Lt-Gen Ye Myint calls for extended cultivation of tea in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngaing and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at Yontaung briefing hall in Haka on 25 May.

Chin State Manager U Aye Ko Ko of Myanma Agriculture Service reported on cultivation of tea in villages, Yontaung region and its environs in Chin State for 2006-2007 and targets.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint told departmental officials and local farmers to give priority to growing of tea and make strenuous efforts for exceeding the targets.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party observed plucking of tea in five-acre plantation of Chin State Police Force. Altogether 18,000 tea plants were grown. They attended Yontaung tea cultivation ceremony. Lt-Gen Ye Myint said according to the geographical conditions and weather, it is suitable for Chin State to grow tea and extended cultivation of tea will improve economy of the region.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people grew tea plants at the designated places.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party presented robes and offertories to Secretary of Chin State Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandava and clothing for school children of monastic education school.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Border Areas and National Races Development Training School of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Altogether 54 Chin students are attending the school.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected tea plantation of Health Department and Auditor’s Office in the township. They proceeded to Inkyalokwin briefing hall in Haka and Township Manager U Thein Zaw of MAS reported on cultivation of tea. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected cultivation of 10 acres of tea of Chin State General Administration Department.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to 100-bed People’s Hospital. They were conducted round the (See page 8)
Towards extended cultivation of tea

The government is building economic, education, health, social and transport infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

In this regard, it has upgraded Haka-Gangaw road, Haka-Matupi road, Kalay-Falam-Haka road and Mindat-Matupi road in Chin State where there was poor transport in the past. With better transport, there has now been swift and smooth commodity flow in Chin State.

According to geographical conditions, there is shortage of arable land in Chin State. However, Chin State is engaged in extended cultivation of paddy and cash crops for self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, local farmers are striving for cultivation of cash crops such as rubber, butter-bean, mangoes, jack-fruit and tea extensively as highland farming.

Especially, tea that suits the region is to be cultivated across Chin State. Since 1999-2000, Tiddim, Tonzang, Kyikha, Thantlang, Falam, Haka, Kanpetlet, Matupi and Mindat townships have been cultivating tea.

At present, tea factories are going into commercial operation in some regions as it is being grown extensively.

At a time when local authorities and farmers are engaged in extended cultivation of tea with the aim of turning Chin State into a tea state, continued efforts are to be made to meet the target of growing 100,000 acres of tea in the state.

Special Appellate Bench delivers judgment of special appeal cases

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 May—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Myint Thein and U Han Shin sitting at Court No (1) of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of three Special Criminal Appeal Cases and eight Special Civil Appeal Cases. And then heard Five Special Civil Appeal Cases under section 7 of the Judiciary Law 2000.

Deputy Foreign Minister winds up two-nation tour

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 May—Special envoy of the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and delegation arrived back here on 26 May after paying goodwill visits to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 14-25 May.

The delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 14 May. The deputy minister paid a courtesy call on his counterpart of UAE Dr Tariq Ahmed al-Hajdan on 15 May and held discussions aimed at further strengthening of bilateral relations and exchanged views on current developments in international affairs.

The deputy minister on 15 May also held talks with Deputy Minister for Economy of UAE Abdulla bin Ahmed al-Saleh at his office on matters relating to the expansion of bilateral economic cooperation and opportunities for investment in Myanmar.

On 17 May, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on Minister for Energy of UAE Mohamed bin Dhaen al Hamli at the Ministry of Energy and discussed matters related to cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on His Highness Sheikh Sarror Bin Mohammed al-Nahainan at his residential palace and attended the lunch hosted by the Crown Prince.

For the second leg of the tour, the delegation arrived in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 18 May. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on his counterpart of the Kingdom Ibrahim O. al Kharashi the next day at the latter’s office. The two deputy ministers touched upon matters concerning bilateral relations between the two countries.

On 20 May, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu paid a courtesy call on Dr Nizar bin Obaid Madani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international affairs.

On 21 May, the deputy minister called on Deputy Minister for Labour Ahmed al Zamil at his office and discussed matters concerning opportunities for Myanmar workers to find employment in Saudi Arabia.

The deputy minister met with Deputy Secretary General Engr Fahad M Aslimy and members of the Council of Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the meeting hall of the council on 22 May, and exchanged views on economic cooperation and other matters of mutual concern.

The deputy minister called on Assistant Minister for Petroleum His Royal Highness Ahmed M al Salem at the Ministry of Interior separately on 23 May. At the meetings, the two sides discussed matters relating to further expansion of bilateral cooperation in the respective fields.

The Myanmar delegation left the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Myanmar on 24 May. Myanmar delegation included U Ohn Kyaw, Director-General from the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, U Soe Aung, Deputy Director-General from the Ministry of Energy and U Thet Win Tu, Assistant Director from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu being welcomed by Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr Nizar bin Obaid Madani.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu poses for documentary photo together with Energy Minister of UAE Mohamed bin Dhaen al Hamli and Deputy Minister Nasser M al Sharhan. — FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MNA
Iran uncovers western spy networks

TEHRAN, 28 May — Iran has uncovered spy networks on its territory organized by occupying forces in Iraq and Iraqi groups, the Intelligence Ministry said in a statement published on Saturday.

The statement gave few details, saying more would be published in the next few days. Iran has often accused the United States and Britain, which led the invasion of Iraq, of trying to undermine the security of the Islamic Republic.

Pakistani gang arrested for stealing kidneys

LAHORE (Pakistan), 28 May — Pakistani police have arrested nine people, four of them doctors, for abducting people, drugging them and stealing their kidneys for transplant operations, police said on Saturday.

Selling kidneys from living donors is not illegal in Pakistan, which medical experts say has a reputation as the world’s “kidney bazaar”.

But police said those arrested in the eastern city of Lahore tricked people then drugged them before removing their kidneys. “These poor people were given tranquilizers and were deprived of their kidneys without their consent,” Lahore police chief Malik Mohammad Iqbal told Reuters.

The ministry’s statement did not refer to either country by name. “The Intelligence Ministry succeeded in finding, recognizing and confronting some spy networks of infiltrating elements from the Iraqi occupiers in west, southwest and central Iran,” said the statement, carried by the official IRNA news agency.

“These spy networks were guided by the intelligence services of the occupiers and were supported by some influential Iraqi groups. The detailed news will be announced in the next few days.” It was not clear whether the “spy networks” were linked to the recent detentions by Iran of Iranian-Americans including US-based scholar Haleh Esfandiari, whom the ministry has accused of being linked to efforts to undermine Iran’s Government.

The United States has dismissed the accusations and called for Esfandiari’s release.— MNA/Reuters

Six bombs explode in commercial district in restive southern Thailand, wounding 13

BANGKOK, 27 May — Thailand: Domestic politics rather than Muslim insurgents may have been behind bombing attacks that injured at least 13 people in southern Thailand’s tourist and commercial hub of Hat Yai, a senior police official said Monday.

Six bombs ripped through a key commercial district of the city late Sunday near two hotels, two pharmacies, a department store and a restaurant, police Lt Pod Suansuwan said. Scores of Malaysians, Singaporeans and Indonesians spend their weekends in Hat Yai, but police said all the injured were Thai nationals. Two of the wounded were reported in serious condition.

According to our reports, the final toll rose to 22 people killed and 30 others injured in the attack,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier the source put the toll at 10 killed and 15 injured.”A booby-trapped car bomb detonated at about 2:15 pm (10:15 GMT) in the crowded Khilani Square,” the source said.

In separate incidents, a group of gunmen ambushed a police patrol in a neighbourhood in central Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding seven others.

The gunmen blocked the road in the neighbourhood of Fadhil and opened fire at the police patrol, which is chasing them after they abducted two minibuses with passengers on board.

The attacks came hours after the US and Iranian ambassadors met for the first time in decades to try to resolve issues over how to deal with violence in Iraq. — Xinhua

Up to 22 killed in central Baghdad car bombing

BAGHDAD, 28 May — The death toll rose to 22 and 30 people injured when a car bomb hit a busy area in central Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“According to our reports, the final toll rose to 22 people killed and 30 others injured in the attack,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

TheInterior ministry source said.

WASHINGTON, 27 May—As of Sunday, 27 May, 2007, at least 3,452 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,809 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is 19 higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 149 deaths: Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 20; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, two; Netherlands, two; Austria; Hungary; Kazakhstan; Romania; South Korea; one death each.— Internet

Indonesia President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, centre, and Malaysia Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, right, look on as delegates exchange the memorandums of understandings during the World Islamic Economic Ministry source said.

Six bombs explode in commercial district in restive southern Thailand, wounding 13

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A demonstrator gestures during a protest rally at Venceslas Square in Prague on 26 May, 2007. The rally was held to protest against plans to deploy a US missile defence radar system in the Czech Republic. — XINHUA

Police officials stand near the site of a bomb blast in southern Thailand’s Hat Yai Province on 27 May, 2007. —INTERNET

The ministry’s statement did not refer to either country by name. “The Intelligence Ministry succeeded in finding, recognizing and confronted some spy networks of infiltrating elements from the Iraqi occupiers in west, southwest and central Iran,” said the statement, carried by the official IRNA news agency.

“These spy networks were guided by the intelligence services of the occupiers and were supported by some influential Iraqi groups. The detailed news will be announced in the next few days.” It was not clear whether the “spy networks” were linked to the recent detentions by Iran of Iranian-Americans including US-based scholar Haleh Esfandiari, whom the ministry has accused of being linked to efforts to undermine Iran’s Government.

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Chile to enhance bilateral cooperation with Vietnam

SANTIAGO, 27 May—Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said Friday that her country aimed to enhance cooperation with Vietnam. She made the remarks when meeting with Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Nong Duc Manh, who is on an official four-nation Latin America tour, which also takes in Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba.

In a ceremony at the government palace, the President and the Vietnamese General Secretary witnessed the signing of two agreements to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation and joint work in science and technology.

Bachelet highlighted the important of the general secretary’s visit, which was aimed at strengthening political and economic ties. In 2005, Vietnam and Chile celebrated the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

“Vietnam and Chile are two medium-size countries that share the same willingness to make the best of opportunities and minimize the risks globalization offers,” Bachelet said.

“We share the same need to favour national development with social justice. Economic growth allows us to improve the life quality of our people,” the President added.

Chile also wants to be a bridge country for Vietnam and Latin America, Bachelet said.

China confirms new human case of bird flu

BEIJING, 27 May—China’s Ministry of Health has confirmed a new human case of bird flu, the ministry announced on its website Saturday.

A 19-year-old man surnamed Cheng, who is a soldier in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), is now receiving treatment at an Army hospital, the ministry said.

The website did not indicate in which part of the country Cheng was stationed nor how he may have come in contact with the virus. Calls to the ministry were unanswered.

A labourer chisels at a block of marble near a marble mine in Makrana town, about 120 km (75 miles) west of Jaipur in the desert state of Rajasthan, in this 26 April, 2007 file photo. —INTERNET

Memorial Day visitors go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on 27 May, 2007. This year is the 25th anniversary of the memorial, which has etched into it the names of the 58,249 American servicemen and women who died or were lost during the Vietnam Conflict from 1959-1975. —INTERNET

Freight train derailed by bomb explosion in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 27 May—Seven carriages of a freight train derailed after suspected Kurdish rebels set off a bomb on railway track in Turkey’s eastern province of Bingol, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Friday.

No casualties were reported in the accident, the report said. Some officials were quoted as saying that the remote-controlled bomb was detonated near Suvener Station in Bingol when the freight train was en route from Tavsan to Malatya Province. Train voyages have been suspended on the mentioned route, while an investigation is underway, Anatolia added.

Hungary confirms US expulsion of its diplomat

BUDAPEST, 27 May—Hungarian Foreign Ministry spokesman Gyorgy Odzse confirmed on Friday that the United States had expelled a Hungarian diplomat. Television channel TV2 quoted Odzse as saying that the incident, which happened in April, involved a junior diplomat who was found of possessing drugs. The US authorities had requested the diplomat be recalled and the Hungarian authorities had complied with. —MNA/Xinhua

NATO soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 May—A NATO soldier was killed and four wounded in a clash with insurgents in Afghanistan on Saturday, the alliance said in a statement. It did not identify the casualties in the clash in the south of the country. A Canadian NATO soldier was killed on Friday outside the southern city of Kandahar in a roadside bomb blast.

Violence has surged in recent months in Afghanistan, following a traditional winter lull. Last year was the bloodiest in the country since US-led forces defeated the Taliban government in 2001.

Four die as gunmen open fire in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 May—At least four people were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire in Pakistani southwestern city of Quetta on Saturday, private TV channel reported.

One other person was also injured when the gunmen sprayed bullets at people in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province, at 11:10 am (0610 GMT) the Geo Television reported. Motives behind the attack were not immediately known. No one has claimed responsibility of the attack. —MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap at least 40 in north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 May—Gunmen manning fake check points on Sunday abducted more then 40 people on the main road near Samarr City in Salahadin Province, a provincial police source said.

“Gunmen believed to be al-Qaeda militants erected faked checkpoints in the afternoon on the main road south of Samarr added more than 40 people,” the source from Salahadin Province told Xinhua.

He said the militants were looking for people from Jubour and Shummar Iraqi tribes along with individuals working for the Iraqi security forces. —MNA/Xinhua
India to hold tourism shows in London, New York

NEW DELHI, 27 May—India plans to hold two mega shows in London and New York in September this year, showcasing its rich culture and huge potential as a tourist attraction as part of celebrations to mark 60 years of Independence.

The mayor of London is helping to hold the “IndiaNew” show, which will be held for three months from July, India-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Saturday. The show in New York will coincide with the UN General Assembly and will be on from September 22 to 25. It will have on display various facets of India’s culture and folk arts. These shows are part of the Indian Government’s efforts to promote tourism and attract more visitors from abroad, IANS said. MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to sign deal with S Korea for manpower export

DHAKA, 28 May—Bangladesh will sign a deal with South Korea on recruitment of workforce under a new arrangement styled Employment Permit System (EPS), private news agency UNB reported Saturday.

A regular meeting of the council of advisers chaired by Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed on Saturday approved a proposal on manpower export to South Korea at government level through the EPS, introduced by the Far Eastern country this year. Earlier, they used to recruit manpower on the basis of Industrial Training System (ITS), which has been revoked recently. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is expected to be signed during Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury’s Seoul visit on 4-6 June.

The MoU would protect the interest and rights of Bangladeshi workforce in South Korea, where now around 12,000 Bangladeshi work and the new deal could take in some 10,000 more, the report said.

Under the EPS, South Korea will recruit a total of some 50,000 skilled manpower from 14 countries, including Bangladesh. MNA/Xinhua

Trade with China creates more jobs in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 May—There were more jobs created in Brazil in 2005 as a result of exports to China than there were positions lost because of imports from the Asian giant, a Brazilian economist said Friday. According to a study by Marta Reis Castilho of the Federal Fluminense University, 559,598 jobs were created as a result of trade with China, while 237,455 positions were lost, which means a surplus of 322,143 to Brazil. The research also showed that the job surplus peaked at 379,000 in 2003. Of the jobs that bilateral trade created in Brazil in 2005, approximately 396,000, or 71 percent, went to workers with basic education levels or less, as the major exports to China were agricultural products and iron ore.—MNA/Xinhua

Honda Indonesia reports 13% surge in first quarter sales

JAKARTA, 27 May—PT Honda Prospect Motor (HPM), the Indonesian subsidiary of Japanese automotive giant Honda, sold 12,500 vehicles in Indonesia during the first quarter of this year, a 13 per-cent increase from the same period last year.

Monthly sales in April showed a 21-per-cent increase to 3,754 vehicles from 3,084 in March. The SUV model the All New CRV, since it was first launched in January this year and the end of the first quarter, has sold 5,606 units, and controls 49 per cent of the SUV market.

The Jazz, which was launched in early 2004 and is aimed at the youth market, sold 4,821 units during the same period, giving it an 11-per-cent share of the small MPV class, Jonfis Fandy, HPM director of marketing and after-sales service, was quoted Saturday by English daily The Jakarta Post as saying. MNA/Xinhua

Angola, Zimbabwe sign accord on tourism

LUANDA, 27 May—The Angolan and Zimbabwean Government have signed a five-year cooperation accord on tourism, the Angolan news agency ANGOP reported on Friday. The accord was signed by Angolan Minister of Hotels and Tourism Eduardo Chinungu and Zimbabwean Minister of Tourism and Environment Francis Nhema at a two-day meeting on tourism held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, which started on Thursday.

The agreement outlines the general bases for the promotion and increase of cooperation in the domain of tourism in the framework of principles of equality, mutual benefit and reciprocity of advantage. MNA/Xinhua
Ethiopia, China sign $18.5m debt relief agreement

Addis Ababa, 27 May — Ethiopia and China signed here on Friday a debt relief agreement amounting to 18.5 million US dollars.

The agreement was signed by Mekonen Manyazewal, state Minister of Finance and Economic Development, and China’s Assistant Minister of Commerce Wang Chao.

It was stated on the occasion that the money drawn from the debt relief would be used to finance poverty reduction programmes in Ethiopia.

After signing the agreement, Mekonen expressed appreciation to China’s commitment to support Ethiopia.

“He is important to us in that it gives us a fiscal space for our growth and poverty reduction programmes,” he said. Wang Chao, who is here on a working visit, said on his part the debt relief would be a landmark to the growing development cooperation between China and Ethiopia.

“Our government will also continue to encourage our Chinese enterprises to conduct mutual beneficial cooperation with Ethiopian enterprises,” he said.

He also said the new convention centre of the African Union (AU), which is to be constructed with the help of Chinese Government, would be a new symbol of relations between China and Ethiopia and the whole of Africa.

This second time debt relief is part of the comprehensive package of various supports from China including project assistance, technical cooperation, debt cancellation and private sector interactions. —Xinhua

Suicide bombing injures four in S Afghanistan

Kabul, 27 May — A suicide blast wounded four persons in Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan on Saturday, the police said.

A suicide bomber attacked a police vehicle in Kandahar City, the provincial capital, injuring three policemen and one civilian, Asis Khan, a policeman at the blast site told Xinhua. The bomber’s body was still lying on the ground, and the police vehicle was partly damaged, he added.

Kandahar Province is the birthplace and a stronghold of the Taleban movement, where a lot of insurgency and violence occurs.

Due to rising Taleban-linked insurgency, over 1,600 persons, most of whom were Taleban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year. —Xinhua

Death toll rises to five in Baghdad market attacks

Baghdad, 27 May — The death toll rose to five and up to 37 others wounded when a co-ordinated car bombing and mortar barrage struck a popular market place in a southern Baghdad District on Saturday, a police source said.

“A booby-trapped vehicle went off in the industrial area in the district at around midday, killing and wounding many people along with burning and damaging several nearby workshops,” the source said.

“Few minutes later, four mortar rounds landed on a near by outdoor market in the Baiya District,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The two attacks killed a total of five people and wounded 37 others, the source added.

Earlier, the source said that four people were killed and 25 others wounded in a mortar barrage on the popular out door market in Baiya District. —Xinhua

Suspected food poisoning sickens 30 at S China garment factory

Beijing, 27 May — About 30 factory workers fell sick Friday in Shunde, a manufacturing town in south China’s Guangdong Province.

Food poisoning is the suspected cause, doctors said on Saturday. The workers, mostly women, are alleged to have consumed suspected food poisoning. —Xinhua

US military fails to engage target in new anti-missile test

Washington, 27 May — A new US test aimed to intercept a supposed enemy long-range missile over the Pacific failed on Friday, agencies reports said.

“The target did not reach sufficient altitude to be deemed a threat and so the Ballistic Missile Defence System did not engage it, as designed.” Missile Defence Agency Director Henry Obering was quoted as saying.

During the test, the target missile launched from Alaska failed to reach the test area before an interceptor missile could be launched from California.

The US military is still trying to find out why the target, an old intercontinental ballistic missile, failed after launch from Kodiak Island in Alaska. The interceptor was supposed to try to collide with the target high over the Pacific.

The Missile Defence Agency described the test as “not completed”, avoiding to use the term “failure” and saying it will try again some time in the summer.

At present, the United States has two ground sites hosting missile interceptors, in California and Alaska, respectively. —Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Andretti Green driver Dario Franchitti of Scotland raises the traditional bottle of milk after winning the 91st Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on 27 May, 2007. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Lebanese Red Cross volunteers ride a pick-up truck loaded with food supplies as they enter the Beddawi Palestinian refugee camp on 26 May, 2007. Sporadic gunbattles flared overnight between Lebanese troops and Islamist fighters holed up in a Palestinian refugee camp amid efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the worst internal strife since Lebanon’s civil war. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Lebanese workers, mostly women, fell sick Friday in Shunde, a popular market place in a manufacturing town in south China’s Guangdong Province. —Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
World No Tobacco Day

Dr Nyo Nyo Kyaing

World No Tobacco Day falls on 31st May every year. Myanmar has been observing the Day since 1989. The Ministry of Health has been launching public health education campaigns on the hazards of smoking and tobacco products. In 2000, the ministry launched the tobacco free project with the directive of the National Health Committee. The Myanmar representatives had constantly taken part in drafting the International Convention on Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products for four years. Myanmar hosted the fourth Southeast Asia regional meeting in connection with Convention. Myanmar signed the Convention on 23 October 2003. The Convention was ratified on 20 April 2004.

As Myanmar is a member of the Convention, it has the duty to implement it. The country issued The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law on 4 May 2006 under the State Peace and Development Council Law No 5/2006. The law came into force on 4 May this year. The WHO honoured Myanmar for the law which is a milestone of Myanmar’s history of health.

The rate of smoking and consumption of tobacco products is falling in Myanmar thanks to the public awareness of the dangers of tobacco. According to Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2001, the smoking rate of students from eighth to tenth standards in 2001 was 16.9 per cent. The Repeat Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2004 indicated the said rate at 9.7 per cent. According to survey, tobacco consumption rate among 9th, 10th and 11th graders was 10.8 per cent in 2004, down from 20.4 in 2001. Smoking rate among people from ages 15 and above fell to 31 per cent in 2004 from 48 per cent in 2001 and 60 percent in the 1990s. Smoking among women is falling drastically. But four percent of urban women and 20 percent of rural women are still smoking.


In 2003, the ministry carried out World No-Tobacco Day commemorative activities in cooperation with the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon and the Myanmar Music Asiayon in pursuit of the theme for the year 2003 “Tobacco free film: tobacco free fashion, action”. The WHO designated “Smoke free environments” as the theme for 2007 to help establish a smoke-free environment so that world people will be free from the dangers of passive smoking.

Tobacco-based products are categorized into two groups—smoking tobacco and smokeless tobacco. Smoking tobacco group comprises cigarette, cheroot, cigar, corn-leaf cheroot, tobacco pipe and long tobacco pipe. And smokeless tobacco group comprises chewing tobacco, chewing betel quid with tobacco, steamed tobacco or marinated tobacco in it, and drinking water in which tobacco is soaked for some time. Inhaling of tobacco smoke, keeping in the mouth or eating any kinds of tobacco-based products is harmful to health.

Environmental tobacco smoke consists of mainstream smoke and side stream smoke. Mainstream smoke is the smoke that a smoker exhales. Side stream smoke is the smoke from other people’s cigarette. Both mainstream smoke and side stream smoke contain nicotine and several dangerous items. Inhaling these mainstream smoke and side stream smoke can cause lung cancer, liver cancer, mouth cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and hypertension. Pregnant women smokers are likely to face abortion, their under-one-year-old infants may die suddenly, and they are also likely to give birth to underweight babies and handicapped babies. Passive smoking children may suffer from asthma, swollen trachea and pneumonia. The lungs of a child are smaller than that of an adult, so children are more vulnerable to smoke.

In order to prevent the dangers of passive smoking, tobacco-free areas have been designated under Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law such as hospitals, clinics, schools, inside passenger buses and aircraft, air-conditioned public halls, theatres, cinemas, video houses and other exhibitions, supermarkets, plazas, stores and roofed and covered markets. The designation of such places helps reduce dangers caused by cigarette smoke drastically. Therefore, I would like to urge related ministries and social organizations to participate in the creation of a smoke-free environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Translation: TMT+MS

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint calls for…

(from page 1)

hospital by Head of Chin State Health Department Dr U Aung Si Thu.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected preparation for cultivation of summer paddy and reclamation of land for terrace cultivation near Theemit Village on Haka-Thantlang Road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party scattered Shweyinaye paddy seeds in the cultivation plot. Lt-Gen Ye Myint greeted farmers and called for highland farmland reclamation. The plantation of Theemit Village has cultivated 50 acres of summer paddy. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Moe Hein family’s tea industry Zaythit Ward in Haka and inspected production process of pickled tea and dried tea. Afterwards, they proceeded to the mythum farm of U Ran Kyone at mile post (4/6) on Haka-Matupi Road. Head of Chin State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Haik reported on preparation of mythum and market condition. Chin State bred 45,429 heads of mythum up to April 2006 and 48,199 heads up to April 2007 accounting for 5.88 percent increase. Mythum breeding is being extended by establishing seven farms. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the tea plantation of Moe Hein’s family near mile post (27). A total of 25,000 plants have been grown on 7 acres of land. After inspecting Shwenyoydaw tea industry in Pyilhsaungtha Ward in Haka, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid homage and offered alms to Sayadaw Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Partyatti Sasana Hitadhara member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Bhaddanta Tejosara and visited Win Thuza Shop of Chin State Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Later, they visited the tea plantation in the compound of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Haka. At the plantation, 10,890 tea plants have been grown on the land of three acres. Chin State has grown 14,952 acres of tea. It is targeted to grow total of 5,000 acres of tea in 2007-2008 in the state and 165,476 viss has been produced. In 2006-2007, 4765 baskets of tea seeds were sown at nurseries and it is targeted to grow 86,489,905 tea plants in 2007-2008.

Community knowledge centre opened

YANGON, 28 May—Education sub-working group of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization opened its community knowledge centre at No 6 Ward Peace and Development Council Office on Mekhang Street in Shwepyitha Township today.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Wai formally unveiled the signboard of the community knowledge centre.

Afterwards, Daw Mar Wai handed over one cupboard, two sewing machines and books donated by district and township WAO through Chairperson of No 6 Ward WAO Daw Than Thant Sint.

After the donation, they visited the centre.

Similarly, the community knowledge centre was opened at the township planning office the same day. Director U Saw Aung of Education Research Bureau explained the purpose of the centre and the ceremony ended.—MNA

Minister meets athletes

YANGON, 28 May—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with players of Myanmar youth football team, Myanmar selected men’s volleyball team and selected men’s basketball team at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwuna) in Thungangyun Township today.

Myanmar Youth Football team will participate in Asian U-13 Asian Youth Football Tournament to be held in Malaysia from 27 May to 10 June, Myanmar yacht team in a yachting event to be held in Singapore from 6 to 10 June and Myanmar selected men’s volleyball team in Asia Club Men’s Volleyball Competition to be held in Bahrain from 1 to 8 June.

Officials concerned reported on preparation for the competitions.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint urged the athletes to enhance Myanmar’s image and make efforts for gaining medals.

Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Wai delivers an address at opening of community knowledge centre in Shwepyitha Township. — MNA
PBANRDA Minister attends opening of roads in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 28 May — Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended opening ceremonies of roads in Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

First, a tarred road was inaugurated in Hinthada Township in the presence of Minister Col Thein Nyunt. The road was upgraded by Hinthada Township Development Affairs Department.

The road was formally opened by Chairman of the township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Lin, Executive Officer of the township USDA U Kyaw Lin and Secretary of the township USDA U Nyunt Oo. After the opening ceremony, Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspected the upgraded road.

The opening ceremony was also attended by members of Ayeyawady Division USDA, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people.

As it has been upgraded, the road has become the all-weather road providing the smooth transportation to the township.

Afterwards, Minister Col Thein Nyunt also attended the opening of Anawrath Road in Zalun which is 1,750 feet long and 12 feet wide. It was constructed by Zalun Township USDA at a cost of K 9.35 million.

The road was formally opened by the chairman of the township Peace and Development Council, an executive officer of the township USDA and the secretary of the township USDA. The minister and party inspected the road after the opening ceremony.

On his tour of Zalun Township, the minister also attended the opening ceremony of a village-to-village linking road in the township. The road linking Danubyu Village and Thatkaekyun Village in the township is 3 miles and 7 furlongs long and 10 feet wide. The township USDAD spent K 23.1 million on construction of the road.

The road has become the all-weather facility for 30 villages in six village-tracts in the township. Afterwards, the minister met with local people at the Basic Education High School (branch) in Mary Lann Village in Zalun Township, and attended to the needs for the regional development.

Danubyu Township Development Council also inaugurated an upgraded road in the township during the minister’s tour of Danubyu. The road was opened by the chairman of Danubyu Township Peace and Development Council, an executive officer of Danubyu Township USDAD and the secretary of Danubyu Township USDA.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening of an upgraded road in Hinthada on 27 May 2007. — PBANRDA

Minister attends 35th Annual Meeting

YANGON, 28 May — Ingaup Township Association (Yango) held its 35th Annual Meeting, respect-paying ceremony and prize presentation ceremony at the Dhammyaung Pagoda Road, with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Next, the minister met with local people at the Basic Education High School (branch) in Mary Lann Village in Zalun Township, and attended to the needs for the regional development.

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Cash donation for medical fund of Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital

YANGON, 28 May — A cash donation for medical fund of Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital was held at the hospital this morning.

First, Medical Superintendent of ENT Hospital Dr Kyaw Hla Myint explained facts about the hospital with the help of charts to Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division. Physical nut plants and 10 feet wide.

The opening ceremony of a village-to-village linking road in the township. The road linking Danubyu Village and Thatkaekyun Village in the township is 3 miles and 7 furlongs long and 10 feet wide. The township USDAD spent K 23.1 million on construction of the road.

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UN says West must stop drug cartels overrunning W Africa

DAKAR, 28 May—The international community must act to stop drug cartels from overrunning poor West African nations and turning them into narco-states, the United Nations special representative for the region said on Saturday.

Powerful Latin American drug rings are muscling their way into West Africa as a back-door route into Europe, where the street price of cocaine is often three times as high as in North America.

The rich cartels are spending millions of dollars to establish air and sea routes and create drug stockpiles from the deserts of the Sahara to the steamy creeks of the Gulf of Guinea, alarming US and European counter-narcotics agencies.

Two big drug busts of more than 600 kilos of cocaine in Mauritania and Niger in recent weeks show authorities can stem some of the flow, but UN officials say a far greater volume of narcotics is getting through.

“It’s a very large quantity — according to UN figures, in the last eight months more than two tons,” said the special representative of the UN secretary-general for West Africa, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

He said the drug gangs had logistical, financial and communications means that were far more sophisticated than those possessed by the African states and they would be difficult to dislodge if they put down roots.

“Faced with fragile governments and huge areas, it is very difficult to control. We do not want to see a criminalization of these states,” Ould-Abdallah told Radio France Internationale.

“Even better organized countries in Latin America have been taken hostage by these mafias. That is why we are calling attention to this.”

In recent months, the US Navy has begun to refocus its operations in the Mediterranean southward to deal with the increasing threat of drug trafficking and illegal migration.

5 dead, 3 missing after floods in Turkey

PROVINCE OF AGRI, Turkey, 28 May—A total of five people died and three others are missing after Sunday floods caused by the torrential rains in Turkey’s province of Agri.

Emergency crew help the families, whose houses have been partially or completely demolished.

The heavy rains hit four residential areas in the region.—Internet

Severe heat claims 11 lives in east India

NEW DELHI, 28 May — Three more people have died in Orissa due to sunstroke, taking the toll in heat-related deaths to 11, official sources said Sunday, according to Indo-Asian News Service.

The state’s coastal belt is bearing the brunt of high humidity level in the atmosphere, coupled with soaring day temperature, is leading to cases of sunstroke, the report said.

The meteorological office here forecast that heat wave conditions would last two more days.

On Saturday, Talcher, which recorded 47 degrees Celsius, was the hottest place in the state, while other districts registered over 42 degrees Celsius.

Afghan clash kills 10 militia, 2 policemen

KABUL, 28 May — A clash killed 10 Taleban militants and two Afghan policemen in the southern Kandahar Province, a local official said Sunday.

Taleban rebels ambushed a police patrol in Shah Walirot District on Saturday night, and the police returned fire, district chief Abdullah told Xinhua.

The conflict left 10 Taleban militants and two policemen dead, and two other policemen wounded, he said.

Due to rising Taleban-linked insurgency, over 1,600 persons, mostly Taleban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year. — Xinhua

Bird flu hits ninth province in Vietnam

HANOI, 28 May — Bird flu has spread to another province in northern Vietnam and now nine cities and provinces have been struck by the deadly virus in less than a month, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Tests on ducks at a poultry farm in Ninh Binh Province showed they were infected with the H5N1 virus, the Agriculture Ministry’s Animal Health Department said in a report seen on Monday.

About 1,200 of the 1,750 ducks on the farm had been vaccinated against the H5N1 virus, the report said.

It also said no fresh outbreaks were reported in the other eight cities and provinces in the past few days.

International public health authorities describe Vietnam’s mass poultry vaccination programme and other measures as a model for keeping the virus at bay for the past 18 months.

But last Wednesday, it recorded the first human case since November 2005 when a man from Vinh Phuc Province near Hanoi was found to have contracted H5N1 after he helped slaughter chickens at a friend’s wedding about a month ago.

The World Health Organization said it was working with the government to investigate the case and the WHO needed to verify the virus sample.

It said finding the suspected patient was not alarming if it was an isolated case.

Two injured in drive-by shooting in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 28 May — A village headman and his 7-year-old son were severely injured in a drive-by shooting by suspected insurgents Sunday morning in Thailand’s restive southern province of Pattani, local media reported.

Wae-abdulroman Sama, 40, and his son, Wae-muhmad-alrafan Sama, were shot on a bus of the Aziz Sathan Foundation School at 7:30 am (0030 GMT) on a road in Muang District.

Witnesses were quoted by news network The Nation as saying that Wae-abdulroman Sama, the head of Moo 3 Village, was driving the bus to pick up students when two men on a motorcycle caught up with the bus and the pilgrim opened fire at him with an AK-47 assault rifle.

The bullets hit him twice on his chest and hit the head of his son sitting behind him. — Xinhua
GUWAHATI (India), 28 May — A bomb in a rickshaw exploded in a crowded market place in India’s northeastern state of Assam on Saturday, killing seven people and wounding 18, police said.

Authorities said the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was behind the attack in the busy market area of Athgaon in central Guwahati, the state’s main city. “It is absolutely clear the ULFA is behind this attack,” Sibabrata Kakati, a police officer said.

Three dead bodies lay on the blood splattered road which was littered with parts of human flesh. The body of the rickshaw driver remained mangled in his vehicle where the bomb had been hidden.

Nearby vehicles were also damaged by the impact of the blast which took place a day ahead of celebrations to mark the state government’s first year in office after elections.

Fire engines rushed to the site, while local traders quickly placed the dead and injured on wooden hand carts and in rickshaws, evacuating them to a nearby hospital.

“A man was carrying a gas cylinder at the time of the explosion which caught fire and that caused maximum damage,” a senior police officer said.

Hospital sources said three of the 18 injured were in a critical condition, warning that the death toll could increase.

China discovers 3.8 TCMs of gas reserves in Sichuan

CHENGDU, 28 May — About 3.8 trillion cubic metres of natural gas deposits have been discovered in southwest China’s Sichuan Basin, with verified exploitable reserves topping 600 billion cubic metres.

The reserves were discovered in Dazhou, a gas-rich city in Sichuan Province.

By 2010, the newly found deposits will raise the city’s gas output to 24 billion cubic metres and sulphur to more than 4.3 million tons, according to a Dazhou official at the on-going Western China International Economy-Trade Fair on Saturday.

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), the country’s biggest oil and gas producer, and Sinopec Corporation, China’s largest refiner, plan to build five purification plants in Dazhou and are expected to purify a total of 74 million cubic metres of natural gas a day by 2010.

Dazhou City, located in eastern Sichuan, covers an area of 16,600 square kilometres with a population of 6.46 million.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

29-5-07NL 5/29/07, 02:29 AM
**MAHANAYAR**

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (157)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (157) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2007 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: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7031)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2007 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**‘Pirates’ plunders $57m in North America**

LOS ANGELES, 28 May—“Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End,” the third film in Walt Disney Co’s lucrative adventure franchise, sold an estimated 57 million US dollars of tickets in its first two days of release across North America, the company said on Saturday. The tally includes 14 million US dollars from Thursday evening previews that took place before the film’s official release the next day. The balance of 43 million US dollars includes sales of 3 million US dollars from midnight screenings. - MNA/Reuters
**Experts predict rise in pollution-related deaths**

**Los Angeles, 28 May** — Health officials warned that some 4,000 people in California will die over the next 13 years as a result of pollution-related illness, it was reported Saturday.

Officials cited diesel engines as a major cause of the deaths, the North County Times, a local newspaper, reported.

The deaths would be eliminated if the diesel engines were cleaned up or replaced with modern power plants, the paper quoted health officials as saying. To save thousands of lives per year, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has proposed rules to regulate off-road diesel engines.

But there have been wildly-contradictory estimates of how much it would cost to retrofit or replace 180,000 diesel engines in use across the state, and what the benefits might be.

Construction and warehouse businesses across the state would be affected by the proposed smog rules affecting forklifts and bulldozers.

CARB claimed that thousands of tons of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter that are launched into the atmosphere daily by construction equipment and other off-road industrial vehicles.

Alexander Greiner, a local allergy physician, said there are more than 40 dangerous and toxic compounds in diesel exhaust. However, construction industry advocates said it would cost both billions of dollars just to make that changeover, a switchover that cannot be afforded by the small construction companies that make up the bulk of contracting firms. “The only option to comply is to get rid of your equipment, and when you get rid of equipment, you get rid of employees,” said construction contractor Maichael Lewis, quoted by the paper.

**Ministry of Transport**

**MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY**

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**TENDER NO.MPA/CE (BAG) 001/2007-2008**

1. Sealed Tenders from eligible Tenders/Construction Contractors are invited for the Renovation and Strengthening of Bo Aung Gyaw No.2 Wharf. Tender Prices to be quoted in FED (or) US Dollar.

2. Tender Documents are available at the under mentioned address commencing from 29th May, 2007 and Tender will be closed on 15 June 2007 at 16:00 hours.

3. Detailed information will be available at the following office within the office hours:
   - Civil Engineering Department
   - Myanmar Port Authority
   - No.10, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township
   - Yangon, Myanmar
   - Ph:+95-1 253358,374164
   - Fax:+95-1 391355

Myanma Port Authority

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GEE HONG VOY NO (710)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY NO (710) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (82107)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (82107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS GATI COAST TO COAST**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Loitering whales move to ocean after rescue efforts**

**Residents and onlookers gather around a 24 metre (79 feet), rare Bryde whale which was stranded in shallow shores at an island off Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, on 15 December, 2006.**

**Kuala Lumpur, 28 May** — An orangutan, staying at a wildlife protection centre in East Malaysia with both eyes suffering from cataract, now can see more clearly after animal ophthalmologists performed a surgery on it.

**Otawa, 27 May** — A state of emergency was declared on Friday in the city of Windsor in eastern Canada, following an auto body shop fire that led to widespread air pollution in the city.

The mayor announced the decision amid concerns for poor air quality and smoke although the fire has been put under control.

Nearby buildings including two schools were evacuated after the fire broke out around 11:30 am local time (1530 GMT). No damage has been reported.

Fire services and the hazardous materials unit have begun testing and monitoring the air quality in the city.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Construction and warehouse businesses across the state would be affected by the proposed smog rules affecting forklifts and bulldozers.**

**CARB claimed that thousands of tons of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter that are launched into the atmosphere daily by construction equipment and other off-road industrial vehicles.**

**Alexander Greiner, a local allergy physician, said there are more than 40 dangerous and toxic compounds in diesel exhaust. However, construction industry advocates said it would cost both billions of dollars just to make that changeover, a switchover that cannot be afforded by the small construction companies that make up the bulk of contracting firms.**

**The only option to comply is to get rid of your equipment, and when you get rid of equipment, you get rid of employees,” said construction contractor Maichael Lewis, quoted by the paper.**

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Orangutan sees light again after successful cataract surgery**

**Kuala Lumpur, 28 May** — An orangutan, staying at a wildlife protection centre in East Malaysia with both eyes suffering from cataract, now can see more clearly after animal ophthalmologists performed a surgery on it.

**Vista, about 70 miles offshoot of the Sacramento River, 13 May and drew large crowds to the Port of Sacramento before leaving and swimming to Rio Vista last week.**

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**Celta Vigo snatch late win, Gimnastic relegated**

MADRID, 28 May — Celta Vigo scored an injury-time penalty to beat Real Betis 2-1 at home and keep their hopes of avoiding relegation alive in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano kept his nerve to score from the spot and put 19th-placed Celta level on 33 points with Real Sociedad, who lost 2-0 at Osasuna to remain 18th.

Celta and Sociedad are four points from the safety zone with two matches left.

Athletic Bilbao moved on to 37 points, the same as Betis, after beat- ing Real Mallorca 1-0, but remain 17th due to an inferior head-to-head record.

Levante’s 3-2 win at Racing Santander assured them of a place in the top flight for next season as they climbed to 15th on 39 points.

Bottom club Gimnastic scored two minutes from time to give visiting Real Mallorca a 2-1 win over 10-man Betis.

**Dynamo Kiev beat Shakhtar 2-1 to win Ukraine Cup**

KIEV, 28 May — Dynamo Kiev beat arch-rivals Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 in the Ukrainian Cup final on Sunday to retain the trophy for a fourth straight year.

Brazilian striker Kleber put Dynamo ahead in the 58th minute and Ukraine international Oleg Gusev added the second goal against the run of play 10 minutes from time.

Shakhtar’s Brazil international midfielder Elano pulled one back from close range in the 89th minute but Dynamo held on for victory despite having Brazilian defender Rodrigo sent off after picking up his second yellow card in the 70th minute.

Among the 60,000-strong crowd at Kiev’s Olympic stadium were Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko and his chief political adversary, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, sitting side-by-side in the VIP box.

The match, however, was marred by serious clashes between riot police and a large section of Dynamo supporters.

The police moved in to prevent the fans throwing firecrackers onto the pitch to celebrate the Kleber goal and after a 10-minute clash with fans order was re-

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**Ajax clinch Champions League spot in playoff**

AMSTERDAM, 28 May — Ajax Amsterdam scored three second-half goals to beat AZ Alkmaar 3-0 on Sunday and win the Dutch Champions League playoff final 4-2 on aggregate.

Ajax go into the third qualifying round of Europe’s premier club competition while Alkmaar have to settle for a place in the UEFA Cup after a heartbreak- ing season in which they missed out on the title on the last day and also lost the Cup final.

Both sides missed their suspended playmakers — Wesley Sneijder of Ajax and AZ Simon Cziommer — in a lacklustre first half, though Alkmaar almost scored minutes before the break when Shota Arveladze’s shot from 18 metres hit the bar.

However, 10 minutes after the interval Johnny Heitinga opened the scoring from close range and Alkmaar’s Ryan Donk then doubled the home side’s lead when he tried to clear a cross from Tom de Mul but instead lifted the ball over his own goalkeeper. — MNA/Reuters

**Saucer driver Nick Heidfeld of Germany steers his car through a curve during the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday, holding off McLaren teammate Lewis Hamilton and Felipe Massa of Ferrari, Heidfeld placed in sixth position. — INTERNET**

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**Hansen beats Rose in PGA Championship playoff**

VIRGINIA WATER (England), 28 May — Denmark’s Anders Hansen won the PGA Championship for the second time in his career by beating Briton Justin Rose at the first hole of a sudden-death playoff on Sunday.

Hansen, the 2002 champion, punched the air in delight after rolling in an 18-foot putt for a birdie four on the 18th at a soggy Wentworth.

Rose (71) and Hansen (69) were tied on eight-under 280 at the end of the regulation 72 holes. The only time Hansen has won in Europe has been at the PGA. Among the rewards for win-

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**SPORTS**

**China’s Wang Nan (L) and Zhang Yining celebrate with the women’s doubles winners’ trophy at the world table tennis championships in Zagreb on 27 May, 2007. Defending Olympic and world champion Wang Nan/Zhang Yining beat fellow Chinese Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia 11-5, 11-6, 13-11, 11-9 to win the women’s doubles gold medal at the world table tennis championships here on Sunday. — INTERNET**

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**Sporting’s Nani (R) kisses the Portuguese Cup trophy with teammates Yannick Djalo (L) and Miguel Veloso after winning the final soccer match against Belenenses at Jamor stadium on 27 May, 2007. INTERNET**

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**Safin signals threat to favourites in Paris**

PARIS, 28 May — Former world number one Marat Safin signalled that he could threaten the favourites for the French Open title after brushing aside Spain’s Fernando Vicente 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 on Sunday to reach the second round.

The Russian, a semifinalist in 2002 but beaten in the first round last year, needed just one hour, 24 minutes to advance. Vicente, in the draw as a lucky loser, has not won a match at Tour level since June 2006 — a run of 11 straight defeats — and once Safin won the first set the result was rarely in doubt.

Safin won just three matches on clay in the build-up to Roland Garros and his expectations were low coming into the tournament. However, 10 minutes after the interval Safin, the number 22 seed, maintained his concentration and after a 10-minute clash with fans order was re-

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**Luca retained the overall leader’s pink jersey after winning the final of the European Tour event. — MNA/Reuters**

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**Italy’s Danilo Di Luca, followed by Luxemburg’s Andy Schleck, pedals during the 15th stage of the Giro, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Trento to Tre Cime di Lavaredo, northern Italy, on Sunday, 27 May, 2007. Danilo Di Luca retained the overall leader’s pink jersey. — INTERNET**

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**AS Roma’s Francesco Totti (L) holds his son Christian as he celebrates at the end of their Italian Serie A soccer match against Messina at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 27 May, 2007. INTERNET**

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**SAUER**

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**INTERNET**
Hamas says Israel wounds 2 Gaza gunmen

Gaza, 28 May — Israeli soldiers shot and critically wounded two Hamas gunmen on Monday in a fresh round of violence triggered by the firing of mortars at Israel from the Gaza Strip, Hamas officials and medics said. The confrontation followed a series of Israeli airstrikes overnight against Hamas targets after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert pledged unlimited military action aimed at halting rocket fire from Gaza that has killed two Israelis in the past week.

Hamas said soldiers aimed artillery fire at gunmen who had shot mortars toward Israel, in southern Gaza, before dawn. Medics said both were taken to hospital where they were listed in critical condition. The Israeli Army had no immediate comment.

Hamas’ armed wing claimed responsibility on Sunday for a series of rocket attacks against Israel, one that killed an Israeli driver, 36, in Sderot, and another that slammed into a home injuring one person, Israeli medics said.

MNA/Reuters

Palestinian gunmen killed by Israeli troops in east Jerusalem

Jerusalem, 28 May 28 — Two Palestinian gunmen were killed by Israeli security forces in east Jerusalem on Saturday evening, Israeli police said. According to the police, the Palestinian assailants were killed in a gunfight after they fired at the Israeli forces in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Said between East Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

During the gunfire, four Israeli soldiers were also injured. Two were with moderate injuries while the other two were lightly injured. — MNA/Xinhua

A member of Hamas’ Executive Force guards his damaged compound after an Israeli air strike in Gaza on 27 May, 2007. Israel pressed ahead with an air offensive in Gaza on Saturday, killing five Hamas militants, and arrested another Palestinian cabinet minister in the West Bank as Gaza militants fired more rockets into Israel. — Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Monday, 28 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, isolated in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) above May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Yangon, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5ºC) to (6ºC) above May average temperatures in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Taungoo (1.37) inches, Thaton (1.30) inches, Dawei (1.03) inches, Myeik (0.99) inch, Yamethin (0.20) inch and Mektila (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-5-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 28-5-2007 was 81°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-5-2007 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 27-5-2007 was (5.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-5-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kabay and monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Myanmar waters.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated in remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forcast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forcast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thunder conditions in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forcast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May — The cash donation ceremony for the construction of the monastery in Kyauktalon Kyaungsu Model Village of Lewe Township was held at Paukmyaing Monastery in the township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin said that Kyauktalon Kyaungsu Village was moved from the wetland area of Chaungmange Dam. Development facilities such as school, library and dispensary of the village were upgraded in line with the characteristics of model village. In addition, arrangements are being made to build the monastery in the village. Therefore, departments concerned and wellwishers were invited to donate cash and kind for construction tasks.

Chairman of Lewe Township Peace and Development Council U Maung Maung Thet reported on development of the township and progress of the village.

The commander and officials accepted K 16.94 million including K 3 million donated by CB Bank and ACE Co; K 2 million by Pyinnmana District DPC; K 2.6 million and Lewe Township PDC and entrepreneurs; K 1.5 million by Ayeya Shwewa Co; K 1 million by K Co and Shwe Thabyay Co; K 1.5 million by Max Myanmar Co; K 1.34 million by District and Township PDCs, departments and people of Lewe Township.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo presented K 300,000 for the construction of the monastery to the Chairman of Pyinmana District PDC. After hearing the reports of Assistant Director U Thein Htay and officials of Agricultural Mechanization Department, the commander fulfilled the requirements.

The per acre yield of the summer paddy plantation is over 107 baskets.

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 May — Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected road works and construction of bridges on Seikpyu-Pakokku Road in Magway on 26 May.

First, the minister went to the site chosen to construct Chitchaung Bridge, one of six bridges on Kyangin-Pakokku Rail Road, to be constructed by the Public Works under the ministry, and inspected conditions of the site. In-charged of the bridge construction Senior Engineer U Han Soe, Senior Engineer of Pakokku District Public Works U Zaw Win Myint and Superintendent Engineer U Sein Maung reported to the minister on the construction tasks and condition of the road to be used as a rail-cum-bridge.

Afterwards, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun proceeded to the site chosen to construct Yaw Chaung Bridge across Yaw Creek. He inspected the site chosen and the creek. He also called on officials concerned to work together with responsible personnel of the Ministry of Rail Transportation to coordinate the works. After hearing reports of the officials concerned, the minister assisted in the construction tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and party inspected harvesting of paddy in the summer paddy plantation at Yanaungmyin Village-tract. After hearing the reports of Assistant Director U Thein Htay and officials of Agricultural Mechanization Department, the commander fulfilled the requirements. The per acre yield of the summer paddy plantation is over 107 baskets.

Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin inspects harvesting of summer paddy in Yanaungmyin Village-tract. — MNA

30 quit Dabayin Township NLD

Yangon, 28 May — Thirty members of Dabayin Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division resigned from the party on 27 May. They include Pyithu Hluttaw Representative-elect U Bo Maung of Dabayin Township Constituency-1, U Pyay Kyaw, U Than Tun, U Khin Thaung, U Kyaw Win, Ma Pauk Pauk, U Wa Oe, U Moe, and others U Thein Zaw, U Tin Shwe, U Kyaw Nyein, U Nyo Than and U Pauk Kyaw and others.

U San Myint submitted the resignation letters to member of Dabayin Township Multi-Party Democracy General Election Subcommission Township Judge U Kyaw Zeya, NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned. The letter sent to Dabayin Township MDGES, says they quit the NLD as it is sticking so much to centralization, following the wrong path in realizing the goal of building a democracy, committing malpractice, not serving public interest at all, upholding self-interest rather than others’ interest and losing sight of their national politics programme, the goal of the party.

MNA