Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received the goodwill delegation led by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta (PVSM, AVSM, ADC) of the Republic of India at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

The Indian goodwill delegation was accompanied by Indian Military Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra. — MNA

General Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian Chief of Naval Staff and party

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Indian Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Friday, 11 May,  2007

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 11 May, 2007

Tap aquatic resources for more hydropower projects

The government is now implementing hydropower projects by effectively utilizing water resources.

One of them is Khabaung Hydropower Project being implemented on Khabaung Creek, about 15 miles west of Ottwin. So far, the intake structure, conduit of the sluice gate, and outfall channel of the project have been completed. And the power station is under construction and steel pipelines are being laid.

Overall, 84 per cent of the whole project has been completed up to now. Upon completion, it will be able to generate about 120 million kilowatt hours a year through 30-megawatt generation capacity machinery.

Pathi Hydropower Project near Pathi Creek, about 10 miles northeast of Toungoo, has been completed nearly 40 per cent up to now. On completion, the project will be able to produce about eight million kilowatt hours a year through two-megawatt generation capacity machinery.

Experts, service personnel and officials concerned are duty-bound to ensure completion of ongoing hydropower projects ahead of schedule by harnessing the water resources to their utmost for national development and economic growth of the nation.

Sanitation for proper flow of water at drains inspected

YANGON, 10 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win and heads of department, inspected sanitation and proper flow of water at drains being undertaken by Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC downtown Yangon this morning.

When the mayor arrived at Mogauk Road near Pyithaya Avenue in Yankin Township, Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win and officials reported on sanitation tasks at Khunnapinlein Creek between Yankin and Tamway townships. They inspected sanitation at drains and creeks in Thuwanna of Thingangyun, South Okkalapa and North Okkalapa townships.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects dredging of garbage in Shwehlai Chaung Creek in North Okkalapa Township. — YCDC

Poll shows most Americans back Iraq pullout timetable

WASHINGTON, 10 May — Six out of 10 Americans support setting a timetable for pulling US troops out of Iraq, even though a clear majority predict civil war there if US forces withdraw next year, according to a poll published on Wednesday.

The USA Today/Gallup poll also found a majority of Americans expect terrorist attacks on the United States regardless of whether US forces pull out in 2008.

The poll results “underscore the limited traction the Bush Administration’s arguments have gotten as White House officials and congressional Democrats negotiate an interim bill to finance the war,” USA Today said.

Last week, President George W Bush vetoed a 124-billion-US-dollar war funding bill because it called for a phased withdrawal of combat troops starting no later than 1 October.

“Six in 10 support setting a timetable for withdrawal and sticking to it regardless of what’s happening in Iraq,” USA Today said. Thirty-six per cent said US troops should stay until the situation in Iraq improved.

Only 22 per cent of those polled agreed with the administration argument that US forces in Iraq are preventing new terrorist attacks on the United States, the paper said.

Seventeen per cent said the US deployment made a terrorist attack more likely, and 58 per cent said it had no effect either way, it said.

India tests surface-to-surface Prithvi-1 missile

NEW DELHI, 10 May — India tested its surface-to-surface medium range Prithvi-1 missile from a defence base in east Indian state of Orissa on Wednesday, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The missile was launched from the Integrated Test Range of Chandipur in the coastal district of Balasore, about 230 kilometres from the state capital Bhubaneswar, at 10:04 a.m., the Defence Ministry sources said. Prithvi is one of the five missiles under development by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

MNA/Xinhua
China slashes US report against China’s policy on religion

BEIJING, 9 May—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman on Tuesday expressed “strong dissatisfaction” and “firm opposition” to a US religious body’s report against the religious situation in China.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) once again took potshots at the religious situation in China and other developing countries in its 2007 annual report, the spokes-woman said when asked to comment on the report. That part of the report which involves China skews and accuses China of its policies on religion and ethnic minorities, which shows once again the organization’s ignorance and prejudice, said Jiang.

“It is obvious to all that the Chinese Government protects Chinese citizens’ freedom of religious belief according to law and Chinese citizens enjoy full freedom of religious belief protected by law,” the spokeswoman said.

“We advised the USCIRF to stop interfering in other countries’ internal affairs under the pretext of religion,” Jiang said.

Blair will stand down on 27 June

LONDON, 10 May—Tony Blair has announced he will stand down as prime minister on 27 June.

He made the announcement in a speech to party activists in his Sedgefield constituency, after earlier briefing the Cabinet on his plans.

He acknowledged his government had not always lived up to high expectations but said he had been very lucky to lead “the greatest nation on earth”.

He will stay on in Downing Street until the Labour Party elects a new leader — widely expected to be Gordon Brown.

In an emotional speech, Mr Blair said he had been prime minister for 10 years which was “long enough” for the country and himself.

He said expectations had probably been “too high” in 1997, but he insisted living standards had improved under Labour.

It was for others to judge whether he had made mistakes, added Mr Blair, but he said he had always done what he thought was “right”.

“I may have been wrong. That’s your call. But believe one thing if nothing else, I did what I thought was right for our country. And I came into office with high hopes for Britain’s future, and, you know, I leave it with even higher hopes for Britain’s future.”

In conclusion, he said: “Actually I’ve been lucky and very blessed. And this country is a blessed nation.”

UN staff member shot dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 9 May—A UN staff member was shot dead in volatile Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan on Tuesday morning, said a statement of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Sadequllah, 38, who was a driver for the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, was killed apparently by gunmen on a motorbike at around 7 am (0230 GMT) while on his way to work in Kandahar, the statement said. The motives for this attack are unknown, and an investigation by the authorities is under way.

“The safety and well-being of those Afghan and international staff who work for the UN in Afghanistan is a matter of paramount importance to us,” said Tom Koenigs, the special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan.

“We will spare no effort to ensure that Sadequllah’s murderers are found and properly brought to account,” he added. UN staff members are attacked in this guerrilla country from time to time. Four Nepali security guards and an Afghan driver working for UN agency were killed by a roadside bombing in Kandahar City, capital of Kandahar Province, on 17 April.”

US military deaths in Iraq at 3,380

WASHINGTON, 9 May—As of Wednesday, on 9 May, 2007, at least 3,380 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,751 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 148 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 20; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, six; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Romania, one death each.
**S Korea sentences US soldier in jail for assault**

**Seoul, 8 May**—A US soldier was sentenced Tuesday to eight months in prison for attacking a South Korean taxi driver without any specific reason, South Korea’s **Yonhap** news agency reported.

The accused person assaulted the victim without any specific reason to inflict serious harm, said Judge Han Yang-seok of the Seoul Central District Court.

The judge, however, suspended the jail term for the soldier, identified only by the initial of his family name B, for two years, saying he had compensated the driver and that the US military demoted the soldier and cut his pay.

The private first class belongs to the honour guard unit of the 8th US Army, a US Army private who was also involved in the assault was ordered to pay a fine of two million won (2,164 US dollars).

The soldiers were convicted of pummelling the 51-year-old taxi driver, identified only by his family name B, for two years, as he had committed the crime in the Itaewon area of central Seoul on 17 November. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Bomb explosion kills one in Las Vegas**

**Los Angeles, 9 May**—One person was killed early Monday when a bomb exploded in a casino parking garage in Las Vegas, about 300 miles (about 482.8 kilometres) northeast of Los Angeles.

Police identified the dead as a hotel employee who was killed when a device he picked up exploded, police said.

The device was put atop a car on the second floor of a parking behind the Luxor hotel-casino, police said.

The blast was not a terrorist act but an apparent murder of a Luxor employee. No threat had been made against the Luxor, police spokesman Bill Cassell said. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Seven soldiers killed in deadly attack in South**

**Narathiwat, 9 May**—A roadside bomb killed seven Thai soldiers instantly Wednesday in one of the deadliest insurgent attacks against security forces this year.

The bombing took place as the soldiers were returning from a mission in an army vehicle in Narathiwat province’s Rangae district. The special warfare unit from Lopburi province in central Thailand were assigned to carry out psychological operations to win back the hearts and minds of local villagers.

Suspected insurgents remotely detonated the bomb by an electrical wire. The powerful explosion killed the ill-fated soldiers instantly and their vehicle was completely destroyed.

The assailants shot all the soldiers in the head to make certain they were dead before making off with seven M16 rifles and six pistols.

The incident occurred in a mountain range near the area which a group of insurgents used as training ground. Army rangers raided the area in February that led to an exchange of gunfire, killing five insurgents at that time. **Internet**

**G-8 ministers to underline social dimension of globalization**

**Berlin, 9 May**—Labour and employment ministers from the Group of Eight (G-8) nations agreed on Monday to pay more attention to the social dimension of globalization.

The ministers pledged at a meeting in Dresden to introduce a stronger social component in their bilateral relations with developing and threshold countries.

The meeting focused on strategies for more and better jobs, corporate responsibility and improving social protection systems in developing and emerging economies.

German Labour Minister Franz Muentefering, who hosted the gathering as his country is holding the presidency of the G-8, said globalization should bring work and security and not just benefits to the international financial world.

EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs Vladimir Spidla, who attended the meeting, said in an interview that globalization needed to have a just and social dimension.

“These components do not come out of the blue. One has to work for them,” he said, adding the G-8 nations had a lot of power and possibility to bring this about.

He urged industry to do more than legally required to improve education, social dialogue and environmental standards, echoing Muntefering’s early call for industry to play a role in improving social standards. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Singapore, Ukraine start FTA negotiations**

**Singapore, 9 May**—Ukraine and Singapore have launched negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a statement from the Singapore Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

The FTA will increase bilateral trade and investment, and provide greater confidence for investors and businesses, the statement said.

Key elements of the FTA will include measures to liberalize trade in goods and services and the investment regime and cooperate in the protection of intellectual property rights and other general provisions.

Ukraine was Singapore’s 55th largest trading partner last year, with total trade amounting to 774 million Singapore dollars (about 510 million US dollars). **MNA/Xinhua**
Cambodia eyes APEC membership

PHNOM PENH, 9 May — Cambodia wants to be a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), said a senior official here on Tuesday.

“We want to be an APEC member because we want to integrate our economy into the region and the world,” said Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong.

However, whether Cambodia becomes an APEC member or not is not important because the East Asia Forum is still very important for the country, he added. In addition, many members of the APEC are in the East Asia Forum, and the forum is always held in the countries of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN), he said.

The East Asia Forum brings together the 10 ASEAN countries plus China, Japan and South Korea.—MNA/Xinhua

ECLAC, FAO say LatAm good shape for biofuel production

SANTIAGO, 9 May — Latin America, especially the southern cone nations, has very favourable conditions for producing biofuels, two UN bodies said in a report released on Tuesday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said that Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay are in the best shape to produce ethanol fuel from sugarcane and corn. Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia have a lot of potential to produce biodiesel because they enjoy extensive soy and palm oil industries.

In order to counteract the possible negative effect, these governments will have to strengthen coordination in agriculture, energy, environment, trade, finance and tax sectors, said Jose Luis Machinea, Ecla’s secretary general. However, Central American and Caribbean nations are not in good shape to trade biofuel because of a shortage of agricultural land and because their diet is based on corn.

The report, which was released after a request from Brazilian President Luiz Inacio da Silva, also said cost prices of bioenergy production in Brazil are half the amount in the European Union and a third in the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Iranians eager to invest in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 9 May — Iranian businessmen have expressed their keenness to invest in Zimbabwe and engage in ventures to produce various goods and commodities in the country, The Herald reported on Tuesday.

The Iranian Government, which has expressed its willingness to conduct business with Zimbabwe, has since instructed its ministries to open an Africa desk. This will facilitate quick and easy access for business transactions, the newspaper said.

Zimbabwean Deputy Information and Publicity Minister Bright Matonga, who recently returned from Iran, was quoted as saying that there was huge potential for business and lucrative markets in Iran.

Matonga added that Iran, which enjoys cordial relations with Zimbabwe, had made inquiries about buying a huge consignment of asbestos from this country and the order was likely to be concluded soon.—MNA/Xinhua

EU tells Ukraine to upgrade pipelines after blast

MOSCOW/ BRUSSELS, 9 May — The European Commission called on Ukraine on Tuesday to upgrade its pipelines after an explosion on Monday destroyed a 30-metre section of the trunk pipeline that carries Russian gas to Europe.

“A similar accident occurred in the same section of the same pipeline in 2001,” Ferran Tarradellas Espuny, EU energy commissioner said.

The Commission considered that additional proof that Ukrainian networks — or at least part of the network of pipelines supplying gas to the European Union — needs to be overhauled.”

The future of the Ukrainian gas pipeline — and Russia’s oil pipeline that runs across Belarus to Europe — is already in doubt because of Russia’s desire to escape what President Vladimir Putin has called “parasite” transit nations.

—MNA/Reuters

China’s car exports rise in 1st quarter of 2007

BEIJING, 10 May — China exported 99,600 vehicles in the first quarter this year, 5.32 percent up on the same period of last year, according to figures from the General Administration of Customs.

The export of sedans (also known as saloons), or passenger cars excluding sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs), soared by 49 percent on last year to 25,000 units.

Car parts and other related exports soared 36.3 percent to a value of 8 billion US dollars, while imports rose 18.5 percent to 5.4 billion US dollars.

China produced 2,19 million vehicles in the first three months of the year, up 22.6 percent on the same period of 2006. This included 1.6 million passenger cars, up 23.7 percent.—Internet

A Chinese ethnic minorities culture exhibition was held in Hong Kong on 5 May, attracting many visitors. All kinds of costumes and artworks from various Chinese ethnic minorities were showcased.—Internet

A monkey drinks water from a roadside tap in the northeast Indian city of Siliguri on 7 May. 2007.— Internet

A tourist admires peonies in a park of Yinchuan, capital of west China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 8 May, 2007. Over 80 varieties of peonies are in full bloom in the park as it turns warm.—Xinhua

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said that Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay are in the best shape to produce ethanol fuel from sugarcane and corn. Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia have a lot of potential to produce biodiesel because they enjoy extensive soy and palm oil industries.

In order to counteract the possible negative effect, these governments will have to strengthen coordination in agriculture, energy, environment, trade, finance and tax sectors, said Jose Luis Machinea, Eclac’s secretary general. However, Central American and Caribbean nations are not in good shape to trade biofuel because of a shortage of agricultural land and because their diet is based on corn.

The report, which was released after a request from Brazilian President Luiz Inacio da Silva, also said cost prices of bioenergy production in Brazil are half the amount in the European Union and a third in the United States.—MNA/Xinhua
S Africa, Switzerland sign air travel agreement

JOHANNESBURG, 9 May — The governments of South Africa and Switzerland have signed a bilateral air services agreement that will result in an increase in tourist and business traffic to the two countries, South Africa’s Department of Transport said on Tuesday.

Flights operated by Swiss International Airlines would be increase to 12 per week between Zurich and Johannesburg, from six flights per week currently, said the ministry’s spokesman Collen Msibi.

Nepal to launch anti-polio drive

KATHMANDU, 9 May — The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) will launch a two-day sub-national immunization campaign for polio eradication on June 2-3 in 17 more districts, Yasovardhan Pradhan, director at the Child Health Division (CHD), said here on Tuesday.

Earlier, the MoHP launched the campaign in six districts. The campaign is being launched in districts bordering India to control the spread of polio virus because polio cases were detected in some parts of India, the director said.

“Two drops of oral polio vaccine will be administered to each child under five in polio booths on the first day,” he said, adding that health workers will organize house-to-house campaigns the next day in the southern Tarai districts to make sure no child is left out.

The CHD is also launching a campaign against Japanese Encephalitis from the second week of May.

“I have made preparations for the campaign and plan to launch it from Kanchanpur in far-western Nepal from the second week of May,” Pradhan told reporters.

UNICEF says HIV/AIDS affecting 10 mln kids in S Asia

KATHMANDU, 9 May — The United Nation’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has said that up to 10 million children in South Asia are affected by HIV/AIDS, The Himalayan Times reported Tuesday.

UNICEF said, however, that only a tiny proportion of them are actually HIV positive while the vast majority are at high risk because they either have a parent living with HIV or have been orphaned by the virus.

This was revealed by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at a meeting of the representatives from the SAARC countries here, according to the daily.

The participants of the two-day regional consultation on Children Affected by HIV/AIDS will review the situation of children affected by HIV/AIDS in the region.

They will also work towards facilitating a common strategic approach to guide policies and actions to protect the HIV/AIDS affected children.

Death toll rises to 16 in suicide car bomb attack in S Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 May — The death toll rose to at least 16 people killed and up to 70 others injured on Tuesday when a suicide car bomb struck a busy market in the town of Kufa near the holy city of Najaf.

160 kilometres south of Baghdad, local police said.

“Our latest report said that at least 16 people were killed and some 70 others injured in the suicide car bombing in the commercial Jez Street in Kufa, some 10 kilometres northeast of Najaf,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, the source put the toll at ten people killed and 25 others wounded in a car bomb blast at a busy market. A suicide bomber driving an explosive-laden vehicle at about 10:15 am (0615 GMT) at the crowded commercial street where dozens of shops and open market located, the source said.

Eight die in east India due to rains

NEW DELHI, 9 May — Unexpected storms accompanied by heavy rains and lightning in parts of East Indian Orissa region killed eight people, including six women, on Monday night, Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Tuesday.

Heavy rains lashed Orissan capital Bhubaneswar and parts of Angul, Dhenkanal Nayagarh and Puri areas in Orissa Monday night.

While four victims died after being struck by lightning in Dhenkanal, three lost their lives in Angul and one person was killed in Puri. Several trees were uprooted and electricity supply was disrupted in these regions.

Australian troops attacked in Iraq

CANBERRA, 9 May — Australian troops have been attacked in southern Iraq but no one was hurt, according to Tony Rawlins, commander of Australian troops in southern Iraq.

The soldiers were on a routine security mission in Samawah City, the capital of Al Muthanna Province, Monday afternoon local time when they were attacked.

“As they were leaving the provincial joint operations centre, coming out through the back gate, down a side alley, they were engaged by two to three people,” Rawlins told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio Tuesday.

“(There was) one rocket-propelled grenade and a small burst of fire from an AK-47 (rifles),” he said.

Five killed in mortar attack in S Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 May — Five people were killed and two others injured on Monday when a mortar round struck a house in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A mortar round landed on a house in the Saidiyah neighbourhood, killing five people and wounding two others,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Separately, six unidentified bodies were found in the Hay al-Amil neighbourhood, in southwestern Baghdad, the source said.

The bullet-riddled bodies were bound and blindfolded, showing signs of torture, he said.
The Tatmadaw government has been building more and more power plants in the whole nation. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe inspected Shweli 1 Hydroelectric Power Project on 18 April 2007. The project is being implemented on Shweli River 17 miles south-west of Namhkam in northern Shan State. The project will generate 600 megawatts and over 51 per cent of work has been completed. Two more hydropower projects on the river -- the Shweli 2, with 460-megawatt generation capacity, in Moemeik Township, and the Shweli 3, with 360-megawatt generation capacity -- will also be implemented. The 54-megawatt Kengtawng hydropower plant project near Kengtawng Falls in Loilem District, Shan State (South) and the 7110-megawatt Tarhsan hydropower plant project on Thanlwin River in Mongpang Township will also supply electricity to the nation in the future.

Apart from power projects to supply electricity to the whole country, the Tatmadaw government is also developing the education sector. The number of basic education students in Shan State has increased nearly 200 per cent, school enrollment rate, 289.18 per cent, and adult literacy rate, 216.85 per cent when compared with 1988.

Up to 1988, Shan State did not have an arts and science university. The Tatmadaw government has established two arts and science universities and one degree college, at which over 20,000 students are pursuing higher education. Four special development zones have been set up in Shan State for its development. Taunggyi special development zone in southern Shan State and Panglong special development zone now have a Technological University and a Computer University each. According to the list collected in 2005, the two universities had 6598 students.

Thanks to the efforts and goodwill of the Ministry of Information, Myanmar has become the first country in the world to have a library each in all villages. The ministry has been opening libraries with the aim of raising the entire people's education and intellectual level, widening their scope of knowledge, enhancing their thinking power and the power to control their mind and nurturing them to have correct concepts, and enabling them to lead a stable life and to differentiate between right and wrong. Up to 55,717 self-reliant rural libraries had been opened in Myanmar on 31 March 2007 thanks to the combined efforts of the government, the local people and the donors.

A grand ceremony to mark the opening of rural libraries in Shan State (South) was held in Taunggyi on 2-4-2007. At the ceremony, a trust fund was set up, and TVs, radio-cassettes, videos, books and buildings were donated.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thang Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Chairperson of Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thin Myo Myo Aung, social organizations, senior military officers, officials and donors attended the ceremony.

Wellwishers also donated 35 TV sets, 82 radios, 5420 books and periodicals, 84 buildings, 18 videos, 18 voltage controllers and cash worth over K110 million for rural libraries. A total of 3087 libraries and 20 TV retransmission stations that can cover up to 8797.26 square miles have been built in southern Shan State. Taunggyi has a sub-printing house that has been publishing the newspapers.

People of all ages can now read various kinds of books and periodicals, watch TV and listen to the radio to enhance their knowledge bank.

(Translation: TMT)

* * *
YANGON, 10 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the dinner in honour of get-together of outstanding members of Myanmar Red Cross Society 2007 held at University of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street this evening.

Present also were Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and CEC members, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, executives of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), officials of the Ministry of Health, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe and members, representatives of International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, outstanding members of MRCS and guests.

MRCS President Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe delivered an address on the occasion. An outstanding Red Cross member spoke words of thanks. Next, the commander, guests and outstanding Red Cross members were served with dinner. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — With a view to facilitating development of fisheries sector and joint-ventures of the two nations, visiting Vietnamese Fisheries Minister Mr Ta Quang Ngoc and wife Mrs. Luong Thanh Chau and party went on an observation tour of Annawa Cold Storage in Pazundaung Township on 8 May morning.

At the briefing hall, officials of Fisheries Department explained productivity of the factory, prospects of foreign market and domestic distribution to the visiting minister and party. They replied to the queries raised by the minister and party.

The visiting minister and party made some observations on production of fish and prawn and finished marine products, sales of fish and prawn at Nyaungdan Jetty and local demand. Next, they visited a laboratory of the Fisheries Department in Thakayta Township where officials replied to the queries raised by the visiting minister and party.

The following day, they visited the fresh water fish farms of Annawahlwan company in Maubin and Nyaungdon townships of Ayeyawady Division. Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint hosted dinner in honour of the visiting minister and party at Yuzana Garden Hotel. The visiting minister and party left Yangon by air this morning and they were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank Governor U Kyaw Lwin and wife, Director-General U Khin Maung Aye and Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. — MNA
Training courses opened at Women’s Vocational Training Schools

YANGON, 10 May — The Basic Tailoring Course No 5, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 1 and the Vocational (Wickerwork) Course No 1 were opened at the Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department in Pale on 7 May.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered an address. Also present on the occasion were local authorities, departmental officials and social organization members.

Myanmar Optic Shop opens

Opening ceremony of Myanmar Optic Shop of retired opticians of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Equipment Trading of Ministry of Commerce in progress. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — An opening ceremony of Myanmar Spectacle Centre run by retired opticians of the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Equipment Trading under the Ministry of Commerce was held at Thabyaegon Market in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Director U Myat Tun Kyaw of Directorate of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Director U Ko Ko of the Cooperative Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives formally opened the centre.

A wide range of glasses are available at reasonable prices there and eye tests will be conducted from 1 to 5 and from 15 to 19 monthly.— MNA

Pan-wut-hmone Fashion Shop-2 opened in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 10 May — Pan-wut-hmone Fashion Shop-2 was opened at No 32, Kyansittha Housing Estate, in Hlinethaya Township on 6 May.

The fashion store was formally opened by Chairman of Hlinethaya Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Thein Maung, Chairman of Administration Committee for Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5 and owner of Pan-wut-hmone Fashion Store Daw Phyo Thandar Hlaing.

After the opening ceremony, owner of the shop Daw Phyo Thandar Hlaing and U Khin Hlaing (Chit Moe Nyo) conducted officials and invited guests around the shop.

Online brand clothes of various sizes are available at the shop. Pan-wut-hmone Fashion Shop-1 was also opened at the building-1 of Myagandama Market in Mayangon Township in March. Retailers and wholesalers may contact the shop. — MNA

NLD did not serve interest of people and the State

Three resign from NLD of Einme, Myaung Townships

YANGON, 10 May — Two members U Kyi Aye and U Tin Hlaing of Einme Township National League for Democracy in Ayeyawady Division resigned on 26 May and member U Thit of Myaung Township NLD in Sagaing Division on 4 April resigned from the party of their own desire, sending their letters of resignation to NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their resignation letters sent to Einme and Myaung Townships Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commissions, they said that they had no confidence and interest in the party any longer and came to realize that the party did not serve the interest of the people and the State. That was why they resigned from the party of their own volition, they said. — MNA
Retired US generals slam Bush policy in ad campaign

WASHINGTON, 10 May — Three retired US generals will challenge the Bush Administration’s Iraq policy in an ad campaign starting Wednesday, Fox News reported.

The three generals are John Batiste, Paul Eaton and Wesley Clark, who will be featured in a series of political ad launched by VoteVets.org, an anti-war group, according to the report.

Batiste, who once led soldiers in Iraq, said in the first ad that President George W. Bush has misled the war and called for troops to come home.

"Mr President, you did not listen. You continue to pursue a failed strategy that is breaking our great Army and Marine Corps. I left the Army in protest in order to speak out. Mr President, you have placed our nation in peril. Our only hope is that Congress will act now to protect our fighting men and women," he said.

The ad featuring Eaton is expected to air next week and generally will follow the same format as the Batiste ad.

The ad featuring Clark, a former NATO Supreme Commander, will focus on how the Iraq war hurt the "war on terror". — MNA/Xinhua

GM rolls out new sales incentives to boost truck sales

WASHINGTON, 10 May — General Motors Corp. has rolled out a new round of sales incentives for its redesigned lineup of full-size pickups, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

The Detroit auto maker, which said it needs to keep up with deals being offered by competitors, is offering 0 per cent finance on 36-month loans for certain versions of the 2007 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, said the report.

It is offering reduced-rate financing on 60-month loans for trucks, which are among the most profitable products in GM’s global lineup. — MNA/Xinhua

NASA’s next Mars spacecraft “Phoenix” arrives in Florida

WASHINGTON, 10 May — A US Air Force C-17 cargo aircraft carrying NASA’s Mars Lander arrived at Cape Canaveral in Florida on Tuesday.

A Delta II launch vehicle will start Phoenix on its much longer trip to Mars from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station sometime after 3 August, the earliest possible launch date, NASA said in a statement.

Opportunities for energy-efficient launches to Mars come about every two years, and scientists say this year is particularly favourable for sending a lander to far-northern Mars to arrive when sunshine is at a maximum there.

“This is a critical milestone for our mission,” said Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, principal investigator for Phoenix.

“Our expert engineering team has completed assembly and testing of the spacecraft. The testing shows our instruments are capable of meeting the high-level requirements for the mission.”

Workers have been assembling and testing the spacecraft for more than a year in Denver, Colorado.

After launch, Phoenix will land on a Martian arctic plain next spring. It will use a robot digging arm and other instruments to determine whether the soil environment just beneath the surface could have been a favourable habitat for microbial life. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam install narcotics scanners at airports

HANOI, 10 May — Vietnam will install narcotics scanners at its biggest international airports amid recent detection of passengers transporting drugs by air, according to local newspaper Transport on Wednesday.

From the third quarter, all passengers at Vietnam’s biggest international airport, Tan Son Nhat in southern Ho Chi Minh City, will be subject to narcotics scanning. Meanwhile, the Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi capital will use the scanners on only suspected passengers.

Using such equipment as baggage scanners, magnetic gates and liquid explosive detectors, Vietnam’s aviation security forces find it very difficult to detect narcotics hidden in passengers’ luggage or body. However, they have already discovered some cases of transporting drugs by air, mainly on routes from Ho Chi Minh City to Australia, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Truck bomb kills 20, wounds 70 in Iraq’s Kurdistan

BAGHDAD, 10 May — The death toll rose to 20, with 70 others wounded, when a suicide truck bomb struck the building of a Kurdish regional ministry in Iraq’s northern city of Arbil on Wednesday, local police said.

“Latest report said that 20 people were killed and 70 others injured, including Interior Ministry employees,” a source from the city police said, citing report from the Kurdish regional Health Ministry.

Earlier, the source put the toll at 30 people killed and wounded. — MNA/Xinhua

US climber dies after falling from New Zealand glacier

WELLINGTON, 10 May — New Zealand police said Wednesday a 20-year-old American man died Tuesday after falling from a New Zealand glacier.

Three Lincoln University students—all from the United States—were roped together when they fell more than 400 metres down the side of Mount French on Monday. One of the injured students trekked through icy and rocky terrain to get help for the other survivor.

The trio had just descended the large Bonar glacier and were in an area between several smaller glaciers when the mishap occurred. Their fall ended on an ice shelf on the edge of a glacier. — MNA/Xinhua

Five dead in US Navy helicopter crash in Nevada

RENO (Nevada), 10 May — All five crew members on a helicopter flying out of Nevada’s Fallon Naval Air Station died in a crash about 10 miles (16 kilometres) west of Austin, Nevada, base officials said on Tuesday.

Spokesman Zip Upham said the helicopter apparently struck a high-voltage power line while on a search and rescue training mission at 9:30 pm on Monday night. The remote area is about 165 miles (265 kilometres) east of Reno.

Navy investigators were in the northern Nevada Desert early on Tuesday to recover the bodies of the five sailors.

The SH-60F helicopter was part of a helicopter anti-submarine squadron in Jacksonville. — MNA/Reuters

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The SH-60F helicopter was part of a helicopter anti-submarine squadron in Jacksonville. — MNA/Reuters
Russia announces big gas deal before Putin’s Central Asia tour

MOSCOW, 10 May — Russia will import 50 billion cubic metres of natural gas from Turkmenistan in 2007 and expects to build a gas pipeline linking the two countries, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

The two countries have inked long-term gas contracts till 2028, when Russia's gas imports are expected to reach 90 billion cubic metres, ITAR-TASS cited Russian Deputy Minister of Industry and Energy Andrei Reus as saying. According to those contracts, Russia will buy some 50 billion cubic metres of gas from the Caspian country in 2008, which is equal to 86 per cent of the gas exports of the world’s No 5 gas-and-oil rich country. Russia bought more than 41 billion cubic metres of gas from Turkmenistan last year, when the price increased from 65 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres to 100 US dollars.

During talks with his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov in Moscow late April, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for greater energy cooperation. Putin is to pay a seven-day visit to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan from Wednesday, during which he will attend a tripartite summit between the three heads of states, the Russian Presidential Press Service said Tuesday.

The United States and the European Union have been trying to persuade Turkmenistan to ship gas past Russia via a proposed pipeline under the Caspian Sea. Reus did not rule out the possibility of the pipeline, stretching along the Caspian Sea coast to Turkey. "We don't limit our partners," he was quoted as saying.

Turkmen gas is currently exported via the Central Asia-Centre pipeline, which possesses an annual capacity of nearly 50 billion cubic metres, ITAR-TASS said.

Second tube of Mount Bolu tunnel opened in Turkey

ANKARA, 10 May — The second tube of the Bolu Mountain tunnel on the Ankara-Istanbul Highway was opened with an official ceremony on Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The 2,954-metre-long tube was opened five months after the 2,788-metre-long first tube of the tunnel was inaugurated by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi.

Public Works and Housing Ministry's undersecretary Sabri Ozkan Erbakan was quoted as saying that the tunnel was now ready to handle traffic technically and as far as safety measures are concerned. The tunnel accommodates three lanes of traffic in each direction and is expected to reduce travel time significantly between Turkey's capital Ankara and the largest city Istanbul.

This aerial picture taken in March 2007 shows the mud volcano in the area of Porong, a district of Sidoarjo in East Java. Sludge has burst through an embankment built around Indonesia’s disastrous "mud volcano," flooding a main road, an official said on Tuesday 8 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Singapore, Australia hold joint maritime exercise

SINGAPORE, 10 May — A joint maritime exercise involving the navies and airforces of Singapore and Australia has been holding in the Singapore Strait and the South China Sea, from 7 to 11 May. Singapore’s Defence Ministry said on Wednesday in a statement that both navies are exercising under the conventional range of scenarios, from maritime surveillance, air defence to anti-submarine warfare, as well as in the maritime security scenario of defence against small boat threats. Shore activities in the form of professional discussions and war-gaming training are also part of the exercise.

The exercise, named Exercise SINGA-ROO07, is the eleventh in the series of maritime warfare exercises between the navies and airforces of Singapore and Australia.

US Democrats craft new Iraq war-funds plan

WASHINGTON, 10 May — Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives said on Tuesday that they will try to pass a new Iraq war-funding bill to keep combat operations running for the next two or three months while also forcing a troop withdrawal vote in July.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a Maryland Democrat, said a vote could come as early as Thursday on a new plan to provide more than 30 billion US dollars now for combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan before existing war funds run out. Another 10 billion US dollars or so would beef up veterans health care and other military programmes. The House vote would come in the midst of a three-month fight between congressional Democrats and the White House over the Iraq war and as the Pentagon adds 30,000 US troops to help secure Baghdad from sectarian violence that has spiralled out of control.

More TV time means worse school performance

NEW YORK, 10 May — The more TV adolescents watch, the more likely they are to develop attention and learning problems, and to do poorly in school in the long-run, a new study confirms.

The findings “suggest that by encouraging youths to spend less than 3 hours per day watching television, parents, teachers and health-care professionals may be able to help reduce the likelihood that at-risk adolescents will develop persistent attention and learning difficulties”, Dr Jeffrey G Johnson of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and colleagues write.

Children in industrialized nations generally watch 2 or more hours of TV each day. There is evidence linking TV watching and poor academic and intellectual performance, the researchers point out, but it is not clear whether the TV time leads to school failure, if kids who donot do well in school tend to watch more TV than their better-performing peers, or if there are factors such as poverty or neglect that may contribute to both increased television watching and learning problems.

More information on the study can be found at www.nej.com.
VERIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (126)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (126) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 11.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS/ PREMIER SPECTRUM SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

**AstraZeneca AR, A Company incorporated in Sweden, of Vaxa Malare-hemmen 9, SE-151 85 Sodertalje, Sweden, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark—**

**EXACANTA**

Reg. No. 2270/2004
in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treat-
ment of cardiovascular dis-
esases and disorders (incl Class 5)

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

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Estate, Batu 3, P.O.Box 1100, 45918 Selangor, Darul Ehsan, Malaysia is the Owner of the following Trade Mark—**

**PROTON**

in respect of "(1) Motor vehicles, parts, components and accesorries relating to motor vehicles, (2) Services for construction and repair of motor vehicle."

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**Amendment for Closing Date of Sealed Tender for Supply of Total Station**

The Closing Date of Sealed Tender for Supply of Total Station and Accessories advertised in THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR on (4.5.2007), (5.5.2007) is amended as follows—

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**JAPAN BECOMES LARGEST VEHICLE PRODUCING COUNTRY**

Tokyo, 8 May—Japan became the largest vehicle producer in the world for the first time since 1993, surpassing the United States, Kyodo News said Monday, citing a recent survey by an industry association.

A total of 11.48 million vehicles, including minibuses and vehicles with engines of up to 660 cc were produced in Japan last year. Meanwhile, former champion, the United States fell to second with its domestic production down 5.7 per cent to 11.26 million in 2006, according to the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers.

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**DONATE BLOOD**

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**CHRONICLE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPARISON BETWEEN PERIOD PRECEDING 1988 AND AFTER**

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**DONATE BLOOD**

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**DRIVE WITH CARE**

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According to the survey by the Paris-based organization, China rose to the third place in 2006, with a domestic production of 7.18 million units, exceeding Germany.

Vehicle production in Japan has grown for the fifth consecutive year, with a 6.3-per-cent expansion in 2006. Japan used to be the world’s largest vehicle production country from 1980 to 1993, due largely to aggressive exports to the United States. However, major Japanese automakers have since then promoted production in North America.

MNA/Xinhua
Poisonous pet feed prompts stricter food safety checks

BEIJING, 10 May — China has intensified efforts to ensure food safety after a spate of incidents involving poisonous pet feed in the United States. The State Council Wednesday issued a circular ordering inspections of medicines and additives used in animal feed to be carried out nationwide.

Washington, 9 May — A flight surgeon, two astronauts and a Cincinnati doctor launched a 12-day NASA mission to depths of the ocean off the Florida coast on Monday to test space medicine concepts and moon-walking techniques.

Aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aquarius Underwater Laboratory, the crew of the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 12 (NEEMO 12) will conduct a variety of advanced medical technology experiments, including robotic telesurgery on simulated patients. It is the first undersea mission to include a NASA flight surgeon.

“Flight Surgeon Josef Schmid’s unique experience in space medicine will benefit the mission itself as well as the future development of crew care techniques for long-duration human space flight missions,” NEEMO project manager Bill Todd said in a statement.

Hands-on telesurgery demonstrations and robotic telesurgery technology developed and refined within this mission will help surgeons overcome interplanetary communication lag time. Technologies such as surgeon-guided automatic robot function could improve the care of astronauts on future missions to the moon and Mars. The crew will conduct simulated undersea “moon walks” to test concepts for future lunar exploration.

During the simulated moon walks, they will construct an undersea structure with the help of a remotely operated vehicle, similar to what the next travellers to the moon may do.

Chinese people lived and traded around the Xisha Islands during the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties,” Zhang said.

“They also demonstrate that foreign trade during the Tang and Song dynasties was prosperous and that China was one of the earliest nations to discover other parts of the world,” said Zhang.

The wreck, 20 metres long and six metres wide, was stumbled upon by a group of Chinese fishermen in 1996, three meters below the sea water near Huaguan Reef.

Ancient ceramics discovered off Xisha Islands

HAIKOU, 9 May — Chinese archaeologists have recovered around 10,000 pieces of antique pottery and porcelain in an underwater excavation of a shipwreck believed to date back to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) in the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea.

The findings provide important evidence of an established trade route between China and the rest of the world in the 13th century, according to Zhang Wei, the lead archaeologist for the 55-day excavation in the Xisha Islands that drew to a close on Tuesday.

“What we found from the shipwreck on Huaguan Reef No.1 are pearls of the ancient Silk Road on the sea,” said Zhang, “and it is first time we have found such precious antiques in the high seas.”

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**SPORTS**

**Sevilla ease past Depor into King’s Cup final**

Seville (Spain), 10 May — Sevilla reached their second final of the season beating Deportivo Coruna 2-0 at home to cruise into the King’s Cup final 5-0 on aggregate on Wednesday.

Juande Ramos’s side, who face Espanyol in the UEFA Cup final next Wednesday, led 3-0 from the first leg and swiftly ended any thoughts of an upset when Duda scored from a free kick after just three minutes.

Ernesto Chevanton doubled the lead in the 33rd and a feeble Depor never looked capable of threatening Sevilla’s first appearance in the final since losing 2-1 to Real Madrid in 1962.

Sevilla look set to meet Barcelona at the Bernabeu on June 23. The Primera Liga leaders held a 5-2 first-leg advantage going into Thursday’s second leg away to Gerardo. It would be a repeat of last August’s European Super Cup when they beat Barcelona 3-0.

Sevilla, who are third in the league and still in the title race, rested a number of key players but it did not seem to matter as they dominated from the off.

**Roma stun Inter 6-2 in thrilling final first leg**

Rome, 10 May — AS Roma scored four goals in the first half hour to beat holders Inter Milan 6-2 in an extraordinary first final of the Italian Cup final on Wednesday.

Captain Francesco Totti, whose team now take a healthy lead into next Thursday’s second leg at the San Siro, gave the home side a dream start when he slammmed in Rodrigo Taddei’s pull back in the first minute.

Roma, who lost to Inter in the last two finals, were desperate to avoid a third straight defeat and quickly doubled their lead when Daniele de Rossi diverted a volley from Philippe Mexes into the net on five minutes.

Simone Perrotta made it 3-0 after sliding in to convert Cristian Chivu’s low cross, which completely outwaited a dormant Inter defence.

The match had been brought forward to an early evening kickoff because of fears of crowd trouble and league champions Inter finally woke up when Hernan Crespo took advantage of a defensive error to equaliser. In the final for a UEFA Cup place, Utrecht were held to a goalless draw at home by Roda JC Kerkrade. Groningen host Feyenoord on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

**Henin, Mauresmo safely through at German Open**

Bunsen, 10 May — World number one Justine Henin eased into the third round of the German Open on Wednesday with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Germany’s Tatjana Malek, while Amelie Mauresmo returned from illness to beat China’s Yan Zi 6-3, 6-3.

Henin, the top seed and a three-times winner in Berlin, had too much power for her 19-year-old opponent and broke the German seven times to secure victory in just over an hour.

Wimbledon champion Mauresmo, seeded second, was scarcely more taxed as she won her first competitive match since having her appendix removed, beating her Chinese challenger in one hour 23 minutes. Martina Hingis had to show more grit to beat Katerina Bondarenko of Ukraine 7-5, 7-6.

Hingis, the fourth seed, fought her way back from an early break to edge the first set and she had to get out of further trouble in the second.

**Chelsea, United in goalless stalemate**

London, 10 May — Chelsea and Manchester United, league champions old and new, produced a strictly mid-table performance on Wednesday in a goalless showdown that came a month too late.

The game, which should have been one of the highlights of the season, was downgraded to a dead rubber status when United secured the title on Sunday by virtue of Chelsea only drawing 1-1 at Arsenal.

It would have been very different if the fixture had been played when originally scheduled for FA Cup semi-final weekend in April, when United were just three points ahead, but with the teams due to meet again in the Cup final on May 19 it became a more of a damage-limitation exercise.

Alex Ferguson put out a virtual second-string team. China forward Fangzhuo Dong donated the red shirt competitively for the first time more than three years after joining the club, full back Kieran Lee made his first league appearance and Chris Eagles his first start. Wayne Rooney, Paul Scholes, Rio Ferdinand and Michael Carrick were on the bench and Cristiano Ronaldo not involved at all.

**Heerenveen edge Ajax, Twente and Alkmaar draw in playoffs**

Amsterdam, 10 May — A first-half goal from Lasse Nilsson handed Heerenveen a 1-0 home win over Ajax Amsterdam in Wednesday’s playoffs for a Champions League qualifying round place.

Brazilian Afonso Alves, who also hit the bar with a 30-metre free kick, set up Nilsson to score after 17 minutes.

The return will be played on Sunday and the winner will face Twente Enschede or AZ Alkmaar, who drew 1-1, in the playoff final.

Simon Cromierom doubled after 12 minutes to put Alkmaar ahead but early in the second half Kenneth Bakkens curled a free kick around the wall for the equaliser. In the playoff for a UEFA Cup place, Utrecht were held to a goalless draw at home by Roda JC Kerkrade. Groningen host Feyenoord on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

**Lokomotiv to meet FK Moscow in Russian Cup final**

Moscow, 10 May — Lokomotiv Moscow beat city rivals Spartak 2-1 on Wednesday to advance to the Russian Cup final 5-1 on aggregate. Russia striker Dmitry Sychev scored the winner two minutes from time for the railway side, who will meet FK Moscow in the May 27 final.

FK Moscow reached their first major final after beating Second Division Dynamo Bryansk 1-0 in the second leg of their semifinal on Tuesday for a 2-1 win on aggregate.

Lokomotiv, on the other hand, will be playing in their ninth final, having won six including the inaugural Soviet Cup final back in 1936. The cup winners will represent Russia in the UEFA Cup next season. — MNA/Reuters

**Utah Jazz’ Andre Kirilenko (47) mau- nocoures around the defence of Golden State Warriors Jason Richardson during the first quarter of Game 2 of their NBA Western Conference semifinals basketball game in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 9 May, 2007. — INTERNET**
SAUDI ARABIA HIDES US RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENT IRAQI SITUATION

CAIRO, 10 May — Saudi Arabia held the US responsible for the current violent situation in Iraq and insists its opposition to military solution to the issue of the war-torn country, a Saudi Arabia diplomat told Xinhua here on Wednesday.

"The US should hold 100-per-cent responsibility for what is going on in Iraq, our policy is still the same as before, that is for political solution, against military solution," said Mutlaq Saud al-Mutiri, Press attaché of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Cairo.

On the US plants to send 35,000 extra troops to Iraq later this year, Mutiri said the US decision was meant to show that extra troops are needed to prove its success in Iraq, terming the issue of troops withdrawal from Iraq as a pure American affair.

"We must admit there is an ethnic war in Iraq now, and the violence there will not be reduced until the end of this ethnic war," he asserted, calling for more focus on the reality of the state itself, rather than the division between the region groups of Sunnis and Shiites.

On the international conferences on Iraq held in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Mutiri said that the meetings aimed to prove ways how to reduce the violence in Iraq, and the bilateral meetings and contacts between the US and Syria and Iran indicated the US willingness to give these two countries a role in Iraq.
Indian Chief of Naval Staff calls on Commander-in-Chief (Navy)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Visiting Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta (PVSM, AVSM, ADC) of the Republic of India and party called on Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein at the latter’s office at the Ministry of Defence, here, at 5.15 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shein and senior naval officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy). The Indian naval goodwill delegation was accompanied by Indian Military Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra.

At the call, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and the Indian Chief of the Naval Staff exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

In the evening, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife Daw Aye Aye hosted dinner in honour of the Indian Chief of the Naval Staff, wife and party at Golden Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone. — MNA

Indian naval delegation leaves for Pyin Oo Lwin

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta (PVSM, AVSM, ADC) of the Republic of India and wife left here by air at 10 am today for Pyin Oo Lwin.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife Daw Aye Aye, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife, senior naval officers and their wives and officials.

MNA

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)

Four special development zones have been set up in Shan State for its development. Taunggyi special development zone in southern Shan State and Panglong special development zone now have one Technological University and one Computer University each. According to the list collected in 2005, the two universities had 6598 students.

Pathi Hydropower Project near Pathi Creek, about 10 miles north-east of Toungoo, has been completed nearly 40 per cent up to now. On completion, the project will be able to produce eight million kilowatt hours a year through two-megawatt generation capacity.

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INSIDE