Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than calls for extended rubber cultivation in Myaungmya District

Myaungmya Township set its target of 203,702 acres of monsoon paddy and 114,710 acres of summer paddy every year. A total of 203,719 acres of monsoon paddy and 114,797 acres of summer paddy have been grown while over 638 acres have been put under physic nut plants in the township.

In meeting with departmental personnel at Mya Shwewa Hall in Myaungmya, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for extended cultivation of edible oil crops in the township. Myaungmya Township has a large surplus of rice but edible oil is not sufficient enough for the area, he said. He also urged officials concerned to encourage the rubber cultivation in the region.

He also stressed the need for promotion of education standard in the township to improve the ability of youth and for improvement of medical care to residents.

As rural people are majority of the population of the country, the Government is undertaking five rural area development tasks. Therefore, governmental staff are to participate in implementing the tasks joining hands with local people, he said.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited a 70-acre rubber farm of a local farmer in Myaungmya Township.

Head of Myaungmya Township Forestry Department U Kyaw Swe reported on cultivation of 3,000 acres of rubber. During his tour of Myaungmya Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also visited a private chicken farm where 41,000 chickens are being raised. He also visited a rubber farm in the township. Myaungmya Township set its target of 10,000 acres of rubber this year, and the township is expected to put 6,500 acres under rubber at the end of this year, an official of the township said in his report to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for extended cultivation of rubber plants in the region while there is an increased demand for rubber. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Utilize transport facilities effectively for socio-economic development

The Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) was put into commission on 28 April.

The facility is on the Ngamoeyeik Creek to link Thingangyun Township with Thakaya Township in Yangon Division. Thanks to its emergence, Thanlyin, Kayan, Thonegwa and Kyauktan townships and Thilawa Port are easily accessible in a short time and commodity flow becomes swift, so local people will enjoy better socio-economic life.

Previously, the goods unloaded at the Thilawa Port were delivered to Yangon through Dagon Bridge. Now the goods can be directly delivered across the nation through the Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) and No 2 Road.

In addition, the regional road network has been extended to Kungyangon-Dedaye-Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maubin-Nyaungdon-Yangon through Bayintnaung Bridge and Twantay Bridge.

The government has been building more and more railroads, roads and bridges the length and breadth of the Union for ensuring smooth transport. National people are therefore urged to effectively use the facilities for regional development and collectively maintain them for their durability.

USDA Secretariat member meets with members of Pazaundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDAs

YANGON, 3 May — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with secretaries, executives and members of Mingala Taungnyunt and Pazaundaung Township USDAs at the office of Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDA this afternoon.

Secretariat member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan heard reports on undertakings of township USDAs at the office of Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDA this afternoon.

In response to the reports, the minister said he was much delighted to discuss public welfare services, regional development tasks and future programmes being undertaken by the township USDAs. The USDA has been founded to serve the national interests and members of the association on their part are to redouble their efforts to successfully carry out public welfare services. The USDA will also render necessary assistance to township USDAs.

He stressed the need for implementation of the tasks beneficial to the youth, and members of the USDA are to strive for developing human resources by conducting summer courses for the youth. Moreover, all in cooperation with the people are to exert their efforts to carry out the tasks of education, health and rural area development laid down by the State.

After that, Secretariat member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan provided cash assistance and exercise books to the township USDAs and greeted USDA members.

Prizes presented to state, division, township bank branches

YANGON, 3 May — A ceremony to present prizes to outstanding bank branches of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at the meeting hall of the bank on Pansodan Street this morning.

Managing Director of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank U Tin Lwan delivers an address at a ceremony to honour bank branches. — MNA

First, Managing Director of MADB U Tin Lwan made a speech on the occasion. Banks which earned net profit over K 400 million during 2006-2007 financial year and contributed 300 million kyats to the State were awarded. — MNA
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

‘Up to half’ of Mars may have ice

LONDON, 2 May—Scientists in the US say that initial data from a new way of scanning Mars has shown up to half of the Red Planet’s surface may contain ice.

The new method of scanning for water offers vastly more accurate readings than before, they say. The data could prove vital for the Phoenix Mars Mission which launches this August and which will put a lander on the surface to dig for ice.

The new data shows wide variation as to how deep below the surface ice exists. The deposits — far beyond the ice that is known to exist in the planet’s North Pole — could be so large that were they to melt, they would deluge the planet in water forming an ocean.

Up until now, scientists had been able to search for water deposits using a spectrometer fixed to the orbiting Mars Odyssey spacecraft. It is a device that measures nuclear radiation coming from a planet to detect different materials.— Internet

Diabetes may cut male fertility

LONDON, 2 May—Diabetes damages a man’s sperm and may reduce fertility, say UK researchers.

Tests showed DNA in sperm from diabetic men had more signs of damage than in men without the condition.

Defective sperm DNA is one cause of male infertility, pregnancy failure and miscarriage but the implications for sperm affected by diabetes is unknown.

Writing in Human Reproduction, the team said the findings were worrying given rapidly rising rates of diabetes and more research was needed.

The study of 56 sperm samples is the first to compare the quality of DNA in sperm from men with and without diabetes.

Although there is no significant evidence that men with diabetes are less fertile, or their children less healthy, it is of some concern that more of their sperm DNA may be damaged Around 52% of the DNA in the sperm cells was fragmented in diabetic men compared with 32% in men without the condition.

The study also found a higher rate of deletions of DNA in the mitochondria — tiny, energy-generating compartments found within cells.—Internet

British girl, 12, dies after being shot in head

LONDON, 2 May—A 12-year-old girl who was shot in the head in Manchester died on Tuesday, police said.

Her 16-year-old brother has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. The girl, who has not been named, was taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary on Monday night, suffering from critical injuries following the incident in the Gorton area of the city.

She was later transferred to Pendlebury Children’s Hospital but died on Tuesday morning. Greater Manchester Police Superintendent John O’Hare said officers were called to a house in Gorton after reports of a shooting, but declined to say what type of gun had been fired.

“It is a powerful weapon, and it’s a weapon that has killed a 12-year-old girl,” he told reporters.

“It’s a weapon that you shouldn’t have and it’s a weapon that shouldn’t have been with the individual last night.”

He said the shooting brought home “the tragic and really evil consequences of firearms within our community”.—MNA/Reuters

Britney back on stage

SAN DIEGO, 2 May—Britney Spears took the stage late Tuesday at the House of Blues, making what is believed to be her first public concert appearance in nearly three years.

Starting the five-song set with her debut single “Baby One More Time,” Spears was back in top form. The one-time teen pop Queen appeared onstage in boots, a sparkly pink bra top and a short white skirt with her belly ring out.

“The drama of the past few months appeared to be behind her. Her only words came as she was leaving. “Thanks everyone for coming,” she told the packed club, where people paid upward of $125 a ticket.—Internet

China battles forest fire in N-E mountains

SHANGHAI, 2 May—China was sending thousands of personnel to battle a forest fire across a three kilometres (1.9 mile) front in its remote northeastern mountains on Tuesday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters had reached the scene of the blaze in the Great Xingan Mountains, near the Russian border in Heilongjiang Province, after the alarm was sounded on Monday.

The local meteorological bureau has forecast strong winds in the next few days, which could make controlling the fire difficult, Xinhua said.

A 1987 fire in the heavily forested Great Xingan Mountains, China’s worst blaze in four decades, killed at least 200 people and destroyed some one million hectares (2.5 million acres) of timberland in three weeks.

The State Forestry Administration said in January that China could face an “extremely serious” threat from forest fires this year because of global warming and the El Nino effect, which is caused by warming of Pacific waters off South America and can disrupt rainfall patterns.—MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 May—An American soldier died of non-battle causes in Iraq and the US forces detained 12 suspected insurgents in the country, the US military said on Wednesday.

The soldier died at approximately 10:30 am (0630 GMT) on Tuesday, the military said in a brief statement.

Separately, the US troops detained ten suspected insurgents, believed to be linked to the al-Qaeda in Iraq organization, in Iraq’s western Anbar Province, another statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

Singer Britney Spears
Saudi Arabia restricts chemical use after militant plot

RIYADH, 2 May — Saudi Arabia on Monday curbed the sale of industrial and agricultural chemicals that can be used to make explosives used by al-Qaeda-linked militants fighting to bring down the US-allied monarchy.

The government decision comes days after the US-allied monarchy arrested 172 militants, the government said it had demanded of rich nations by the U.N.’s Kyoto Protocol.

The Ministry of Agriculture will nominate four Saudi companies to be the sole importers of these materials, and they will sell them to licensed farmers,” said a Cabinet statement carried by the official news agency SPA.

Developing nations that are fast industrializing, such as China and India, have braked their rising greenhouse gas emissions by more than the total cuts demanded of rich nations by the U.N.’s Kyoto Protocol. —INTERNET

Air India’s first freighter
Airbus “A310” arrives

MUMBAI, 2 May — Air India, which will be starting its dedicated cargo operations from June, received its first freighter Airbus A310 on 27 April while its second freighter aircraft is expected to be delivered in June. Air India had initially acquired this aircraft in 1990 for passenger operations. The aircraft was converted into a freighter aircraft by European Aeronautic Defence & Space Company (EADS) NV, a subsidiary of Airbus based in Germany.

On Friday the Interior Ministry said police had seized weapons including rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles, as well as computers and more than 20 million riyals (5 million dollars) in cash from the armed cells. — MNA/Reuters

The decision allowed the import of the chemicals in their solid form for medical, industrial and scientific purposes only.

The Ministry of Agriculture will nominate four Saudi companies to be the sole importers of these materials, and they will sell them to licensed farmers,” said a Cabinet statement carried by the official news agency SPA.

Police arrest 30 in Europe-wide animal rights raids

LONDON, 2 May— Police arrested 30 people in a series of coordinated raids across Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands on Tuesday as part of investigations into animal rights extremism.

Police in Hampshire, southern England, said in a statement around 300 officers and support staff from British, Dutch and Belgian forces were involved in the raids.

“The people arrested are all suspected of being involved in criminal activity associated with animal rights extremism,” the statement said.

“All have been taken to undisclosed police stations across the country and will be interviewed throughout the day.”

Police declined to give any more details of those arrested but said searches of various premises were continuing and officers were “working with the local communities to minimize any disruption”. — MNA/Reuters

Local residents cycle past chimneys at a steel factory in Shenyang, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 3 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Palestinians ball at demands for reporter’s release

RAMALLAH (West Bank), 2 May — The Palestinian Government held talks on Monday with those holding abducted BBC reporter Alan Johnston in the Gaza Strip and rejected their ransom demands, Deputy Prime Minister Azzam al-Ahmad said. “There was a phone conversation with the abductors this morning. For our part, all the conditions that were made (by the captors) were rejected,” Ahmad, a Fatah leader, told reporters in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Ahmad declined to give further details but added that talks were at a sensitive stage some six weeks after Johnston was kidnapped.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was quoted by a German broadcaster on Friday as saying the government knows the journalist’s whereabouts.

Johnston, 44, the only foreign correspondent based full time in Gaza, has not been heard of since his car was found abandoned on 12 March.

Ahmad said that Johnston was in good condition, rejecting claims earlier this month that an al-Qaeda-linked group had killed him. — MNA/Reuters
India, Bangladesh renew bilateral trade protocol

NEW DELHI, 2 May—India and Bangladesh Tuesday renewed the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade for the next two years to facilitate bilateral trade.

“Our objective is to expand trade and commerce between the two nations and take it to its highest potential. Inland water trade is the most economical mode of carrying cargo and that is why we signed this protocol today,” Shipping Secretary AK Mohapatra said here.

The protocol was signed by Mohapatra and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Enayatullah. The earlier Protocol signed in 1972 has facilitated inland water trade between the countries at their different ports.

Saying that this protocol has resulted in enhancing trade between both the nations by almost 13 times in the past 10 years, he suggested there was a need to sign a long-term renewal of protocol.

Currently India and Bangladesh has four Ports of Call each in their domain for enabling loading and unloading of each other’s cargo.

During the two-day deliberations with Bangladeshi officials Indian officials sought access to their ports at Narayanganj, Meghnaghat, Paglaghat and Noapara and in turn the neighbouring country’s officials sought access to inland water ports like Budge Budge, Siltghat and Badarpur, Mohapatrasaid.

Both Mohapatra and Enayatullah have assured to take up the issue of access to inland ports with their respective governments. —MNA/PTI

Dubai’s Emaar to invest in leisure project in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 May—Emaar Properties, one of the world largest property firms by market value, will invest more than 600 million US dollars to build resort in island of Lombok of eastern Indonesia’s West Nusa Tenggara Province, chairman of the company Mohamed Alabbar said here Monday.

The biggest Arab property company, which has a market value of 25 billion US dollars, and its joint venture in Indonesia the Asset Management Company (PPA) signed an agreement on the projects on Monday, witnessed by Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla and the chairman of the company at the Vice-Presidential office here.

Alabbar said that the development of the projects would start next year but an international airport had already started.

All the works were planned to be finished in 2009, he said.

They will invest more than 600 million US dollars to build resort in Lombok Island, Alabbar told a joint Press conference.

The company, which operates in 33 countries, chose Lombok, which is located near Indonesia’s beautiful resort of Bali, for the reason of building new style of tourist destination, he said. Deputy chairman of the PPA Raden Pardede said that the project now had 1,175 hectares of land for the resort.

Indonesian Tourism Minister Jero Wacik said that the chairman of the company promised to bring about two million tourists per year when all the projects are delivered.

Besides, scores of airlines would also open routes to the island, he said.

Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla gave support to the companies to finish the works. Tourists can enjoy life in the tropical country, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Rich oil field discovered in northern Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, 2 May—Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah announced here on Monday that a rich oil field was discovered in northern Kuwait, the official KUNA news agency reported.

In a statement, Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah said that initial examination of the site proved it contained a huge amount of light oil and affiliate gas, but he did not release the reserves of the new field.

It is the sixth field discovered in northern Kuwait, the minister was quoted by KUNA as saying, noting that the discovery “will have great positive impact on the country’s oil strategy”.

Accounting for 10 per cent of the world’s proven oil reserves, Kuwait boasted proven oil reserves of about 101.5 billion barrels and now produces 2.45 million barrels of crude oil per day. —MNA/Xinhua

Malawi exporting 400,000 tons of maize to Zimbabwe

LILONGWE, 2 May—Malawi has begun exporting 400,000 tons of maize to Zimbabwe which faces a 1.5-million-ton maize deficit, Finance Minister Goodall Gondwe said on Tuesday.

Gondwe told Reuters that some 5,000 tons had been shipped to Zimbabwe since March.

“The 400,000 tons will take six months to be exported to Zimbabwe and we have agreed that within this period the (Zimbabwe) authorities (will) pay for the maize,” Gondwe said.

Malawi expects to produce 3.1 million tons of maize this crop year, its biggest harvest in 10 years which saw the government lifting an export ban.

The record harvest is due to good rains and a successful fertilizer and seed distribution programme. —MNA/Reuters

Miss Universe Zuleyka Rivera from Puerto Rico, speaks during a Miss Universe media evening at a hotel in Mexico City on 2 May, 2007. —INTERNET

A tourist takes photos of Giza pyramids in Cairo, capital city of Egypt, in 25 April, 2007 file photo. Egypt entered its midseason of tourism from April, more and more tourists from all over the world came here to feel its ancient culture. —Xinhua
UK and US must admit defeat and leave Iraq, says British general

LONDON, 3 May—A retired British army general says Iraq’s insurgents are justified in opposing the occupation, arguing that the US and its allies should “admit defeat” and leave Iraq before more soldiers are killed.

General Sir Michael Rose told the BBC’s Newsnight programme: “It is the soldiers who have been telling me from the frontline that the war they have been fighting is a hopeless war, that they cannot possibly win it and the sooner we start talking politics and not military solutions, the sooner they will come home and their lives will be preserved.”

Asked if that meant admitting defeat, the general replied: “Of course we have to admit defeat. The British admitted defeat in north America and the catastrophes that were predicted at the time never happened. “The catastrophes that were predicted after Vietnam never happened. The same thing will occur after we leave Iraq.”

General Rose is a former SAS commander and head of UN forces in Bosnia. Last year, he called for Tony Blair to be impeached for going to war on “false pretences”. He has written a book, entitled Washington’s War, which compares the Iraqi rebels to George Washington’s irregular forces in the American war of independence. —Internet

Malaysian PM orders immediate inspection of all govt buildings

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 May—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has ordered an immediate inspection of all government buildings following recent cases of some safety problems, local Press reported Tuesday.

Badawi, who said he was angry and embarrassed, instructed the Public Works Department under the Works Ministry to inspect all government buildings immediately.

The instruction came in the wake of the collapse of a ceiling due to a leaky sprinkler system at the Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Ministry last Saturday and a similar incident on Monday which saw ceiling panels fell to the floor in another government complex.

Earlier on 11 April, the Immigration Department headquarters had to be closed after water flooded the seven-storey building.

“I feel ashamed. These are new buildings and there are problems. There must be something wrong,” the Prime Minister told reporters Monday after chairing a meeting here. He also emphasized the importance of proper maintenance of buildings. — MNA/Xinhua

Israeli Cabinet Minister quits over Lebanon war report

JERUSALEM, 2 May—A member of Ehud Olmert’s Cabinet quit on Tuesday, opening the first crack in Israel’s Government after the Prime Minister vowed to ride out a scathing reprimand by an inquiry into last year’s costly Lebanon war.

Announcing he was stepping down, Eitan Cabel, a minister without portfolio from the Israeli leader’s main governing partner, the Labour Party, told a news conference: “I cannot sit in a government headed by Ehud Olmert”.

Cabel said Olmert “must resign” after the Winograd Commission probing the conflict with Hizbollah gunfire listed severe failings on the part of the Premier, Defence Minister Amir Peretz of Labour and the Army Chief, who has already quit.

The panel said the government had rubber-stamped the decision to go to war but Olmert bore “supreme responsibility” for launching the air, sea and land offensive without a proper plan after Hizbollah seized two Israeli soldiers on 12 July.

The government-appointed commission, however, stopped short of recommending that Olmert step down. A snap Israel Radio opinion poll after its interim report examining the start of the war found that 69 per cent of Israelis wanted Olmert to go.

A model wearing a design by Australian design label, Silence is Golden, poses on the catwalk during the women’s ready-to-wear group collection show at Australian Fashion Week in Sydney on 30 April, 2007. A total of 76 designers from the Asia-Pacific region will showcase their designs in individual, women’s and men’s ready-to-wear and New Generation shows over five days.—Xinhua

Nigeria to drive vision for locally made satellite

ABUJA, 2 May— Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said here on Monday that the National Space Technology Centre would drive the country’s vision to develop its own locally made satellite.

Addressing the inauguration of the national space centre, which would also serve as the satellite control and network operations centre, Obasanjo said that the centre would be the first of its type in sub-Saharan Africa.

“This centre is expected to drive our vision of building the first made in Nigeria satellite which will be launched by a Nigerian launcher on a Nigerian launching pad by year 2025,” he said.

“We can do it and we will do it,” Obasanjo said, adding that countries that made progress in space science started from the basics and moved on to develop into full scale space technology.

He noted that space technology was critical to the realization of the millennium development goals and the holistic reforms agenda initiated by his administration.

He said space science would guarantee the availability and speedy access to real-time data and geo-spatial information as well as the availability of relevant infrastructure and backbone for information communication. —MNA/Xinhua

Hungary-born Charles Simonyi of the US, a former software developer at Microsoft, waves as he practises a helicopter evacuation procedure at the Star City space centre outside Moscow. Simonyi is due to blast off to the International Space Station (ISS) from Baikonur Cosmodrome on board a Soyuz TMA-10 rocket in spring. —Xinhua

Two spotted-billed pelicans are seen in front of their “bridal house” decorated by zookeepers at a bird zoo in Fuzhou, southeastern China’s Fujian Province, on 25 April, 2007. —Internet
In the early 1990s, Myanmar engineers built a fine uphill road to Taunggyi. So the previous road can be used as one-way downhill one, and that brings down the rate of traffic accidents and contributes towards smooth transport.

Today the roads have to cope with a growing number of vehicles. So had not the government built the new road, the rate of traffic accidents there would have increased. Thanks to the arrangements made by the visionary leaders of the Tatmadaw government, the vehicles can now drive safely into and out of Taunggyi.

In its bid for Taunggyi to possess all characteristics of a city, the government established a new town under the name of Ayethayar, upgraded the road in Taunggyi to Union Highway, established Sao San Htun market, upgraded Myoma Market to a three-storey one, built a new road, the rate of traffic accidents and contributes towards smooth education, and reliance on plain regions for rice. However now the food sufficiency of the entire Shan State has reached 131 per cent resulting from the three objectives the Tatmadaw government is implementing—to produce rice in surplus, to ensure edible oil sufficiency, and to extensively cultivate industrial raw materials.

Other ones among the causes Shan State is enjoying the fruits of food security are extensive reclamation of vacant and fallow lands, construction of more than 80 irrigation facilities, large, medium and small, and highland reclamation project and establishment of tractor stations.

It also built Hsipaw-Namlan-Panketo-Mongkai Loilem Road linking Shan State (South) to Shan State (North) to ensure swift commodity flow in the region. The network of roads covers Kengtung-Tachileik in Shan State (East). Moreover the region has seen Taunggyi-Yaksawk-Kyauktgu-Nawngkhio Road, Taunggyi-Hamyinmo-Mandalay Road and Pinlaung-Pyinmana Road.

Due to the combined efforts of the Tatmadaw members and the engineers of the Myanma Railways, there have also emerged 101.92 miles long Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw Railroad linking Shan State (South) and Kayah State, 37.50 miles long Shwenyaung-Yaksawk Road in Taunggyi District and 165.06 miles long Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Namshan Railroad that link Taunggyi District to Loilem District.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than calls for extended rubber cultivation in …

Farmers can earn more income from the cultivation of rubber and can enjoy a high standard of living. Therefore, the government is encouraging the rubber cultivation by disseminating the cultivation methods and distributing rubber saplings, he said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung went to Labutta Township and participated in cultivation of physic nut plants along with local people.

On his tour of Labutta, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials and urged them to make efforts for an increase in paddy yield and reclamation of more arable land.

The commander and party also visited the hospital in Labutta, which was opened by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on arrangements for supply of water to locals.

He also inspected water supply facilities in Labutta. Labutta Township Development Affairs Department stored 761 gallons of water in 17 tanks and supplied water to the residents. An official of the department reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

During his visit to the village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also inspected regional development tasks and two jetties.

Also present on the occasion were chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, CEC members, Central Council members, the chairpersons of States and Divisions Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, secretaries and joint-secretaries, officials of the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and partnership associations.

Firstly, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe made an opening address at the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the commander and party viewed documentary photos on the activities of MMCWA and States and Divisions MCWSCs.

Horticulture Show on 5 May

YANGON, 2 May — The First Myanmar Horticulture show, meeting and contest will be held at Myaypadetha Island in Bahan Township on a grand scale from 5 to 8 May. Everyone can take part in the horticulture contest. Cash awards will be presented to first, second and third prize winners of plant with fruit and fruit contests. Awards will be presented on each kind. A variety of fruit and vegetables from various regions of Myanmar will be displayed at the show. Everyday can attend the meeting and participate in discussions.

Everyone can visit the show free of charge and contact Ph: 01-703754 and 01-514226 for further details.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and guests view documentary photos of MMCWA and state/division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees. — MNA

Prize awarded to winner in ASEAN New Media Art Competition

YANGON, 3 May — Jointly organized by the ASEAN New Media Art Competition 2006 Organizing Committee and Myanmar Computer Federation, the prize presentation ceremony for the ASEAN New Media Art Competition 2006 was held at Myanmar Info-Tech Building on Hlaing University Campus, here, this afternoon.

Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department and Chairman of the Organizing Committee MCP President U Thein Oo gave opening addresses. Organizing Committee member U Thein Tun Pe explained matters related to the competition.

Next, the director-general presented the prize to U Wunna Kyaw who stood second in the competition with Htoo in Wonder Island.

Winner U Wunna Kyaw reported on facts about New Media Art and replied to the queries raised by those present.

Also present on the occasion were chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, CEC members, Central Council members, the chairpersons of States and Divisions Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, secretaries and joint-secretaries, officials of the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and partnership associations.

Firstly, Deputy Minister of States and Divisions Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, secretaries and joint-secretaries, officials of the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and partnership associations.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than told the queries raised by those present.

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Myanmar Maternal and Child...

(from page 16)

Aye Phyu —

MCWSC also submitted the reports of the respective states and divisions.

Aferwards, Vice President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presided over the paper-reading session. Secretary Dr Khin Maung Win of Kachin State MCWSC, Secretary Dr Tun Lwin of Kayah State MCWSC and Secretary Dr Htay Naung of Kayin State MCWSC read the papers. Dr. The annual general meeting continues tomorrow.

Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha presides over the 17th Annual Meeting of MMCWA. — MNA

Meeting of UDNR Central Trainee Selection Committee held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — The Central Trainee Selection Committee of University for Development of National Races held the meeting 1/2007 at the hall of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Central Committee Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun delivered an opening address. It was attended by CSSTB members, directors, general of departments under CSSTB, the rector of UDNR and officials of Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Higher Education Departments (Lower Myanmar) and (Upper Myanmar), Education Planning and Training Department.

They approved the list of trainees to attend the first year of BEd four-year course No 42, the MEd 2-year course, the BEd one-year course, the JAT course, the BEd bridge 2-year course, and the Diploma in Teachership one-year course. They decided to inform the chairmen of State/Division trainee selection committee about invitation to applications for the first year of BEd four-year course No 43. Applications of the course No 43 are available at the respective State/Division trainee selection committees, and the applications are to be sent to the CSSTB, not later than 3 August. — MNA

Joint-Secretary of Shan State (North) MCWSC Dr Nann Kein Phuang

Til. — MNA

Joint-Secretary of Mon State MCWSC Dr Daw Myint Myint Nwe. — MNA

Joint-Secretary of Magway Division MCWSC Dr Daw Tin Tin

Hwe. — MNA

Joint-Secretary of Taninthay Division MCWSC Dr Daw Thanda Myo Win.— MNA

Industry-2 Minister inspects factories in Magway, Bago Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin accompanied by officials looked into chosen site for construction of Aluminium Wire Factory (Project) in Magway township in Magway Division on 28 April and heard reports on condition of land area and availability of water and power by Managing Director U Aung Kyo of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services. Next, the minister inspected No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) in Mibila township in Magway Division on 29 April and gave instructions on effort to be made for exceeding the target in coming fiscal year, innovation of new items, meeting set standards and reduction of production cost.

On 30 April morning, the minister and party inspected No 1 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Hsinde) in Padang Township, Bago Division and gave necessary instructions.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and party inspected Aluminium Wire Factory (Inndaw) in Inndaw Industrial Zone on 1 May and heard reports on process of producing aluminium wires to be used in power grid by officials and attended to the needs. — MNA

Activities of NLD have never served interest of nation, people in any way

People suffering much from economic sanctions imposed by some foreign powers in collaboration with Myanmar. Six NLD members resign in Twantay Township

YANGON, 3 May — Six members of Twantay Township NLD in Yangon Division resigned from the party of own volition on 31 March.

The six, U Zaw Tun, U Win Htaik, U Thein Lwin, U Kan Shwe, U Win Nwe and U Mya Lwin of Kin village, Kayanwa village-tract, Twantay Township, dispatched letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and the respective administrative bodies.

In the letters of resignation the six sent to Twantay Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that the activities of the NLD have never served the interest of the nation and the people in any way; that the people are suffering much from the economic sanctions imposed by some foreign powers in collaboration with the NLD against Myanmar; that they are so disappointed by the NLD's acts; that they believe that the endeavours of the Tatmadaw government actually serve the national interest; and that because of their desire to serve the interest of the nation and the people they quit the party. — MNA

Mother (2)

* Dumpling or Spring roll
  Starts with a wrapper of dough
  To wrap or to fold
  * A fragile wrapper
  * Nothing more, we are at birth
  * Against odds, to last
  * Next come the fillings
  Meat, veges, all the yummies
  To make it tasty
  * With or without Dad
  Mom adds values like fillings
  For worthy living
  * As a final deal
  She then wraps or rolls and seals
  With great love to feel

(Aye Phyu)
Tanaw Dam in Kyaikto Township being implemented for regional greening

Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspects Tanaw Dam project in Kyaikto Township. — A & I

NAI PYI TAW, 2 May—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspected the Tanaw Dam Project being implemented near Sittoung Paper Factory in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, on 29 April.

Director U Myint Than of Construction-1 of the Irrigation Department reported on progress of construction of the main embankment, spillway and intake channel and installation of a conduit for the agricultural purpose; and head of No 1 Paper Factory (Sittoung) U Paik Htwe, on functions of the factory.

The minister called for completion of the projects on schedule meeting the standards, and minimizing loss and wastage of the materials.

He looked into construction of the main embankment, spillway, intake channel and intake structure.

The project is on the Tanaw Creek. Upon completion, the dam will have an 86 feet high and 2580 feet embankment with a maximum water storage capacity of 16,800 acre feet. And it will supply 9.5 million gallons of water to the paper factory a day and contribute to the greening of the region.

He visited Ingabo oil palm farm in Kyaikto Township. Officials of the farm reported on growing oil palms, production of palm oil and cashew nuts, supply of technical assistance, measures for boosting production of palm oil, and production of crude palm oil. The minister gave instructions on production of crude palm oil.

Next, he inspected oil palm saplings to be distributed to national entrepreneurs and production line of the palm oil mill and refinery and called for boosting production of palm oil as scheduled.

In the afternoon, he held a meeting with members of the agricultural coordination committee from Thaton Townships and Mon State at the agricultural camp in Mayangon Village. Those in charge from respective townships reported on agricultural output region-wide.

The minister called for boosting production of agricultural produce, exceeding the targets of the ten major crops, rendering assistance to farmers, use of high-yield crop strains, and correct data and figures.—MNA

Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued in Sagaing Div

NAI PYI TAW, 3 May — Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein together with officials concerned arrived at Sagaing, Sagaing Division on 26 April.

Head of Sagaing Division Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Myint briefed the Deputy Minister on issuing of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to the people rapidly in Sagaing and Myaung townships.

The Deputy Minister inspected issuing of CSCs to the people and gave necessary instructions. Next, he held a meeting with local authorities, officials of Planning Department and Health Department and members of social organizations gave necessary instructions on speedy measures to be taken for issuing of CSCs to the people.

Next, the Deputy Minister inspected issuing of CSCs to the people in Kanbalu, Kyunhla, Kawlin, Wuntho, Indaw and Katha on 27 April, Kirlu, YeU, Tangze, Dabayin, Budalin on 28 April and Monywa, ChaungU, Myinnu and Kyaukse on 29 April.—MNA

Floods hit southern Thailand, foreigner dies

BANGKOK, 3 May — A foreigner was found dead and one injured from strong waves in Hat Rin District in Thailand’s southern province of Surat Thani as tropical depression brought flooding to the southern region, That News Agency reported here Wednesday.

Tropical depression over the Gulf of Thailand brought strong rain to the southern provinces, leading the authorities to initiate evacuation procedures for villagers in at-risk areas, according to the report.

The depression especially impacted the upper southern province of Prachuap Khiri Khan and the nearby province of Chumphon Tuesday night, bringing floods.

In Prachuap Khiri Khan, the Bang Sapan canal overflowed, as its drain off capacity was inadequate to carry away the excessive rainfall into the sea, and local authorities feared more severe floods could hit Bang Sapan District.

In Chumphon, rain fell throughout the night but no flash flooding was reported, but Governor Pmai Aniatpang ordered provincial emergency services to be on a round-the-clock alert and prepared for possible evacuation in case of emergency.—MNA/Xinhua

Factories inspected in Magway

NAI PYI TAW, 3 May—Secretary Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung yesterday made a cash donation of K 1.5 million to Dipankara Monastery on Myothit Street in Natmauk Township, Magway Division.

He had a meeting with secretaries, executives and organizers of the USDA’s of Myothit, Natmauk and Taungdwingyi townships. The secretaries reported on organizing measures, providing health care to local people, participation in the construction of village-to-village roads and conducting summer courses.

The Secretariat Member called for participation in public services with enthusiasm, organizing courses regularly, keeping abreast of international and internal affairs, and striving for becoming qualified members.

The minister also inspected the Textile Factory (Magway) of the Myanmar Textile Industries, the Soft Drink Factory (Magway) of the Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, the Soap Factory (Magway) of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries, the umbrella factory (Magway) of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries, and Win Thuza Shop (Magway).—MNA

Mexico finds world’s oldest lobster fossil

MEXICO CITY, 3 May — Mexican scientists said they have identified the world’s oldest lobster fossil, a creature that was alive when Africa was only just breaking apart from the Americas some 120 million years ago. The fossil is 4.7 inches (12 centimetres) long and its shell and legs are immaculately preserved by the mud in the southern state of Chiapas where it was found. It is dated as 120 million years old, some 20 million years older than existing lobster fossils.

“This lobster that we found in Chiapas belongs to the genus that is in Africa today,” said geologist Francisco Javier Vega of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, or UNAM.

“This isn’t a surprise because at that time, 120 million years ago, Africa and America were relatively close,” he told Reuters. “It’s very likely that this genus of lobster originated here.” —MNA/Reuters

Minister meets President of Weifang Tractor and Engine Co

NAI PYI TAW, 3 May — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received President Mr Li Huiqing of Weifang Tractor and Engine Co and party at the ministry, here yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the ministry.—MVA
WASHINGTON, 3 May — Stuart Bowen, the US special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction whose office has uncovered abuse of both Iraqi and US funds, is under investigation himself, a White House spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

“Complaints against Mr Bowen are being looked at by the integrity committee of the PCIE (President’s Council on Integrity and Efficiency),” said spokeswoman Emily Lawrimore. She gave no details about the investigation or the nature of the complaints against Bowen, who heads the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, or SIGIR.

Bowen’s office declined comment.

The council, created in 1992, is comprised of presidentially appointed inspectors general and headed by Clay Johnson, the deputy director for management of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Johnson told Reuters he had no details on the nature of the allegations against Bowen, saying only that they were filed by former and current employees.

“When there are no findings,” he said, adding the inspector general of the Social Security Administration had been appointed by the integrity committee to conduct the investigation. “It has been going on for a long time,” Johnson said.

He said he chaired the council, but emphasized it was independent of the White House, and his role was very limited.

Several former SIGIR employees filed complaints about Bowen in 2006, focusing on charges that he failed to come to work for long periods at a time, and used SIGIR staff to work on a book about the broad lessons of Iraq reconstruction, said one former SIGIR employee, who asked not to be identified.

“SIGIR’s standing policy neither to confirm nor deny the existence of any investigation, whether by SIGIR investigators or any other (US Government) agency,” said spokeswoman Denise Burgess.

Washington, 3 May — At least six people were injured Tuesday in two shootings in Jacksonville, in the southeastern US state of Florida, US media reported.

No death was reported in the two shootings, about a block apart in a neighbourhood in Jacksonville, and local police reportedly said the injuries were not life threatening.

The two shootings were believed to be connected, with two people injured at the first location and four others at the second.

It was not known how many shooters were involved in the shootings, and the identity of the victims were not immediately available.

CHICAGO, 3 May — Better drugs and emergency hospital treatments have helped significantly more people survive heart attacks, with fewer complications, researchers said on Tuesday.

If hospitals follow proven guidelines for treating heart attacks or severe chest pain, more patients survive and have fewer serious complications down the road, the researchers report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr Keith Fox, a professor of cardiology at the University of Edinburgh in Britain, and colleagues looked at how patients with heart attacks and unstable angina or chest pain fared when treated according to the latest guidelines.

Fox said the study was the first large-scale demonstration that heart failure could be reduced by half in patients coming to the hospital with a heart attack or a threatened heart attack.

This image provided by NASA on Tuesday, 27 March, 2007 shows a nighttime view of Saturn’s north pole by the visual and infrared mapping spectrometer onboard NASA’s Cassini orbiter. An odd, six-sided, honeycomb-shaped feature circling the entire north pole of Saturn has captured the interest of scientists with NASA’s Cassini mission.— Internet
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (706)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (706) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 4.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to 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.

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China’s second largest sea transport group branches out into shipbuilding

BEIJING, 3 May — China Shipping Group, the second biggest oceanic transportation conglomerate in China, plans to build its first shipyard by the end of 2008. This is the second time in less than two months that a heavyweight centrally-administered state-owned enterprise has branched out into the shipbuilding industry. The Shanghai-based shipping group spent 3.8 billion yuan taking over the assets and debts of the Jiangdu Shipping Company in east China’s Zhejiang Province and renamed the wholly-owned subsidiary China Shipping Industrial Company (Jiangsu).

Ground for the new shipyard — expected to cover an area of 187 hectares and stretch 3,500 meters along the coastline — has already been broken in the Yanjiang Development Zone of Jiangdu.

The group’s product line mainly involves Panamax Container ships with a deadweight of less than 80,000 tons, including bulk cargo ships and oil tankers, and a variety of floating docks with a lifting strength of no more than 30,000 tons. The parent China Shipping Group said it would lift the annual production capacity of its shipyard to 1.5 million deadweight tons over a period of three years.

On completion, the shipyard is expected to achieve annual sales revenue of 10 billion yuan and generate a yearly tax revenue for the government of more than 1 billion yuan, it said. The existing six dockyards of China Shipping Group situated in Shanghai and Guangzhou only engage in ship repairs, ship conversions and hull maintenance. China Shipping Group, established in 1997, boasts five specialized shipping fleets — oil tankers, coastal vessels, passenger ships, container vessels and special cargo ships — making a total of more than 440 vessels with an aggregate deadweight of 15 million tons and an annual traffic volume of over 270 million tons.

New insect species discovered in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 2 May — Costa Rican and Spanish scientists have discovered a new insect species in the Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve in central Costa Rica, academics said Wednesday. Esteban Duran of Madrid’s National Farming Research Institute and Marco Antonio Zumbado, a Costa Rican researcher, said the insect species had been given the name “lagocherus delestali.” The experts said “lagocherus delestali” is a nocturnal insect measuring between 2.2-2.5 cm long with red and yellow spots on its body and a granulated texture on its forewings. The new species’ neck is a granulated brick color and its antennae have 11 segments. The male’s femurs are larger than the female’s. The new species belongs to the coleopteran family, integrated by some 350,000 different insect species, and it develops its larval state inside rotten tree trunks. — Internet
H ANGZHOU, 3 May — A new virus test technology featuring DNA test has entered the phase of clinical experiment, said a scientist in east China.

Different from traditional method that relies on antigen or antibody test, the technology is based on genetic substances of the viruses, namely DNA or RNA, to confirm epidemic diseases such as hepatitis or AIDS, said Charlie Xiang, chief scientist of the Microarray Centre of US National Institutes of Health (NIH), at a forum on industrialization of high-tech held in Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province.

Dubai to build Disneyland-style theme park

ABU DHABI, 2 May — Dubai will build a 204-million-square-metre Disneyland-style theme park which will incorporate scenes of some famous Hollywood movies, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Tuesday.

The eight billion dirhams (2.18 billion US dollars) worth Universal City Dubailand is jointly developed by Tatweer, a company owned by Dubai Government, and Universal Parks and Resorts (UPR), a unit of the US-based media and entertainment company NBC Universal.

Visitors to the park will be able to relive fantasies and adventures in some of the biggest movies in Hollywood history including Jurassic Park and King Kong directed by Steven Spielberg, who is the creative consultant for Universal Studios theme parks.

“Mr Spielberg will help shape Universal Studios Dubailand into a unique and outstanding world-class facility,” Tom Williams, Chairman and CEO of UPR was quoted as saying.

Universal’s theme parks are known for some of most thrilling and technologically advanced “ride-the-movies” motion picture and television show-based attractions. MNA/Xinhua

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Compared with traditional method, the new technology needs less blood as the sample—just one drop, and it could help testers discern more than 100 diseases at the same time, said the scientist.

Besides, since it takes days or even months for a body to produce antibody after infection, traditional method couldn’t test out a disease during this period, while the new technology excels in this regard.

According to Xiang, clinical experiment usually takes about half a year before a technology could be launched into market. —Internet

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Film to criticize Britain’s Blair as he steps down

LONDON, 2 May — A documentary film arguing that civil liberties have been eroded under the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair will hit British cinemas in June, around the time the leader is due to step down after 10 years in power.

“Taking Liberties” does not claim to give a balanced view of the Blair years, and many of the commentators interviewed were well-known critics of the leader whose popularity was severely dented by his decision to back the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

But director Chris Atkins hopes that personal tales of Britons affected by Blair’s policies will strike a chord with the public.

He said “Taking Liberties” was not a copy of the anti-Bush polemic “Fahrenheit 9/11”, but Michael Moore’s documentary showed that political cinema can also make money.

“Fahrenheit 9/11”, attacked by critics for distorting the truth, went on to become the most successful US documentary of all time and earned 222 million US dollars in global ticket sales, according to the movie tracking website www.boxofficemojo.com.

“We’ve got a point of view,” Atkins told Reuters on Tuesday.

“We are stating things we believe, and we are quite unashamedly going for Blair.

“It is a call to arms from the people—you’ve had enough of our freedom and we want it back.”

MNA/Reuters
Petrova slumps but Venus wins in Warsaw

WARSAW, 3 May — Nadia Petrova slumped to a 6-3, 6-3 defeat against Italy’s Maria Santangelo in the second round of the Warsaw Cup on Wednesday.

There was victory though for American Venus Williams, who overcame Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-3.

Third-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova withstood a strong early challenge from Ukrainian qualifier Kateryna Bondarenko to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 and sixth seed Anna Chakvetadze, also of Russia, overwhelmed Tathiana Garbina of Italy 6-2, 6-2.

Fifth-seeded Petrova, who had struggled to overcome unranked Polish junior Katarzyna Piter in her opening match, lacked consistency and was often hurried into errors by a resilient opponent.

The Russian hurled her racket to the ground in frustration as she went through a disastrous patch in the opening set, dropping 10 of 11 points at one stage.

The game against Liverpool will also give them a chance to avenge the defeat they suffered against the English club in the 2005 final in Istanbul, when they squandered a 3-0 half-time lead before losing 3-2 on penalties.

The game and pre-match preparations in the city passed off peacefully despite fears of violence after Roma and United fans clashed in the last round.

But United were outclassed from the moment they stepped out at the San Siro.

The lashing rain, lightening and thunder resembled a wet winter’s night in Manchester rather than Milan in spring, but it was the Italian side that looked more comfortable on the greasy pitch.

Kaka needed less than a minute to show why Alex Ferguson had identified him as the Italian side’s most dangerous player.

The Brazilian international, who scored both Milan’s goals in the first leg, effortlessly accelerated round Wes Brown to send in a low cross that flashed invitingly in front of Filippo Inzaghi and Clarence Seedorf.

He did not take long to find the target, latching on to a Seedorf nod-on before dispatching a low left-footed drive into the bottom corner of Edwin van der Sar’s net after 11 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

Milan beat United to set up re-run of 2005 final

MILAN, 3 May — AC Milan set up a repeat Champions League final showdown against Liverpool when they brushed aside Manchester United 3-0 on Wednesday to complete a 5-3 win on aggregate.

First-half goals by playmaker Kakha and midfielder Clarence Seedorf, and a second-half strike by substitute Alberto Gilardino rewarded a commanding display by the six-times European champions, who will dispute their third final in five years and the 11th in their history in Athens on 23 May.

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Waske advances in Munich, will face Baghdati

MUNICH (Germany), 3 May — Unseeded Alexander Waske of Germany advanced to the quarterfinals of the 416,000 US dollars Munich Open on Wednesday, beating compatriot Daniel Brands 7-6, 7-6.

The unseeded, 31-year-old Waske, looking to become the first German winner of the tournament since Michael Stich in 1994, had already knocked out sixth-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic in straight sets in the first round.

Waske faces fourth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, a finalist at the 2006 Australian Open, in the quarterfinals. Baghdatis struggled on Wednesday to beat Matthias Bachinger of Germany in three sets, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Top-seeded Tommy Haas of Germany was eliminated in his first match on Tuesday by Sebastien Grosjean of France.

Defending champion Oliver Rochus of Belgium was beaten late on Monday by eighth seed Juergen Melzer of Austria 6-2, 6-4.

AC Milan’s Alberto Gilardino (L) celebrates with his team mate Clarence Seedorf (C) and Kaka after scoring against Manchester United during their Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 2 May, 2007.—INTERNET

Benitez pays tribute to Liverpool players, fans

LIVERPOOL (England), 2 May — Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez paid tribute to the passion of his players and the roar of the Anfield crowd after beating Chelsea on penalties to reach the Champions League final on Tuesday.

Liverpool, who lost 1-0 in last week’s semi-final first leg at Stamford Bridge, levelled the tie with Daniel Agger’s 22nd-minute strike and won 4-1 on penalties before a home crowd in full battle cry.

“I think they knew today how to beat Chelsea — to play with passion,” Benitez told a news conference after his men repeated their 2005 semi-final triumph over the English champions.

“Hearing your supporters behind you as today, I felt they played with determination, with passion and with heart... I’m really proud of my players.”

Benitez had described the Anfield crowd before the game as Liverpool’s 12th man.

“Our supporters were fantastic, the atmosphere was amazing, everything was perfect,” he said.

“You could see the difference when you play in another stadium and when you play here...you could see our people today were enjoying supporting the team and getting behind the players.”—MNA/Reuters

Nadal beats Federer to win Battle of Surfaces

PALMA (Spain), 3 May — Clay court king Rafael Nadal got the better of world number one and grass court master Roger Federer to win “the battle of the surfaces” in front of his home crowd in Palma on Wednesday.

Nadal, who had won seven of the previous 10 meetings against the Swiss, used his renowned tenacity to edge a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (12-10) victory in an absorbing exhibition match played out on a specially constructed hybrid court that was one half grass and one half clay.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, on a 72-match unbeaten streak on clay after notching up titles at Monte Carlo and Barcelona last month, adjusted better to the mixed surface in a match that was probably the most bizarre tennis challenge since Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes back in 1973.

The split court gave a clear advantage to the player on the clay side, with the higher bounce giving them more time to line up their shots and move their opponent around the court.

The two players were at their most vulnerable when serving from the grass end of the court as the ball tended to sit up for their opponents and give them time to attack the server.

Changeovers were extended to two minutes instead of the usual 90 seconds, giving players a chance to change their footwear for each surface. —MNA/Reuters
Experts say coffee can be good for you

New York, 3 May — Drinking coffee can help ward off Type 2 diabetes and may even help prevent certain cancers, according to panelists discussing the benefits — and risks — of the beverage at a scientific meeting.

“We’re coming from a situation where coffee had a very negative health image,” Dr. Rob Van Dam of the Harvard School of Public Health, who has conducted studies on coffee consumption and diabetes, told Reuters Health. Nevertheless, he added, “it’s not like we’re promoting coffee as the new health food and asking people who don’t like coffee to drink coffee for their health.”

Van Dam participated in a “controversy session” on coffee at the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting underway in Washington, DC.

There’s evidence, Arab noted, that the beverage may protect against certain types of colon cancer, as well as rectal and liver cancer, possibly by reducing the amount of cholesterol, bile acid and natural sterol secretion in the colon, speeding up the passage of stool through the colon (and thus cutting exposure of the lining of the intestine to potential carcinogens in food), and via other mechanisms as well.

However, Arab did find evidence that coffee may increase the risk of leukaemia and stomach cancer, with the case for leukaemia being strongest.

The findings suggest that people who may be vulnerable to these risks — for example pregnant women and children — should limit coffee consumption, Van Dam noted in an interview.

Women of the Miao ethnic group dressed in their festival best attend the annual Miao Sisters Festival in Taijiang County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 30 April, 2007. — Xinhua

**WEATHER**

Thursday, 3 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States and Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Chin and Mon States, lower Sagain, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperature in Shan State, lower Sagain, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperature in Kayin State and upper Sagain Division and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa and Myingyan (43°C) each, Kuthah, Sagaing, Mandalay, NyaungU, Chaung and Pookok (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpa-an (1.61) hours, (1.18) inches, Mogok and Pookok (1.02) inches each, Gwa (0.98) inch, Thanha (0.56) inch, Panlaung (0.37) inch, NyaungU and Yantehin (0.67) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 2-5-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 3-5-2007 was 79°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-5-2007 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 2-5-2007 was (7.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-5-2007 was (nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (0.04) inch at Mandalay, (0.91) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.87) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) m/s from Southeast at (12:05) hours MST on 2-5-2007. Bay influence: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, yesterday tropical depression over North Andaman Sea is centred at about 110 miles South of Pathein and it is forecast to move in a North Northwest direction toward the East Central Sea. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions, scattered in Kayin State, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin States, Magway and lower Sagain Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Deltaic, Rakhine and Mon Coasts. Surface wind speed may reach (40-50) m/s. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase in rain in Rakhine State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 4-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-5-2007: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 4-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Friday, 4 May, 2007

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

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association commences 17th Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 3 May — The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association held the 17th Annual General Meeting at its hall at the corner of Thant Thuma and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present at the meeting were President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-Presidents Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Daw Aye Aye, Central Executive Committee members, Central Council members, chairpersons, secretaries and joint secretaries of State/Division MCW Supervisory Committees. Joint Secretary-2 Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay acted as MC.

President Daw Khin Khin Win, who presided over the meeting, delivered an address. Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha submitted the report of the association for 2006, Secretary Auditor Daw Thin Thin on the audit report for 2006-07 fiscal year and Treasurer Daw Khin Than Win on the financial statement for 2006-07 fiscal year and the budget for 2007-08.

At the morning session, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Myint Myint Than of Kayin State MCWSC, Joint Secretary Daw Hla May of Kayah State MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Thi Thi Win of Kayin State MCWSC, Joint Secretary Daw May Yi of Chin State MCWSC and Joint Secretary Dr Daw Zar Chi Win of Sagaing Division MCWSC submitted annual reports of the respective states and divisions to the meeting.

The president gave necessary instructions. At the afternoon session, Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha presided over the meeting.

Joint Secretary Dr Daw Thanda Myo Win of Taninthayi Division MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Tin Tin Win of Bago Division (East) MCWSC, Joint Secretary Daw Ohnma of Bago Division (West) MCWSC, Joint Secretary Daw Tin Tin Hwe of Magway Division MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Myint Myint Nwe of Mon State MCWSC and Joint Secretary Dr Daw Khin May Thit of Mandalay Division MCWSC presented the annual reports of the respective states and divisions. The meeting chairperson gave necessary instructions.

Next, the meeting was presided over by Vice-President Daw Aye Aye, Joint Secretary Dr Daw San San Kyi of Rakhine State MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn of Yangon Division MCWSC, Chairperson Daw Thin Myo Myo Aung of Shan State (South) MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Nan Kein Phaung Tit of Shan State (North) MCWSC, Joint Secretary Dr Daw Zin Mar Oo of Shan State (East) MCWSC and Joint Secretary Dr Daw Saw Thanda Myint of Mandalay Division (South) MCWSC.

MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win delivers an address at 17th Annual Meeting of MMCWA. — MNA

Weather Forecast for 4-5-2007
Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SIGNIFICANT DAY TEMPERATURES 3-5-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAY PYI TAW</td>
<td>104°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>YANGON</td>
<td>99°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANDALAY</td>
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