Kataik Dam in Paung Township, Thaton District, Mon State commissioned into service

Kataik Dam will benefit 10,000 acres of farmlands, contribute much to regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—A ceremony to open Kataik Dam built by Construction Group-6 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Paung Township, Thaton District, Mon State was held at the pandal near the dam yesterday morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thaton Station, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, local authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and local people.

In his address, Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win said that the agricultural sector plays a major role in fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people and ensuring strong national economy and local food sufficiency, adding that the net sown acreage of Mon State is over 1.2 million.

There are altogether 198 dams and reservoirs the length and breadth of the nation. The newly-opened Kataik Dam is 198th of its kind built in the time of the State Peace and Development Council, and it is also the tenth in Mon State, he disclosed.

He said that Kataik Dam will be able to supply water to 10,000 acres of farmlands and contribute much to regional development since local people will be able to engage in double cropping as a result.

In Mon State there are five dams including Kataik Dam, five sluice gates and five river water pumping stations. Through those facilities floods and inundation can be prevented in the rainy season and double cropping can be introduced in the summer, thereby contributing to the agricultural sector of Mon State, he noted.

Through cultivation of summer paddy and double cropping the income of local farmers will increase, and regional development will surely be possible.

The commander stressed the need for local people to maintain and

(See page 8)
Wednesday, 2 May, 2007

Crush neo-colonialists' perpetrations to drive wedge among national people

The message Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent to mark the Workers Day (2007) said:

“Thanks to the correctness of the national policy, the harmonious efforts of the government and the people and the sector-wise endeavours of workers and farmers to increase productivity, the nation has been clearly witnessing progress that is prevailing together with peace and stability.”

As the national development is gaining momentum, workers are actually enjoying the fruits of progress which are the increasing number of job opportunities and the rise in the per capita income. In addition, they are enjoying other benefits which are the greater degree of rights including occupational safety and a pleasant working environment.

The government is now implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map in pursuit of the national goal — the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. The National Convention is now in the process of being held to carry out the first step and the workers have been enjoying the rights to participate in it as a delegate group representing the mass of workers to hold discussions and make decisions and suggestions.

However, saboteurs are resorting to a variety of means to disrupt the progress of the nation and harm the national interest. To make matters worse, neo-colonialists are disinguing the members of destructive groups under their control as workers and forming nominal organizations to interfere in the affairs of international organizations. Moreover, they are trying to drive a wedge to break up the unity of the entire people including workers through slanders in accord with their scheme.

In conformity with the fine tradition of playing an active role in anti-imperialist movements and independence struggles and preserving the cohesion of workers, farmers and national people, workers are to join hands firmly with national people in surmounting the neo-colonialists’ interference in the internal affairs of the nation and sowing discord and hatred among the people.

Flag of victory, cash presented to Mon State’s women’s soccer team

YANGON, 30 April — A ceremony to bestow a flag of victory and cash to Mon State’s women’s soccer team going to participate in the 12th Inter-State/Division Soccer Championship was held at Yamanya Hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council Office yesterday, attended by Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win.

First, patron of Mon State Women’s Sports Committee Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win, made a speech on the occasion.

Cash donated to the soccer team was K 1.2 million in total. Daw Myint Myint Soe accepted cash donations and presented donors certificates of honour.

Next, Daw Myint Myint Soe presented the flag of victory to the team through leader Daw Mya Than. On behalf of the team, Daw Mya Mya Than spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, the commander and wife cordially greeted players of the team and then gave encouragement to them.

Minister inspects Phyo Ayeya Fish Farm in Maubin

YANGON, 30 April — Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visited Phyo Ayeya Fish Farm No 2 in Wadaw Village in Maubin Township yesterday.

On his tour, the minister inspected fish ponds and called for maintaining them. He also discussed with officials concerned fish breeding tasks of the farm which is being carried out by the USDA.

After hearing reports of officials concerned, the minister gave instructions to them. — MNA

Sixth respect-paying ceremony held at Teacher Training College (Kanbe), Yankin Education College

YANGON, 1 May — The sixth respect-paying ceremony was held at Yangon Teacher Training College (Kanbe) and Yankin Education College this morning.

It was attended by sixty-year-old retired teachers who served from 1947 to 2007, guests and old students and families.

The old students paid homage to the retired teachers and donated cash and kind to them. On behalf of the retired teachers, principal U Tin Than (Retd), assistant lecturers Daw Yi Yi and U Aung Thein (Retd) gave advice during the ceremony.

Next, the old students donated ‘Soon’ to members of the Sangha and the congregation shared merits gained. — MNA

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All this needs to be known now

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

Aye Phyu

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visits Phyo Ayeya Fish Farm No 2 in Maubin Township.

MMWCWA

* A notable local NGO
* With noble aims in store
* To serve Myanmar Society
* With focus on mother, child and family
* To help meet the Millennium Development Goals
* Maternal and Child health set afore
* To lower the rate of morbidity and mortality
* Through Maternity Homes and services in the community
* Advocacy and Awareness-raising
* For mothers’ physical and social well-being
* Health care access and enhancement
* We see critical for their development
* Knowledge, skill and education
* Social gains and Empowerment foundation
* Vocational training and micro credit scheme
* To raise their quality of life by income-generat-
* ing theme
* Just to name a few of what we do:
  * ECDC and parenting education
  * 3 - Rs courses and reading circles
  * Nutrition centres and growth-monitoring programmes
  * Clean water and clean sanitation
  * Elderly Care and home-based care
  * Diagnostic Centre and PMCT
  * Projects like RH, AKH and 3D’s
* All to raise the health status of our community
* Hand-in-hand with others, in the future and now
* For our continued services, we all vow
* To play our role in the concerted effort
* To build a health and developed nation in a time so short.
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Expert says global demand on energy to rise 55% by 2030**

KUWAIT CITY, 30 April—Global demand on energy will rise by 55 per cent by the end of year 2030, Kuwait’s official KUNA news agency reported Sunday citing a local expert.

The hike in demand is attributed to the growth on gross domestic product (GDP) across the world, and the increase would largely fall on natural gas instead of petroleum because of environmental concerns, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) acting manager for planning Nabil Burisi.

He made the prediction while delivering a speech at the “What’s After Oil?” seminar sponsored on Saturday evening by College of Technological Studies of Kuwait.

The Middle East and North Africa region would maintain its hegemony over the oil market due to their production capacity and oil reserves, he added.

In light of oil excavations in Kuwait, he said the country’s daily oil production would be at three million barrels in 2010, 3.5 million in 2015, and four million in 2020.

**Macao’s population sees new high in 2006**

MACAO, 30 April—The resident population of Macao totalled a record 502,113 at the end of August 2006, according to official statistics issued Friday.

The figures from the government-run Statistics and Census Service (SCS) showed that the annual rate of population growth in the past five years averaged 2.9 per cent. The proportion of the elderly population (aged 65 and above) dropped slightly from 7.3 per cent in 2001 to 7.0 per cent in 2006, the figures showed.

The SCS dues the shrinking of aged group mainly to the influx of immigrants and expatriates.

**US forces detain 72 suspected guerillas in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 30 April—US troops arrested 72 suspected guerillas and seized nitric acid along with other bomb-making materials in overnight raids on al-Qaeda in the north and west of Baghdad, the US military said on Sunday.

The raids in Samarra, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad, led to capture of 36 guerillas allegedly with ties to al-Qaeda network, the military said in a statement.

Following intelligence reports, the US troops also seized 20 five-gallon drums of nitric acid and other bomb-making materials near Karma, a town close to restive city of Fallujah, some 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, the statement added.

**Indonesia calls to boost partnership to reach internationalism**

JAKARTA, 30 April—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on developed and developing countries to boost partnerships to push forward the internationalism in the 21st Century.

Yudhoyono made the call when opening the 116th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Sunday evening in Indonesia’s resort island of Bali.

He recalled the long history of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), saying that in the 21st Century, a quantum leap can be made into an era of internationalism in which all nations are much more strongly connected with one another.

“However, the internationalism can only work if it is supported by a comprehensive network of partnerships,” he added.

He said the countries of the developed world can do more to open up their markets to the products of the developing world, especially agricultural products.

The developed world can help developing countries that are strangled by chronic debt through innovative debt relief programmes and developed countries can increase financial flows, especially foreign direct investments, to the developing world, he stressed.

**British soldier killed in southern Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 30 April—A British soldier was shot dead while on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Sunday, in what has been the bloodiest month for British forces in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003.

Twelve have been killed in April, the highest number of casualties in a single month since March 2003, when 27 were killed in the opening days of the war. A British military spokesman in Basra, Major David Gill, said the soldier was shot after he had dismounted from his vehicle during a routine patrol in the Al-Ashar District of Basra.

“This has been a particularly hard month for us,” he said. In London, the Defence Ministry said the soldier was from the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, but did not name him.

Analysts say that with British troops poised to begin reducing their attacks so that they can claim victory when they eventually pull out, British bases have been struck almost daily by mortar fire and patrols hit by roadside bombs and machine gun fire.

In the worst single attack this month, four soldiers were killed when their Warrior armoured vehicle was blown up. A total of 146 British troops have died in the Iraq campaign since the 2003 invasion.
Experts meet on global warming but time running out

BANGKOK, 30 April — After two gloomy UN reports on global warming, scientists and governments on Monday began looking at how to fight climate change, with green groups saying the world has the means to cut emissions at little cost.

As experts meet in Bangkok to review the latest UN report, a draft of solutions to be issued on Friday after review by more than 100 nations warns that time for inexpensive fixes is running out because of a surge in greenhouse gas emissions.

The survey is the third this year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The UN climate panel issued its first report in February saying it was at least 90 per cent certain that mankind was to blame for warming.

The second report on 6 April warned of more hunger, droughts, heatwaves and rising seas.

Green groups say the time for bickering by governments is over.

“It is crystal clear that we can cut emissions to well below today’s levels by shifting from carbon-heavy fuels like coal to clean and efficient energy,” said Hans Verolme, director of the WWF’s Global Climate Change Programme.

China to construct more airports in central regions

ZHENGZHOU, 30 April — Six new airports will be built in central China before the end of the decade, said a senior official with the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

The six small airports will be built in Bengbu City in east China’s Anhui Province, Yichun in Jiangxi Province, Zhuhai in Henan Province, Hueyang and Hengyang in Hunan Province and Jiuhua, a well-known Buddhist holy mountain in Anhui. Airports at six provincial capitals, namely, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Taiyuan, Changsha, Nanchang and Hefei will also be upgraded, said Li Yongqi, from the CAAC’s planning section, at a seminar held in this capital of central China’s Henan Province.

Central regions include Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi and Shanxi. They have a combined population of 361 million. The central regions are economically less developed as the country’s eastern region.

The Chinese Government introduced a new strategy in early 2004 known as “the rise of central regions” to improve the economies of the six provinces.

Three Iraqi civilians killed by gunmen

BAGHDAD, 30 April — Gunmen shot dead three Iraqi civilians in a northern Baghdad district and wounded a veteran female presenter who works for an Iraqi official radio on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Gunmen in a vehicle opened fire on three civilians, killing all of them in the Sunni neighbourhood of Adhuniyyah,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, Amal al-Mudaris, a veteran female presenter who works in a state-run radio, was critically wounded when gunmen showered her with bullets while she was leaving her house in Khadraa District in western Baghdad, the source said.

Mudaris, in her 60s, is a well-known Iraqi media worker who worked for the Iraqi radio and television since 1960s and continued her work for the Iraqi media network after the collapse of Saddam regime in 2003.

Meanwhile, the US military said that 18 rounds of artillery were fired from a US base in southeastern Baghdad earlier in the day without identifying the targets of the barrage.

Three moderate quakes hit Indonesia

JAKARTA, 30 April — Three moderate quakes jolted different parts of Indonesia early on Sunday but caused no damage or casualties, a meteorological agency official said.

“The quakes do not have the potential to generate a tsunami,” Suharjono, head of the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics agency, told Reuters.

A 5.1 magnitude undersea quake first struck the northern part of Sumatra Island at a depth of 33 kilometres. Two further quakes measuring 4.3 and 4.7 later hit near Padang in western Sumatra and Kupang on Timor island.

Death toll rises in Pakistan suicide bombing

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 30 April — The death toll from a suicide bombing in Pakistan rose to 28 on Sunday as investigators attempted to identify the bomber who tried to kill the Interior Minister.

The lone suicide bomber blew himself up on Saturday just three metres (10 feet) from Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao at the end of a public gathering inCharsadda, in North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Sherpao sustained minor injuries on his both legs from shrapnel and pellets in the attack. One of his aides and several of his security detail were killed.

Investigators found the severed head and torso of the grey-bearded suspect and were trying to establish his identity. Officials say the attack may have been plotted by Islamist militants. “It is a continuation of what is going on in our tribal areas and across the border in Afghanistan,” Asif Iqbal Daudzai, NWFP Information Minister told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**UAE’s ADNOC, Japan’s JBIC agree on partnership in oil-gas sector**

ABU DHABI, 30 April— Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the energy giant of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), signed on Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a Japanese bank to set up a comprehensive partnership in the oil and gas sector.

The document between ADNOC and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was signed in the presence of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who is on an official visit to the oil-rich Mideast country, local Emirates News Agency reported here.

According to the report, the MOU seeks to establish a comprehensive and strategic partnership by setting out consultations and information sharing.

It will increase opportunities of mutual business development for Japanese companies and ADNOC in the oil and gas sector and realize the long-term crude oil transaction between ADNOC and Japanese companies, thereby contributing to the securing of stable energy supply to Japan, said the report.

Japan has steadily imported huge amounts of crude oil from ADNOC for more than 30 years as the UAE is currently the second largest source of crude oil supply to Japan, accounting for about 25 per cent of its total crude oil imports.

ADNOC owns most of the oil and gas reserves and production facilities in the UAE.

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**Expert says China to become world’s 2nd largest trader**

GUANGZHOU, 30 April— China will this year replace Germany as the world’s second largest trader with 2.1 trillion US dollars in foreign trade and may overtake the world’s largest trader, the United States, by the end of the decade, says a senior Chinese researcher.

“China maintained a growth rate of more than 20 per cent in foreign trade in the first quarter and is likely to maintain the momentum throughout the year,” said Li Yushi, vice-president of the Research Institute of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce.

Despite a growth rate that declined to 6.9 per cent in March, foreign trade in the first three months totalled 457.7 billion US dollars, up 25.3 per cent year-on-year.

Exports reached 252.1 billion US dollars, up 27.8 per cent, while imports were valued at 205.7 billion US dollars, up 18.2 per cent, according to figures released by the Chinese Customs.

While the Ministry of Commerce projected foreign trade to grow by about 10 per cent a year between 2006 and 2010, Li’s institute predicts the growth rate will be between 12 and 15 per cent. “Based on these predictions, we can tell that China will overtake the United States to be the world’s largest trader in 2010,” Li told a seminar on China’s foreign trade prospects in Guangzhou.

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**Lhasa overpass opens on eve of tourist boom**

LHASA, 30 April— A major bridge, more than a kilometre-and-half long, opened to traffic here on Monday, just in time for May Day holiday week when Lhasa expects an influx of tourists.

With an investment of 450 million yuan (about 58 million US dollars), the urban overpass is comprised of a northern and southern bridge.

The Liiwu Bridge is 1,660 metres long and 29 metres wide. It spans the Lhasa River and links this plateau city with the Lhasa railway station, terminus of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

The opening of the bridge has cut travel time from downtown Lhasa to its railway station from two-and-a-half hours to 10 minutes.

Tourism officials say they are expecting 200,000 visitors during the May Day Golden Week.

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**Two killed in Angolan Air Force plane crash**

LUANDA, April 30 — A Zlin-142 training plane of the Angolan Air Force (FAN) crashed Thursday in Catumbela Region in the country’s central province of Benguela, killing two people on board, Angola press agency ANGOP reported Saturday.

ANGOP quoted on Saturday a communiqué from FAN Staff as saying that the airplane pertaining to the Lobito Military Aeronautical Training School, with the plate number I-130, that was on a training flight, piloted by instructor Major Bento Jose Henriquez Coelho, with trainee Marlene Luis.

According to the document, a FAN team of experts is already in the Catumbela Region to find out the causes of the accident. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Cargo ships wait to pass a ship lock during trial navigation at the Three Gorges Dam in central China’s Hubei Province on 30 April, 2007. The dual-track ship lock of the Three Gorges Dam will fully reopen to traffic on 1 May after more than seven months’ construction and trial operations. — XINHUA**

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**Ethiopian rebels free Chinese oil workers**

ADDIS ABABA, 30 April— Ethiopian rebels have released seven Chinese workers seized in a deadly raid on an oilfield, the guerrillas and a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Sunday.

Gunmen killed 65 Ethiopians and nine other Chinese in Tuesday’s predawn assault on the oil exploration field in Ethiopia’s barren eastern Ogaden region — one of the worst attacks to date on Beijing’s growing interests in Africa. “We handed them over to the ICRC,” Adurahmin Mohammed Mahdi, a London-based spokesman for the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) told Reuters by telephone. “They are all very healthy. They are uninjured and very happy.” — MNA/Reuters
Loud explosions rock southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 April — About two dozen loud explosions shook southern Baghdad on Sunday, Reuters reporters heard. The blasts, several seconds apart, sounded like artillery. The US military could not immediately confirm the cause of the blasts. US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Garver said the military sometimes fired artillery in support of operations.

Tens of thousands of US and Iraqi troops have been deployed in Baghdad as part of a 10-week-old security crackdown to combat sectarian militias and guerrillas. While the plan has reduced the number of sectarian killings, car bombs in the capital and across Iraq remain a security concern for military commanders. — MNA/Reuters

Fiery crash melts vital San Francisco highway

EMERYVILLE (California), 30 April — A stretch of vital highway for San Francisco Bay area commuters collapsed on Sunday after a gas tanker truck crashed and ignited flames that shot more than 200 feet (60 metres) high, officials said.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom quickly ruled out sabotage or terrorism, but said the accident showed the region’s infrastructure remains dangerously vulnerable.

Flames on a lower deck of a highway on the Oakland/Emeryville side leading to the double-decker Bay Bridge that connects the heavily populated East Bay to San Francisco. — MNA/Reuters

Mainland announces new policies to promote cross-Strait ties

BEIJING, 30 April — The Chinese Mainland has announced a package of new policies to promote economic, trade and cultural relations across the Taiwan Straits.

A total of 13 new policies were announced at Saturday’s closing ceremony of a two-day cross-Strait forum, co-sponsored by the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Kuomintang Party, Taiwan’s major opposition party.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, and KMT Honorary Chairman Lien Chan were present at the closing ceremony.

Under the new policies, Taiwan shipping and road transport companies are allowed to set up wholly-owned companies or joint ventures on the Mainland.

Taiwan enterprises are also encouraged to directly invest in the construction and operation of ports and highways on the Mainland.

Taiwan shipping companies engaged in direct passenger transport between coastal cities in Fujian and Jinhua, Matsu and Penghu in Taiwan have been authorized to set up ticket agencies in Fujian. — MNA/Xinhua

UAE President, Japanese PM discuss ways of boosting ties

ABU DHABI, 30 April — Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held talks with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday discussing ways of boosting bilateral relations, Emirates News Agency reported.

During the meeting, Sheikh Khalifa expressed his country’s desire to strengthen trade, economic and investment relations with Japan. Sheikh Khalifa expressed the hope that Abe’s visit to the UAE would open up new avenues for enhancing bilateral relations and greater horizons in all fields so as to make a qualitative leap in the two countries’ economic partnership.

Abe said that it is these common factors Japan, and the UAE share in the trade, economic and investment policies that give the Japanese Government and companies strong incentives to invest in the UAE.

Abe added that his regional tour constitutes a departure on the path to concluding a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Abe arrived Sunday in the oil-rich UAE, the second leg of his regional tour which has taken him to Saudi Arabia and will also take him to Egypt, Kuwait and Qatar. — MNA/Xinhua
New leaves of big and small trees seemed to be bearing the brunt of the intense heat of the month of Tabaung. Post-graduate diploma students made field trips to Bagan-NyaungU in NyaungU District like an excursion of high school students. Post-graduate students were of different ages and different careers and they included those who were not employed yet, those who were engaged in own business and company and departmental staff. Htanaung (Acacia Leucopehoe) and neem trees, tamarind trees, toddy palms, cactus trees and thorny trees revealed the nature of Upper Myanmar. The shadow of Htanaung was cool in the midday of high temperature. Drinking plain tea and having jaggery under the tree made us refresh. We learnt much about the region because of hospitality of the villagers answering all our questions.

We thought that there was scarcity of water in the dry area. Local people told us that there was much clean water as the Development Affairs Department implemented tube-well sinking project. We visited the tube-wells and found that the donors’ names and other facts about the well were written on the plaque. We thanked the donors and those who solved the problem of scarcity of water. We unanimously made a decision without consulting among us. It was the decision to donate a tube-well in a village where clean and drinking water was not available.

We collected cash before the end of our trip and donated it to the Development Affairs Department. The copies of the receipt were distributed to the fellow trainees. The department informed us to attend the 13th cash donation ceremony for water supply.

The ceremony was held at the meeting hall of DAD of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thetin Nyunt explained the measures for the supply of clean water in rural areas. He said the government is implementing the border area development project, the 24 special region development plan and five rural development tasks for development of the nation. The Head of State had given guidance to lay down a 10-year plan to supply clean water to all villages in three divisions of the arid region. According to the survey, there were 23,225 villages that needed clean water in the entire nation — 8,042 in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions and 15,183 villages in the remaining States and Divisions.

Tasks have been carried out to supply clean water to 7,891 villages among 8,042 in three arid divisions or 98 per cent up to the end of February 2007 in the 2006-07 financial year. Likewise, 9,206 villages out of 15,183 villages in other remaining states and divisions or 61 per cent have been facilitated with supply of clean water up to the end of February in 2006-07 financial year. A total of 17,097 villages out of 23,225 in all States and Divisions have been supplied with clean water.

A total of 1,753 wellwishers have donated over K 1,402.8 million, US $ 76,752, euro 770 and 10,012 FECs for the water supply task from the first to the 12th cash donation ceremonies. The people of 34 townships — 10 in Sagaing Division, 12 in Magway Division and 12 in Mandalay Division — can enjoy fruits of water supply tasks. Clean water supply tasks were also undertaken in Sagaing and Tanu Districts in Sagaing Division, Pakokku District in Magway Division and Mandalay and Kyaukse Districts in Mandalay Division.

The Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and accepted the donations. Also present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers, departmental officials and wellwishers.

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The development affairs committees have been assigned major duties for smooth transportation and supply of water for rural areas where about 70 per cent of the population live in the drive for rural development. Beginning 2000-2001 financial year, the department launched the 10-year clean water supply project for rural areas with the funds of the government and the Development Affairs Committees, cash donations of wellwishers, and contributions by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and international NGOs. Thanks to the cooperation, between 2000-2001 and February in 2007, the project had benefited 7,891 of 8,042 villages in three arid zones—Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions. About eight million local people have had access to clean water.

In accordance with the directives of the ministry and the department, responsible officials are to make increased efforts in sinking tube-wells and digging lakes and give educative talks to local people for ensuring durability of the facilities. He believed that the amount of cash donated by the wellwishers can be stated in figures but their goodwill and generosity were beyond words.

We witnessed that the heat of the arid zone disappeared under the pleasure and smile of the villagers who enjoyed benefits of the water supply project. Such smiles on their faces can often be seen in the areas.

After the ceremony, I conveyed the message of pleasure to my friends. During our field trip, we made a decision to donate cash to water supply project. Although cash donations of the post-graduate students can be counted, ardent desire and generosity to sink a tube- well for clean water in a village where there is scarcity of water cannot be fathomed.

Translation: NY

Myanma Alin: 27-4-2007
Kataik Dam in Paung Township, Thaton District,…

(from page 1)
safeguard the dam for its durability for posterity as it was built with a large amount of the State funds.

The Head of State has frequently given guidance on implementing projects for dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations for boosting the agriculture production.

Mon State cultivated 100,000 acres of physic nut plants in 2006-2007. Work is under way to cultivate 200,000 acres of physic nut plants in 2007-2008 and 200,000 acres in 2008-2009 in Mon State totaling 500,000 acres. At the same time, extended cultivation of pepper is being carried out to turn Mon State into a pepper state.

He urged the entire people including local farmers to strive for the development of economic and social sectors of the region making better use of the already-built infrastructures including the newly-opened Kataik Dam and put in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, a prerequisite for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo said that he like local people is pleased at the opening of Kataik Dam as it will be able to contribute to boosting the agricultural production of the region.

Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo delivers an address.

Mon State cultivated 100,000 acres of physic nut plants in 2006-2007. Work is under way to cultivate 200,000 acres of physic nut plants in 2007-2008 and 200,000 acres in 2008-2009 in Mon State totaling 500,000 acres. At the same time, extended cultivation of pepper is being carried out to turn Mon State into a pepper state, said that boosting the agricultural production is a driving factor for strong economy of the State, adding that the government is giving priority to boosting the agricultural production in order to ensure the development of economy of local people. In the process, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is making all-out efforts for boosting the per acre yield and for extended cultivation of crops.

There were 138 dams and reservoirs in 1988 across the nation along with 1.34 million acres of farmlands, and there are now 198 additional dams and reservoirs along with 2.6 million acres of farmlands.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is trying its utmost for boosting the per acre yield of ten major crops. As rubber grows well in Mon State extended growing of rubber is being launched while priority is being given to growing of physic nut plants in the region.

The government spent over K 7,012 million on construction of the dam. The dam is 5,200 feet long and 234 feet high and can store over 56,000 acre feet of water, he said. The dam will be able to prevent 10,000 acres of farmlands from being flooded and benefit double cropping, he said.

Unlike in the past, local farmers now have an opportunity to boost agricultural production, he said, calling for durability of the irrigation facility and conservation of watershed areas.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque of the dam.

The commander and the minister formally opened the dam and inspected the main embankment, spillway, control tower, storage of water, rubber and cashew plantations in the watershed areas.

Director U Hla Baw of Construction (6) of the Irrigation Department reported on steps taken to construct the dam and irrigation system. Irrigation Department Acting Director-General U Khin Zaw gave a supplementary report.

The minister gave instructions on supply of irrigation water for boosting agricultural production.

With a catchment area of eight square miles, Kataik Dam was built on the Kataik Creek, whose annual flow of water is about 59,000 acre feet, near Kataik Village in Paung Township. It has a 134 feet high and 5200 feet long embankment and its maximum water storage capacity is 56,000 acre feet.

It has a 650 feet conduit. It will be able to benefit 10,000 acres and protect the paddy fields downstream of the Yinmyein Creek from being inundated.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Dagon Bridge in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township. — CONSTRUCTION

Yangon, 1 May —Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, arrived at Dagon Bridge construction site in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township here by car this afternoon.

At the project briefing hall, bridge construction incharge senior engineer U Tint Lwin reported on progress in construction tasks and future tasks. The minister gave instructions on making efforts for earlier completion of the project and simultaneous implementation of work for construction of approach roads, laying of gravel and tarring of road and fulfilled the needs.

Next, the minister and party inspected the pillar (p-11). Senior engineer U Tint Lwin conducted them round the construction site.

Dagon Bridge is of RCD reinforced concrete type. It is 4,540 feet long and 72 feet wide and has 6-foot pedestrian lane on each side. It can withstand 75 tons of loads.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Dagon Bridge in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township. — A & R

YANGON, 1 May —Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, arrived at Dagon Bridge construction site in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township here by car this afternoon.

The approach roads to Yangon bank and Thanlyin bank have been completed and the bridge will be opened soon.—MNA

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Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Dagon Bridge in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township. — A & R
YANGON, 1 May — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe together with Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than arrived at Bago Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Office on an inspection tour on 29 April.

The minister and party inspected issuing of CSCs to town dwellers and gave necessary instructions. Next, the Director-General dealt with management to be made for issuing CSCs as quickly as possible.

Upon arrival at Waw Township, the minister looked into progress in issuing CSCs to the town dwellers. Next, the minister met with local authorities and members of social organizations, and gave instructions on issuing of CSCs to the town dwellers as soon as possible.

Afterwards, the minister oversaw related documents on issuing CSCs in Waw Township INRD. A total of 395 CSCs were issued to the town dwellers in Bago District, Bago Division (East).

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YANGON, 30 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected condition of rail roads and stations here yesterday.

After hearing reports on extension of railroads around Yangon, the commander fulfilled the requirements.

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Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued in Bago District

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Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued in Bago District

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Bilin Township MEB (Branch) gets new building

YANGON, 30 April — A new building of Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch) was opened in Bilin Township on 29 April.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win unveiled the signboard. Chairman of Thaton District Peace and Development Council U Tin Aung and Managing Director of Myanmar Economic Bank U Myat Maw cut the ribbon to officially open the new building. Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

After the opening, the commander, the minister and guests viewed around the building.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected Myanmar Economic Bank in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. The managing director of the Myanmar Economic Bank reported to the minister on the banking services. On his inspection tour, the minister also inspected the office of State’s Pension Department in Mawlamyine Township in Mon State today. At the office, the officials briefed the minister on the tasks of their respective departments.

Afterwards, the minister visited Nos 1 and 2 of Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch) and Myanmar Small Loans Department in Mawlamyine.

- MNA

Executive Management Courses (Multiplier) and Basic Solidarity Courses opened in three townships

YANGON, 30 April — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min watched the final match of inter-ward and village football tournament organized by Bago Division USDA at the sports ground in Thanatpin yesterday.

Yaykyaw Maketsy team beat Yaykyaw team (A) 3-1. CEC Member Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials presented prizes to the winners.

CEC Member Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min attended the opening ceremony of Executive Management Course (Multiplier) No 11/2007 and Basic Solidarity Course No 1/2007 in Kyauktaga Township.

The minister also attended similar ceremonies in Kyaukkyi and Pyu Townships.

Pya Township Peace and Development Council and Township Development Committee presented K 50,000 each to Township USDA.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min delivers an address at opening of Management Course (Multiplier) No 4 for executives of Kyaukkyi Township USDA. — MNA
YANGON, 1 May — The second Thutaswezon literary award presentation and a ceremony to mark the 25th Anniversary of Thutaswezon publishing house were held at Traders Hotel this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present were heads of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Information, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), CEC chairman, literati, members of Thutaswezon literary award selection committee, award winners and guests.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said he was glad to see literati. Every nation is making efforts to serve their national interest and bring about development of human resources that contributes towards the national development rather than progress of exhaustible natural resources.

He said in the country priority is given to the development of technology and human resources among the youth.

He said literati play an important role in human resource development. He spoke of the need to make efforts for keeping reading habit. He said 30 million books of different kinds were published in 2006.

He pointed out that attempts to harm cultural heritage and morale of the people are made through the media. Material development has been made in some nations but affluent society cannot be built due to the self and lack of social interest. Cultural heritage and national character are to be preserved in accord with the social objectives.

He urged the literati to serve the national interest.

The minister presented Thutaswezon life time achievement award to U Hla Kyang (Paragu) and he also presented to other winners of science and applied science category.

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presented awards winners of arts, translation and reference literature categories.

Dr Tin Tun Oo presented gifts for members of literary award selection committee to U Thaw Kaung, U Hla Kyang (Paragu) and Dr Thet Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Next, the minister had documentary photos taken with the literary award winners.

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YANGON, 30 April — Yangon Division Smooth and Secure Transport Supervisory Committee held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Command on 27 April, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division SSTSC Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Huy Win.

First, the commander called on officials concerned to carry out roads repair including No 2 and No 3 Highways without delay and take cooperative measures between bus lines and Division Transport Coordination Committee to ensure that 8 to 12 CNG cylinders are installed at buses that are plying on highways.

Next, officials concerned briefed the minister on management work for ensuring smooth and secure transport.

After hearing the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements and made concluding remarks.

MNA

Two wounded in terrorist-planted mines blasts

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 April — The insurgents are committing destructive acts through various ways with the intention of disrupting the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order and killing the people and making them panic.

Seventeen-year-old Min Thu Tun, son of U Kyaw Soe Naing at Aung Thukha Ward, Kyaukkyi, Bago Division, made his way to pick up vegetables on 26 April and stepped on a mine planted by insurgents and it went off. His right foot was blown off and right eyebrow wounded.

Injured Min Thu Tun was sent to Kyaukkyi Township People’s Hospital and Ye Aung to Mone Station Hospital. Medical treatment and necessary assistance were provided to the victims. The authorities and the local people are making arrangements to expose the insurgents. — MNA

Shanghai to form helicopter police

Shanghai, 1 May — Shanghai will buy three helicopters to form its first-ever helicopter police team, which will serve the security of the World Expo in 2010.

The municipal public security bureau signed a contract with the Eurocopter for the purchase on Saturday, including two light-duty EC135s and one medium-sized EC155.

These helicopters are expected to be put into use in 2008. They will also be used in hunting criminal suspects, anti-terrorist operations, directing ground traffic, disaster-relief operations and dealing with other emergencies, said Wu Zhiming, head of the public security bureau.

Founded in 1992, Eurocopter, a 100-per-cent subsidiary of the European Aeronautical Defence and Space Company, is world’s largest helicopter producer, accounting for more than 40 per cent of the turbine helicopter fleet in service in Asia.

According to Eurocopter, an EC135 can accommodate one pilot and seven passengers and an EC155 for two pilots and 13 passengers. — MNA/Xinhua
Pure Digital Technologies today introduced Flip Video(TM), a new line of ultra-convenient digital camcorders designed to shoot anything and share everything. Developed with Internet video sharing software integrated into the device, Flip Video (www.theflip.com) is the first camcorder to seamlessly upload directly to YouTube. These remarkably simple and affordable devices feature a major advance in video sharing technology combined with an ultra-portable design and easy video capture and editing. — INTERNET

Ex-CIA director faces criticism over memoir

WASHINGTON, 1 May — Ex-CIA Director George Tenet faced accusations of hypocrisy from former espionage officials on Monday for not speaking out earlier against the White House’s push to invade Iraq, which he criticizes in his new memoir.

Six former CIA officials, including former top terrorism experts, called on Tenet to return his presidential Medal of Freedom award for failing to speak out in 2002 and 2003 as the Administration pressed the case for war based on flawed intelligence.

“We also call for you to dedicate a significant percentage of the royalties from your book to the US soldiers and their families who have been killed and wounded in Iraq,” the officials said in a letter issued over the weekend.

“By your silence you helped build the case for war,” the letter said.

Tenet also came under fire from former CIA analyst Michael Scheuer, who headed the agency’s hunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The former director of central intelligence is out to absolve himself of the failings of 9/11 and Iraq,” Scheuer said in an op-ed piece in the Washington Post. “We should’t bury his attempt to let himself off the hook.”

Tenet, whose book At the Centre of the Storm: My Years at the CIA, went on sale on Monday, led the CIA during the 11 September attacks and played a prominent public role during the months preceding the Iraq invasion.

He resigned in 2004 as the second-longest-serving director of central intelligence. Bush later awarded him the presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award, for his service to the United States.

China details punishment for wrongdoing civil servants

BEIJING, 1 May— Government officials in China risk getting sacked if they use their influence to benefit a lover or become involved in other forms of corrupt behaviour, according to a regulation released by the central government on Sunday.

The 55-article regulation, scheduled to take effect on 1 June, details a variety of wrongdoings and misconduct and is designed “to make sure government officials perform their duty according to the law.”

The regulation stipulates that government officials who engage in corruption, organize superstitious gatherings, use drugs, engage in the sex trade or fail to fulfill their duties can be demoted or fired.

The regulation also allows for the firing of government officials who engage in corruption, organize superstitious gatherings, use drugs, engage in the sex trade or fail to fulfill their duties can be demoted or fired.

The regulation is “China’s first to systematically stipulate what administrative punishments civil servants abusing their power will receive,” sources said.

A Press conference on detailing the regulation was jointly held by the Central Committee for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Ministry of Supervision, Ministry of Personnel and the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council on Sunday.
China claims progress in medical fraud battle

BEIJING, 30 April—The number of complaints about illegal backstreet clinics, quacks and medical fraud in China fell 80 per cent last year, the Health Ministry said on Friday, as it tries to clean up the scandal-hit industry.

“The problem of engaging in medicine without documentation has been brought under initial control, and order has improved in the medical services market,” the ministry said in a statement on its website (www.moh.gov.cn).

In the past two years, authorities raided 11,000 backstreet clinics and 5,000 places offering illegal sex-selective abortions, the statement said, citing numbers from a joint meeting attended by health and public security officials.

They also revoked the medical licences of 921 individuals and 2,485 medical facilities, it said, naming some of the institutions implicated in improprieties.

The officials also urged continued vigilance against the illegal collection of blood — a problem that helped set off China’s AIDS problem in the 1990s.

“As soon as we find suspected illegal medical ads, we will track them down to see if the medical facility has broken any laws,” the statement said, quoting Deputy Health Ministry Ma Xiaowei.

China has been grappling with not only a spate of medical scandals but growing public anger at rising medical costs and poor service, including unnecessary treatments carried out by hospitals looking to earn some extra cash.

MNA/Reuters

Qatar’s $500m worth steel projects ready by year-end

BEIJING, 30 April—Qatar’s state-owned Qatar Steel Company is expected to complete three major expansion projects by the end of 2007, thereby increasing the steel production capacity of its annual rebar production capacity of 1.6 million tons, according to Sheikh Nasser. “We have launched these projects some two years ago. And we are on track to commission them this year,” said the manager.

He added that Qatar Steel was also expanding its rolling mill unit in Doha, the capital of United Arab Emirates. Once completed, it will have an annual capacity of 500,000 tons steel bar from the existing 300,000 tons.

MNA/Khanba

Prison Break hero is coming to China

BEIJING, 30 April—Prison Break star Wentworth Miller has been invited to visit China in June, media reports have recently revealed.

The Shanghai-based News Times reported Wentworth Miller as having been invited by Zhongbo Media Group, who have bought the rights from Fox to shoot an online video adaptation of the American hit TV drama.

Wentworth Miller has been invited to act as a final judge to select actors for the Chinese Prison Break.

The official said Beijing is likely to be the first leg of Miller’s China tour that might also includes Shanghai.

MNA/Internet

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
India for third research base
in Antarctica

NEW DELHI, 30 April — India Monday formally sought permission of the Antarctic Treaty (ATS) to set up a third research base in the icy continent in order to bolster its scientific presence there, Indo-Asian News Service reported here.

IANS reported that Indian Minister of Earth Sciences Kapil Sibal said India had asked permission of the treaty members in this regard and expressed the hope that it would get the green signal at the ongoing 30th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) here. The ATCM is being held in India for the first time.

India has two research bases in the Antarctica, called the Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri. However, the first one, Dakshin Gangotri, is completely non-functional as it is buried under ice. There are around 20 scientists working in Maitri.

The ATCM meeting here is being participated by scientists and experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations from more than 45 countries.

NDRC: More small coal mines to be shut down

BEIJING, 30 April — China’s top economic planner says that more small coal mines will be shut down because of their impact on resources and the environment, or because they fail to comply with the country’s industrial policy.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) reiterated in a circular issued on Monday that it would close down 4,000 small coal mines by the end of the year.

It said it would focus not only on illegal coal mines with poor safety facilities but on all small coal mines.

The process will be bottom-up, starting in the coal-producing towns themselves, said the commission.

It asked local governments to examine all coal mines with a production capacity of less than 300,000 tons and decide what to do with them. The country aims to reduce its number of small coal mines to 10,000 by 2010.

The commission said coal mines with a production capacity of less than 300,000 tons would no longer get building permits and ongoing small projects would be integrated with other coal mines where possible, expanded if conditions permit, or halted.

Scientists ‘reverse’ memory loss

NEW YORK, 30 April— Mental stimulation and drug treatment could help people with degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s recover their memories, a study says.

Scientists found mice with a similar condition to Alzheimer’s were able to regain memories of tasks they had previously been taught.

A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found two methods — brain stimulation and drugs — both worked.

Their findings were published in the journal Nature.

The researchers used genetically engineered mice in which a protein linked to degenerative brain disease could be triggered.

Scientists had previously given the mice tests where they learnt to avoid an electric shock and how to find their way through a maze to reach food.

After six weeks with the brain disease, the mice were no longer able to remember how to perform these tasks.

Some of the mice were then placed in a more stimulating environment with toys, treadmills and other mice.

“We show the first evidence that even if the brain suffered some very severe neurodegeneration and the individual exhibits very severe learning impairment and memory loss, there is still the possibility to improve learning ability and recover to a certain extent lost long-term memories.”

She said the study suggested that in people with degenerative brain diseases, memories were not erased from the brain, but rather could not be accessed because of the disease.

However, by demonstrating that lost memories can be accessed against these results offer hope of a better understanding of what happens to memories as dementia develops.

“It highlights the role of both an ‘enriching environment’ and through its focus on biochemical processes could provide important building blocks for new treatments to alleviate the symptoms of dementia.”

British physicist Stephen Hawking (C) is assisted as he floats during a ZERO-G flight aboard a modified Boeing 727 after taking off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida, recently. —XINHUA

Scientists found that Arctic melt faster than forecast

LONDON, 30 April— Arctic ice is melting faster than computer models of climate calculate, according to a group of US researchers.

Since 1979, the Arctic has been losing summer ice at about 9% per decade, but models on average produce a melting rate less than half that figure.

The scientists suggest forecasts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) may be too cautious.

The latest observations indicate that Arctic summers could be ice-free by the middle of the century.

“Somewhere in the second half of the century, it would happen,” said Ted Scambos of the National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC) at the University of Colorado.

“Some computer models show periods of great sensitivity where the Arctic ice system collapses suddenly, and that trend may occur a bit earlier than that’s the best guess, but exactly when it’s hard to say,” he told the BBC News website.

Dr Scambos co-authored the latest study, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, with other scientists from NSIDC and from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), also in Boulder, Colorado.

They also calculate that about half, if not more, of the warming observed since 1979 originates in humanity’s emissions of greenhouse gases.

Thousands of runners fill the street after their start on the Hamburg Marathon in central Hamburg on 29 April, 2007. —XINHUA

Scientists showed progress is possible even after major brain damage. —INTERNET

Scientists had previously given the mice tests where they learnt to avoid an electric shock and how to find their way through a maze to reach food.

4,000 small coal mines to be shut down. —INTERNET

Scientists showed progress is possible even after major brain damage. —INTERNET
**South Korean footballer Park expected to miss Asian Cup**

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May — South Korea's preparations for the AFC Asian Cup 2007 have taken a knock as the ace striker Park Ji-sung is expected out of action at least until August after a surgery, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Monday.

Park suffered the injury while playing for his club Manchester United in the English Premier League last month and had a complicated surgery in the United States last Saturday, the AFC said in a report on its official website.

"Ji-sung Park has had a complicated cartilage operation that required an expert in his field. He will be out for the remainder of the season and we will assess the situation again in August," a spokesman from the Manchester United was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

**O'Sullivan beats Robertson in snooker worlds**

LONDON, 1 May — Ronnie O'Sullivan, John Higgins, Allister Carter and Mark Selby all reached the quarterfinals after winning their respective matches at the world snooker championship here on Monday.

O'Sullivan fought off fierce challenge from Australia's Neil Robertson who came back from 6-2 down to level at 8-8 at the end of the afternoon.

But O'Sullivan dominated the evening session and won 13-10.

**Foreign soccer coach to cost Zambia 25,000 dollar monthly**

LUJAKA, 1 May — Zambia's search for an expatriate soccer coach will cost up to 25,000 US dollars monthly when the trainer is finally engaged, The Post reported on Monday.

The local newspaper quoted senior government officials as saying that to acquire the services of an average coach it will require a budget of no less than 25,000 dollars a month to cater for the salary and other expenses.

Sports Minister Gabriel Namulambe said that the Search Committee is looking into all the necessary aspects of engaging the expatriate coach. He said only Konkola Copper Mines, the biggest copper mine corporation in Zambia, has offered to meet the salary of the expatriate coach and it is therefore important to look at various other avenues before engaging the expatriate trainer. — MNA/Xinhua

**Ferguson urges Scholes to tread carefully in San Siro**

MANCHESTER, 1 May — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has warned Paul Scholes about rash tackles in Wednesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg against AC Milan, fearing he could miss another challenge in the first leg and be out for the remainder of the season.

United go into Wednesday's semi-final, second leg against AC Milan with a 3-2 advantage but midfield playmaker Scholes would sit out the Athens showpiece against either Liverpool or Chelsea, should United progress, if he got booked.

He suffered a similar fate in 1999 when he was forced to watch United's epic triumph over Bayern Munich in the Nou Camp from the sidelines because of suspension.

Ferguson told Scholes not to slide into any challenges in the first leg and will repeat his message to the 32-year-old ahead of the return in the San Siro.

"Paul has to make sure he doesn't get booked. That's without question," Ferguson, who also has Cristiano Ronaldo and Gabriel Heinze on yellow cards, told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

**Blatter says FIFA have World Cup back-up plan for 2010**

LONDON, 1 May — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has told the BBC that football's world governing body has contingency plans in case South Africa cannot host the World Cup in 2010. Blatter's comments to BBC TV's Inside Sport programme due to be broadcast on Monday night, were reported on the BBC Web site (www.bbc.co.uk) on Monday.

"Other countries are ready to organize the World Cup", Blatter is quoted as saying although he implied they would not be needed. He tells the programme that the United States, England, Mexico, Japan and Spain would be ready to step in, adding: "definitely we have a possibility to go somewhere else if something happens. "It was the same case in Germany. Something can happen. A natural catastrophe or whatever, a big change in society — everybody against football."

"But then for the time being the Plan B is South Africa and the Plan C we definitely must have is a possibility to go somewhere else, but it must be a natural catastrophe." — MNA/Reuters

**Liverpool must risk all for chance of Euro glory**

LONDON, 1 May — A place in the Champions League final is Liverpool's for the taking but to claim it they will have to take risks to get past an ailing but stubborn Chelsea on Tuesday.

Liverpool were lucky to escape with a 1-0 defeat from a first leg where they seemed so concerned with the tactical requirements of negating the London side that they completely forgot about launching attacks of their own. Now, to reach their second final in three years and earn a shot at a sixth European Cup they must find a way to goal.

At Stamford Bridge there was at least some justification for their cautious approach but on home ground, roared on by a full-throated Anfield chorus and against a stand-in centre back, it is time to deliver. Coach Rafael Benitez admitted to being angry with himself and his players after their meek first leg performance and being angry with himself and his players after their meek first leg performance and the ultra-calm Spaniard for once lost his

"We didn't play at our level and I was really disappointed but we are going to play at Anfield and it's just 1-0," he said.

He has had plenty of time to think about his line-up for Tuesday and rests most of his first team for the 2-1 league defeat at Portsmouth on Saturday.

**NBA Western Conference Playoffs in Denver**

Denver Nuggets center Marcus Camby (L) and forward Carmelo Anthony (R) defend San Antonio Spurs forward Bruce Bowen (C) in Game 4 of their NBA Western Conference Playoffs in Denver on 30 April, 2007. — INTERNET

**Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal bites his trophy after his victory over Guillermo Canas of Argentina during their final Open tennis match in Barcelona, Spain, on 29 April, 2007. Nadal won 6-3, 6-4. — INTERNET**

**Two-time snooker world champion Ronnie 'Rocket' O'Sullivan, pictured in 2000, fought off fierce challenge from Australia's Neil Robertson who came back from 6-2 down to level at 8-8 at the end of the afternoon.** — INTERNET

**Internet**

**South Korean footballer Park expected to miss Asian Cup**

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May — South Korea's preparations for the AFC Asian Cup 2007 have taken a knock as the ace striker Park Ji-sung is expected out of action at least until August after a surgery, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Monday.

Park suffered the injury while playing for his club Manchester United in the English Premier League last month and had a complicated surgery in the United States last Saturday, the AFC said in a report on its official website.

"Ji-sung Park has had a complicated cartilage operation that required an expert in his field. He will be out for the remainder of the season and we will assess the situation again in August," a spokesman from the Manchester United was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

**O'Sullivan beats Robertson in snooker worlds**

LONDON, 1 May — Ronnie O'Sullivan, John Higgins, Allister Carter and Mark Selby all reached the quarterfinals after winning their respective matches at the world snooker championship here on Monday.

O'Sullivan fought off fierce challenge from Australia's Neil Robertson who came back from 6-2 down to level at 8-8 at the end of the afternoon.

But O'Sullivan dominated the evening session and won 13-10.

**Foreign soccer coach to cost Zambia 25,000 dollar monthly**

LUJAKA, 1 May — Zambia's search for an expatriate soccer coach will cost up to 25,000 US dollars monthly when the trainer is finally engaged, The Post reported on Monday.

The local newspaper quoted senior government officials as saying that to acquire the services of an average coach it will require a budget of no less than 25,000 dollars a month to cater for the salary and other expenses.

Sports Minister Gabriel Namulambe said that the Search Committee is looking into all the necessary aspects of engaging the expatriate coach. He said only Konkola Copper Mines, the biggest copper mine corporation in Zambia, has offered to meet the salary of the expatriate coach and it is therefore important to look at various other avenues before engaging the expatriate trainer. — MNA/Xinhua

**Ferguson urges Scholes to tread carefully in San Siro**

MANCHESTER, 1 May — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has warned Paul Scholes about rash tackles in Wednesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg against AC Milan, fearing he could miss another challenge in the first leg and be out for the remainder of the season.

United go into Wednesday's semi-final, second leg against AC Milan with a 3-2 advantage but midfield playmaker Scholes would sit out the Athens showpiece against either Liverpool or Chelsea, should United progress, if he got booked.

He suffered a similar fate in 1999 when he was forced to watch United's epic triumph over Bayern Munich in the Nou Camp from the sidelines because of suspension.

Ferguson told Scholes not to slide into any challenges in the first leg and will repeat his message to the 32-year-old ahead of the return in the San Siro.

"Paul has to make sure he doesn't get booked. That's without question," Ferguson, who also has Cristiano Ronaldo and Gabriel Heinze on yellow cards, told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

**Blatter says FIFA have World Cup back-up plan for 2010**

LONDON, 1 May — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has told the BBC that football's world governing body has contingency plans in case South Africa cannot host the World Cup in 2010. Blatter's comments to BBC TV's Inside Sport programme due to be broadcast on Monday night, were reported on the BBC Web site (www.bbc.co.uk) on Monday.

"Other countries are ready to organize the World Cup", Blatter is quoted as saying although he implied they would not be needed. He tells the programme that the United States, England, Mexico, Japan and Spain would be ready to step in, adding: "definitely we have a possibility to go somewhere else if something happens. "It was the same case in Germany. Something can happen. A natural catastrophe or whatever, a big change in society — everybody against football."

"But then for the time being the Plan B is South Africa and the Plan C we definitely must have is a possibility to go somewhere else, but it must be a natural catastrophe." — MNA/Reuters

**Liverpool must risk all for chance of Euro glory**

LONDON, 1 May — A place in the Champions League final is Liverpool's for the taking but to claim it they will have to take risks to get past an ailing but stubborn Chelsea on Tuesday.

Liverpool were lucky to escape with a 1-0 defeat from a first leg where they seemed so concerned with the tactical requirements of negating the London side that they completely forgot about launching attacks of their own. Now, to reach their second final in three years and earn a shot at a sixth European Cup they must find a way to goal.

At Stamford Bridge there was at least some justification for their cautious approach but on home ground, roared on by a full-throated Anfield chorus and against a stand-in centre back, it is time to deliver. Coach Rafael Benitez admitted to being angry with himself and his players after their meek first leg performance and the ultra-calm Spaniard for once lost his

"We didn't play at our level and I was really disappointed but we are going to play at Anfield and it's just 1-0," he said.

He has had plenty of time to think about his line-up for Tuesday and rests most of his first team for the 2-1 league defeat at Portsmouth on Saturday.

**NBA Western Conference Playoffs in Denver**

Denver Nuggets center Marcus Camby (L) and forward Carmelo Anthony (R) defend San Antonio Spurs forward Bruce Bowen (C) in Game 4 of their NBA Western Conference Playoffs in Denver on 30 April, 2007. — INTERNET

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**Internet**
Mrs. Monica Mya Maung (M.B.E) (Age 92)
Mrs. Monica Mya Maung, mother of U Myint Bo and Daw Su Su, passed away peacefully at her home, 22 Poyazar Road, Kyaukse, Yangon, at 7:02 am, Tuesday, May 1, 2007. She was cremated at Yay-Way cemetery on the same day, according to her wishes.

Greek police station attacked

ATHENS, 1 May — Attackers threw a hand grenade and fired 17 rounds with a semi-automatic weapon at a police station in Athens early on Monday, damaging police cars and civilians vehicles but injuring no one.

Police said they were investigating the possible involvement of local guerrilla groups in the attack in the Nea Ionia district, the worst a spate of strikes on police stations and banks.

Self-styled anarchists and leftist fringe groups have in the past week staged several strikes, including hurling petrol bombs at a central Athens police station, torching cars and forcing officers inside to flee.

They claimed their attacks were in support of jailed comrades.

“After the attacks we have witnessed over the past few days but we rule out nothing,” a police official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

Police were also investigating whether the 9mm rounds used in the Nea Ionia attack came from several weapons stolen from police guards in the past 18 months.

“Special Storm News”

(issued at 14:30 hrs MST on 1-5-2007)

According to the observations at (12:30) MST today, a depression has formed over the Gulf of Thailand and is centred about (100) miles East of Kawthoung (Myanmar). It is moving westward slowly.

Under the influence of the depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division (Southern Myanmar) with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during next (36) hrs commencing this evening today. Surface wind speed in rain may reach (40-45) mph. Squalls with temporary rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 30 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mon State, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Kayin State, Bago and Ayeawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay Division, (5°C) above normal in upper Sagain and Magway Divisions, (7°C) above normal in Ayeawady Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Minbu (43°C) each, Monywa, Mandalay, Pyinmana, Magway and Pakokku (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pathein (2.48) inches, Thayawaddy (2.36) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (0.79) inch and Yangon (Central) (0.52) inch.

Maximum temperature on 30-4-2007 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 1-5-2007 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-5-2007 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 30-4-2007 was (3.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-5-2007 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.79) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.52) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.79) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.87) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (18) mph from Southwest at (15:20) hours MST on 30-4-2007.

Bai influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Special feature: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, a depression has formed over the Gulf of Thailand. It is moving westward slowly.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States. Mandalay Division with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Squally with temporary rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 2-5-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-5-2007: Partly cloudy.
Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

New well to produce over 3 million cubic ft of gas per day

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi expects production of gas at new Well No 1 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Maubin. — ENERGY

The new well is located two miles south of Maubin and 18 miles south of Nyaungdon gas field. The Ministry of Energy is making efforts to meet the demands of vehicles, gas-fuelled turbines and factories.

YANGON, 1 May — National League for Democracy (Central) is attempting to push the nation to a life of servitude and to become a minion of the imperialists. The acts of the party have proved that the party relies too much on big western nations.

The NLD (Central) is in contact with the US Embassy in Yangon and the public criticizes and condemns the NLD that they are undermining the interest of the people and the nation after receiving the instructions through the embassy. The public is keeping watch on their contact.

US embassy officials visited the NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road 11 times in March. They met CEC members of the NLD and sent letters and parcels to them.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi laid down work plans for oil and gas exploration and fulfilled the requirements during his tour. — MNA

YANGON, 1 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi went to the gas field in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday and inspected production of natural gas at the new Well No 1.

At the meeting with officials of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the ministry, the minister called for increasing production of oil and natural gas for domestic consumption. He also urged them to make a detailed assessment of potential for oil and gas in order to continue exploring new wells in the field.

On his tour of inspection, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi awarded the employees who participated in exploration and drilling of the new well which is expected to produce 3.2 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The new well is located two miles south of Maubin and 18 miles south of Nyaungdon gas field. The Ministry of Energy is making efforts to meet the demands of vehicles, gas-fuelled turbines and factories.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi laid down work plans for oil and gas exploration and fulfilled the requirements during his tour. — MNA

**Significant Day Temperatures**

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>108°F</td>
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<td>YANGON</td>
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