Religious objects enshrined into upper reliquary of Dhatucaya Datpaungsu Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Religious objects were enshrined into the upper reliquary of the Dhatucaya Datpaungsu Pagoda on Mingala hilllock on Zabukyethhay Street in Bawga Theikdi Ward, here, and the pagoda was consecrated at a ceremony held this morning.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Abbot of Ngwe Taung Taunya Monastery in Tatkon Agga Maha Panditaya Bhaddanta Panfaasri, Abbot of Maha Visutarama Zaygon Monastery in Pynnana Sasanadhaja Siripvara Dhammacariy Delta Nikaya Pali Paragu Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kavisara and members of the Sangha.

Also present were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Maj-Gen Than Hay of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, officials and guests.

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents Seinbudaw (diamond orb) to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party hoist Shwehtidaw, Ngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Naungkho Village-tract in Bhamo Township submits USDA membership applications**

Yangon, 5 May — Patron of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, together with USDA Joint-Secretary General Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Secretariat member Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and CEC member Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, attended a ceremony to submit membership applications held at the Naungkho Village-tract USDA office in Bhamo Township on 2 May morning.

The Kachin State USDA secretary accepted 1429 membership applications — 650 from Naungkho village-tract, 400 from Shwekyina village-tract and 370 from Nanpha village-tract. Next, the patron, the secretariat member, the joint-secretary general and the CEC member donated medicine and medical equipment, USDA uniforms, exercise books and gifts. Then the patron and the secretariat member delivered speeches.

Afterwards, the commander and the ministers made speeches in meeting with departmental officials at the town hall of Bhamo, heard reports presented by local authorities and fulfilled the requirements.

After that, they visited Bhamo University and encouraged and presented gifts to the faculty members attending a refresher course. Next they visited the rubber plantation of the local battalion in Bhamo where they inspected cultivation of 500,000 rubber saplings. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented rubber saplings to the Kachin State USDA secretary. Later, the commander and the ministers inspected the sites chosen for construction of USDA office, sub power stations and offices of the Ministries of Electric Power No 1 and No 2. Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Col Zaw Min visited the auto exchange in Bhamo and Bhamo District USDA Office. — MNA

**Social organizations urged to increase efforts for development of rural areas**

Secretary-General U Htay Oo meets with members of District/Township USDA and social organizations in Thaton . — MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 May — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo urged members of USDA and other social organizations in Thaton on 29 April to increase their efforts for development of rural areas.

The government has made efforts for equitable development of the country and has been implementing five rural areas development tasks, he said at the meeting.

In his address, Secretary-General U Htay Oo also said the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are working together to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation in accordance with 12 objectives of the State. The government has put more efforts for stability of the State, boosting the economy and improvement of the education standard, and the people have enjoyed the fruits of the development, he added. He continued to say that the community peace and tranquillity are prevailing across the country and all national races are participating in implementing the development tasks joining hands with the government.

Members of the auxiliary fire brigade and red cross society and town elders also attended the meeting with the USDA Secretary-General.

After hearing reports on social, education, health and development tasks in the region, Secretary-General U Htay Oo fulfilled the requirements. MNA
10% of US soldiers in Iraq reported mistreating civilians

WASHINGTON, 4 May — About 10 percent of US soldiers serving in Iraq have reported mistreating civilians or damaging their property when it was not necessary, according to a Pentagon survey released Friday.

The latest Mental Health Advisory Team survey, the fourth since 2003 to assess the mental health and well-being of the deployed forces serving in Iraq, found that US troops who deployed longer than six months in Iraq or had deployed multiple times there were more likely to screen positive for a mental health issue.

Less than half of US troops in Iraq would report a team member for unethical behavior, and more than one-third of them said torture should be allowed to save the life of a fellow soldier, the survey found.

The study, conducted in August and October 2006, assessed more than 1,300 Army soldiers and nearly 450 Marines.

According to the survey, the 2006 adjusted rate of suicides per 100,000 Army soldiers in Iraq was 17.3 soldiers, lower than the 19.9 rate reported in 2005, but higher than the Army average of 11.6 per 100,000 soldiers; deployment length was directly linked to morale problems in the Army; and leadership is key to maintaining soldier and Marine mental health.

North China’s Inner Mongolia develops desert tourism

HORHOT, 4 May — Two deserts in north China’s Inner Mongolia have been designated as tourist destinations to attract travellers who are interested in exploration.

Ma Yongsheng, deputy director of the Tourism Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, said on Thursday the bureau had set up direction signs, and rescue and communication facilities in the Tenggur and Hobq deserts.

“The activities organized by travel agencies in the areas designated by the tourism department will be much safer than independent explorations,” Ma said.

The Tenggur Desert is China’s fourth largest, covering 43,000 square kilometres. It is interspersed with lake basins and marshes, as well as hills, mounds and plains. The Hobq Desert, a stretch of 16,100 square kilometres of shifting sand dunes, is another favourite site for desert explorers.

Airline says it has lost contact with jetliner

NAIROBI (Kenya), 5 May — Kenya Airways has lost contact with a commercial airliner carrying more than 100 passengers that took off from Cameroon early Saturday, the airline said.

“The last message was received in Douala after takeoff and thereafter the tower was unable to contact the plane,” Kenya Airways CEO Titus Naikuni said.

The Boeing 737-800 was carrying 106 passengers, eight crew members and a flight engineer, he said.

The plane is the latest generation of the 737 model, capable of carrying 189 passengers and has long-range capability.

“We have no details about what has happened to the aircraft,” Naikuni said.

The flight departed Douala at 12:05 am and was to arrive in Nairobi at 6:15 a.m. The flight originated in Ivory Coast but stopped in Cameroon to pick up more passengers, the airline said.

The airline opened a crisis management center near the airport. Relatives of those on the plane were instructed to go to a downtown airport, where they would be provided information as it became available.

The last crash of an international Kenya Airways flight was on January 30, 2000, when Flight 431 was taking off from Abidjan, Ivory Coast on its way to Nairobi. Investigators blamed a faulty alarm and pilot error for that crash, which killed 169 people.

Three US soldiers killed in Baghdad roadside bomb explosions

BAGHDAD, 4 May — Three US soldiers were killed in separate roadside bomb attacks in Baghdad, the military announced late Wednesday.

Two of the soldiers were killed on the spot by bombs when they searched a southern Baghdad neighbourhood for booby traps, while a woman soldier died of fatal wounds inflicted by another bomb exploded under her vehicle in western Baghdad.

“The unit was conducting route clearance operations in the area when the attacks occurred,” the military said.

The US military and Iraqi troops have staged a campaign in the capital in recent weeks with an aim of putting rampant violence under control.

Cambodian Govt calls on media to respect Press ethics

PHNOM PENH, 4 May — Cambodian Government on Thursday called on the media to respect the ethics of Press at a ceremony here to mark the World Press Freedom Day.

Thiang Vandarong, under-secretary of state of the Information Ministry, appealed to all veteran journalists “to try to be good models and train young generations to have professional qualification for great honour for our country”, at a gathering of about 130 local journalists, foreign journalists, government officials, political parties’ delegates and diplomats.
Afghan official says more civilians killed in US-led raid

Spin Boldak (Afghanistan), 5 May — At least 13 civilians were killed in a bombing raid by US-led forces battling the Taliban, an Afghan official said on Friday, bringing the number of such deaths reported this week to 70.

The rising toll of civilian casualties, with the bloodshed continuing, has prompted many Afghans to call for Hamid Karzai to quit, saying he was powerless to stop the killing.

Several hundred people staged another anti-US and anti-Karzai protest on Friday over the civilian deaths in the east, residents said.

They briefly blocked a road where a convoy of the coalition forces was passing, but police dispersed the crowd and the protest ended peacefully.

The deaths in Herat, an area not known as a Taliban stronghold, prompted many Afghans to project initial reports from US-led coalition forces that the dead were 136.

The civilians were travelling in three cars along the same stretch of road as coalition troops near the town of Spin Boldak when the troops came under Taliban fire, said Ghulam Farooq, a resident of the area.

The 13 civilians were killed when coalition warplanes were summoned to bomb the area while the Taliban escaped, he said.

A spokesman for the US military said he had no information about the report and would check.

Protesters — angry over civilian deaths reported in the western province of Herat and in the east of the country — called this week for Karzai to quit, saying he was powerless to stop the killing.

Air pollution causes thousands of deaths in S California

Los Angeles, 5 May — Air pollution causes 5,400 premature deaths annually in Southern California, it was reported on Thursday.

Locomotives are responsible for more than 32 tons per day of pollutants, an amount equal to that produced by 1.4 million cars, said the Los Angeles Times, quoting the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

State and regional agencies have found that the sooty particulates put out by trains are particularly harmful, according to The Times.

AQMD officials last year passed three regulations, requiring railroads to shut down idling locomotives or obey other local laws designed to clean up deadly diesel pollution.

The regulations asserted AQMD's authority to regulate emissions under the federal Clean Air Act and state policing laws, The Times reported.

But two railroads and a trade group filed suit, saying that under special exemptions passed by Congress more than a century ago, they do not have to abide by local laws that could interfere with interstate commerce.

A federal judge has ruled that Southern California air regulators cannot require railroads to shut down idling locomotives or obey other local laws designed to clean up deadly diesel pollution, said the paper.

The decision invalidates action taken last year by the AQMD to reduce a major source of air pollution in the Southland, said the paper.

Officials at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific said they are spending billions to replace older, dirtier equipment, and have voluntarily cut idling times, The Times reported.

World’s first 100-kilo gold coin unveiled in Canada

Ottawa, 5 May — The Royal Canadian Mint unveiled Thursday the world's first 100-kilogramme pure gold coin, which is a 99.999-per-cent pure gold bullion, local media reported.

The pizza-size coin was conceived as a showpiece to promote the mint’s new line of 99.999-per-cent pure one ounce Maple Leaf bullion coins, selling about 20 million ounces of them around the world.

But it acknowledges that it has lost some of its competitive edge, as mints in Australia, Austria, China and the United States push their own high-quality gold coins.

Stink bomb sparks Sydney train scare

Sydney, 4 May — Two Australian teenagers detonated a stink bomb on a commuter train in Sydney on Thursday sparking a counter-terrorism operation, police said.

Local police and the counter-terrorism squad launched into action after numerous emergency telephone calls reported an explosion on a train.

Assistant Police Commissioner Dave Owens said passengers began to panic after hearing an explosion on the train between St Leonards and Wollstonecraft stations in Sydney’s north.

“Terrorism can happen anywhere,” he said.

German model Nadja Auermann poses on the red carpet prior to the German Film Price “Lola” award ceremony in Berlin on 4 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Skinceuticals, a company that makes skin care products, has launched a new product line called Daily Skin Protect, a sunscreen designed to protect the skin from the sun's harmful rays.

The product is a broad-spectrum sunscreen that provides high protection against both UVA and UVB rays.

Skinceuticals claims that Daily Skin Protect is the most advanced sunscreen available, providing superior protection from sun damage and helping to prevent the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines.

Daily Skin Protect is available in a water-resistant formula that can be used on all skin types, including sensitive skin.

It contains antioxidants such as vitamin C and E, which help to protect the skin from free radicals and environmental damage.

The sunscreen is also lightweight and non-greasy, making it easy to apply and wear throughout the day.

Skinceuticals Daily Skin Protect is recommended for anyone who wants to keep their skin looking young and healthy, particularly those who spend a lot of time outdoors or who are sensitive to the sun.

The product is available for purchase online or at select retail stores.
ASEAN recognizes Vietnam’s full market eco status

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 May — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said Thursday that it recognized Vietnam as a full market economy. The group made this announcement at the 13th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat taking place in Brunei. “Having noted significant achievements of Vietnam in economic development and integration into the regional and global economy, ASEAN agreed to recognize Vietnam as a full market economy...” the ASEAN Secretariat said in a statement which is available here. The ministers also called on ASEAN’s dialogue partners and other countries to provide early recognition to the full market economy status of Vietnam. The ministers from ASEAN’s 10-member countries gathered in Brunei on Thursday to review and discuss various issues to be presented to the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting to be held in August this year in Manila, the Philippines, and the 13th ASEAN Summit this November in Singapore. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Bangladesh calls for cooperation in power sector with India, Nepal

DHAKA, 5 May — In the wake of an endemic power shortage, Bangladesh has placed formal offer with India and Nepal to have access to hydroelectric potential in the two neighbouring nations, the Bangladeshi news agency UNB reported Thursday. Bangladesh Energy and Power Adviser Tapan Chowdhury on Thursday disclosed the move. Dhaka is awaiting response from the two neighbours, he said. “We are waiting for the official response from New Delhi and Katmandu,” he told reporters in Dhaka on Thursday. Chowdhury said that soon after his return from SAARC (the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Energy Ministers’ conference in New Delhi in March, he formally wrote to his counterparts in India and Nepal about Bangladesh’s interest in having access to their reserve of hydroelectricity. He said the proposal was sent in line with the discussion on regional cooperation in SAARC Energy Ministers’ conference.

Vietnam posts bigger garment export turnovers in first four months

HANOI, 5 May — Vietnam exported textiles and garments worth nearly 2.2 billion US dollars in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 31.7 per cent, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas) on Friday. Vitas has encouraged local garment enterprises to further explore traditional markets such as the United States, the European Union, and Japan, and seek more new ones. It also urged them to focus on building trademarks, strengthening trade promotion, increasing products’ quality and improving design, marketing and management. Vietnam, which posted textile and garment export turnovers of more than 5.8 billion dollars in 2006, has targeted to earn seven billion dollars from selling garment overseas in 2007, said the association.

Thailand’s unemployment rate in February stands at 1.5%

BANGKOK, 4 May — Thailand’s unemployment in February reached 540,000 or 1.5 per cent of workforce, figures released Thursday by the National Statistical Office showed. The National Statistical Office said that in the month, 35.53 million workers were employed. Compared to the same period last year, the employment rate increased with the enlisting of 700,000 more workers. The office showed among the 540,000 unemployed, 140,000 held the junior high school certificates, 120,000 with primary school education, 100,000 with bachelor and high school degrees, and the rest being uneducated or not completing the primary school education. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s newly found oilfield boasts reserve of 7.35 bln barrels

BEIJING, 5 May — China newly found oilfield in Bohai Bay has a reserve of one billion tons or about 7.35 billion barrels, the largest discovery in the country over four decades, announced the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) Thursday. The oilfield lies in the Nanpu block of the CNPC’s Jidong Oilfield in Caofeidian in Tangshan City, north China’s Hebei Province, said the company. The Nanpu block, partly offshore, covers an area of 1,300-1,500 square kilometres and is expected to produce light crude. By 2004, the CNPC had discovered five onshore oilfields in the Jidong area with a total reserve of 735 million barrels and an annual output of 7.35 million barrels. The company previously estimated that the reserve of the new oilfield was 2.2 billion barrels and the daily output would be 200,000 barrels in three years. PetroChina, the CNPC’s holding company, boasted Asia’s highest profitability last year with 142.2 billion yuan (18.5 billion US dollars) in annual net profit. — MNA/Xinhua
China’s first nuclear weapons research base opens to visitors

XING, 4 May — China’s first nuclear weapons research and production base in northwest China’s Qinghai Province has been declassified and opened to tourists.

“The underground headquarters of the nuclear weapons research and production base are a curiosity to many people. They can see the ‘nuclear city’ for themselves,” said Zuo Xumin, an official with the Haibei Tibet Autonomous Prefecture where the base is located.

“The base will be developed into a key travel site, and it will become a platform for spurring the patriotic spirit of Chinese people,” Zuo said.

The base was the birthplace of China’s first atomic and hydrogen bombs. It was built in 1958 on the grassland at the north region of Qinghai, covering more than 1,100 square kilometres.

It was closed by the government in 1987 to support its demands for a complete ban on the destruction of the world’s nuclear weapons. It was handed over to the local government in 1993.

The headquarters of the base comprised eight large rooms 9.3 metres below the ground and built with reinforced concrete.

Tourists can visit the rooms, which originally held a research laboratory, a command room, electricity generation room and telegraph transmitting room, but are now almost empty.

A museum has been built at the base, now named Xihai Township, where old telegraphs, telephones, machines, clothes, bowls and food coupons belonging to the people who worked at the base are exhibited.

Hotels and restaurants are also being built in the township. — MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap 18 foreign workers in Nigeria

LAGOS, 4 May — Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped 18 foreign workers in three attacks in Nigeria’s oil-producing Niger Delta Region, authorities said on Thursday.

Three Koreans and eight Filipinos were ab ducted from a power plant construction site in Rivers State, while six foreigners of unknown nationality were seized from an Italian-operated offshore oilfield.

Diplomats said a Dutch man was also seized from a bar on the outskirts of Warri on Wednesday night, taking the total number of foreigners kidnapped in the region since Tuesday to 24. The seizures are the latest in a series of militant raids on Western oil facilities since February last year that has led to oil output being reduced by 600,000 barrels per day, or a fifth of production capacity.

It was not immediately clear if Saipem and SBM Offshore, the operators of the 50,000 barrel-per-day Okoro/Okpoho oilfield, shut off oil production because of the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Three fishing vessels hijacked in Somalia

NAIROBI, 4 May — Pirates have hijacked three fishing boats off the Somali coast, the third of such events since early this year, Kenya’s maritime official said on Thursday.

Andrew Mwangura, coordinator of the Mombasa-based Seafarers Assistance Programme, said the boats were seized in the northeast of pirate-infested Somalia on Wednesday night.

“We received reports last night that pirates have hijacked three fishing vessels. We are trying to establish the name of the vessels, crew members on board and if they were Spanish or Finnish,” Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone.

Two injured in blast in east India

NEW DELHI, 4 May — Two people were wounded Thursday in a powerful bomb blast near a Food Corporation of India (FCI) depot in Guwahati city of east Indian state of Assam, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

IANS quoted an unnamed police official as saying that the explosion took place near a rice depot of FCI where dozens of labourers were working.

The police suspect that an improvised explosive device (IED) was planted near the boundary wall of the FCI depot.

The two were shifted to a hospital with multiple wounds. — MNA/Xinhua

Five dead as heavy rains lash Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 4 May — At least five people died Thursday as a result of heavy rains lashing Sri Lankan capital Colombo and other parts of the island, officials said.

In Colombo a 30-year-old woman died on her way to work when falling into a drain full of rain water and two other people were killed when electrocuted in heavy rains, the police in Colombo said.

In the southern port district of Galle, two children were killed when they were submerged in a mass of earth caused by flooding.

The Meteorological Department said that the city of Colombo had experienced 121 millimetres of rain for two hours since 6 am local time (0030 GMT) Thursday. The flooding caused heavy traffic jams in the city with many roads being waterlogged.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing goes digital in crackdown on dogs

BEIJING, 4 May — Chinese authorities have begun implanting digital identification chips in the capital’s dogs, state media reported on Thursday, months after the government launched a campaign against unregistered pets.

The rice grain-sized chips would be injected into the necks of dogs in a pilot project in Beijing’s Xicheng District, where some 10,000 dogs are registered, before being rolled out across the city, Xinhua news agency said.

The high-tech system comes as China has been criticized for the zeal with which it began removing unregistered pets from owners and culling stray dogs to try to curb rabies outbreaks and better regulate ownership.

MNA/Reuters

America’s Cup challenger Emirates Team New Zealand’s crew members work on the boat in their Round Robin 2 Flight 6 match race against Team Shosholoza of South Africa at the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 4 May, 2007. — INTERNET

The BlackBerry Curve smartphone is seen in this undated handout photo. Research In Motion Ltd is rolling out the smallest and lightest full-keyboard BlackBerry smartphone yet, a new multimedia-laden device aimed at broadening the market that it seeks to conquer. — INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua
Kataik Dam, delight of local people in Paung Township

Journalists from Myanma Alin daily visited Kataik Dam built by the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Paung Township, Mon State recently.

First, we interviewed 72-year-old farmer U Pu Lu of Kataik village. He said, “I am a native of Kataik village. I am so happy to see a dam completed in this area during my life time. In the past, sometimes, paddy fields at Kataik village area were flooded by heavy rains. There were floods in the rainy season. On the other hand, we faced water shortage in summer.”

He also said, “Thanks to Kataik Dam, farmers no longer need to worry about floods or water shortage now. Natives are happy to see the dam completed as it will help them grow crops twice or even thrice a year. Water is the most important requirement in agriculture. I am glad to be going to develop economy and to ensure transport. (Farm worker U Pan Maung) has been reclaimed and new roads built and upgraded in Paung Township. We thank the leaders of the State for all those infrastructures.”

Another villager, U Hla Sein, told us that the villagers had to solely rely on a nearby creek for water during summer in the past. “I am glad that I no longer need to queue to draw water from the creek. (Farm worker U Hla Sein) has helped upgrade rural transport, enhance education and develop economy and agriculture”, said Ma Khin Lin Kyi of the village.

We also interviewed U Tun Mya, Chairman of Paung Township. He said, “I am a second year student of Mawlamyine Government Technological College. Transport is good in the region. As roads were paved when the Kataik Dam was under construction we can now reach the nearby highway by trawler-G cars. The dam has helped upgrade rural transport, enhance education and develop economy and agriculture”, he continued to say.

“I am a second year student of Mawlamyine Government Technological College. Transport is good in the region. As roads were paved when the Kataik Dam was under construction we can now reach the nearby highway by trawler-G cars. (Chairman U Tun Mya of Paung Township PDC) has helped upgrade rural transport, enhance education and develop economy and agriculture”, said Ma Khin Lin Kyi of the village.

A tenth standard student told us that she no longer need to get up very early in the morning to go to school as trawler-G cars were running on new roads to carry passengers and goods. “There will be a middle school in our village soon. Rural roads and the school open wider opportunities for local children to pursue education”, she said.

We also interviewed U Tun Mya, Chairman of Paung Township Peace and Development Council. He said that thanks to the dam, there would be 10,000 acres of summer paddy in the past. Thanks to the dam wetlands will become rice fields. Hence, total monsoon paddy sown acreage of the township will become over 7,811 acres. Likewise, Paung Township will grow more than 2,000 acres of monsoon paddy as well as paddy cultivation. Moreover, it will put 2,000 acres of fallow lands to be reclaimed”, he explained.

He also said, “Total monsoon paddy sown acreage of Paung Township will reach 7,122 acres at present from 6,826 acres in the past. Moreover, it will put 2,000 acres of land under summer paddy. We expect the township will grow paddy thrice a year.”

(Translation: TMT) Myanma Alin: 2.5.2007

I no longer need to worry about irrigation water in the hilly region. 
(72-year-old farm worker U Pu Lu)

I am delighted that I no longer need to walk to school early. (Ma Aye Aye Myint) has helped upgrade rural transport, enhance education and develop economy and agriculture”, said Ma Khin Lin Kyi of the village.

A tenth standard student told us that she no longer need to get up very early in the morning to go to school as trawler-G cars were running on new roads to carry passengers and goods. “There will be a middle school in our village soon. Rural roads and the school open wider opportunities for local children to pursue education”, she said.

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(Translation: TMT) Myanma Alin: 2.5.2007
Nay Pyi Taw, 5 May — A ceremony to fix a pivot and set up a flagmast of Dhatucaya Datpaungsu Pagoda on the Mingala hill in Zabukyetthayay Street of Bawgawadi Ward here in conjunction with opening ceremony of a bell, archway and Abhissanna Beikmandaw and growing of Bo tree was held at the pagoda on 1 and 3 May. Recitation of Pathana was also held at the same venue on that day.

Present on the occasion were Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kavisara of Mahayama Zaykon Monastery in Pyinmana, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Maj-Gen Than Hiay and Maj-Gen Tin Tun of the Ministry of Defence, the deputy ministers, senior military officials, departmental heads and invited guests.

The ceremonies to fix the pivot and set up the flagmast, to open the bell and to grow Bo tree were held at the pagoda on 3 May morning. The Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation.

Next, the Sayadaw and members of Sangha recited Paritas. Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offered religious objects to the Sayadaw and the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers religious objects and provisions to members of Sangha.

The congregation shared merits gained and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the commander and party fixed the pivot in the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on it.

Mayor Col Thein Nyunt later formally opened the flagmast and sprinkled scented scented water on it.

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo also inaugurated the bell and sprinkled scented water on it. He then grew the Bo tree and watered it.

The opening of the archway and Abhissanna Beikmandaw was held at the same venue on 1 May.

Mayor Col Thein Nyunt formally opened the archway and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the commander and party sprinkled scented water on it.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Russian Ambassador Mr Mikhail Mgeladze.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Huy, directors-general, managing directors and officials of under the ministry.—MNA
Relics enshrined in middle reliquary of Dhatucaya Datpaungsu Pagoda

NAV PI TAW, 5 May — A ceremony to enshrine relics in the middle reliquary of Dhatucaya Datpaungsu Pagoda on Mingala Hill on Zabukyetthayay Road, Bawga Theikdi Ward here was held at the central pandal of the pagoda on 11 November 2006.

Present were Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pyinmana, members of the Sangha, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, heads of departments, Joint Secretary of Pagoda Construction Committee Engineer U Tint Hsan and guests.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panasiri.

Lt-Gen Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party presented relics and offerings to the members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta conveyed the relics to the pagoda and enshrined them at the middle reliquary.

Lt-Gen Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party offered ‘soon’ to the members of the Sangha.

On 11 November 2006, Patthana reciting ceremony was held.—MNA

Get-together of Myanmar Red Cross Society held

YANGON, 5 May — A get-together of outstanding members of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at Nursing University (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

It was also attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Hui of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and members, Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, Patron of Yangon Division MCWA Daw Mar Mar Wai, the Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry of Health, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Thar Hla Hsie and members, the head of Yangon Division Health Department and officials, Resident Representatives Ms Bridget Gardner of IFRC and Mr Pierre Andrade Conod of ICRC and members and guests.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address at the opening ceremony. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin addresses the ceremony to mark 61st Anniversary Fire Services Day.—MNA

NAV PI TAW, 5 May—The 61st Anniversary Fire Services Day was celebrated at the Central Fire Services Training School here this morning.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin said that Fire Services members are upholding the objectives of Fire Services, calling for effective implementation of the five major duties through seven work programmes. He cited the address delivered by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe at the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, saying that Tatmadaw members are building basic foundations in the agricultural, industrial, electricity, energy, transport, health and education sectors for sustainable progress of the nation and well-being of the people.

He called on them to do their bit in the implementation of the State’s seven-step Road Map. The commander, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials watched the skill demonstration presented by Fire Services members.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, heads of department, local authorities, social organizations and guests.—MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint speaks at the get-together of outstanding members of Myanmar Red Cross Society (2007).—MNA

61st Anniversary Fire Services Day marked in Nay Pyi Taw

Kavisara of Maha Withothayama Monastery in Pyinmana delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Lt-Gen Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party

Lt-Gen Thihathura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers religious objects to a Sayadaw.—MNA
First seminar on Myanmar fruit, vegetables...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence formally unveiled the commemorative signboard of the show.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Huy Win, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, heads of department, FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zheug Ping, President of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers Producers Association U Win Aung, members of associations and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Huy Win, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Chairman U Win Aung formally opened the show.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the minister, the mayor and guests viewed prize-winning fruit and vegetables.

In his opening address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said the government is making efforts for the emergence of a developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. And it is also endeavouring for development of the economy for self-sufficiency in rice and to export surplus.

The ministry is making all-out efforts for the development of the national economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is providing growers with aids in reclamation of vacant and fallow land as well as with modern agricultural techniques and quality strain crops and the extended cultivation acreage. He said that a large number of dams and reservoirs were built across the nation along with river water pumping stations and underground water tapping plans for supply of irrigated water in spite of financial constraints.

In the meantime, the use of modern agricultural techniques and quality strain crops and the extended cultivation acreage. He said that a large number of dams and reservoirs were built across the nation along with river water pumping stations and underground water tapping plans for supply of irrigated water in spite of financial constraints.

Arrangements have been made to ensure self-sufficiency in rice and to export the surplus. There were 11.81 million acres of paddy with the production of 8 million baskets in 1998-89. But, as work was under way to produce 800 million baskets of paddy, the country has been able to produce 800 million baskets of paddy since 1993-94, he disclosed.

As efforts were made to produce 1000 million baskets of paddy as the second phase, the country had been able to produce over 1000 million baskets of paddy in 2000-2001. As steps were taken to produce 1200 million baskets of paddy as the third phase, the country had been able to produce over 1200 million baskets of paddy in 2005-2006. As present, efforts are being made to produce 1500 million baskets of paddy and it will exceed the target soon, he noted.

Myanmar gram is a major export of the country. Myanmar, a leading nation among ASEAN in the production of pulses and beans, exports gram most. The production of gram increased to over 126 million baskets (4 million metric tons) in 2005-2006 from 13 million baskets (0.4 million metric tons) in 1988-1989. There has been a prospect of producing gram over ten times.

Myanmar gram is a major export of the country.
YANGON, 5 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Managing Director Mr Jimmy Chang of Singapore-based Ntegrator Private Limited and party at Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road this morning. Also present were directors-general, managing directors and officials of the ministry.

In his speech, Minister Dr Chan Nyein quoted the Head of State as saying he had given guidance on the improvement of teachers’ abilities, upgrading of school curriculums and syllabuses to meet international standards, effective and extensive use of teaching aids, respecting of laws, rules and regulations, training of the students to have patriotism and Union Spirit.

Therefore, the minister added, for the improvement of the teachers’ abilities, refresher courses and educational technology courses are being conducted. So, the teachers are to try to improve their students’ learning.

Next, Pro-rector U Yin Win Maung of Sagaing University of Education presented completion certificates and job appointments to the trainees.

Likewise, the conclusion ceremony of educational technology course No 2 took place at Yangon University of Education this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min. Pro-rector Daw Htoo Htoo Aung of Yangon University of Education, Director General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department and Director General U Aye Kyaw of No 1 Basic Education Department presented completion certificates and job appointments to the trainees.

A total of 602 trainees attended the course at Sagaing University of Education and 573 at Yangon University of Education.

K 10 million donated to U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation

YANGON, 5 May—Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi and Shine Hope Company family this morning donated K 10 million to U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation in a ceremony held at the foundation in Dagon Myothit (East).

The ceremony was attended by Patron of the foundation Brig-Gen Abel (Retd), President Specialist Col Myo Nyunt, Vice-President Professor Daw Yi Yi, Donor Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi and Shine Hope Company family members and guests.

After accepting the donation, Brig-Gen Abel (Retd) spoke words of thanks and the guests comforted the patients.

Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi and Shine Hope Company family donate K 10 million to U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation.

MS Crystal Symphony arrives at MITT

YANGON, 5 May—With 794 tourists on board, the MS Crystal Symphony berthed at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa this afternoon after sailing from Phuket of Thailand. She will leave the terminal on 7 May. Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority and officials of Myanmar Hotel and Tourism made arrangements for the convenience of the guests—MNA

MS Crystal Symphony Ocean Liner arrives at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa.—MNA

Heavy rains cause floods in some townships of Yangon Division

YANGON, 5 May — The two-day long heavy rains caused floods in some townships of Yangon Division. It is learnt that flood water rose to 2 or 3 feet, and some brick walls and trees collapsed in Botataung, Pazuntaung, Pabedan, Ailton, Kyauktada, Kyimyindaing, Mingala Taungnyunt, Mayangon, Hlithetha, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thanyin, Taikkyi, Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (South) and Hlegu Townships. Some houses in the townships were submerged by the floods.

Moreover, four people were suffocated by fumes from a faulty short-circuit fire caused by the flood into a house on Thitaw street in Ailton Township this morning. A woman from a house on Ayeyawady street in Ailton Township was electrocuted when she stepped onto a power line of a lamp post being broken down.

Education technology course concludes, job appointments presented

YANGON, 4 May — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein delivered a speech at a ceremony held this morning at the convocation hall of Mandalay University to conclude special training course No 2 on educational technology and presented job appointments.

Also present at the ceremony were the director general of No 2 Basic Education Department, deputy directors general of the departments under the Ministry of Education, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and faculty members.

In his speech, Minister Dr Chan Nyein quoted the Head of State as saying he had given guidance on the improvement of teachers’ abilities, upgrading of school curriculums and syllabuses to meet international standards, effective and extensive use of teaching aids, respecting of laws, rules and regulations, training of the students to have patriotism and Union Spirit.

Therefore, the minister added, for the improvement of the teachers’ abilities, refresher courses and educational technology courses are being conducted. So, the teachers are to try to improve their students’ learning.

Next, Pro-rector U Yin Win Maung of Sagaing University of Education presented completion certificates and Director General U Aye Lwin of No 2 BED job appointments to the trainees.

Likewise, the conclusion ceremony of educational technology course No 2 took place at Yangon University of Education this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min. Pro-rector Daw Htoo Htoo Aung of Yangon University of Education, Director General U Kyaw Thu of No 1 Basic Education Department and Director General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department presented completion certificates and job appointments to the trainees.

A total of 602 trainees attended the course at Sagaing University of Education and 573 at Yangon University of Education.
Tropical Singapore Zoo to keep polar bear

SINGAPORE, 4 May — Singapore Zoo is to keep its male polar bear, despite criticism from an animal rights group that the Arctic animal should not stay in a tropical climate, a newspaper reported on Thursday.

The Straits Times said managers had reversed a decision, taken last year, to move 16-year-old polar bear Inuka to a zoo in a temperate climate when his mother, Sheba, dies.

Executive director Fanny Lai told the paper the zoo was advised to keep Inuka by its Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee, which said moving him after the death of his mother would cause further stress.

Sheba is now 30, past the average life span of 25 years for polar bears in captivity.

"He's a Singapore boy and is well-adjusted to the conditions here," Tommy Koh, a former chairman of the committee, was quoted as saying.

Animal Concerns Research and Education Society, a local animal rights group, has said living conditions in Singapore — just 140 kilometres (85 miles) north of the Equator — were not suitable for polar bears, citing the heat climate and a small enclosure at the zoo.

According to the Straits Times, 67 per cent of more than 5,300 people polled in Singapore did not want Inuka, the first polar bear born in the tropics, to leave the city-state.

Singapore Zoo has said it will not bring any more polar bears into the country. MNA/Reuters

Fire hits Singapore Exxon refinery, crude unit shut

SINGAPORE, 4 May — Exxon Mobil Corp. has shut a 115,000 barrels per day (bpd) crude oil unit at its refinery offshore Singapore indefinitely after a fire in an associated unit killed two workers on Thursday, the company said.

A larger 185,000-bpd crude distillation unit (CDU) at the 300,000-bpd refinery on Jurong Island continues to operate normally, the company said, without giving further details. The CDU is at the heart of the refining process.

The smaller unit "will not be started up until it is safe to do so", the US oil giant said in a statement, giving no timeframe for a resumption in operation after a brief flash fire broke out in a cooling unit that was undergoing maintenance.

Singapore authorities said they had ordered the company to halt some types of refining processes pending an investigation, but it was not clear how this would affect core operations.

An industry source familiar with operations at the Pulau Ayer Chawan refinery, half of Exxon’s Singapore refining complex, had said earlier the CDU had been shut as a precautionary move after the fire, which did not appear to have damaged the unit.

The source had also said that the CDU had restarted.

Exxon spokeswoman Eva Ho said all other secondary units around the affected CDU are operating normally. MNA/Reuters

Mountain fire breaks out in west Beijing

BEIJING, 4 May — A fire broke out in a mountain in west Beijing on Thursday afternoon and has spread to about 7,000 mu (about 6.67 hectares) of area.

The fire, in the Baima Mountain Nature Reserve in Mentougou District, was still not extinguished by 10:30 am Thursday, according to a report of Beijing Times.

The fire was discovered in a forestry farm with a total area of 7,000 mu at about 3:00 pm on Thursday. Most of the trees in the farm are pine trees.

Firemen and several hundred people were mobilized to fight the fire.

The cause of the fire was still not clear, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua
**Explorers find ancient caves, paintings in Nepal**

**KATHMANDU, 4 May —** Explorers have discovered a series of caves decorated with ancient Buddhist paintings, set in sheer cliffs in Nepal’s remote Himalayan north, leaving archaeologists excited and puzzled. An international team of scholars, archaeologists, climbers and explorers examined at least 12 cave complexes at 14,000 feet (4,300 metres) near Lo Manthang, a mediaeval walled city in Nepal’s Mustang District, about 125 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of Kathmandu.

The caves contain paintings that could date back as far as the 13th Century, as well as Tibetan scripts executed in ink, silver and gold and pre-Christian era pottery shards. “Who lived in those caves? When were they there, when were (the caves) first excavated and how did the residents access them, perched as they are on vertical cliffs?” said Broughton Coburn, an American member of the survey team. “It’s a compelling, marvelous mystery.”

Explorers from the United States, Italy and Nepal used ice axes and ropes to climb to the caves, cutting steps in the cliff face as they went. “These findings underscore the richness of the Tibetan Buddhist religious tradition of this area — stretching back nearly amillennium — as well as the artistic beauty and wide geographical reach of Newari artists,” said Coburn, an expert in Himalayan conservation and development. MNA/Reuters

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**Time Magazine lists 100 most influential people**

**BEIJING, 5 May —** Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, perhaps best known for his alter ego Borat, Australian Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett and screen heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio have been named in Time magazine’s list of 100 people who shape the world. The list of 100 most influential, on newsstands in the United States on Friday, also includes Rosie O’Donnell, Queen Elizabeth II, presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, YouTube founders Steve Chen and Chad Hurley, director Martin Scorsese and model Kate Moss. It does not include US President George Bush. The list includes 71 men and 29 women from 27 countries.

In a piece she wrote for the magazine, Barbara Walters, the creator of The View talk show, had kind words to say about O’Donnell, who announced last week she was leaving the talk show in June because she and the ABC network in the US couldn’t agree on a new contract. “And so, last September, we began a thrilling roller-coaster ride,” Walters wrote.

“We followed Rosie’s passion and compassion, her feuds and fearlessness, her humanity and humour.” Walters said she and O’Donnell “remain respectful and affectionate friends.”

Comedian Roseanne Barr weighed in on Baron Cohen, known for his Borat character. “He does offend some people’s sensibilities, but the youth of today are offended if they’re not offended,” she wrote. Scorsese, who often casts

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**Apple promises to get greener**

**WASHINGTON, 3 May —** Apple Inc. is responding to criticism from environmental groups, promised to change its image, getting greener than most of its competitors, US media reported on Thursday.

Apple has been criticized by some environmental organizations for not being a leader in removing toxic chemicals from its products, and for not aggressively or properly recycling its old products.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs posted a letter on the company website Wednesday detailing present and future plans to make a greener Apple. Included among the iPod maker’s green initiatives is a push to remove toxic chemicals — such as lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, arsenic and mercury — in its products. Jobs emphasized that Apple completely eliminated the use of CRTs, which contain lead, in mid-2006. Moreover, Apple plans to completely eliminate the use of arsenic in all of its displays by the end of 2008. Apple also plans to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of mercury by transitioning to LED backlighting for all displays when technically and economically feasible.

He also touted Apple’s recycling efforts, with comparison to HP and Dell. Apple recycled 13 million pounds of e-waste in 2006, which is equal to 9.5 percent of the weight of all products Apple sold seven years earlier. Apple expects this percentage to grow to 13 percent in 2007, and to 20 percent in 2008. “By 2010, we forecast recycling 19 million pounds of e-waste per year — nearly 30 percent of the product weight we sold seven years earlier, significantly more than either Dell or HP,” Jobs said. All the e-waste Apple collects in the United States, and nothing is shipped overseas for disposal, Jobs noted. — Xinhua

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**Washington film event highlights award-winning Chinese works**

**WASHINGTON, 3 May —** A film festival featuring award-winning Chinese movies including Banquet, Tuya’s Marriage and Still Life, was kicked off on Thursday night in the US capital, offering Americans a taste of the contemporary Chinese life and art.

“This film festival will tell you more about China, give you a panoramic view of the landscapes, share with you the life and love of the people there, and show you the oriental art and philosophy,” Chinese Ambassador to the United States Zhou Wenzhong said at the opening ceremony of the festival at American Film Institute (AFI)’s Silver theater.

Zhou said there are vast spaces for cooperation in films between China and the United States and this festival is an important part of that cooperation. “I believe the festival is just the beginning of our long-term cooperation,” he added. Murry Horwitz, Director of AFI Silver, noted that as the world’s third-largest producer of feature films, the size of Chinese movie industry alone warrants attention. — Xinhua
C Ronaldo named England’s Footballer of the Year

LONDON, 4 May — Cristiano Ronaldo of Manchester United was named Footballer of the Year on Friday for an unprecedented sweep of England’s three major individual soccer honours this season. The Portugal winger finished ahead of Didier Drogba of Chelsea and team mates Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes in the 60th vote organized by the Football Writers’ Association (FWA).

“I am absolutely thrilled and delighted to win such an important award, it is a real honour,” Ronaldo said. The 22-year-old becomes the first United player to win the award since Teddy Sheringham in 2001 and the first Portuguese to land the honour.

Ronaldo was also voted Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year by the Professional Footballers’ Association last month. The winger, who joined United from Sporting Lisbon for 12.2 million pounds (24.31 million US dollars) in 2003, has scored 22 goals this season for United, who were knocked out of the Champions League by AC Milan on Wednesday. — Xinhu

O’Neill wins manager gong

LONDON, 4 May — Aston Villa boss Martin O’Neill has scooped the Barclays manager of the Month award for April.

O’Neill guided Villa to an unbeaten run in April, including winning all three of their away games. Villa ended any lingering doubts of a relegation fight with an impressive run of results in April as they picked up 12 points from six games.

Jim Hytner, a member of the judging panel, said: “Martin O’Neill has made a terrific impact in his first season back in the Barclays Premiership.

England appeals to Kaka

Kaka

MILAN, 3 May — Milan star Kaká admits the challenge of playing in the Premiership is ‘very appealing.’

Fresh from destroying Manchester United’s UEFA Champions League dream on Wednesday night, Kaka turned his thoughts to playing in England.

The Brazilian feels the fact that three Premier- ship clubs figured in the Champions League semi-finals is a sign of the league’s strength.

And he concedes that, if the ever decides to leave Milan, then he would consider the possibility of moving to England.

“I love the competition, the challenge,” Kaká told Sky Sports News. “There are many big teams. “Three English teams made the last four of this competition, so the challenge is very appealing. “Many champions play in England.

“If one day I was to leave Milan I would defi- nitely look at an English team.” — Internet

Henry: I will stay with Arsene

LONDON, 5 May — Thierry Henry has issued an upbeat bulletin on his fitness and has vowed to remain with Arsenal for as long as Arsene Wenger remains at the helm.

Henry’s has endured one of his most disappoint- ing campaigns in Arsenal colours, as he has been plagued by injuries and has been forced to watch The Gunners fail to keep pace with Manchester United and Chelsea. Arsenal’s end to the season has been overshadowed by the departure of David Dein and talk of a takeover at Emirates Stadium.

The internal unrest has also led to speculation that Wenger could move on, which has also sparked rumours that his star striker would also head for the exit door. Henry has admitted the departure of Dein left him in a state of shock, but has vowed to remain at the club for as long as Wenger continues to call the shots.

SPORTS

Gattuso: Reds a long ball team

Ivan Gennaro Gattuso

MILAN, 4 May — Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso has branded English Premier League final opponents Liverpool ‘a long ball team.’

The two giants of the European game will re-prise their 2005 showdown in Athens later this month following con- trasting semi-final wins.

Gattuso has compared the two Premiership ri- vals and feels Liverpool are no match for their Manchester counterparts.

“I feel there is a noticeable difference in talent between Manchester United and Liverpool, and that we have beaten the better side of the two,” said Gattuso.

“He is far more technical players, who are quick and able to do things on the ball. Liverpool do not have those individuals.”

“What they have is a way of playing as a team. They are like an Italian team of 10 years ago.”

“All they try to do is defend together, with evey- body behind the ball and just one striker. Every ball is a long ball.”

Gattuso is also relishing a midfield battle with Steven Gerrard, following the Red’s captain’s criti- cal comments of the Italian in his autobiography.

“It is the want to say bad things about me to get added: ”If he wants to say un- favorable comments of the Ital- ian in his autobiography.”

The former Rangers ace added: ”I feel there is a noticeable difference in talent between Manchester United and Liverpool, and that we have beaten the better side of the two,” said Gattuso.

The internal unrest has also led to speculation that Wenger could move on, which has also sparked rumours that his star striker would also head for the exit door. Henry has admitted the departure of Dein left him in a state of shock, but has vowed to remain at the club for as long as Wenger continues to call the shots.

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INTERNET
Cristiano Ronaldo’s penalty gave Manchester United victory at Manchester City

LONDON, 5 May — Manchester United moved to within touching distance of the Premiership title after Cristiano Ronaldo’s penalty gave them victory at Manchester City.

Ronaldo scored in the 34th minute after he was fouled by Michael Ball — who had earlier stamped viciously on the star.

City wasted their best chance when goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar saved Darius Vassell’s penalty 11 minutes from time after Wes Brown fouled Ball.

Chelsea must now win at Arsenal on Sunday to keep alive the title race.

United held on in comfort — and the celebrations at the final whistle suggested Ferguson’s side know the title is theirs, barring a Chelsea miracle.

Premiership
5 May, 2007

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Man City</th>
<th>West Ham</th>
<th>Wigan</th>
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Internet

WEATHER

Saturday, 5 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin, Kayah and Mon States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, scattered in Magway Division and isolated in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mon State Divisions and partly cloudy in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Yangon Division and isolated heaviest falls in Kayin and Mon States. Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (6°C) above average in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above average in temperature in Kachin State, (3°C) to (6°C) below average in other places. In the Rakhine State, scattered in Magway Division and isolated in Kayin, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about average temperature in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (13.54) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (11.14) inches, Yangon (Central) (10.59) inches, Hmawbi (8.70) inches, Bago (6.74) inches, Phyapon (5.35) inches, Hpa-an and Thaton (4.77) inches each, Co Co island (1.93) inches, Pyay (1.50) inches and Dawes (1.46) inches.

Maximum temperature on 4-5-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 5-5-2007 was 83°F. Relative humidities at 09:30 hours MST on 5-5-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2007 was Nil.

Rainfall on 5-5-2007 was (11.14) inches at Mingaladon, (13.54) inches, Kayin-Aye and (10.59) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (13.34) inches at Central Yangon, (13.34) inches at Kayin-Aye and (14.84) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind-speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (27) mph from Southeast at (00:45) hours MST on 5-5-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, tropical depression over East Central Bay has crossed the Deltaic Coast between Pathein and Yangon and weakened into low pressure area, Weather is partly cloudy in North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayah, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered to fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heaviest in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (90%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Rakhine Coast.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers at time heavyfalls. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 6-5-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
No 2 Mani Yadana two-storey building of Maha Ponnya Rama Taik Htanbin Kyaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik opened

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May — A ceremony to open the stone plaque of newly-built No 2 Mani Yadana two-storey building of Maha Ponnya Rama Taik Htanbin Kyaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik was held in conjunction with merit sharing ceremony at the new building in No 1 Ward of Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division this morning.

Under the patronage of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, departmental officials, wellwishers and guests.

Firstly, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pressed a button to open the stone plaque of the new building.

Next, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthayacaca Pandita Sasana Dhaja Dhammaçariya

First seminar on Myanmar fruit, vegetables and flowers held

YANGON, 5 May — The opening of the first seminar on Myanmar fruit, vegetables and flowers and horticulture show organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers Producers Association was held at Myepadethakyun in Kandawgyi, Bahan Township here this morning.

The amounts of rainfall recorded at (09:30) hours MST today, at the following stations observed the (24) hours new maximum rainfall records for the month of May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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