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

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Acting Prime Minister Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes Cambodian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May

— A Cambodian delegation led by Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, arrived here at 10 am today on a goodwill visit by special flight at the invitation of Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Cambodian Prime Minister and delegation members were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia Dr Aung Naing, the director general of the SPDC office, departmental heads, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and embassy staff. Acting Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein and the visiting Cambodian Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour at the dais of the airport.

Next, they inspected the Guard of Honour. Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the Cambodian Prime Minister and delegation members.

The visiting Prime Minister also greeted the Acting Prime Minister and party.

Afterwards, the guests proceeded to the Hotel Zone in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 22 May, 2007

Utilize irrigation networks most beneficially

The government has laid down and is implementing dam projects region-wise to effectively use the water resources for the agricultural sector.

Baingda Diversion Dam was inaugurated in DaikU Township the other day and it is 43rd dam in Bago Division.

The reinforced concrete dam can irrigate 46,700 acres of land for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Moreover, the dam can prevent Yangon-Mandalay Highway and railroads in Pyundaza plain from being flooded during the rainy season.

Low-lying areas will be turned into farmland with the inauguration of the dam in the area. Local farmers can now grow over 90,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy plus other crops and their socio-economic life will improve.

It is necessary for them to boost production of crops with the effective use of irrigated water.

After 1988, the government built 199 irrigation facilities in the country including the present one and they benefit over 2.63 million acres of farmland.

Farmers and the entire people are urged to maintain dams and sluice gates built by the government in the interest of posterity.

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**USDA Secretariat Member looks into organizing work**

NAV Pyi Taw, 20 May — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by the secretary of Mandalay Division USDA and executives donated alms to Nainmistayamataik Letweyikyaung Sayadaw Sasandhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya Bhaddanta Kundala in Letweygi village, Madaya, Mandalay Division yesterday.

The secretariat member and party met with the local people in Lamine village tract and accepted a total of 3,000 membership applications. Local people briefed development matters in the fields of education and transport. Next, the secretariat member inspected Win Thuza Shop in the village.

Afterwards, the secretariat member and party donated alms to east village Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nayanaand in Outtaungkaing village in Madaya Township. Next, the secretariat member met with the local people and accepted a total of 10,000 membership applications. Afterwards, the local people briefed the secretariat member on rural development tasks.

Later, village organizers accepted K 4.5 million donated towards the rural development tasks by wellwishers. At Madaya Township USDA Office, the secretariat member met with executives from Singu and Madaya Townships and gave instructions on measures to be taken for carrying out public welfare services and rural development tasks with added momentum.

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**Communication services, functions of Myanmar Info-Tech under supervision**

YANGON, 20 May — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected preparations for sending of postal vans to General Post Office of Nay Pyi Taw at Express Mail Service in Yangon yesterday.

The minister also inspected functions of Express Conveyance Service and Express Mail Service.

The minister viewed tasks of International Communications Station at 8th Mile and the technological implementation unit of Myanmar Computer Security Service.

At Mobile Communications Station in Shwegondaing, the minister fulfilled the requirements of the station and gave instructions on improvement of the mobile and auto-telephone systems.

Afterwards the minister visited Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline University Campus. At the meeting hall, the minister heard reports on development of IT industry presented by responsible persons of Myanmar Computer Federation and Myanmar Computer Professionals Association. The minister instructed them to strive for extension of Public Access Centre and extend IT applications tasks at private organizations. Later, he explained tasks related to YadanaMyoMyothit Project. — **MNA**
India, Pakistan made progress on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, 21 May—President Pervez Musharraf has said both India and Pakistan have finalized broad contours of a solution to the Kashmir issue and made “progress” on it but hinted that any final decision has to wait until the internal situation in his country triggered by the suspension of the chief justice stabilizes.

Replying to a question on whether it is a fair assessment that broad contours of the solution to Kashmir issue was finalized, he said “yes it is fairly fair assessment”.

“We made progress but we have to reach a conclusion. It is a very very difficult situation. It is a sensitive issue. Sensitivity is that if we have to reach a solution. Both sides have to give up something. When both sides give up there will be opposition and some criticism and agitation,” he told Aaj television in an interview telecast Friday night. “We are moving forward on the agenda,” he said referring to the ideas floated by him on demilitarization, self-governance and joint management.

He said he evolved those ideas after asking “hundreds” of people about what constituted the solution in their perception to resolve Kashmir issue.

Without directly referring to the political and legal crisis generated by the suspension of Chief Justice Iftikar M Chaudhry, Musharraf hinted that the internal situation of Pakistan has to be resolved before finding a solution to Kashmir, insisting that a consensus was important in this regard.

“We have every reason to believe at this point still that they probably are alive. There is nothing to indicate otherwise, so we are going to continue what we are doing,” he said.

South Korean soldier dies in Iraq

SEOUL, 21 May—A South Korean soldier has been found dead inside a barber’s shop at a South Korean military camp in Iraq, the Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

His death is the first for a South Korean contingent in Iraq.

There was no evidence of outside invasion or fighting, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the 27-year-old soldier, identified only by his family name Oh, was found dead on Saturday. His gun was found nearby.

South Korea, which once had the third-largest contingent of foreign troops in Iraq, plans to draw up a timetable by the end of June for a complete pullout of its forces.

Portuguese police recover girl snatched in Spain

LISBON, 21 May—Portuguese police recovered an 11-year-old girl from Eastern Europe they believed had been kidnapped in the Spanish city of Malaga in the early hours of Saturday, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said police arrested the driver of a car with the girl inside after a high-speed chase in the tourist region of the Algarve near the Spanish border.

The girl was believed to have been taken from the back seat of her parents’ car while they attended a party in Malaga in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

Portuguese police are also searching for a four-year-old British girl, Madeleine McCann, who was snatched from her apartment in a popular resort in the Algarve 16 days ago.

Stallone fined for drug imports

SYDNEY, 21 May—Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone has been convicted and fined for bringing banned substances into Australia during a visit to Sydney in February.

Last week Stallone pleaded guilty to importing 48 vials of human growth hormone in his luggage at Sydney airport, by passing off a fake prescription as genuine. Stallone apologised, saying he “hated” himself for trying to deceive the Sydney’s Downing Centre Local Court heard Stallone tried to deceive immigration authorities.

He has been fined just under $3,000 and agreed to pay court costs of $10,000.

US forces kill man behind January Kerbala attack

WASHINGTON, 21 May—US forces have killed the man behind a well planned guerrilla assault in Iraq in January in which five US soldiers were killed, a US military spokesman in Iraq said on Sunday.

Major-General William Caldwell told CNN that Azhar al-Dulaimi had masterminded the attack in which guerrillas posing as Americans entered a government compound in the Shiite holy city of Kerbala, killed a US soldier and drove away with four others whom they shot and killed later.

“We found him finally Friday morning. We went in on a precision operation to capture him and in the pursuing engagement that occurred, he was killed,” Caldwell said.

“Living fossil” coelacanth fish caught in Indonesia

BEIJING, 21 May—A fish once thought to have disappeared along with the dinosaurs was caught by an Indonesian angler, but unfortunately it died 17 hours later, media reported on Sunday.

The angler Justinus Lahama hooked its 1.3-metre, 30-kilogramme fish early Saturday in the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, where other specimen was found in 1998.

The coelacanth fish, so called “living fossil,” was first found in 1938 off Africa’s coast. It was thought to have become extinct 65 million years ago.

The coelacanth fish is a powerful predator with highly mobile, limb-like fins. It is usually about 1.5 metres long and weighs around 45 kilograms.

The fish only lives in deep, cold-sea environment at a depth of at least 60 metres. Unlike most other fish, it gives birth to live young rather than laying eggs.
Green tea helpful in controlling bladder cancer

Los Angeles, 20 May— Components of green tea may protect bladder cells from inflammation, according to a new study.

Green tea, reported to have many health benefits, is rich in powerful antioxidants that make it a possible remedy for many medical conditions, according to the study being presented by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPSM).

The study was presented on Sunday at the ongoing annual meeting of the American Urological Association (AUA) in Anaheim, California.

Green tea is comprised of catechins plant metabolites that provide it with many anti-oxidative properties, said the study which looked at the ability of green tea to protect bladder cells from inflammation.

“W e discovered that catechins found in green tea protected both normal and cancerous bladder cells from inflammation when we exposed the cells to hydrogen peroxide,” said Michael B Chancellor, MD professor of urology and gynecology at the UPSM.

“Although further studies are needed, these results indicate herbal supplements from green tea could be a treatment option for various bladder conditions that are caused by injury or inflammation.” — Internet

Zambia to promote ICT in rural areas

Lusaka, 20 May — The Communications Authority of Zambia (CAZ) said it would launch a 3.3-billion-kwacha (825,000-US dollar) fund to encourage growth and competition in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector in rural areas.

CAZ chief controller Shuller Habenzenza was cited by Friday’s Zambia Daily Mail as saying the fund was aimed at enabling the country to afford universal access to telecommunication especially for people in rural areas.

Habenzenza said the fund would be operational once the relevant framework was established.

Meanwhile, he challenged operators in the ICT sector to invest in training and provide job opportunities for youths in the country, as the theme of this year’s World Telecommunications and Information Society Day which fell on 17 May was “Connecting the young: the opportunities of ICT”.

Habenzenza also said the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had launched a special global initiative for children and youths from developing countries. The initiative was part of the Geneva Action Plan which had called upon governments to address the special needs of children and youths.

The aim of the initiative was to increase access, use and knowledge of ICT to facilitate integration in the information society, he added.— MNA/Xinhua

Iran to produce nuclear fuel, electricity within five years

TEHERAN, 21 May — A senior Iranian nuclear official said on Saturday that his country would produce both nuclear fuel and electricity in five years’ time, local IRNA news agency reported.

Iran will also be among the countries to gain domestic nuclear energy in the next decade, Mohammad Saeedi, deputy chief of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, was quoted as saying.

He made the remarks at a seminar held at the Arak Open University attended by the director of the Arak heavy water nuclear facility and some other local officials.

“Iran has been the first country to gain access to this technology step by step by Iranians themselves,” Saeedi said.

“In order to achieve comprehensive development and reach its targets, Iran should equip itself with all kinds of modern technologies and this requires national will,” he said.

According to Iran’s announced nuclear energy strategy, it wants to construct a network of about 20 nuclear power plants with a capacity of 20,000 MW by 2025.

The Bushehr nuclear power plant, located in south-western Iran, is the country’s first nuclear power plant which is being built by a Russian contractor. — MNA/Xinhua

S’pore eyes holidaymakers to boost population

SINGAPORE, 20 May — Singapore is to allow young foreign holidaymakers to work in the city-state as part of efforts to attract skilled migrants, leading newspapers said on Saturday.

Singapore, which wants to raise its population from 4.5 million to 6.5 million, will allow undergraduates and graduates from seven countries—including France, Germany, Britain and the United States—and the Chinese region of Hong Kong to look for employment while on holiday in the country.

This programme will target to bring bright young people to Singapore,” Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen was quoted by The Business Times newspaper.

The government hopes these students, aged between 17 and 30, will return to Singapore after an initial working holiday of up to six months.

“These students and graduates are a rich source of talent whom we should try to tap on when they eventually join the workforce,” he added.

Singapore is widely seen as one of the world’s freest economies but it also has one of the lowest global birth-rates. — MNA/Reuters

Wei Ziya salutes to the audience after winning the China finals of the 2007 Miss Universe in Ningbo, East China’s Zhejiang Province on 18 May, 2007. Liang Yushu was second, followed by Yang Ling. — Internet
Gazprom signs pipeline deal with Belarus

MINSK, 20 May — Russia’s Gazprom said on Friday it had signed a 625-million-US-dollar deal to buy 12.5 per cent in Belarus’ gas pipeline operator, just hours after the two sides said the deal had been delayed due to differences.

The agreement is the first step for Gazprom to buy half of Beltransgas for 2.5 billion US dollars by 2010. Gazprom said in a statement the deal was part of a broader agreement, which included a protocol on Russian gas transit to Europe.

Belarus long opposed the sale of half of Beltransgas to Gazprom, the world’s largest gas producer, before agreeing to it last December as part of a broader gas pricing deal.

Gazprom threatened to cut gas supplies to Belarus if no agreement was reached, while Minsk said it would retaliate by cutting Russian gas supplies to Europe via its territory.

Gazprom supplies a quarter of Europe’s gas needs with some 80 per cent going via Ukraine and the rest crossing Belarus.

After Belarus agreed to sell half of Beltransgas, Gazprom said it would raise prices for Belarus to just 100 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres from the previous 46 US dollars instead of the initially planned 200 US dollars.

MNA/Reuters

Spain, Morocco reach agreement on wind-energy park construction

RABAT, 20 May — Spanish Government has accorded Morocco a loan amounting to 100 million euros (135 million US dollars) on the construction of the Tanger Wind-Energy Park. A Spanish official was quoted as saying Friday by the Moroccan News Agency (MAP).

The funding, which came from the Development Assistance Fund (FAD), was approved Friday during the weekly meeting of Spanish Cabinet ministers.

The loan, which is repayable within a period of 20 years, has an eight-year grace period and will attract an annual interest rate of 0.5 per cent.

The Tanger Wind-Energy Park, with a production capacity of 140 MW, will be constructed in the south of Rabat. The park will comprise 165 aero generators capable of producing 526.5 Giga Watt Hour (GWH) annually.

The park will help meet Morocco’s rising energy needs, which grow at a pace of about 8 per cent annually, and also help towards achieving Morocco’s goal of producing 1,000 MW of clean energy by 2012.

This park is one of the projects covered by the memorandum of understanding which was concluded on 6 March in Rabat, during the high level meeting between the two countries. (US dollar 0.74 euros)

MNA/Xinhua

Petrobras to launch oil, gas project in Portugal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 May — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas company Petrobras on Friday signed an agreement with Portuguese corporations Galp Energia and Partex on oil exploration and production.

Brazil’s Chief of Staff Dilma Rousseff and Minister of Finance Guido Mantega took part in the signing ceremony in Lisbon.

With its 50-per-cent stake, Petrobras will be the operator of this project, and the two Portuguese groups will hold 30 and 20 per cent stakes.

The project will be launched in four Lusitaniana Basin blocks, off the coast of Portugal, to the north of Lisbon. Petrobras said, adding that the Camarao, Amei-joa, Mexilhao and Ostra blocks are located at water depths ranging from 200 to 3,000 meters and cover a total area of 12,000 square kilometres.

The initial investment will cost at least 20 million to 30 million US dollars, Petrobras said.

The Brazilian company added that the agreement is the outcome of the memorandum of understanding signed between Portugal’s Government and Petrobras last year.

MNA/Xinhua

China door to widen for foreign travel agencies

BEIJING, 20 May — China will fully open domestic tourism to foreign companies from 1 July, an official newspaper reported on Saturday, promising expanded competition in the country’s fast-growing travel market.

The head of the China National Tourism Administration, Shao Qwei, said that from that date foreign travel agencies could open subsidiaries in the country “without restrictions”, and register capital requirements for such operations would be relaxed, the China Daily reported.

“It will help enhance the competitiveness of Chinese tourism enter-

prises,” Shao said of the move, which will take effect four months before a deadline set when China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001.

Under the rules China agreed to, foreign companies will still be barred from organizing tours to other countries. About two dozen foreign travel agencies have already opened businesses in China since rules partially relaxed in 2005.

The nation’s rising wealth is fuelling rapid expansion of the travel sector. In 2006, China saw 1.39 billion domestic trips, and the number could rise to 1.78 billion by 2010, the paper reported, citing tourism administration statistics.

But foreign operators would face tight profit margins in the country’s crowded market, Yao Yuecan, president of the China International Travel Service, told the paper.

“It will not be easy for foreign-funded travel agencies to survive in China’s market,” he told the paper. — MNA/Reuters

Miss Russia introduces herself, in her national costume, during a Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City on 20 May, 2007.—XINHUA

An artist performs at the closing ceremony of China’s Seventh National Games for the Handicapped in Kunming, on 20 May, 2007.—INTERNET

China health officials inspect a disinfected area at Shipijing village in Taojiang County, Central China’s Hunan Province, on 20 May, 2007. Bird flu has killed 11,172 poultry in Shipijing, Xinhua said on Saturday.—INTERNET
G-11 opens summit meeting in Jordan

SOUTH SHUNEH (Jordan), 20 May — Eleven lower middle-income countries, known as G-11, opened a summit meeting here Saturday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

In addition to Jordan, the group of developing countries also include Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Tunisia, Georgia, Croatia, Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador and Indonesia. During the meeting, leaders from the 11 countries will discuss means to unify their efforts and voices particularly in sustainable development issues.

Meanwhile, several important subjects will also be tackled at the meeting, including ways to enhance trade between the G-11 member states. Jordanian King Abdullah told the opening ceremony that the G-11 countries have come together out of a shared commitment and a shared requirement.

"The commitment is to the serious path of development — structural reforms and accelerated programmes that advance the opportunity, prosperity, and wellbeing of people in these countries," he said.

Abdullah added that "the requirement is for supportive partnerships that can cement our gains and sustain our progress into the future".

He announced that the presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) of industrialized nations has extended an invitation to the G-11 presidency to discuss the establishment of formal, institutional relationship between the two groups in Berlin later this year.

Presidents of Sri Lanka, Croatia and Georgia as well as the prime ministers of Pakistan and Morocco and ministers from Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador, Indonesia and Tunisia attended the one-day summit.

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Auto crash kills six in central Nigeria

LAGOS, 20 May — Six people were killed and three others seriously injured in an auto crash on Friday in Lokoja, capital of Nigeria’s central Kogi State.

An eyewitness said the accident occurred at about 4 pm (1500 GMT) when an eight-sweater station wagon collided with a pickup van heading for Abuja.

Road safety officials in Lokoja were seen at the scene of the accident on a rescue mission.

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Three killed in road accident in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 May — Three people were killed when a truck rammed into a motorcycle in Bangladesh’s Barguna District, 190 kilometres south of capital Dhaka, Friday morning, private news agency UNB reported.

Police was quoted as saying the goods-laden truck rammed the motorcycle at about 6 am, killing two people on the spot, and that another one died after admission at local hospital.

Local people seized the killer truck and caught driver Abdul Majid. They later handed him over to police.

A case was filed with the local police station in connection with the incident.

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Huge waves continue to hit Indonesian coastlines

JAKARTA, 20 May — Massive waves that have damaged hundreds of homes and displaced thousands of people pounded Indonesia’s coastlines for a third day on Saturday, forcing fishermen to stay on land and keeping tourists from the beaches.

One person was killed by the huge waves that began hitting coasts across the sprawling archipelago on Thursday and dozens of fishing boats were destroyed by the rushing waters that rose as high as 7 metres (20 feet) in some areas.

Weather officials say the waves are a result of the accumulation of winds in one spot and are not linked with annual weather patterns.

The waves receded to 1.5-2 metres in some parts on Saturday, but weather officials still warned fishermen against sailing in the Java Sea and forbade people from surfing on the popular Kuta beach in the tourist island of Bali.

"Today they (the waves) have decreased relatively. Our forecast for tomorrow is below 1.5 metres," Kukuh Ribudiyanto, an official at the national meteorology and geophysics agency, told Reuters.

However, the waves could rise up to 3 metres in the Indian Ocean near the western part of Java, the country’s most densely populated island, he said.

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Official says Colombian guerrillas kidnap Swedish man

BOGOTA, 20 May — Colombian leftist guerrillas have kidnapped a Swedish citizen and his female companion from his home in a northern province, authorities said on Friday.

Six gunmen took the man from his home in Cordoba Province, where he had lived since working on the construction of a hydroelectric plant in the area, said Manuel Jimenez, an official at the Cordoba governor’s office. "It appears that it was a group from the FARC," he said.

Abductions by FARC — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — have decreased under President Alvaro Uribe, but the guerrillas still kidnap for ransom and political leverage.

A police official identified the victim as Erin Larson, and also blamed the FARC for his kidnapping. A representative at the Swedish Foreign Ministry would not identify the man, but confirmed the abduction of a Swede in Colombia on 16 May.

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A 9mm-gauge pistol is displayed at the 2nd China (Beijing) International Exhibition and Symposium on Police Equipment and Anti-Terrorism Technology and Equipment (CIPATE), in Beijing Exhibition Centre on 17-19 May. The latest style of its kind, this pistol for defence purpose is made by Chongqing Changfeng Machinery Co, Ltd. Nicely designed, the pistol has a wear-proof and corrosion-resisting surface.—INTERNET

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A case was filed with the local police station in connection with the incident. MNA/Xinhua

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Mainland China is below 1.5 metres," Kukuh Ribudiyanto, an official at the national meteorology and geophysics agency, told Reuters.

However, the waves could rise up to 3 metres in the Indian Ocean near the western part of Java, the country’s most densely populated island, he said.

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Chow Yun-Fat and his wife Jasmine attend the premiere of "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End" in Anaheim, California, on 19 May, 2007.—INTERNET
Those keeping themselves busy with trifes

Thin Ko Thu

Actually, I have no wish to write articles in newspapers. But the situation had made me to write. I write this article for Myanmar people.

I would like to recount a news report aired by DVB on 3.5.2007 evening. In the news report DVB said that Myanmar was included in the five countries with lowest moral standard in the world, that what was fortunate was that Myanmar was not at the bottom of the list; and that a person who called himself a national politician was seeking advice from State Ovadacariya Sayadaws to save Myanmar from falling to the bottom of the said list.

I have no idea what kind of organization has issued the list and what kind of yardstick was it used. The news report is a big insult to Myanmar nation. Myanmars working at the DVB, a foreign radio station, were presenting the news report with much pride. And a Myanmar living in the present is a big insult to Myanmar nation.

I would like to brand the organization concerned, the foreign radio station and the person who was trying to meet with the Sayadaws as those always keeping themselves busy with trifes.

Myanmar has a population of 55 million. Myanmar allows religious freedom and 90 per cent of her population are Buddhists. As the country is the place where Theravada Buddhism flourishes, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar organized the World Buddhist Summit at the historic Maha Pasana Cave in Yangon for three days from 9 to 11 December 2004.

Eminent monks, head monks of Buddhist ganas, members of the Sangha, nuns, Buddhist leaders, leaders of the nations, senior Buddhist researchers, scholars and observers from 38 nations attended the summit.

I have read in the article “Buddhist Summit for Flourishing of Buddhism in the Whole World” compiled by Dr Min Tin Mon a quotation of foreign scholars which suggests “If you want to see living Buddhism, go to Myanmar”. The article was carried in Vol 1, No 3 of Theravada Dhamma Publication. Hence, it is obvious that Myanmar stands with pride in the world as a place where Buddhism flourishes.

In this article, I would like to explain something about Buddhism to ‘the busy fellows’ from abroad and those in the nation including an NLD member Buddhist Myanmar national. Buddhists always revere the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha, the Parents and the Teachers, observe the Five Precepts, believe in the law of Karma, and practise vipassana to attain Nirvana. I cannot understand why the list put Myanmar in the lowest five countries, despite the fact that the majority uphold the aforesaid noble teachings. For me, ‘the busy fellows’ will be infidels, following the wrong way.

Here, I would like to refer what Mingun Tipitaka Sayadawgyi had expounded in connection with dispraising or praising someone. What ‘the busy fellows’ should know is that a man may follow the wrong way or belief if he has excessive generosity but less knowledge; that he may be wicked if he has excessive knowledge but less generosity; and that only his mindfulness will balance the two. In fact, those ‘busy fellows’ are so shameful that they dared to air the news report insulting Buddhism, the people and the country. And seek advice from the eminent monks concerned the matter. The three busy fellows — the organization concerned, the DVB broadcasters and the self-made national politician — are the three conspirators.

Persons who compile any list that shows the poorest countries, less developed nations or nations with lowest per capita income should be free from greed, anger and delusion so that their data will be free from bias. Instead of slamming and attacking a poor and less developed nation with bias, all countries should provide assistance to it. Only then will it enjoy a better condition.

I would like to ask the infidels or ‘the busy fellows’ a question. What is their yardstick and criteria in collecting the said data. In this world, good and bad almost always go together. They should know that the said data does not represent the 55 million people of Myanmar.

I would like to ask them the following questions:

1. Can we say that persons who commit mass murders or killings or violence people with high morals?
2. Do intruders slandering a country that is practising the system they dislike have high morals?
3. Are the persons who introduce and practice the system of ‘living together’ people with high morals?

Do the persons who legally permit sex trade and gambling to lure visitors have high morals?

Are the persons who are advertising, manufacturing and selling alcohol and cigarettes in large number people with high morals?

Are the persons who have colonized and looted the resources and religious artefacts of a nation people with high morals?

There are many more questions. But I will stop here. With correct outlook, the countries that are practising the above-mentioned points should be listed below Myanmar. If so, the people of Myanmar will be satisfied.

It is not a noble act to interfere in the internal affairs of a nation or tarnish her culture, traditions and image. BuddhistMyanmars working in foreign radio stations and the Myanmar people of the nation should have profound respects and love for their national pride and characters and culture and religions and should have strong patriotism.

We the Myanmar people revere the Buddha, endowed with nine virtues as if He were still living. The people in the world should know that we Myanmars are living under the Dhamma, preserved and taught by the members of the Sangha in it is original essence.

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin+Kyemon:21-5-2007)
Acting Prime Minister Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes Cambodian Prime Minister

YANGON, 21 May — The committee for organizing World Population Day which falls on 11 July held its first meeting at the Population Department here today.

U Tin Yi, Chairman of the committee for WPD, Director-General of the Population Department, delivered an address. The participants of the meeting discussed matters related to organizing sub-committees and tasks for organizing World Population Day.

Poster, essay and colour photo competitions and quiz will be conducted to mark the World Population Day. The motto of World Population Day for 2007 is “Men as Partners in Maternal Health.” — MNA

Auditors receive proficiency skills

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — On-job Proficiency Course No 26 for Auditors was opened at the training centre of the Auditor-General’s Office here today with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung. A total of 80 trainees are attending the two-month course.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, the director-general, deputy director-generals and directors of the Auditor-General’s Office, officials of the training centre, lecturers and trainees. First, second and third grade auditing courses for employees of the governmental departments and on-job proficiency courses for auditors will also be opened in the near future. — MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects agriculture, development tasks in Aunglan, Taungdwingyi Townships

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects upgrading of Taungdwingyi road section of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected teak plantations and Yimma seedlings and planted them in the farmland.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected 50 acres of Hsinthwelet paddy plantation near Shwenyaungbin village and the piers of the 600 ft long main bridge have been erected. The installation of concrete trusses is in progress. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress of Koebin-Thanagyi-Thityagauk short cut. They viewed the physic nut nursery in Sayabuaw Township.

The vice-president of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint explains facts about the association.—MMCWA

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint explains facts about the association.—MMCWA

Nav Pyi Taw, 21 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 18 May arrived at the construction site of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road being constructed by Special Construction Group 5 of Public Works at mile post 37/6 near Gwaygyo junction in Pyinmana Township to inspect the regional development tasks in Magway Division.

At the briefing hall, Assistant Engineer U Htin Kyaw of Special Construction Group 5 reported on extension of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road from one lane to two lanes and work to be done, and Chairman of Magway Division POC Col Phone Maw Shwe gave a supplementary report. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

The expansion tasks of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road was divided into Pyinmana and Taungdwingyi road sections. The completion of expansion of earth road in Pyinmana section is 16 miles and that of Taungdwingyi section is 15 miles. The road of Pyinmana section has been expanded from 20 ft to 40 ft. The completion of expansion of gravel road in Taungdwingyi section is 10 miles and two furrows and Taungdwingyi section is 9 miles.

The road of Taungdwingyi section has been expanded from 12 ft to 24 ft.

At the briefing hall of Bago Yoma Greening Project being implemented by the Ministry of Forestry at mile post 47/3, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on growing of teak trees presented by Director U Win Nang of Magway Division Forest Department. Col Phone Maw Shwe gave a supplementary report and Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected teak plantations and Yimma seedlings and planted them in the farmland.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected expansion of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road in Taungdwingyi section at mile post 54/2 and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, they inspected cultivation of 150 acres of summer paddy with the use of water from Yanpei Dam near Wetkata village in Taungdwingyi Township and near Kanhnasint village in Aunglan Township.

They inspected thriving 50 acres of Hsinthwelet paddy plantation near Shwenyaungbin village and the piers of the 600 ft long main bridge have been erected. The installation of concrete trusses is in progress. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress of Koebin-Thanagyi-Thityagauk short cut. They viewed the physic nut nursery in Sayabuaw Township.

The 19,400 feet long canal will benefit 800 acres of land and its construction task has been completed by 95%.

Later, they attended the physical nut growing ceremony in Koebin region.

At the site for construction of Koebin-Thanagyi-Thityagauk short cut, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction of the No 1 village-to-village road presented by Director of Magway Division DAC U Nyo Win Myint.

No 1 village-to-village road links Aungmanet Creek between Mandalay and Magway Divisions and Point 977 near Byandi Village of Aunglan Township.

They inspected already-built Magway-Thityagauk-Koebin-Aunglan short cut at Thityagauk junction in Magway Division. The short cut is 26 miles and two furrows shorter than Yangon-Magway Highway.

A total of 6,469 acres of land has been put under summer paddy against the target of 6,400 acres in Aunglan Township and 2,410 acres of summer paddy against the target of 2,350 acres in Taungdwingyi Township. This year, the plan is under way to grow 5,319 acres of physic nut in Aunglan Township and 15,471 acres in Taungdwingyi Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Magway in the evening.

Cadets visits MMCWA

Yangon, 21 May — The cadets who are attending the final year part 1 of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy along with officials visited the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association this morning.

First, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint extended greetings and explained facts about the association setup and health care services after which Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Tha explained the tasks being carried out by the association.

The vice-president answered the queries raised by the cadets. They next viewed photos on activities of the association and visited the diagnosis centre, HIV prevention centre and early childhood development centre. — MNA
Commander attends ceremony of 2nd cash and kind donation for self-reliant libraries

YANGON, 21 May — The 2nd cash and kind donation for self-reliant libraries in Yangon Division was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoun Township, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and then he presented certificates of honour to wellwishers this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Secretary U Hla Soe of Yangon Division PDC and members, departmental officials at division and district levels, local authorities, the vice-chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and members, guests and wellwishers.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech on the occasion. He said there are three basic needs in building a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, namely stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, strong national economy and human resource development and promotion of education of the people.

He said it is essential for the people including rural people to possess knowledge and correct thought. The Head of State had given guidance on establishment of self-reliant libraries in every village.

He said 2,056 self-reliant libraries were opened in Yangon Division under the guidance of the Head of State.

He spoke on five Bs for development of library, namely, borrower, brain, books, budget and building and human resource development for national development.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win accepted cash and kind donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers and then Director U Myint of Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office) spoke words of thanks.

Wellwishers donated K 5.421 million, 46 TVs, 85 radios, a DVD, 2 cupboards, 4 buildings of self-reliant library worth K 11.5 million and 17206 publications worth K 4.8 million totalling K 24.35 million for self-reliant libraries in Yangon Division. — MNA

Two quit Pyawbwe Township NLD

YANGON, 21 May — U Win Thein and U Maung Myint, members of Pyawbwe Township National League for Democracy Party, resigned from NLD on their own accord on 21 April and they sent resignation letters to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their resignation letters they sent to Pyawbwe Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that as they were no more interested in NLD, they resigned from the party.  — MNA

Talks on bulbous growth on bone held

YANGON, 21 May — Talks on bulbous growth on bone and free care service concerning the effect of Viartril-S medicine distributed by Value Health Care and produced by Rottapharm to be used for the disease of bulbous growth on bone was held at ParkRoyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road yesterday afternoon.

At the outset, Regional Manager Mr Joel Milag of Value Health Care and Chairman Prof Dr Khin Maung Han of Myanmar Orthopedic Surgeons Association extended greetings on the occasion.

Afterwards, Musculoskeletal Specialist Prof Dr Chit Soe and Orthopedist Dr Myint Thaung gave talks on the disease of bulbous growth on bone and replied to the queries raised by those present.

Next, the orthopedists gave free treatment services to the patients of bulbous growth on bone out of 450 and distributed medicines to them. Viartril-S medicine is produced by Rottapharm Ireland and distributed to over 80 countries. The medicines are available at the markets of all parts of the country. — MNA

Professor Mr Saranatra Waikakul of Thailand briefs on effect of Viartril-S medicine.

MNA
Ben Cohen shows schoolchildren his ‘Topsy-Turvy Bus’ in Burlington, Vt, on Wednesday, 16 May, 2007. The Topsy-Turvy Bus is being driven across the country toward New Hampshire, and later this year to Iowa, joining a campaign that’s urging presidential candidates to increase investment in families and communities by shifting Pentagon spending to programmes that build strong communities. The bus is a project of the Priorities Campaign, headed by Cohen who co-founded Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream. —INTERNET

Pirates attack WFP-chartered ship off Somali coast

NAIROBI, 21 May — A WFP-chartered cargo ship escaped an attack by pirates on Saturday after delivering food aid in southern Somalia, Kenya’s maritime official confirmed here.

The World Food Programme (WFP)-contracted ship, MV Victoria, had just delivered a cargo when the pirates struck at Merka Port in Somalia’s town of Kismayo, Andrew Mwangura, coordinator of the Mombasa-based Seafarers Assistance Programme told Xinhua by telephone. “The cargo ship was attacked by Somali Pirates off Merka Port today at around 12:05 pm. MV Victoria sailed from Merka Port for Dar-es-Salaam after its discharge operation of WFP relief food completed,” said Mwangura. “While en route to Kismayo, pirates attacked her with small and heavy guns. Luckily, it escaped the attack and returned to original port of discharge (Merka),” he added.

Suicide bombing kills 2 NATO soldiers in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 May — A suicide bombing killed at least two German soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Saturday in Kunduz Province of northern Afghanistan, provincial governor Mohammad Omar told Xinhua.

The bombing occurred in a tea market in Kunduz City, the provincial capital, at around 10:15 am (0545 GMT), Omar said, adding two other German soldiers and 11 civilians were injured. An ISAF spokesman confirmed a bombing attack caused some ISAF casualties in northern Afghanistan, but failed to give more information.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Taliban militants have carried out similar attacks frequently. A suicide bombing killed nine Afghan policemen and injured scores of others in Kunduz City on 16 April. About 3,000 German soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan, mostly in the northern region, operating as part of ISAF. —MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu outbreaks in central China village

BEIJING, 21 May — China’s Ministry of Agriculture confirmed Saturday that an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu at Shijiping Village in Yiyang City of Hunan Province has killed more than 11,000 heads of poultry.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Hunan provincial government immediately implemented an emergency plan to deal with the outbreak, culling a further 52,800 birds to prevent any spread of the disease. Agriculture officials said that the outbreak had brought under control.

The last reported cases occurred on 1 March, when a batch of chickens suddenly died in a market in Lhasa, capital of southwestern Tibet, which were confirmed to have contracted the H5 virus, according to the ministry. Some 680 chickens died and another 6,990 birds were culled. A new bird flu outbreak has been warned of late by Zhong Nanshan, a SARS expert and president of the Chinese Medical Association. —MNA/Xinhua

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (229)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (229)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2569086/378316/376797

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**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**TENDER NO. 1(T) AMD-FR (2007-2008)**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>S1110G Engine Component Parts</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>LY-22 Power Tiller Component Parts</td>
<td>4 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Raw Material for Power Tiller</td>
<td>2 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Machine Tools &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Tender closing date.** 22.6.2007 (Friday) (16:00HR)

3. Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon during the office hours.

4. For further details please call 680959, 682046 Ext. 323.

Director General

Agricultural Mechanization Department

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**Brazil’s “TAM” signs partnership agreement with United Airlines**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 May—**Brazilian airline TAM announced on Friday that it has signed a partnership agreement with US carrier United Airlines.

Under the agreement, United Airlines will offer its chain of domestic flights in the United States as well as flights from Brazil to Washington and Chicago, destinations to which TAM does not fly.

In return, TAM will offer its domestic lines and flights within South America. The contract is expected to generate 35 million US dollars of annual revenues for TAM, up 25 per cent from those obtained from its partnership with American Airlines, which was terminated earlier this month.

The estimated number of passengers to fly TAM and United Airlines planes on the same trip will also reach 50,000 per year, doubling that with American Airlines.

TAM’s CEO Marco Antonio Bologna said that by signing the agreement TAM aimed to increase its market share. The deal will go into effect by the end of 2007 if approved by the Civil Aviation National Agency.

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**COOLING TOWERS ARE IMPLODED AT YONGCHANG POWER PLANT IN YONGCHANG, SOUTHWEST CHINA’S GANSU PROVINCE, ON 16 MAY, 2007. INTERNET**

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**CHRONICLE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPARISON BETWEEN PERIOD PRECEDING 1988 AND AFTER (UP TO 31 - 12 - 2006)**

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**AZIZ CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO RESOLVE M-E CRISIS**

**SOUTH SHINEH (Jordan), 20 May—**Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Saturday called for a comprehensive strategy to solve the problems including Palestine issue, violence in Iraq, instability in Lebanon and dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme.

During the World Economic Forum on the Middle East, which was opened here on Friday, Aziz urged the international community to address the issues through a comprehensive and integrated manner.

“First and foremost strategy was to resolve the internal and external disputes that existed in the region,” said Aziz, adding that there must be an end to all external interference and the people in the region must be enabled to address and resolve their problems.

The conflicts like Palestine dispute, Iraq war and instability in Lebanon were breeding extremism and terrorism in the world, he said.

He also stressed that it is necessary to promote socio-economic development to focus on reducing poverty and providing greater educational facilities.

“Long term progress of Middle Eastern region will depend on developing excellence in the areas of science and technology,” he added.

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**NEW NO ELECTRICITY GENERATION BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2008 IN BANGLADESH**

**DHAKA, 20 May—**Giving a grim picture of Bangladesh’s power and energy sector, Energy and Power Adviser of caretaker government Tapan Chowdhury Friday said that no new electricity generation is coming before September 2008, private news agency UNB reported. He said that the country’s only future option for alternative energy would be coal as the existing gas reserves are likely to be depleted by 2011 or 2012.

“If we don’t have a new discovery of natural gas, then coal will be the only option,” he quoted as saying. Such harsh comments from the energy adviser came at a time when the country is experiencing a worst power shortage. In recent weeks, power shortage reached 1,500 MW against a demand of 4,500 to 5,000 MW.

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**BOMBER KILLS 10, WOUNDS DOZENS IN AFGHANISTAN**

**KHOST (Afghanistan), 21 May—**A suicide bomber killed 10 civilians and wounded at least 30 other people in a crowded market in the southeastern Afghan province of Paktia on Sunday, officials said.

Taleban militants claimed responsibility for the attack.

In Ghazni Province, NATO and Afghan forces battled Taleban fighters in the Qara Bagh District late on Saturday. The provincial governor said 30 Taleban were killed, 18 were wounded and 12 were arrested, while three police officers were missing and one was wounded.

“We had very authentic information that a large number of Taleban militants were in the area and they were planning a massive attack on us and allied forces and that’s why we launched this operation,” said Ali Shah Maikyar, a spokesman for the governor.

Taleban insurgents have stepped up attacks in Afghanistan after a traditional winter lull in fighting. The Taleban has said it has trained hundreds of suicide bombers.

NATO said it called in artillery and airstrikes when its patrol was attacked and a “large number of Taleban fighters” were killed.

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Lethal virus threatens fish species in US Great Lakes

BERKELEY, 21 May — A lethal fish virus in the Great Lakes region threatens 19 species of fish, while US officials are not yet clear how the virus will affect lake fish populations, news reports said on Sunday.

The viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV), which causes anemia and bleeding in fish, poses a potential threat to New York's $2 billion US dollars a year sport-fishing industry.

Other possible sources of the virus include the movement of infected fish by airborne or terrestrial predators, anglers using contaminated fishing equipment or live water wells in boats, boating activities and ballast water. The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has approved an emergency rule aimed at preventing the virus from spreading. It requires anglers to take special measures — such as not moving live fish off the water — to keep the virus isolated to the Winnebago system, Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in Albany, has issued guidelines for sport fishers and boaters, aiming at curbing the virus.

The best-case scenario would be that there are some fish kills but no permanent damage to important species, said Mike Staggs, director of the Department of Natural Resources’ Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection. The worst case scenario, he said, would see certain populations of fish in Lake Winnebago never recover from the virus, something they've seen elsewhere.

VHSV-positive gizzard shad collected during a fish mortality investigation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2007 from Lake Erie near Dunkirk, NY.

Holocaust denier expelled from Warsaw book fair

WARSAW, 21 May — British historian David Irving, a convicted Holocaust denier, was escorted out of an international book fair in Warsaw where he was planning to display his books, Polish organizers said on Saturday.

Irving, who was arrested in Austria after his arrival on a visit in November 2005, spent more than a year in an Austrian jail for denying the Nazis organized mass murder of six million Jews during World War II.

“We asked him to leave,” said Grzegorz Guzowski, the book fair organizer. “Our employees helped him pack up his things, and our car drove him to the address he specified.”

He said Irving’s publishers did not send materials detailing his work to the fair until a few hours before the deadline, giving organizers too little time to prevent the self-taught historian from setting up a table at the exhibition.

Unlike many European countries, Polish law does not expressly forbid Holocaust denial. Warsaw University law professor Piotr Kruzyznski told Reuters, “Polish laws prohibiting the promotion of fascism and defamation of people on racial and religious grounds could conceivably be extended to include Irving's writings,” he added.

Irving plans to remain in the country for a few more days to visit Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps in Poland.

“It’s ironic that it’s come to a situation like this in Poland, which fought against restrictions on speech for such a long time,” Irving was quoted by daily Życie Warszawy as saying.

India gets its act together in Cannes

CANNES, 20 May — If the audience response to screenings on the opening day of the India Focus programme at the Cannes Film Festival is any indication, the rub-off could prove to be quite significant in the long run for the world’s largest movie industry.

The Tous les Cinemas du Monde section began Saturday morning with the screening of “Saara”, a Malayalam film directed by Dr Biju.

Also screened Saturday were Mrudul Toolsidasan and Vinay Subramanian’s “Missed Call”, Rajkumar Hirani’s “Lage Raho Munna Bhai” and Vasanth Balan’s Tamil-language “Veyil”.

The directors of all four films were at hand to introduce them to the full house.

Interestingly, an overwhelming majority of people who packed the auditorium were foreigners, film buyers and fans alike.

The two-day India Focus was preceded by the India Party hosted at the majestic Barriere Hotel beach jointly by the information and broadcasting ministry and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Friday night.

Hours later, the curtains went up on the India Focus in the Tous les Cinemas du Monde section Saturday morning.

The wine-and-champagne party was a low-key but enjoyable affair.

Present for the occasion were India’s Ambassador to France Ranjan Mathai, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Asha Swarup, Joint Secretary VB Pyarelal, producer Bobby Bedi, chairman of CII’s entertainment committee, and Amit Khanna of Reliance Entertainment.

Neither Information and Broadcasting Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi nor Cannes Film Festival president Gilles Jacob, both of whom were slated to attend, could make it to the party.

A general view shows that Chinese rescue team continues the search for 16 missing crew members from the South Korean cargo vessel “Golden Rose” that sank after colliding with a Chinese freighter in heavy fog in waters off Northeast China. Chinese divers have explored the sunken ROK ship, the “Golden Rose,” but found no trace of the crew, Xinhu said on Sunday. — INTERNET

Over 1,000 pregnant women in South Africa challenge the Guinness Book of World Records on 19 May, for the largest gathering of women due to give birth in Johannesburg.

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
**Vieira doubtful for France’s Euro 2008 qualifiers**

**MILAN, 21 May** — France captain Patrick Vieira is a major doubt for June’s Euro 2008 qualifiers after doctors assessed a knee injury sustained in Thursday’s Italian Cup final.

His club Inter Milan said he had suffered damage to a ligament in his right knee and although they failed to say how long he would be out for on Saturday, his participation against Ukraine on June 2 and Georgia on June 6 looks under threat.

Vieira left the pitch in the first half of Inter’s 3-2 loss to Roma, having been under pressure from the home fans and so-called ‘ultras’.

**Benitez brushes off pressure**

**LONDON, 21 May** — Rafa Benitez is not worried about the pressure he will be under when Liverpool take on Milan in Wednesday’s UEFA Champions League final.

The Reds go in search of their sixth European Cup and Champions League success two years after their famous shoot-out win over Milan.

The Rossoneri will be out for revenge in Wednesday’s rematch, but Benitez is not worried by the occasion and believes some pressure is helpful in landing silverware.

“I am not a manager who worries about pressure because I like to win, and if you want to win trophies you must be under pressure,” he told the Daily Express.

“I am always thinking about winning. When I was younger I wanted to win every game. You must be in a final and a final is always a little bit of pressure and stress. For me, it’s okay. I have confidence.”

Meanwhile, the Spanish tactician has stated his half-time team-talk against Milan back in 2005 was his hardest moment in football management.

Benitez was in his first season with The Reds and some pain during the first half of Inter’s Cup final second leg with AS Roma on Thursday. Inter, who lost 7-4 on aggregate to Roma, have two games left of the Serie A season but have already wrapped up the title — MNA/Reuters

**Late goal hands Alkmaar 2-1 win over Ajax**

**AMSTERDAM, 21 May** — Shota Arveladze struck a minute before time to hand AZ Alkmaar a 2-1 home win against Ajax Amsterdam in the first leg of the Dutch league playoff final on Sunday.

The return next Sunday in Amsterdam will decide which team makes the third qualifying round of the Champions League.

PSV Eindhoven secured the Dutch title at the end of the regular season three weeks ago, edging out Ajax and third-placed Alkmaar. — MNA/Reuters

**Beckenbauer says Hargreaves joining Man Utd**

**BERLIN, 21 May** — Bayern Munich have reached a transfer agreement with Manchester United for England midfielder Owen Hargreaves.

Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer said on Sunday.

“Owen is leaving. That was the player’s wish. It’s a good match and it’s also a good deal financially.”

Beckenbauer told Germany’s DSF sports television network.

The German club did not confirm media reports that Bayern will get 25 million euros (33.75 million dollars) for the Canadian-born Hargreaves.

But he did say: “It’s in that range.”

He confirmed it would be the highest fee ever for a Bundesliga player.

Hargreaves, 26, has been pleading with Bayern to let him go to United all season in a disappointing year both for him and the club.

Bayern finished fourth in the Bundesliga and without any silverware after back-to-back league and Cup doubles.

Bayern had previously rejected United’s efforts to acquire Hargreaves before the season and during the mid-season transfer window, saying they were not a bank and needed him.

Beckenbauer, however, had openly urged his fellow Bayern executives Uli Hoeness and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to reconsider if the price was right — arguing that Bayern could use the funds for their own acquisitions.

Hargreaves played in only nine of 34 Bundesliga matches this season, plus five of their 10 games in the Champions League and one of their three German Cup matches. He did not score.

Former Bayern coach Felix Magath had hoped Hargreaves could fill the big gap left by Michael Ballack, who went to Chelsea after the last season. — MNA/Reuters

**Blades to appoint Robson**

**LONDON, 21 May** — Sheffield United are set to name Bryan Robson as successor to Neil Warnock within 48 hours.

The Blades were on the lookout for a new manager following Warnock’s decision not to extend his contract at the end of the season.

Warnock failed to keep the South Yorkshire side in the Premiership, however, that has not deterred Robson’s interest in the club.

“We are hopeful he will be the highest fee ever for a Bundesliga player.

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**Federer ends Nadal’s clay streak in Hamburg**

**HAMBURG, 21 May** — Roger Federer brought an end to Rafael Nadal’s 81-match winning streak on clay on Sunday, beating the Spaniard 2-6, 6-2, 6-0 to win the final of the Hamburg Masters and give his French Open preparations the perfect boost.

The world number one, who had never before beaten the Spaniard on his favourite surface, looked to be in line for his usual humbling in the red dirt as Nadal punished his early mistakes in brutal style to take the first set with a couple of breaks.

Federer hit back for an early break in the second, though, and stormed through the final set to seal his first title in five tournaments, so ending his worst slump since he became number one in February 2004.

Nadal had won 13 consecutive clay-court titles, including the last two French Opens, during a winning run dating back to April 2005. The last man to beat him had been the Russian Igor Andreev in the quarterfinals in Valencia that year.

**Rostock, Duisburg promoted to Bundesliga**

**BERLIN, 21 May** — Hansa Rostock and MSV Duisburg secured promotion to the Bundesliga after both won their final Second Division matches of the season on Sunday.

They join Karlsruhe SC, who had already clinched a spot in top flight. Rostock beat SpVgg Unterhaching at home 3-1, while Duisburg hosted Rot-Weiss Essen, winning 3-0.

Karlsruhe, who won 3-1 away to Greuther Fuhrth, finished top of the division with 70 points, followed by Rostock on 62 and Duisburg on 60.

Bundesliga clubs Mainz, Alemannia Aachen and Borussia Moenchengladbach have been relegated to the Second Division. — MNA/Reuters

**High school student Ryo Ishikawa wins the Munsingwear Open KSB Cup at Tajigouka Marine Hills Golf Club in Okayama, western Japan on 20 May, 2007. Japanese media hailed 15-year-old Ishikawa as a world record breaker on Monday after his astonishing win at the Munsingwear Open KSB Cup. — Internet**
Three killed, two wounded in Idaho shooting

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — Three people were killed and two were wounded in a late-night sniper attack in the town of Moscow, Idaho, KREM-TV said on Sunday.

Moscow Police Sergeant Lee Newbill was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital following the shooting attack that started outside the Latah County Courthouse on Saturday. A civilian and another police officer were also injured in that attack and remain hospitalized. KREM said on its website.

The shooter took cover in a Presbyterian church following the rampage. Police later raided the church and found the bodies of two men, including the presumed gunman.

An automatic rifle was found next to one of the bodies, leading police to believe that one of the bodies belonged to the gunman.

A Moscow Police representative was not immediately available to comment. Moscow is located in northern Idaho near the border with the state of Washington. MNA

Bangladesh storm death toll rises to 12

COX’S BAZAR (Bangladesh), 21 May — Seven bodies were recovered from the Bay of Bengal on Sunday, bringing the death toll to 12 from a storm that swept along the coast of Bangladesh and Myanmar last week, police said.

Four bodies were found on Friday, three days after another man was killed in the storm that damaged hundreds of homes in coastal areas of Cox’s Bazar District and on three islands.

Some 80 fishermen on 20 boats have been missing since the storm, a local official told reporters.

Tropical storms and cyclones kill hundreds of Bangladeshis every year. One of the worst cyclones to hit the country killed 138,000 people in 1991. MNA

Kenyan athlete Daniel Kipchirchir Komen is now focusing on the World Athletics Championship in Osaka, Japan, where he hopes to bag gold, the Saturday Sandarad reported recently. — Internet

Weather: Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Monday, 21 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mandalay Division and Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Bago and Ayeawady Divisions. Day temperatures were (47°C) below May average temperature in Bago Division, (5°C) below May average temperature in Shan State, Magway, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (9°C) below May average temperature in Mandalay Division and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyankpyu (4.96) inches, An (4.25) inches, Hinthada (3.03) inches, Kyauktaw (2.87) inches, Mogok (2.75) inches, Mandalay (2.32) inches, Sagain (2.17) inches, Horamlan (2.05) inches and Thayawaddy (2.01) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-5-2007 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 21-5-2007 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:00 hours MST on 21-5-2007 was 94%. Total sunshine hours on 20-5-2007 was (Nil). Rainfall on 21-5-2007 was (Tri) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (24.37) inches at Mingaladon, (26.93) inches at Kaba-Aye and (25.59) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (19:35) hours MST on 20-5-2007. Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure areas has formed over the East Central Bay. It is likely to intensify into a depression. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 22-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2007: Some rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2007: Some rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-5-2007: Some rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Acting Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of Royal Government of Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Acting Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of the Royal Government of Cambodia discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries at the Government Office here at 4 pm today.

Also present were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia Dr Aung Naing, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of SPDC Office, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department, Director-General U Pe Than Oo of Political Department and Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise.

The visiting Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Hor Namhong, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce Mr Cham Prasidh, Minister of Tourism Mr Thong Khon, Deputy Ministers, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and senior officials.

Acting Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Visiting Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and further strengthening of bilateral good relations.

MNA

SPECIAL WEATHER NEWS

(Issued at 10:00 hr MST on 21-5-2007)

According to the observations at (09:30) hr MST today, a low pressure areas has formed over the East Central Bay. It is likely to intensify into a depression.

Weather Forecast for (22-5-2007)

- Some rain or thundershowers.
- Degree of certainty is (80%).

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Yangon and neighbouring areas

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Those keeping themselves busy with trifles