayin, Mon and Bamar got into great troubles due to the sexual violence committed by Kayin insurgents. The newspapers at that time branded Lin Htin as a great pot of lust. In fact, it is KNU members and their associate insurgents who are licensed to rape. But internal and external destructive elements are accusing the Tatmadaw of being licensed to rape.

Among the most violent acts committed by KNU insurgents, one act that took place in 1954 was spine-chilling.

It was in 1954. The KNU insurgents attacked the Sittoung-Mottama train and took away more than 40 university girl students returning home on holiday and 20 other young women by force. The insurgents handed over these young women as well as some lasses arrested from Mon villages to KMT Maj-Gen Lawli in exchange for arms and ammunition. The KNU leaders and insurgents are still committing similar atrocities. They are really responsible for terrorism and human trafficking in Myanmar. However, the masterminds abroad have always let them go scot-free and levelled unfounded accusations against the Tatmadaw government of Myanmar. Why these masterminds are doing so is as plain as day.

These university girl students and other young women went to the dogs as the KNU insurgents had placed them in the hands of KMT who intruded into our country. Later, the KNUs have sent saboteurs to destroy the life and property of people by planting mines and setting villages ablaze dozens of times.

In March, 1988, the KNU insurgents raided the Kyakhtiyin Pagoda and made off with the cash donated by people. Pilgrims — monks as well as lay persons — were killed and wounded. Also in March, 1990, they attacked the people who visited the Sandawya Pagoda Festival and made away with donations. They also pounced upon passenger buses and craft many a time. On 3 February, 1991, they mined the motorcade of Mingun Sayadaw U Vicittasara Bhivamsa, Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, who was on his way from Dawei to Thayetchaung. Five people were injured but the Sayadaw escaped unhurt.

Not only that, a motorcade carrying the statue of the Alantayar Sayadaw, monks and lay person was mined near Kyarinn village in Kayin State, killing and wounding some monks and lay persons.

Cruel and inhumane acts of terror by the KNU insurgents were bitter experiences for the government and the entire people. But the government let the past be past and kept the peace door open to the KNUs for a long time in view of national solidarity.

However, the KNUs, capitalizing on the government’s building of peace, are trying to make the international community think that they want peace but at the same time committing terror acts. And they are making a political profit out of refugee camps.

It is very disheartening to see the master hands from the West trying to control the political situation in Myanmar by using the KNUs and supporting, as always, whatever the latter do. So long as there are KNU insurgents and expatriates in the border area, they will always be in a position to make groundless accusations about Myanmar. With this end in view, the masterminds from the West are grooming the KNU insurgents and their fellow terrorists.

The KNUs do not serve the interests of Kayin nationals in theory or in practice. However, the Western masterminds always stand by the KNUs. They do so not for the sake of Myanmar and Kayin nationals and for democracy and human rights but for their own interests — politically and militarily.

In reality, the KNUs are a handful of mercenaries. They are just the puppets dancing to the tune of their foreign masters. They are the terrorists who constantly commit various kinds of destructive acts, massacre and human trafficking and who uproot the local people. In reality, they are national traitors attempting to shatter our national goal for a peaceful, modern and developed nation by relying on the West.

Translation: TMT + ST + MS + NN

* * *

**Photo shows houses burnt down in Myawady in April 1989, one of the atrocities committed by KNU terrorists.**

**Documentary photo on derailment of Mandalay-Yangon Express Train due to mine planted by KNU terrorists on 10-1-88.**
China, India pledge to deepen military exchanges

BEIJING, 30 May — The Chinese and Indian defence ministers on Monday pledged to deepen military exchanges between the two armed forces.

Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan said during the talks here with his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee that the Chinese Government hoped peace, stability and economic growth would continue in the South Asia region.

Mukherjee arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a six-day visit as a guest of Cao.

This is Mukherjee’s first trip to China since the assumption of his post in 2004. He is expected to meet and hold talks with Chinese leaders and senior military officers.

The Indian minister will also visit northwest China’s Gansu Province and Shanghai Municipality, the country’s economic hub in east China.

International cash aid for Indonesian quake tops $47m

YOGYAKARTA (Indonesia), 30 May — A number of countries have pledged aid totalling 47.7 million US dollars for emergency response to Indonesia’s earthquake-stricken Java Island, a government spokesman said on Monday evening.

“The figure continues to rise,” Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Yuni Thamrin was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

The financial aid offers came from Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, the European Union and the United States, he said.

The Indonesian Government has given permits for foreign planes carrying relief supplies and paramedics to land in the quake zone.

Cargo planes from Singapore and Malaysia landed Sunday while those from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States are expected to arrive on Monday evening.

Colombia’s Catalina Castano returns a shot to Japan’s Aiko Nakamura at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris’ Roland Garros Stadium, on 29 May, 2006. — Internet

NAM accepts two new members

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 May—The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Monday accepted two new members, Dominican Republic as well as Antigua and Barbuda, thus bringing its total membership to 116.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar made the announcement at the NAM Coordinating Bureau (NAM-CoB) Ministerial Meeting in the administrative centre of Putrajaya. — MNA/Xinhua

Dominican Republic’s head of delegation Crispin S Gregoire said his country has been an NAM observer for many years and feels honoured to join the NAM.

“Even though we are only a small country, we have been in the United Nations since 1978, after our independence from Britain. Today, we join the world community, the committee of developing nations, which is a great honour for our country,” Gregoire told the Bernama news agency.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations John W Ashe expressed his country’s appreciation for the NAM’s decision.

Dominican Republic is an island state in the Caribbean archipelago while Antigua and Barbuda is located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. — MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JIANG NING GUAN VOY NO (75)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIANG NING GUAN VOY NO (75) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 30.5.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD Phone No: 256916/256919/256921 Dated: 31 May 2006

Chinese farmers encouraged to start their own business

BEIJING, 29 May— Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu on Sunday encouraged farmers to start their own businesses as a way out of poverty.

He said increasing farmer’s income is a strategic and important task for governments.

“The construction of a new socialist countryside and the comprehensive and sustainable economic and social development require new types of farmers who have basic knowledge of both farming techniques and business,” he said.

He said at a national meeting for awarding elite private businessmen on Sunday that governments at all levels should establish favourable policies and laws to encourage farmers to start their own businesses.

He said China has a huge rural market that offers much potential for rural employment and farmer-initiated businesses.

Indian Defence Chief starts 6-day China visit

BEIJING, 29 May— Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee arrived in Beijing Sunday afternoon for talks with Chinese officials on Sino-Indian military ties.

“As guest of his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan, Mukherjee will visit China from Sunday to next Friday,” sources with the Chinese Ministry of National Defence said.

This is Mukherjee’s first trip to China since the assumption of his post in 2004, during which, he is expected to meet and hold talks with Chinese leaders and senior military officers.

“The visit is with the objective of keeping our relationship warm and also to expand our areas of cooperation,” Mukherjee said prior to his China trip.

The Indian Minister will travel to northwestern China’s Gansu Province and Shanghai Municipality, the country’s economic hub in east China.

Nepal to construct highway to link with China

KATHMANDU, 29 May— A senior govern-ment official has said that Nepal is set to construct highway to link Nepal with Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China, with the help of the Chinese Government, state-run Radio Nepal reported on Sunday.

Over 400 kids killed in conflicts in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 May— A total of 460 children below the age of 16 were killed during the armed conflicts that began in February 1996 in Nepal, National Resource Centre on Children in Conflict (NRCRC) said here on Sunday.

“Most of those children died due to stray bombs and other explosives left behind by both security forces and guerillas, NRCCC, a non-government organization, said in a Press statement. Altogether 535 children including 150 girls were physically injured over the last decade of armed conflicts in the country, the statement noted.

Children draw animals on six pieces of fabrics, each 9-metre long and 0.9-metre wide, at the Youth Centre in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 27 May, 2006.— INTERNET

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Indonesia quake survivors build makeshift shelters

BANTUL (Indonesia), 29 May — Using fabric, plastic and anything that could be pulled from the rubble of the deadly Indonesian earthquake, survivors constructed makeshift shelters on Sunday as they waited for international aid to arrive.

Aid agencies say between 100,000 and 200,000 people have been left homeless by Saturday’s 6.3-magnitude quake, which particularly devastated the Bantul area near the ancient royal city of Yogyakarta, about 440 kilometres (270 miles) east of the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

UNICEF spokesman John Budd said 40 per cent of the homeless were under 18. The death toll from the quake, centred just offshore, stands at more than 4,600, and up to 20,000 people have been injured.

“We desperately need tents, the kind of aid coming here has been limited so far. We have only received instant noodles,” Yudi Rahardjo told Reuters outside his burned-down house in the farming village of Karangtulan where his sister was still trapped.

Rahardjo said he tried to sleep on a badminton field but had been kept awake by overnight rain.

Another Karangtulan local, Jumilah, whose father died in the quake, was seen picking up the roof tiles of her collapsed home.

“I am just picking up every single thing,” she said as she piked the tiles in her arms. “All of our basic food is now squashed, including the rice, so we need help.”

A truck carrying clean water arrived in the village but most residents said what they needed most was food and tents. “The most important thing is to give tents, staying in the open area may be fine for one day but after that it’s not OK,” said Captain Mulyadi, head of military in the district in Imogiri.

But UNICEF’s Budd said that while aid was beginning to get through to Bantul, which accounted for more than 2,000 of the deaths reported so far and where most buildings were flattened, treating the injured was still the priority. Red Cross spokeswoman Teresita Usapin said the agency had started bringing in and distributing 1,000 tents in Bantul, but said water and food were also desperately needed.

“There are some areas where there is no safe drinking water,” Usapin said. Aid agencies said the spread of disease is a key concern in the first days after such a disaster, but it was not yet posing a problem.

Michael Jackson smiles after receiving the Legend Award at the MTV Video Music Awards Japan 2006 on 27 May, 2006. —INTERNET

European rocket orbits telecom satellites for Mexico, Thailand

PARIS, 29 May — A European space consortium rocket placed into orbit two telecommunications satellites for Mexico and Thailand after blasting off from French Guiana on Saturday evening. The Ariane-5 rocket, designed to launch payloads of up to 10 tons, lifted off from the Europe’s launch centre in Kourou, about 40 miles from French Guiana’s capital of Cayenne, at about 6:10 pm (2210 GMT).

Reaching an altitude of about 1,400 kilometres, the rocket released into orbit Mexico’s Simser 6, a 5.7-ton satellite, about 27 minutes after takeoff.

Five minutes later, the rocket orbited the Thaicom 6 satellite, for a Thai private telecommunications operator, completing the launch. Thaicom will provide telecommunications and television broadcasting throughout Asia, the Pacific, Europe and Africa. The launch was originally scheduled for Friday but was put off because of equipment alerts. Arianespace, the commercial arm of the 13-country European Space Agency, has scheduled four more Ariane rockets to launch this year. The launch of the Ariane-5 rocket on Saturday was the second in 2006 and the 23rd successful flight for Ariane launchers, a company statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan urged to help stop “Syrian violations”

BEIRUT, 29 May — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) urged UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to support Lebanon and put an end to Syrian interference, local newspaper the Daily Star reported on Sunday.

According to the report, the PSP stressed on Friday “the continuous Syrian violations of Lebanese sovereignty” in a letter sent to the UN Security Council, the International Socialist Party, the European Union and other international human rights groups.

“Syria is still exerting all forms of intimidation against the Lebanese, violating their territories, attacking the Lebanese Army directly or through Palestinian organizations and carrying out smuggling operations”, said the letter.

The PSP also said that an arrest warrant issued by Damascus against the party leader Walid Jumblatt violated international law.

The warrant relayed to Beirut this week via Interpol demanded Jumblatt be brought before a Syrian military court to face charges of “slander and inciting hatred” against Damascus.

WHO to see if patent system keeps drugs from poor

GENEVA, 29 May — The World Health Organization said on Saturday it would examine whether the international drug patent system prevents developing countries from obtaining needed medicines, vaccines and diagnostic tests.

Sparred on by Brazil and Kenya, the 192 WHO members agreed at an annual meeting in Geneva to launch an inter-governmental group to look for gaps in medical research and development, and draw up a global strategy to ensure the health needs of poor people are met.

The WHO said the group would integrate the findings of an April report by former Swiss president Ruth Dreifuss, who criticized the existing drug development, marketing and pricing system, saying it largely neglected the poor.

The report, commissioned by the WHO in 2003, did not call for a weakening of patent rights but urged big companies to reduce the price of medicines sold to developing countries and to avoid filing for patent protection there. The WHO said the new group, open to all interested countries, would pay particular attention to whether research investment matched health needs, including diseases common to poor countries such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

“Syrian violations” refers to the continuous violations of Lebanese sovereignty by the Syrian military presence in Lebanon. The statement from the PSP to the UN Security Council is a clear indication of the need for international intervention to end these violations. The PSP also stressed the need for an end to Syrian interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon. Additionally, the statement from the PSP expresses concern about the arrest warrant issued by Damascus against their party leader, Walid Jumblatt. The warrant is seen as violating international law. The WHO's decision to examine the international drug patent system is a positive development as it aims to ensure that developing countries have access to needed medicines. The report commissioned by the WHO highlights the need for a global strategy to ensure the health needs of poor people are met, particularly in the context of the current global health crisis.
Injured Jamaican referee out of World Cup

ZURICH, 30 May— Jamaican referee Peter Prendergast has pulled out of the World Cup finals after injuring a knee, FIFA announced on Monday.

Under the new system of fielding the referee and his two assistants together as a team at the finals, linesmen Anthony Garwood of Jamaica and Joseph Taylor of Trinidad & Tobago, are also now out of the tournament. In a statement FIFA explained that medical examinations confirmed that Prendergast would not be fit enough to officiate at any matches at the finals which start on 9 June.

FIFA will announce their replacements later.

Prendergast is the second referee to be withdrawn from the tournament after Italy’s Massimio De Santis was pulled out by the Italian Football Federation. De Santis is under investigation in a probe into possible soccer fraud in Italy.—MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo’s room tops

Ronaldinho’s in online auction

ZURICH, 30 May— Ronaldo’s hotel room topped that of team mate Ronaldinho’s in an online auction, fetching 1,010 Swiss francs (825.8 US dollars) for a one-night stay in the room of Brazil’s leading striker after the team’s stay in Switzerland.

“I was surprised that Ronaldo came out on top,” said assistant manager Philipp Musshafen at the Park Hotel in Weggis, which launched the eBay auction.

The Brazilian team set up camp at the luxury hotel at the foot of the Swiss Alps last week to train for the World Cup in neighbouring Germany next month.

Ronaldinho’s hotel room fetched 850 francs. In total the five rooms auctioned, including those of Kaka, Adriano and Roberto Carlos, reaped 3,200 francs.

“We will donate the amount to a Brazilian institution,” Park Hotel’s Musshafen said.

The winners will spend the night of June 3 at the hotel, just hours after the Brazilians move out at the end of their two-week stay.

They will also be given signed Brazilian football shirts. Normal rates for the five rooms on offer range from 480 to 780 Swiss francs each.

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo brushes aside weight speculation

ZUGGS, 30 May—Brazil striker Ronaldo says that continued speculation about his weight is created by lack of knowledge and by the media having nothing better to talk about.

The Phenomenal One endured a frustrating season at Real Madrid, punctuated by a series of minor injuries and suggestions that was fighting a losing battle against the flab.

“It doesn’t bother me in the slightest,” said Ronaldo, who has already been named in Brazil’s starting line-up for their opening World Cup match against Croatia on 13 June.

“I think its all down to a lack of knowledge. After all, what is fat,” he said, looking in the direction of a group of radio reporters amid laughter.

“People have been talking about it for so long that nowadays I just take it as a joke. Nobody ever takes about exact numbers, about the percentage of fat. It’s down to lack of knowledge, a lack of information and a lack of something better to talk about.”

Ronaldo, 29, has not played a competitive game since 8 April, when he limped out of Real Madrid’s 1-1 draw with Real Sociedad with an injury to his right thigh.

He has taken part in Brazil’s training as usual and says he only needs to win back match fitness.

“This is like a pre-season for me, I’m coming back from injury and I haven’t played for one and a half months,” he said.

“I’m very happy and I’m getting on with my job.”

Ronaldo, who will be taking part at his fourth World Cup, finished as top scorer in 2002 with eight goals as Brazil won an unprecedented fifth world title.

MNA/Reuters

Japan’s Ono putting team glory first

BONN (Germany), 30 May — Japan’s Shinji Ono has resigned himself to a place on the bench for his country’s World Cup opener against Australia.

Once an automatic choice, the former Feyenoord midfielder looks likely to be among the substitutes for Japan’s Group F clash with Guus Hiddink’s “Socceroos” on June 12.

“It’s not as if I’ve never been on the bench before,” smiled Ono on Sunday, 48 hours before Japan meet World Cup hosts Germany in a warm-up game in Leverkusen.

“I’m on stand-by to play and just hope I get the chance to play at the World Cup.”

Ono had a frustrating World Cup in 2002 after being struck down by appendicitis before the tournament.—MNA/Reuters

Japan’s head coach Zico (R) of Brazil gives directions to midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata (16) during a practice session in Bonn on 29 May, 2006.

Beckenbauer says fan power is key for Germany

BERLIN, 30 May— Germany’s World Cup organizing committee president Franz Beckenbauer now believes the hosts are among the favourites to win the tournament starting next month because of the enthusiastic home crowds.

“Football enthusiasm was not bad beforehand but now you can really feel the way everything is starting to vibrate and everyone can’t wait for the tournament.”

Beckenbauer said he was impressed with the crowd support for Germany at Dreisam stadium in Freiburg on Saturday.

“The team clearly play better when they’re fired on by the home crowd,” he said. “The recent record has been eight wins, four draws and only one defeat in German stadiums — and that loss was against Brazil in the Confederation Cup.”

MNA/Reuters

FIFA urged to restore smoking ban for World Cup

GENEA, 30 May— Health advocacy groups on Monday urged FIFA to ban smoking at next month’s World Cup in Germany after soccer’s governing body dropped a smoke-free rule adopted in 2002.

Instead of barring smoking at stadiums, expected to draw about three million people during the month-long tournament starting June 9, FIFA said it would ask fans voluntarily to refrain.

“An outright ban will not apply,” FIFA said in a statement describing a campaign of posters, audio and video announcements and “and mantra-like repetition of the key phrase ‘No Smoking Please’ to discourage spectators from lighting up.

“Sinead Jones, director of the International Union Against Cancer’s global smoke free partnership, said the voluntary policy meant smoking would be freely permitted throughout the stadiums.

“They are saying to fans ‘don’t smoke’, but on the other hand there will be absolutely no enforcement there,” said Jones, whose organization is appealing for the German tournament to be smoke-free like the last World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Noting that FIFA is selling branded lighters and ashtrays during the tournament, she said the campaign sent fans a mixed message about tobacco and sports.

“The whole thing is really inconsistent. It seems like a backward step,” Jones said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) signed a deal with FIFA four years ago to make the 2002 World Cup venues tobacco-free, as are the Olympic Games, in a deal it hoped would set a precedent for future tournaments. But FIFA declined to renew the agreement for the 2006 event after discussions with the German Government and the local organizing committee.

Phone calls seeking comment from FIFA and the organizing committee in Frankfurt were not immediately returned.—MNA/Reuters
China to make Olympics a smoke-free zone

BEIJING, 30 May— China vowed on Monday to organize a “non-smoking” Olympic Games, but health officials admitted that changing the habits of 350 million smokers would be difficult.

China would enforce a ban on smoking in public places, a Health Ministry official told a news conference on Monday, with those places that offer services to children a top concern.

“Smoking will be banned at all Olympic-designated hospitals,” Zhang Bin said.

China’s news agency quoted Zhang Bin as saying. The ban would also apply to public transport and in offices. Zhang said that changing habits would be hard.

“China faces many obstacles to overcome in hosting a non-smoking Olympics,” he said.

The ministry’s vow comes as Beijing passes the 10th anniversary of its ban on smoking in public places. In practice, many of the capital’s millions of smokers habitually ignore the bans given that they run only a slight risk of punishment or complaint from bystanders.

“We need consistent efforts to wake up the public, tell those smokers in public places that they are damaging the health of people around them, and encourage our numb fellows to stand up against such behaviour,” a China Daily editorial said this month.

China is the world’s largest producer and consumer of cigarettes with nearly 2 trillion sticks consumed a year.

Tax on cigarettes contributed 159 billion yuan (19.8 billion US dollars) to the government in 2005, around 5 per cent of fiscal revenues.

The World Health Organization estimates that smoking kills 1.2 million people a year in China.

China Daily editorial

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, children play chess during the 15th international chess contest held at Dingfuzhuang No 2 Primary School in Chaoyang District of Beijing, capital of China, on 28 May, 2006. More than 260 children from this school and foreign countries including the United States, Japan, and Singapore took part in this contest on 28 May, 2006. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy fall in Rakhine State and isolated heavy fall in upper Sagar Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukse (8.15) inches, Khamti (4.64) inches, Kyaukkpyu (3.19) inches, Maungtaung (3.15) inches, Thatan (1.69) inches, Sittway (1.41) inches, Myitkyina (1.38) inches and Kyaukse (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 29-5-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 30-5-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-5-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 29-5-2006 was (3.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 30-5-2006 were (0.31) inch at Mingaladon, (0.71) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.58) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (14.76) inches at Mingaladon, (18.70) inches at Kaba-Aye and (19.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from East at (14:15) hours MST on 29-5-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-5-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shon, Mon and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy fall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 31-5-2006: Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 31-5-2006: Some rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 31-5-2006: Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Minister calls for conducting livestock breeding tasks

Yangon, 30 May—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected the livestock farm in Lashio.

LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES

The minister attended the opening of the conference. Meeting chairman Minister of Health of Mozambique Professor Paulo Ivo Garrido delivered an introductory speech.

The minister also attended the committee (A) meeting and discussions on respective subjects.

On the morning of 23 May, he addressed the 59th conference, saying that Myanmar is making efforts in various sectors to achieve millennium development goals.

Myanmar is in full support of the efforts made in accordance with the goal of the conference — Working Together for Health. In 2006, some members of WHO faced avian influenza. But, the disease is now under control thanks to the assistance and effective management of the WHO. Myanmar saw the disease in March 2006 but there has been no infection to human.

In a bid to combat AIDS in Myanmar, the Ministry of Health and other congenial ministries are implementing the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2006-2011) in cooperation with the WHO and UNAIDS.

Every employee who has completed a period of twelve months continuous service shall be granted earned leave

The State Peace and Development Council
The Law Amending the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 6/2006)
The 4th Waxing of Nayon 1368 M.E.

(30 May, 2006)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951.

2. In the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951:
   (a) The expression “not exceeding four hundred kyats per month” contained in sub-section (4) of section 2 shall be deleted.
   (b) Sub-section (1) of section 4 shall be substituted as follows:
      (1) Every employee who has completed a period of twelve months continuous service shall be granted earned leave with average wages or average pay for a period of ten consecutive days by his employer during the subsequent period of twelve months.
   (c) The expression “twenty-four days” contained in sub-section (2) of section 4 shall be substituted by the expression “twenty days”.

3. The expression “Inspector” contained in sections 12, 14, 15 and 16 of the Leave and Holidays Act, 1951 shall be substituted respectively by the expression “Inspection Officer.”

(See page 2)

IN SIDE

Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions are the regions where rice is mainly grown. Therefore, it is necessary to make concerted efforts not only to increase the per-acre yield in the cultivation of rice in these regions but also to extend the cultivation of cotton, sugar cane, corn and beans and pulses.

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PRESPECTIVES

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the 59th World Health Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. — MNA