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

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

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

Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Cambodian delegation led by PM Samdech Hun Sen

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — The visiting Cambodian delegation led by Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, left here by special flight for Cambodia this morning.

At Nay Pyi Taw Airport, Acting Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members welcomed the Cambodian Prime Minister and party who arrived from the Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

At the lounge of the airport, Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented a documentary album and VCD on the visit to Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

Next, the Prime Minister and members were seen off at the airport by Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia Dr Aung Naing, the director-general of SPDC office and departmental heads, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and embassy staff.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 24 May, 2007

Effective use of irrigated water for boosting production

The government has been endeavoring for enhancement of socio-economic life of the people and development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy.

Altogether 199 dams and 305 river water pumping stations have been built and 7,569 wells have been sunk to tap underground water.

Moreover, low-lying areas and other fallow lands were reclaimed and efforts are being made for water supply for agricultural purpose and flood prevention.

The government provides farmers with modern cultivation techniques so that they can increase per acre yield and undertake double or triple cropping from single cropping.

Moreover, the government provides assistance for extended cultivation of perennial crop rubber, an industrial crop and reliable export item, and new crops such as pepper, coffee, tea, ginger and onion.

Quality seeds and methods are being distributed to growers for boosting production of profitable fruit and vegetables in international markets.

Farmers and the entire people are to make strenuous efforts for boosting production of agricultural produce with the effective utilization of irrigated water.

Peoples Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

USDA Secretary-General meets social organizations in Nyaunglebin

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo meeting with members of social organizations and townselders in Nyaunglebin. — A & I

Nav Pvt Taw, 23 May — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met with members of social organizations in Nyaunglebin, Bago Division, on 18 May and called for participation in social welfare tasks and regional development tasks in the region.

Townselders, executives and members of Nyaunglebin Township USDA, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and other social organizations attended the meeting.

After hearing reports presented by townselders and USDA members at the meeting, the Secretary-General fulfilled the requirements for the development of the region.

During his tour of Nyaunglebin, Secretary-General U Htay Oo also attended the concluding ceremony of the special refresher course for basic education primary teachers held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Nyaunglebin.

A total of 221 teachers from 146 primary schools in Nyaunglebin Township attended the course. In his address at the concluding ceremony, the Secretary-General stressed the need for the stability of the nation, development of the economy and improvement of the education standard to build a new State. The USDA is also taking part in implementing the tasks for improvement of the education standard as part of efforts for development of rural areas, he said. — MNA

Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued in Kayuakme, Hsipaw Townships

Nav Pvt Taw, 23 May — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accompanied by Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department went on an inspection tour of Kyaukme Township in Shan State (North) on 19 May.

First, the minister and party inspected citizenship scrutiny cards being issued to the local people by the staff in cooperation with members of social organizations at Kyaukme District INRD.

In meeting with local authorities, township level departmental officials and members of social organizations, the minister heard reports presented by officials concerned.

Upon arrival at Hsipaw Township, the minister and party looked into issuing of citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people by the staff in cooperation with members of social organizations at Hsipaw Township INRD.

A total of 350 persons received CSCs in Kyaukme Township and 310 in Hsipaw Township on 19 May. — MNA

In memory of late U Yi Main, U Kaung and family donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon recently. Joint-Treasurer of the Home U Aung Than accepts the donation. — 11

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe views issuing of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards at Kyaukme District Immigration and National Registration Department. — 1 & r
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**S-E Asia to propose new security tool for Asia-Pacific**

MANILA, 23 May — Southeast Asian countries are proposing a new security mechanism for Asia-Pacific that would see three foreign ministers form a rapid response team to defuse tensions in the region.

The Philippines, which holds the rotating chairmanship of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said on Tuesday that ASEAN would propose such a mechanism when Asia-Pacific’s main security grouping meets in Manila on August 2.

Erlinda Basilio, a senior foreign affairs official, said under the proposal, the previous and current ASEAN chairs would send their foreign ministers, along with a Foreign Minister from one of ASEAN’s 17 security partners, to deal with a potential crisis in the region.

The so-called “Friends of the Chair” mechanism already exists in the 10-member ASEAN. Japan was among the non-ASEAN states that also helped restore stability in the poor, war-torn country.

“This will enable the chairman together with his friends to be able to respond to any emergency situation or crisis in the region and in the world,” Basilio told reporters after meeting with ASEAN officials in Manila.

She said the new mechanism was needed because the ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific’s only major security grouping, meets only once a year to discuss global, regional and local security issues.

**In 24-hour period at least 9 US troops killed in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 23 May — At least nine US service members died in violence across Iraq Tuesday and six were wounded, US military statements released Wednesday said.

Two US Marines with Multi National Force-West were killed during combat in Anbar province.

Three Multi National Division-Center soldiers were killed and two were wounded in action when their patrol was struck by multiple roadside bombs. An interpreter was also wounded in the attack.

A Multi National Division-Baghdad soldier was killed when his patrol was hit with small arms fire in western Baghdad.

Also in the Iraqi capital, a Task Force Marine soldier was killed and another wounded when they were hit by a roadside bomb in southwestern Iraq.

Two Task Force Lightning soldiers were killed and three others were wounded in Baghdad Province, Tuesday when an explosion occurred near their vehicle.

During May, 81 US military personnel have died, bringing the total since the war began to 3,432.

**Doctors say drug misuse kills 200,000 Chinese a year**

GUANGZHOU, 22 May—About 200,000 people die in China each year from improper use of drugs, Chinese doctors and pharmacists said during a weekend meeting, and they called for greater efforts to educate consumers.

Mainland Chinese rely more on traditional Chinese medicines than Western drugs and they tend to use them carelessly because of a widespread misconception that traditional medicines are not toxic or have no side effects.

“People should be told that they cannot consume drugs any way they want. There is no drug that has no side effects, they must not take drugs like they eat rice,” said Professor Jin Shiming, a committee member of the Guangdong Provincial Science and Technological Association. Speaking at a conference on drug safety organized by the Guangdong Provincial Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and a Chinese newspaper, Jin said nearly 200,000 people die each year from improper use of legitimate drugs. He did not explain how the panelists had calculated that number.—MNA/Reuters

**Southern violence raises number of orphans to over 2,000**

YALA, 22 May—The violence in Thailand’s restive South has increased the number of orphans to over 2,000, said Yala governor.

Yala governor Theera Minthrasak presided over a ceremony to award state compensation money totalling Bt 573,000 (US$16,500) to 130 victims of violence in the three southern border provinces. Each injured person received Bt 3,000, while Bt 6,000 was presented to relatives or heirs of deceased victims. There are currently over 1,000 widows, whose husbands were killed in insurgent attacks and the number of orphans, whose parents were killed in the unrest has surpassed 2,000, the governor said.—Internet

**Indian sightseers enjoy the last rays of light as the sun sets behind pre-monsoon clouds hovering over The Arabian Sea in Mumbai, 12 May 2007.**
US Indonesia to deepen trade, investment relations

WASHINGTON, 23 May — The United States and Indonesia agreed on Monday to establish working groups intended to deepen the trade and investment relations between the two countries.

The establishment of groups, proposed by US States Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab and Indonesian Minister of Trade Mari Pangestu, will focus in four key areas: intellectual property rights, agricultural and industrial goods, services and investment.

“I am pleased that The United States and Indonesia made additional progress in deepening our trade and investment relationship in our meetings this week,” said Schwab after the meeting with Pangestu.

The two top trade officials discussed how they could work together to advance ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) integration and to help achieve a successful outcome to the ongoing WTO Doha Round negotiations, said Schwab.

“Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and a major exporter of both agricultural and manufactured goods, so it has a lot to gain from a successful Doha Round,” Schwab added.

Indonesia is the US’ 31st largest trading partner. Two-way trade totalled 16.5 billion dollars last year, a 9.3 per-cent increase over 2005. US foreign direct investment in Indonesia was 9.9 billion dollars in 2005, showed the latest data available.

Treasure find sparks battle for booty

TAMPA, 22 May—Deep sea explorers who discovered what could be the richest ever shipwreck treasure tried to control an international storm of rumors Monday about where it came from and who might be entitled to a piece of the historic haul.

Tampa-based Odyssey Exploration created an international sensation Friday by announcing the recovery of more than 500,000 colonial-era silver and gold coins from an unspecified Atlantic Ocean shipwreck possibly worth $500 million.

Odyssey added to the intrigue by withholding details about the shipwreck, where it was found or even what kind of coins they had hauled back to the United States.

“We are overwhelmed by the worldwide interest in this project, and it reinforces our belief that shipwreck exploration hits a nerve with the public.

“I wasn’t prepared for the response,” Odyssey co-founder Greg Stemm said from Los Angeles, where he was meeting with Disney representatives about possible TV and movie projects.

In England it generated Press reports that Odyssey had salvaged the wreck of the long-sought British vessel Merchant Royal, which sank in bad weather off England in 1641.

Lebanese Army battles militants, nine civilians dead

NAHR AL-BARED (Lebanon), 22 May—Lebanese tanks shelled Islamist militants in a Palestinian refugee camp on Monday and at least nine civilians were killed, raising the death toll in two days of fighting to 66, security sources said.

Tanks battered the coastal camp of Nafr al-Bared in northern Lebanon, home to some 40,000 refugees, as fighters of the al-Qaeda-inspired Fatah al-Islam group fired grenades and machineguns at Army posts on the perimeter, witnesses said.

The Sunni Muslim faction, which emerged late last year, has only a few hundred fighters and scant political support in Lebanon, but appears to be well-armed, organized and motivated.

Palestinian sources in the camp said the bombardment had killed nine civilians and wounded 20. They feared the toll would rise because rescue workers were hampered by the fighting.

Soldiers cut off all access to the camp amid heavy fighting, although nine wounded civilians were evacuated. Plumes of smoke rose from small buildings inside and at least one was ablaze. Streets in the camp and nearby areas were empty. — MNA/Reuters

Malaysian baby declared dead by doctors found still alive later

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 May—A premature baby, who had been proclaimed stillborn by doctors in northern Malaysia, turned out to be still alive, local Press reported on Monday.

Azmi Masiron, 26, was preparing for the funeral of his newborn baby girl at home in Kedah State when he noticed a movement from the baby placed on the funeral shroud.

The shocked father then called for an ambulance to take the baby back to the Jitra Hospital where his 28-year-old wife had given birth an hour earlier, the New Straits Times reported.

Earlier, just minutes after the delivery, doctors there informed Azmi his baby had died and told him to make the funeral arrangements.

The grieving father, who called his father-in-law to prepare for the burial, then took the baby home, who was wrapped in paper and covered with a shroud by the staff at the hospital. During the five-kilometre ride home to his village, the baby did not move.

“However, when my father-in-law placed the baby on the burial shroud, she suddenly moved, shocking about 200 villagers who had gathered for the funeral,” Azmi told reporters on Sunday.

Azmi said he planned to make a police report as he hoped this kind of incidents would not happen to other parents.

The premature baby, who weighed 330 grammes, has been placed in an incubator at the pediatrics ward at the hospital. — MNA/Xinhua

A night view of the Shenyang Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, one of the five football venues of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 21 May, 2007. XINHUA

A man takes a picture with his mobile phone in Athens, on 22 May, 2007. INTERNET

Two women check knitting flower baskets for exporting at a knitting company in Bobai, a county of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 22 May, 2007—XINHUA

A night view of the Shenyang Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, one of the five football venues of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 21 May, 2007. XINHUA
India, French firms to buy NYSE-listed firm

MUMBAI (India), 22 May— Indian Tata AutoComp Systems (Taco) and French auto parts maker Valeo are believed to be in preliminary stages of discussions to acquire a stake in New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)-listed ailing automotive supplier Visteon Corporation, news website business-standard.com reported here on Monday.

The acquisition of a stake in Visteon, which was spun off from Ford Motor Company in 2005, may cost 1.5 to 2 billion US dollars.

For Taco, a 12-year-old company that is an original equipment supplier to major Indian domestic and multina- tional car-makers, the acquisition has a strategic fit with its operations.

The company has appointed a merchant banker and is awaiting clearance from Visteon to start due diligence, the website reported.

Visteon officials had refused to comment on the issue.

Earlier, a Britain-based auto and aircraft parts manufacturer, was in talks with Visteon.

The company later dropped out as it was unable to agree to certain conditions, the website further said.

Loss-making Visteon makes electronic items, powertrain controls, engine induction, chassis and lighting for vehicle manufacturers.

At present, it employs around 45,000 people in 26 countries, including the US, China and Germany.

US, China sign agreements to promote US exports to China

WASHINGTON, 23 May — The export-import banks of China and the United States signed agreements on Monday designed to expedite financing for transactions that will help support US export jobs and promote China’s sustainable development.

These agreements, which were announced under the auspices of the upcoming US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, delivered results and established a strong foundation for working together to support America’s exporters and China’s development, said US Export-Import Bank Chairman and President James H Lambright.

“The cooperation between our two banks embodies the essence of the Strategic Economic Dialogue,” he said.

Specifically, the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on a form of standard Long-Term Credit Agreement that will provide financing for most US export transactions to China that exceed 20 million dollars.

The first transaction to use this product is already underway. The US Export-Import Bank also announced its willingness to consider financing the sale of 164 million dollars in heavy-duty railway maintenance equipment by the Harsoco Corporation to the Chinese Ministry of Railways. — MNA/Xinhua

Primary school students visit a space technology exhibition in Shanghai, on 21 May, 2007. China’s first Mars probe will be launched in October, 2009 as part of a joint mission with Russia.— INTERNET

Vietnam to make its first public rice exporter

HANOI, 22 May— Vinh Long Import-Export Company will be the first rice exporter to make an initial public offering (IPO) on the local stock market, according to newspaper Vietnam News on Monday.

The company, which is listed, will issue nearly 1.7 million shares, equaling to some 37 per cent of its equity, will make the IPO in the securities trading centre of southern Ho Chi Minh City on 30 May. Of the shares to be issued, there are 1.35 million ones for foreign investors, the newspaper said.

After the IPO, Vietnam will continue to hold 51 per cent stake in the company, while employees would hold 11.92 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Angola discovers two more oil deposits

LUANDA, 23 May— Angola’s state-owned National Fuel Society of Angola (Sonangol) and Total E&P Angola have recently discovered two more oil deposits, dubbed Louro-1 and Caminhos-1, at Block 32, in deep waters of the Angolan offshore, said a statement issued here on Monday.

According to the statement by Sonangol, the Louro-1 discovery drilled at a depth of 1,883 metres below sea level and located in the southeastern part of Block 32, approximately 4.5 kilometres to west of Salsa-1 deposit.

Meanwhile, the Caminhos-1 that was drilled with a depth of 1,593 metres in the northeast zone of Block 32 at 18 kilometres to the north of Carl-1 can supply about 6,238 barrels per day during testing phase.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen attack Total oil facility in Nigeria

LAGOS, 22 May — Unidentified gunmen attacked an oil facility in Nigeria operated by France’s Total on Monday using high explosives, sources at private security companies said.

It was unclear whether there were any casualties or damage to the facility in the attack. A Total spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

“There was an attack on an onshore flow-station. They used high explosives,” one of the sources said, asking not to be named. — MNA/Reuters

The company, which annually exports about 100,000 tons of rice, mainly to the Philippines, Indonesia, Africa and the Middle East, is one of the largest enterprises in the southern Vinh Long Province.

Used to mainly export agricultural products and seafood, it is now to diversify into other fields.

The company posted revenues of 283 billion VND (about 17.7 million US dollars) in 2006 and is expected to gain revenues of 356.4 billion VND (22.3 million dollars) this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Greenpeace volunteers build a modern day version of the legendary Noah’s Ark on Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey on 21 May, 2007 as part of a project to draw attention to global warming.— XINHUA

A single-seat concept car developed by Toyota is displayed in the Science Museum in London on 22 May, 2007. The Toyota i-Unit with biodegradable body made its debut in London.—XINHUA
## Asian beaches reopen after winds trigger huge waves

**Denpasar, Indonesia**

22 May — Tourist beaches in Southeast Asia reopened on Monday after giant waves triggered by intense winds thousands of kilometres away crashed ashore last week, reviving memories of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The waves, which were 7 metres (23 feet) high in some areas late last week, struck large parts of Indonesia, the Maldives, Thailand and Western Australia.

There was no official warning about the freakish waves that killed at least one person, damaged hundreds of homes and displaced thousands of people across Indonesia. Homes and fishing boats were also damaged in Thailand and the Maldives.

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## China truck crash kills 20 women farmers

**Beijing, 22 May** — Twenty women farmers were killed in northeast China when their three-wheeled pickup truck overturned on a mountain path, Xinhua news agency said on Monday, the worst of a series of fatal accidents around the country.

The truck crashed on Sunday in the province of Liaoning where the women were on their way home from picking herbs. Four women were injured. Xinhua did not give details of the crash but said the accident was under investigation.

Early on Monday, a long-distance bus carrying more than 40 people crashed into a coal truck in the far west region of Xinjiang, killing nine and seriously injuring 11, Xinhua said.

The dead included two children, it said.

In other accidents, a fire killed nine people, including a young girl, at a barbeque stall in Zaozhuang in the coastal province of Shandong late on Sunday, Xinhua said.

Five primary schoolgirls swimming in a river in the southwestern municipality of Chonqing drowned on Saturday, state television CCTV said.

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## Canadian plane troubled at landing, no one injured

**Ottawa, 22 May** — A Canadian plane ran into trouble when its landing gear collapsed Sunday at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport, but no one was injured, airport officials said.

The Air Canada CRJ-100 regional jet aircraft was moving from the active runway onto a taxiway when its main landing gear buckled, Air Canada spokeswoman Manon Stuart said.

The 37 passengers and three crew members, arriving from Moncton in the eastern New Brunswick Province, were not injured, Stuart said.

The incident is being investigated by the Transportation Safety Board. Both the runway and the taxiway were closed.

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## French winner of Nobel Prize for Physics dies

**Paris, 22 May** — French physicist Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, winner of Nobel Prize of Physics in 1991, died Friday at the age of 74 years, French daily Le Monde reported Tuesday.

The burial will strictly be a private affair, de Gennes’ family was quoted as saying by Le Monde without giving any further details. De Gennes was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1991, after accomplishing groundbreaking work in liquid crystals and polymers.

Described as the “Isaac Newton of our time” by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, at the time of winning the Nobel Prize, de Gennes was the sole winner of the prize in 1991, whereas this supreme scientific distinction has traditionally been shared by two or three researchers. Pierre-Gilles de Gennes was a member of the Academy of Sciences and a honorary professor of the College de France.

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## Roadside bomb kills three Iraqi soldiers in Baghdad

**Baghdad, 22 May** — A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi Army patrol in western Baghdad on Monday, killing three soldiers and wounding two others, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A roadside bomb detonated in the morning in the Adel District near a passing Iraqi Army patrol and damaged two vehicles, killing three soldiers and wounding two others aboard,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

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## Militants kill Iraqi journalist in Baghdad

**Baghdad, 22 May** — Militants kidnapped and killed a journalist from one of Iraq’s most popular national newspapers in southern Baghdad on Sunday, his employers said on Monday.

Ali Khalil had become a father only a few days before he was killed, they said. He was the 105th journalist to be killed in Iraq since hostilities started four years ago.

Khalil’s brother had also recently been killed.

Gunmen killed two Iraqis working for ABC News in Baghdad on Friday. Their deaths brought the number of journalists killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003 to 104, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, making it the deadliest conflict for journalists in 25 years.

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**Internet**

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## The modern day version of the legendary Noah’s Ark built by Greenpeace volunteers from Turkey and Germany rests on Mount Ararat at dawn in eastern Turkey on 22 May, 2007, as part of a project to draw attention to global warming.

**Internet**

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Not an invented story

Aung Swe Oo (MGS-Hmawby)

Please don’t think that I am telling a story. It was just about an unexpected event I had experienced. I will relate it in this article to highlight the Myanmar spirit and soul. The event may be unbelievable for readers, but they can meet the persons concerned and render assistance if they wish.

It was in April this year that tumours developed on the skin of my second daughter’s neck. We were worried that those tumours caused no pain to her. A neighbouring female health assistant suggested us to visit a doctor. So we went to a famous clinic in Insein. The physician after conducting medical check-up on her advised us that my daughter should undergo biopsy to know the exact cause of the growing tumours. But the cost for a biopsy could be at least K 35,000.

We did not have money that amount then, so we returned home, deciding to visit the physician next day. We were worried that she might be suffering from cancer. “What about the cost?” “Will it cost more than we have expected?” All the family members were trying to find the best means and estimate the cost. Then we came to remember a first cousin of my wife who is a doctor trying to become a specialist surgeon. So, we tried to contact him through his mother.

“The exact cause can be found only through biopsy. The cost of a biopsy may be high at a private clinic. But at a government hospital it will cost less than K 10,000. The hospital will conduct biopsy on her even if you cannot afford to pay that amount of money”, the doctor told us. He is currently assigned at the new General Hospital near Thayettaw Kyaungtaik.

The hospital conducted a medical check-up on her at the outpatient ward. The operation began at 10 am the next day. The cost was less than K 10,000.

On 23 April this year, I got the biopsy result. I went up to the second floor of the General Hospital to show the result to my wife’s cousin. I had to wait for him as he was performing a major operation.

While waiting on a chair outside the operation theatre, I noticed a young man. He was sitting on the floor leaning against the wall. He seemed so worried and was staring blankly at the theatre. Besides, he wore worn-out clothes.

“Are you related to the patient in the operation theatre?” “It’s my wife. She is undergoing operation as she was suffering from dysentery with frequent passage of blood. Six bottles of blood have already been transfused to her.” “Are you from the district?” I asked him.

“I am from Phonegyithoung village near Pyapon.” “I have read in the newspaper that there was a fire in Phonegyithoung village.” “The cause was due to negligence. The whole village including my house wasrazed to the ground by the fire.” “So how do you………” “I didn’t know how to continue my conversation. The cost of an operation might be high. But he looked not a person who could afford that cost.”

“We came to the hospital before the fire. The total cost of food, accommodation, medical expense and general expense was nearly K 20,000. So we had no money left. As she actually needed operation, we went back to the village to find some money. But unfortunately, our house was burnt down by the fire. Nothing was left. We received two bags, some clothes and money as fire relief. We came back to Yangon with the relief aid, and when we arrived at the city we had only K 50 left.” “So what did you do?” “My wife was admitted to the hospital again. I sold the two bags and clothing at Kanma market. Monks of a monastery in the Thayettaw Kyaungtaik are providing accommodation and food for me.” “But how about the operation cost?” “I told doctors what had happened to me. They assured me that everything would be fine. A woman physician bore the expense of blood bags for me. (Blood is free of charge, but the price of bags is expensive). Doctors at the hospital gave me money to buy all necessary medicines. The only thing I had to do was to give them the receipts. The total cost to this date (altogether 13 days) ran into kyats more than one lakh. A short, plump doctor with spectacles gave Quaker oats for my wife.” “Do you know their names?” “Not yet. I will have to keep the names of my benefactors in my memory. Because I will have to pay respects to them from my home every night before going to bed. If we stayed home at our village, my wife would have been dead by now. What I have come to know is that there are people’s hospitals in our country where poor people can receive medical treatment or undergo operation with less cost or free of charge and that there are many wellwishers too. I will tell all about my experiences to my fellow villagers?”

At that moment, a woman surgeon came out of the theatre and told the young man that the operation was successful. “Don’t worry, your wife will soon recover”, she said, asking “You have any money left to eat?”

The young man’s face was bright with relief. “Yes Doctor, I still have money for my meal.”

Then the surgeon went back into the theatre.

“She’s the one who is providing money for me.”

At that moment, I too was relieved from anxiety I had for my daughter. But I had no idea, how the doctors helped him. But what I am certain is that the General Hospital is ready to help and treat poor patients. I admire the doctors whose names I do not know of the hospital for their goodwill. The hospital is actually bearing the cost of medical treatment for the poor, but not for the ones who are pretending to be poor.

If you do not believe what I said, you may meet the couple from the Phonegyithoung village staying on the second floor of the hospital. What’s more, Buddhist monasteries in Myanmar are accommodating and providing food for every poor visitor free of charge.

I would like to ask forgiveness from the doctors of the hospital who might like to remain anonymous donors for my presenting about them in this article.

(Translation: TMT)


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Lt-Gen Ye Myint urges local authorities, personnel, …

(from page 16)

At the briefing hall of Thayet-Minlilar railroad section of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction of the railroad presented by General Manager (Civil) U Thi Han of Myanmar Railways, and instructed officials to strive for timely completion of the tasks. Next, they viewed construction of the railroad.

They attended the physic nut growing ceremony in Kontha Village of Mindu Township.

At Kyeekhnyewa Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented by Construction 3 of Irrigation Department on Mone Creek, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the diversion canal and the separation wall near the site for the power station. They also viewed construction of the spillway.

The embankment of the dam is 3,200 feet long and 164 feet high. The dam will irrigate 96,777 acres of land and the hydropower plant will be installed with two 37-megawatt generators.

At the site of Mone Creek Bridge on Pathein-Monywa Road in Pwintbyu Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into progress of construction tasks. The main bridge will be one-way Bailey suspension bridge and approach bridges will be two-lane concrete sections. The main bridge will be 400 feet long and approach bridges, 540 feet.

Next, they viewed Mezali Diversion Dam, the spillway and its water supply functions. In Thayetok Village of Pwintbyu Township, they viewed nurturing of physic nut saplings.

They viewed thriving 500 acres of paddy plantations in Uyinkyt Village and attended the physic nut growing ceremony.

On their way to Salin, they viewed thriving paddy plantations on either side of Pwintbyu-Salin Road. — MNA

USDA CEC member performs regional development tasks

Yangon, 23 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the inauguration ceremony of Yaykyaw Bridge on Kanyin creek in Yaykyaw Village of Ingapu Township on 21 May.

Next, the CEC member and party inspected construction of new building for Myoma (North) Basic Education Primary School in the town and attended to the needs. Next, they also attended the ceremony to open the new building of Naukme Village Basic Education Middle School. The CEC member and wellwishers presented cash donation to the official.

Afterwards, the CEC member met with the Ingapu Township USDA Secretary, executives and organizers at the office of the association and gave necessary instructions. On 19 May, CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and party looked into teak plantation of Phyo Sitha Co Ltd in Zipinkwin Village-tract, Kyangin Township.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at opening of Basic Education Middle School in Naukme Village, Ingapu Township. — MNA

While in Pwintbyu, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people. After hearing the reports of officials, he said that the people of Pwintbyu Township enjoy fruits of agricultural sector. He stressed the need to grow major crops to meet the target production. It is necessary to extend cultivation of paddy, bean, sesame and cotton, other perennial crops and physic nut by reclaiming vacant and virgin lands. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged local authorities, departmental personnel and local people to maintain roads, bridges, dams and factories for their durability.

They viewed cultivating 500 acres of paddy plantations in Uyinkyt Village and attended to the physical nut growing ceremony.

On their way to Salin, they viewed thriving paddy plantations on either side of Pwintbyu-Salin Road.

Mines Minister inspects mines, plants in Shan State

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May — Mines Minister brigadier-general Ohn Myint inspected smelting plant in Lashio.

On 20 May, the minister heard reports on mining, consumption of electricity and thriving physical nut plants presented by officials at the briefing hall of Nanmu-Bawtwin mines, and inspected the smelting plant.

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspects smelting plant in Lashio. — MNA

One member quits Singu Township NLD

Yangon, 23 May — U Khin Maung of Thilya Village, member of Singu Township National League for Democracy of Mandalay Division, on 15 May, sent a letter of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities on his own volition.

In his resignation letter sent to Singu Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, he said he witnessed activities of the party that did not serve the interest of the nation, and he no longer wished to join the party as he had no trust and faith in the party. That was why he resigned from the NLD on his own volition, he said. — MNA
Regional development undertakings supervised …

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for completion of the project ahead of schedule.

 Shweli Hydropower Project is on Shweli River about 17 miles from Namkham, Shan State (North). Upon completion, it will be able to generate 4,822 million kilowatt hours in a year. So far, the project has been completed by 53.47 per cent.

 Officials from Bridge Construction Special Group (16) of Public Works reported on work progress of Shweli Bridge (Namkham) Project, construction of approach structures and approach roads. The commander gave a supplementary report.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the requirements for the project, and he said that the bridge will be an important transport facility on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse-Bhamo Union Highway. He called for systematic construction of the facility so that it will contribute towards the progress of forthcoming border trade in the region. The project has been completed by 75 per cent up to now.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander inspected thriving Hsinshweli strain paddy fields of local farmers in the model plots of Namhu and Phaingkaung villages in Kyugok (Pangsai). In the town, 686 acres were put under monsoon paddy. They viewed the 72.5-acre plot of tea plantations at Hemoelon Village, Monekoe. They also inspected the border posts along the border between the People’s Republic of China and Myanmar near the village.

 They cordially greeted local national race leaders and village elders in the village.

 They inspected crop plantations for alternative development, and highland farmland. They met with departmental officials, social organizations, local national race leaders and townsmen at Monekoe General Administration Department. Officials reported on health, education, economic, social and agricultural sectors of the region. The commander gave an account of the undertakings being implemented for development of Monekoe region.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the needs, saying that Monekoe has enjoyed the taste of peace and stability. In the past, Monekoe was just a hamlet, but now it has been upgraded to a town possessing characteristics of a town. Monekoe is a region sharing the border with the other country, so service personnel are to emulate the achievements in the agricultural and civil affairs. And they are also to organize local national people to extend the agriculture and livestock breeding, he said. They are the service personnel shouldering the duties in border areas, so they are to work hard to become reliable ones, he noted.

 He presented K 10 million to Headmaster U Bo Hay and Chairwoman of the School Board of Trustees U Swan Khuang for construction of a new building for Monekoe BEHS. He also presented clothes to the departments and social organizations.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander viewed the progress of Monekoe and inspected the border check point between Monekoe and China.

 They inspected China-Myanmar Friendship Kyugok-Wantein Bridge linking Wantein of China and Kyugok of Myanmar. Secretary of Kyugok (Pangsai) GAD U Tin Oo reported on facts about the new bridge and the old bridge. The old bridge was built in 1938, and the construction of new one was completed on 20 February 1993.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looked into the border check point. The commander and officials reported on the check points.

 They held a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen in Kyugok (Pangsai). Officials reported on historical background and facts about the region. The commander gave a supplementary report.

 Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to the needs, saying that service personnel of Kyugok (Pangsai) are to maintain the already-achieved friendship of the two countries, to equip themselves with Union Spirit, to discharge the duties with a sense of duty, and to show goodwill to local national races.

 He presented clothes to social organizations in the town. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander visited the physic nut nursery at the entrance to Kyugok (Pangsai). The region put 2,000 acres under physic nut in 2006-2007 fiscal year, and distributed physic nut seeds and grafts.

 — MNA

Mayor inspects repair of roads and bridges

YANGON, 23 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on 21 May inspected repairing of roads and bridges here and assisted in the tasks.

He also urged officials to carry out the construction and repair tasks systematically and called for completion of the work meeting the set standards.

During his tour of inspection, the mayor inspected the construction of bridge across Kanbe Creek in Yankin Township and maintenance of Thitsa Road in South Okkalapa Township. He went to North Okkalapa Township and inspected the maintenance of Thitdhama Road. Officials of the Engineering Department (Road and Bridges) reported to the minister on the tasks.

Maintenance and better transportation tasks of roads and bridges are being carried out by YCDC in Yangon City.

— MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects maintenance tasks of Thitsa Road in South Okkalapa Township. — YCDC

Basic Summer Course on Performing Arts opens in Yangon Division

Basic Summer Course on Performing Arts opens in Yangon Division

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivers an address at opening of basic summer course on traditional performing arts. — MNA

Responsible persons of the singing, dance, song composing and music courses reported on their respective sectors.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai presented the flower basket to the artistrys. — MNA
“GENERAL” air-conditioners introduced

YANGON, 23 May —
GENERAL brand air-conditioners produced by Fujitsu General Ltd were introduced at Strand Hotel here today.
Mr David Lau, Singapore-based Director of Fujitsu General Ltd, extended greetings at the ceremony to introduce the product.
Golden Orchid Ltd will distribute the product in Myanmar for three years and engineers of the company will fit air-conditioners to buildings. U Soe Win, Director of Golden Orchid Ltd, and Mr Kho Yong Seng, Service Manager of Fujitsu General Ltd, explained Variable Refrigerant Flow System (VRF) of the product which can be installed at buildings, hotels, condominium, shopping centres, offices, factories and hospitals.
GENERAL brand air-conditioners are available at air-conditioner shops across the country. More information is available at sales room of the company, No 83-91, Ground Floor, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyayaktada Township, Yangon, Ph 706223, 371906 and Email Address: gol@mptmail.net.mm.

One loses foot in mine blast in Shwegyin

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — A villager lost his left foot as the mine blast off after he stepped on it in Phayagyi Village, Shwegyin Township, on 19 May.
Myo Min Latt, 18, son of U Nyunt Hlaing of Phayagi Village went to the jungle near the village together with his friend to pick up vegetables on 19 May and stepped on the mine planted by insurgents.
The victim was rushed to the hospital. Authorities concerned and local people are making arrangements to crush the insurgent terrorists.
The insurgents are committing destructive acts through various ways with the intention of disrupting stability of the nation and community peace and tranquillity and killing the innocent people and making them panic.

Guangdong’s GDP to surpass 4 trillion yuan in 2011

GUANGZHOU, 23 May — The gross domestic product (GDP) of south China’s Guangdong Province is expected to overtake Taiwan’s by the end of the year and surpass 4 trillion yuan ($594 billion US dollars) by 2011, the province’s Communist Party Chief Zhang Dejiang said.
The province, currently the biggest GDP contributor on the Chinese mainland, is expecting its GDP to grow by nine-per cent a year over the next five years, said Zhang, secretary of Guangdong provincial committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).
Guangdong’s GDP reached 2.59 trillion yuan last year, accounting for 12.5 per cent of the country’s total GDP, up from 11.1 per cent in 2001.
The GDP of the rapidly developing province is expected to surpass Taiwan’s GDP of 355.6 billion US dollars, or 2.77 trillion yuan in 2006.
Guangdong surpassed the GDP of Hong Kong and Singapore in 2005 when its GDP hit two trillion yuan.
“Guangdong will continue to open and reform and take as priority the coordinated development between rural and urban areas,” said Zhang, in his report to the 10th Guangdong Provincial CPC Congress which opened on Monday.
Zhang said Guangdong will strive for a 16-per-cent drop in energy consumption per unit GDP over the next five years.

MMCWA donates stationery to monastic education school, nunnery

Yangon, 23 May — Daw Aye Aye, Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and Central Executive Committee members presented stationery and other donations to Magha Missionary Monastic Education School in North Okkalapa Township and Mingala Theikdi Nunnery in Ward 45 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 21 May afternoon.

Vietnamese man infected with bird flu

HANOI, 23 May — A 30-year-old man from Vietnam’s northern Vinh Phuc Province has been contracted bird flu, becoming the first human infection case in the country since late 2005, local newspaper Pioneer reported Wednesday.
Initial test showed that the man from Me Linh District has been infected with bird flu virus strain H5N1, the paper quoted sources from the Bach Mai Hospital in the capital of Hanoi where he is being treated.
The man was hospitalized nearly a month ago, after having fever, cough and breathing difficulties. Earlier, he killed chickens for his friend’s wedding party.
With the new case, Vietnam has detected 94 bird flu patients, including 42 fatalities since the disease started to hit the country in December 2003.

Tragedy of 4 killed in Shenfu, China

SHENYANG, 23 May — A motor tricycle overturned on a mountain path on Sunday afternoon in Huanren Manchus autonomous county in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, leaving 20 dead and four injured.
Three of the injured have been out of danger, but the other one is still in critical condition, said Xin Xiaoming, head of the county, about 200 kilometres away from provincial capital Shenyang.
Local police said that all on board, including 22 women and one man, were farmers on their way home from picking potherb in a forest about 50 kilometres away from their village.
The accident happened at about 5:30 p.m. on a rugged mountain path when Shi Shujun, the 40-year-old driver, lost control of the brakes, said Xin.

Donate blood

The world’s tallest mountain Mount Everest (C). A British man has set a world record by making the first mobile telephone call from the summit of Mount Everest, taking the blessing — or curse — of the cell phone to new heights. —INTERNET
UN Chief calls for protection for civilians in Lebanon

United Nations, 23 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called on all sides in Lebanon to protect civilians.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, Ban said he is gravely concerned about the fighting in the last two days between Fatah al-Islam gunmen and the Lebanese Army.

“The actions of Fatah al-Islam are an attack on Lebanon’s stability and sovereignty,” the UN Chief said.

He welcomed the “united stand taken by Palestinian factions in Lebanon denouncing these attacks on the Lebanese Army” and called on all sides to do their utmost to protect innocent civilians.

Ban also strongly condemned Sunday’s terrorist bombing in Beirut, and urged the Lebanese “to unite in the face of threats to their stability and security.”

MNA/Xinhua

Fourth body found in Idaho shooting

Washington, 23 May — Another dead body was found Monday after last weekend’s shooting incident in which a gunman killed two people and himself at a courthouse and a church in Moscow, Idaho, CNN reported.

The fourth dead person was identified to be Crystal Hamilton, wife of the gunman, according to the report.

The woman was found dead in her home, and police now believe she was killed before her husband, Jason Hamilton, went on his spree late Saturday and early Sunday.

Hamilton fired dozens of shots at a courthouse later Saturday, killing a police officer and wounding a sheriff’s deputy and a civilian.

He went on the shooting spree at a nearby church early Sunday, where he fatally shot a church worker and then committed suicide.

Brannon Jordan, the wounded police officer, was in serious condition with multiple gunshot wounds. The injured civilian was in serious but stable condition.

It was not clear whether Hamilton, who had a history of violence, killed his wife.

Moscow is the home to the University of Idaho, located in a largely rural area.

MNA/Xinhua

George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Don Cheadle, pose during a photocall for director Steven Soderbergh’s film ‘Ocean’s 13’ at Eden Roc in Antibes during the 60th Cannes Film Festival, on 23 May, 2007.

INTERNET

Panama city fire leaves 355 homeless

Panama City, 23 May — A major fire destroyed three wooden buildings on Monday, injuring three people and leaving 355 homeless in Curundi, a poor suburb of Panama City, the director of the National Civil Protection System, Roberto Velasquez, said.

Rescuers transferred two injured people and a firefighter with symptoms of asphyxia to the hospital nearby. The homeless were housed in emergency tents and will receive medical assistance from the Civil Protection System, the Health Ministry and private institutions, Velasquez said.

The director also stressed that the fire was probably arson.

MNA/Xinhua
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**Gunmen kill four in minibus attack N-E of Baghdad**

BADGHDAD, 22 May—Gunmen ambushed a minibus in Diyala Province north east of Baghdad on Monday, killing four passengers and wounding four others, provincial police source said.

"Unidentified armed men opened fire on the minibus near the Khalis Town, some 70 kilometres north east of Baghdad, killing four passengers, including a four-year-old child and wounding four women," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In separate incident, mortar rounds struck residential area in the Samidah town near the city of Baquba, 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding 12 others, including eight women, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

**Emirates Airline to become world’s largest “Boeing-777” operator**

ABU DHABI, 22 May — The Dubai-based Emirates Airline, the second largest and most profitable Arab carrier, will soon become the world’s largest operator of the Boeing 777 aircraft, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Monday.

“We have on average one 777 aircraft coming off the production line every month for Emirates for the next 5 years. They will soon become the largest 777 operator in the world,” Brian D Walker, an official with Boeing, was quoted as saying.

**Vietnam to post biggest-ever coffee export revenues in 2007**

HANOI, 22 May — Vietnam is estimated to reap the biggest-ever coffee export turnovers, nearly 1.5 billion US dollars, in 2007, up 36.4 per cent over 2006, local newspaper Pioneer reported on Monday.

The country is estimated to ship abroad 600,000 tons of coffee this year, the paper quoted the Vietnam Coffee and Cocoa Association as reporting.

Price of the local product is estimated to stand high in the remaining months of this year, at 1,500-1,600 dollars per ton, compared with 1,400 dollars in the first three months of this year. Vietnam, the world’s second biggest coffee exporter after Brazil, is diversifying coffee products for export, paraking more actively in international coffee trading floors, and applying more advanced farming and processing techniques.

Vietnam exported 656,000 tons of coffee worth 947 million dollars, mainly to the European Union, the United States, Japan and Singapore in the first four months of this year, posting respective year-on-year surges of 134.8 per cent and 84.3 per cent, according to the country’s General Statistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua

**China’s school fees frozen for five years at 2006 levels**

BEIJING, 22 May —The Chinese Government has frozen school fees, said a senior education official on Monday.

Education had frozen school fees at the level of the autumn semester of 2006. “Schools violating the regulation will face penalties,” Yang said, though he did not specify what penalties would be set out. The MOE had earlier stipulated that unwarranted school fees must be refunded and colleges and schools concerned would be banned from enrolling new students or have enrolment numbers restricted.

**Road accident leaves nine dead, 11 injured in N-W China**

URUMQI, 22 May— Nine people were killed after a long-distance bus and a coal-laden lorry collided head-on in western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region early on Monday.

The bus, equipped with 40 beds, but with 48 people aboard, had left Urumqi, the regional capital, travelling west on Highway 218, heading forINKa in Ili, said local sources. Twenty-one of the people aboard the bus were migrant workers from north China’s Hebei province and were said to be on their way to work as an iron and steel company in Ili. The collision took place as the bus was coming down the Tianshan Mountain Range at about 7:00 am. All nine dead were passengers on the bus, including two children. Eleven seriously injured people were taken to Yonyi Hospital in Yining, where the Kazak Autonomous Prefectural Government of Ili is located, including two drivers from the bus.

The fate of the lorry driver is still unknown. Rescuers were also searching a roadside canal for victims, said local sources. — MNA/Xinhua

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No telegraphic/telephonic deposits will be accepted after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/telex proposal will be accepted.

For further information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No.371284,372362.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

**China’s school fees frozen for five years at 2006 levels**

The measure was stated in guidelines for establishing a system to provide financial aid to regular college students and vocational school students from poor households, which was approved by the State Council, China’s cabinet, on 9 May.

China’s college tuition fees were set according to the cost of education, said Yang.

The central budget would allocate funds to recompense schools and colleges for rising costs incurred through inflation over the next five years, Yang said.

The education sector has generated a mass of public complaints because of inflated school fees.

Parents were charged 1.7 billion yuan (217 million US dollars) in unwarranted school fees since 2002, according to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

**A duck farm in the Northern province of Ha Tay**

Bird flu has struck Vietnam again with six outbreaks of the H5N1 strain since the weekend, killing almost 2,000 unvaccinated ducks, veterinary officials said on 22 May 2007. — Internet
Scientists find stem cells’ role in spreading cancer

LONDON, 22 May (Xinhua) — British scientists have made an important discovery in understanding how cancers spread by using embryonic stem (ES) cells to investigate how some tumors are able to migrate to other parts of the body.

A research team from the University of Manchester studied a crucial change that makes cancer cells able to start moving and spread into other tissues, the journal Molecular Biology of the Cell said on Tuesday.

Normal cells, as well as early cancer cells, are called epithelial cells because they bind tightly to each other forming stable layers of tissue, the research team led by Chris Ward was quoted as saying. However, as a tumor becomes more advanced, some of the cells change to become "mesenchymal," and mesenchymal cells do not bind to each other, forming more disorganized tissues in which the cells can move around.

As this crucial change, known as the epithelial-mesenchymal transition, was first observed in the early embryo, the research team theorized that embryonic stem cells might undergo a similar process.

"We have shown that ES cells spontaneously change in a manner that is remarkably similar to the epithelial-mesenchymal transition. Since ES cells can be grown in the laboratory, where they keep the characteristics of the cells in the early embryo, they can be studied in detail," Ward said.

"By studying these ES cells we have already identified a novel component of this transition process. We expect the use of ES cells will lead to the identification of other unknown factors involved in cancer cell spread, hopefully leading to new avenues for cancer therapy," Ward said.

Harry Potter gets stamp of approval

LONDON, 22 May — After weaving his magic with best-selling books and blockbuster films, Harry Potter is hoping to cast a spell over stamp collectors.

JK Rowling’s schoolboy wizard will feature on seven first class stamps to be released in July.

The Royal Mail’s Head of Special Stamps Julietta Edgar said the collection will use artwork from the Bloomsbury editions of the seven Harry Potter books.

The bespectacled hero appears with an array of dragons, the Hogwarts Express train and his flying Ford Anglia.

A five-stamp miniature sheet featuring the Hogwarts school crest and those of its four houses will also be available.

They go on sale on 17 July, four days before the publication of the seventh and final book: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Mars rover unearths evidence of wetter past

WASHINGTON, 22 May — A patch of bright-toned Martian soil analyzed by NASA’s rover Spirit is so rich in silica that it may provide some of the strongest evidence yet that ancient Mars was much wetter than it is now, US media reported Tuesday.

The alpha particle X-ray spectrometer, a chemical analyzer at the end of Spirit’s arm, had measured a composition of about 90 percent pure silica for this soil. The processes that could have produced such a concentrated deposit of silica require the presence of water, according to NASA’s Mars Rover Project scientists.

"This is a remarkable discovery. And the fact that we found something this new and different after nearly 1,200 days on Mars makes it even more remarkable. It makes you wonder what else is still out there," said Steve Squyres, principal investigator for the Mars rovers’ science instruments.

Exploring a low range of hills inside a basin named Gusev Crater, Spirit had previously found other indicators of long-ago water at the site, such as patches of water-bearing, sulfur-rich soil; alteration of minerals; and evidence of explosive volcanism.

"This is some of the best evidence Spirit has found for water at Gusev," said Albert Yen, a geochemist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.

One possible origin for the silica could have been interaction of soil with acid vapors produced by volcanic activity in the presence of water. Another could have been from water in a hot spring environment. The latest discovery adds compelling new evidence for ancient conditions that might have been favorable for life, according to members of the rover science team.

Men more liable to depression after divorce

OTTAWA, 22 May — Men are more likely to suffer from depression after they break up with their spouse, according to a Canadian study released Tuesday.

Divorced or separated men were six times more likely to report a period of depression than men who stayed with their spouse.

By contrast, divorced or separated women were 3.5 times more likely to experience depression than those still in a relationship, Statistics Canada has found.

The study said while both women and men have a higher risk of depression two years after the end of a marriage or common-law relationship, most people said their depression ended within four years of breaking up with their partner.

The findings were based on data collected by the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), which looked at the associations between depression and divorce.

Mars

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**SPORTS**

**Milan fans jailed for ticket threats**

**Milan, 23 May** — Four AC Milan fans have been jailed and three put under house arrest for threatening the club to hand over match tickets.

Italian media said on Tuesday that prosecutors believe the “ultras” had even tried to force the club to give them tickets for Wednesday’s Champions League final against Liverpool in Athens. “The Milan club has received some pressure and threats connected to getting tickets. It has continued right up to the Champions League final,” a statement from prosecutors said.

Milan and Liverpool were upset at only being allocated 17,000 tickets each for the match while Milan have issued several statements in recent days asking supporters without tickets not to travel to the Greek capital.—MNA/Reuters

**Spanish League accuses referees of undermining title race**

**Madrid, 23 May** — The Spanish Football League (LFP) has accused Primera Liga referees of undermining the title race after officials refused to fall in line with disciplinary reporting guidelines.

The dispute originated because referees were unhappy that the league overturned a booking against Real Madrid’s David Beckham and reacted by refusing to follow Federation rules in explaining red and yellow card decisions in sufficient detail. “They are falsifying and undermining the competition by their actions,” a spokesman for the LFP told Reuters on Tuesday. “They are breaking the rules and disciplinary action should be taken against them.”

“The race for the title in Spain is very close this season and they are prejudicing the interests of a lot of clubs by their action,” he added.

For the past two rounds of Primera Liga matches referees have refused to detail in their reports why bookings were given, stating simply that they were given “for unsporting behaviour” or “infringing the rules of the game”. As a result the Federation’s disciplinary committee has not suspended players who were booked, saying they did not have sufficient information to take any action in case of appeal from the clubs.—MNA/Reuters

**CAS backs Chelsea over Mutu case**

**Bern (Switzerland), 23 May** — The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has backed Chelsea’s bid to receive compensation from former player Adrian Mutu.

Chelsea have been seeking compensation from the Romanian forward since terminating his contract in October 2004 as a result of the player’s positive test for cocaine.

In a ruling issued on the CAS website (http://www.tas-cas.org) on Tuesday, the court said it was up to world soccer’s governing body FIFA to determine “what sporting sanction and/or financial compensation should be imposed upon the Player.”

FIFA’s Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) said in October 2006 that it did not have jurisdiction to handle the question of compensation — an argument which has been overturned by Tuesday’s ruling.

Mutu’s lawyers had also sought to challenge FIFA’s jurisdiction in the case despite having formally recognized the DRC’s right to impose sanctions. “The Panel has the clear impression that the sudden change of position adopted by the Player before the DRC was purely opportunistic,” CAS stated on Tuesday.

Mutu joined Chelsea from Italian club AC Parma on a five-year contract in August 2003 but tested positive during a targeted drug test conducted by the English Football Association Association.

Chelsea’s decision to sack the player was backed by the Premier League which ruled that Mutu’s misconduct constituted a breach of contract.—MNA/Reuters

**Mozambique fan killed for celebration goal**

**Maputo, 23 May** — A Mozambican soccer fan was stoned and stomped to death after celebrating a goal by his side in a Premier League match in the southern African nation, Mozambique’s national newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Sunday in the northern African nation, Mozambique’s national newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Angry Lichinga fans attacked the unidentified man after he jumped onto a stadium terrace to celebrate Ferroviario’s second goal in the 69th minute, the daily newspaper said. It quoted witnesses as saying that police failed to intervene.—MNA/Reuters

**Milan named Sheffield United manager**

**London, 23 May** — Former England and Manchester United captain Bryan Robson was confirmed as manager of relegated Sheffield United on Tuesday.

The appointment comes a week after Neil Warnock’s resignation last week following United’s relegation from the Premier League on the last day of the season.

At a brief news conference at United’s Bramall Lane stadium Robson, 50, said: “I’ve got a good group of players here and with a bit of fine tuning we can get back to where this club belongs.—MNA/Reuters

**Shevchenko management plays down Milan invitation**

**London, 23 May** — Chelsea striker Andry Shevchenko’s management company has played down the significance of an invitation from AC Milan for the Ukrainian to attend Wednesday’s Champions League final in Athens as their guest.

Shevchenko has been linked with a move back to the Italian club, where he spent seven successful years, after failing to live up to expectations in his first season in the Premier League.

“Andry is not in talks of any kind with AC Milan,” said a WMG spokesperson in a statement. “He has a contract with Chelsea and that is the end of the matter.”

**Champions League winner could pocket 100 mln euros**

**Athens, 23 May** — The winner of Wednesday’s Champions League final between AC Milan and Liverpool could earn as much as 100 million euros in rising sponsorship and TV deals, increased players’ values and higher ticket sales, an international survey showed on Tuesday. The survey, commissioned by MasterCard, one of the sponsors of the Champions League, also showed the victorious club’s home city could expect a significant cash injection.

The city of Liverpool made an estimated 70 million euros following the club’s 2005 win against AC Milan, while Portugal’s Porto enjoyed an estimated 12 million euros boost after the team’s 2004 victory.—MNA/Reuters

**San Antonio Spurs’ Tim Duncan (L) blocks a shot from Utah Jazz’ Deron Williams during Game 2 of their NBA Western Conference Final playoff basketball series in San Antonio, Texas on 22 May, 2007.**—INTERNET

**New York Mets centerfielder Carlos Beltran climbs the wall but cannot get a three-run home run by Atlanta Braves Kyle Davies in the sixth inning at their National League baseball game in Atlanta, Georgia, on 22 May, 2007.**—INTERNET
UN says “AIDS” still spreading despite progress made

UNITED NATIONS, 23 May — The number of people living with HIV has increased in every region of the world over the past two years, despite improvements in ensuring universal access to treatment, according to a UN report released on Monday.

The report was submitted by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the 61st UN General Assembly which convened a plenary session on Monday to review progress made since the UN held a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in June last year.

Over the past year, selected progress has been achieved in moving towards universal access, including changes in the political environment, setting national targets, estimating resource needs, expanding treatment and intensifying prevention, said the report.

By the end of 2006, 90 low-and-middle-income countries are now receiving treatment, representing an increase of 700,000 from the number estimated to be on antiretroviral therapy in December 2005.

In countries with generalized epidemics where there have been sustained prevention efforts, HIV prevalence is declining, and several countries have made special services available to AIDS orphans, ensuring access to health, education and social welfare.

Despite the improvements, the report said, the number of people living with HIV has increased in every region of the world over the past two years.

By the end of 2006, an estimated 39.5 million people worldwide were living with HIV infection, representing a “considerable increase” since 2001, when an estimated 32.9 million people were living with HIV.

The rate of people newly infected with HIV has remained around 4 million per year, while the number of people dying from AIDS has grown from 2.2 million in 2001 to 2.9 million in 2006.

“The with the passage of the epidemic’s first 25 years, it has become clearer than ever that the global response must move from an emergency footing to a longer-term effort that lays the groundwork for sustainable progress,” the report said.

On June 2, 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, urging member states to move toward the global objective of universal access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 24 May, 2007

Residents search for victims in the rubble of a collapsed house after a bomb attack in Baghdad on 22 May, 2007. At least 25 people were killed and 60 wounded when a car bomb exploded near a popular market in Amil district in southwestern Baghdad, police said. — Internet

Weather Map of “Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas”

WEATHER

Wednesday, 23 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kaychin, Kayah States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon, Ayeayawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining states and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Kayin States. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) below May average temperature in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, (5ºC) below May average temperature in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (7ºC) to (8ºC) below May average temperature in Shan State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about May average temperature in the remaining states and divisions.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Moeaung (5.43) inches, Hpa-an (3.15) inches, Dawei (2.8) inches and Myikyina (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-5-2007 was 86ºF. Minimum temperature on 23-5-2007 was 73ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-5-2007 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 22-5-2007 was (2.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-5-2007 was (0.15) inch at Mingaladon, (0.55) inch at Kab-a-Yae and (0.77) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (24.76) inches at Mingaladon, (28.03) inches at Kab-a-Yae and (26.77) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kab-a-Yae) was (15) mph from Southwest at (13:10) hours MST on 22-5-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure areas over East Central Bay has become unimportant. Monsson is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay, Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeaywady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain are likely in the eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2007: One or two or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint urges local authorities, personnel, people to help maintain roads, bridges, dams and factories

Lt-Gen Ye Myint views progress of Kyeeohn-kyeeawa Multi-purpose Dam. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects old and new Kyugok-Wantein bridges linking Kyugok (Pangsai) of Myanmar and Wantein of China. — MNA

Regional development undertakings supervised in Shan State (North)

Not an invented story

I admire the doctors whose names I do not know of the hospital for their goodwill. The hospital is actually bearing the cost of medical treatment for the poor, but not for the ones who are pretending to be poor.