Kalay Industrial Zone will achieve greater progress, success if it manufactures more quality products with ready markets

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects cultivation of perennial crops, development tasks in Sagaing Division, Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 29 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, Vice-Chairman Col Zaw Min Oo and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments met families of servicemen of the Haka regional station in Haka on 26 May.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for making endeavours for success of the five rural development tasks upholding Our Three Main National Causes and participation in agriculture, livestock breeding and community welfare services in cooperation with the people.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented supplies to family members.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the tea farm of Haka Station where Lt-Col Htay Aung reported on full cultivation of tea in accord with the targets set and other perennial crops in fertile land. A total of 118.29 acres of tea were grown in the farm of the station and 64,800 tea plants will be grown in 2007.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of the lecture hall of Government Technological College and hostels for teachers.

Chin State Superintending Engineer U Ngon Hsan Aung reported on construction work.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected tea plantation of Myanma Agriculture Service, Chin State Cooperative Department and Union Solidarity and Development Association on Haka-Falam Road.

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

Build more roads and bridges for rural development

The rural development tasks the government is implementing thoroughly cover the entire country. It is also building more and more river- and creek-spanning bridges, district-to-district roads and village-to-village roads.

The gravel roads built for development of Kyunpyaw, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw towns in Ayeyawady Division were put into service on 26 May.

Owing to the newly-built 6150 feet long and 10 feet wide gravel road in Wetchaung Village, Kyunpyaw Township, local people can get to Kyunpyaw-Kyonpyaw Road all-year round. The facility is helping improve the education, health, social, economic and commercial sectors of 2272 households in Wetchaung Village-tract.

The 8210 feet long and 10 feet wide Chingon-Chaungphar-Ngapiseik rural gravel road in Yekyi Township promotes the socio-economic life of 5789 people of 24 villages in YayO, Chingon, Chaungphar and Ngapiseik village-tracts of the township.

Due to the emergence of 5450 feet long and 12 feet wide Mangala tarred road in Kyonpyaw, local people of the town and 40 surrounding villages in seven village-tracts have access to smooth transport.

With secure and smooth transport, the whole Union enjoys the taste of development. So, it is required to build more rural roads to strengthen relationship between one region and another and raise the economic-life of rural people.
Cambodian govt official rejects Amnesty International report

PHNOM PENH, May 29 — A high-ranking government official has reacted strongly to Amnesty International’s Annual International Report, alleging it distorts the true situation in Cambodia and is a pro-opposition message in disguise, local media said on Monday.

“The writers of the report on Cambodia are too political and they did not use pen to write it but paintbrush to apply colour,” Cambodian Government’s Human Right Committee Chairman Om Yen Tieng was quoted by Cambodian newspaper the Samleng Yucechun Khmer as saying.

Amnesty International issued a report on 23 May, alleging that the Cambodian Government does not respect human rights and evicted many residents from their land; has not sped up adoption of the anti-corruption law; and regularly obstructs the process of the courts, in particular the tribunal installed to put on the former Democratic Kampuchea leaders on trial.

“That is enough from you. Please be kind-hearted and think (neutrally),” said Om Yen Tieng.

“The government cares for the Cambodian people much more than the international human rights organization does, said the chairman, implying that the evictions were carried out with just grounds.

“If they said we chased Cambodian people out of Phnom Penh and they love Cambodian nation, we as Cambodians love it a thousand times more than they do. We are working for votes. We are not so stupid as to commit suicide. Please do not think we are stupid,” he added.

Five Britons ‘seized in Baghdad’

BAGHDAD, 29 May — Five Britons are reported to have been kidnapped from the Iraqi finance ministry in Baghdad. They included four bodyguards and a finance expert. Earlier reports said the expert was German.

Witnesses and sources told the BBC that the kidnappers wore police uniforms and arrived up in 40 police vehicles.

“We are aware of reports that a group of Westerners have been kidnapped. We are urgently looking into them,” the UK foreign office said.

The foreign office is set to hold an emergency meeting on the situation and is assembling a crisis team.

Also on Tuesday, Baghdad was wracked by a bus explosion which killed at least 22 people and injured about 55, and a car bomb which killed at least 15 people and hurt at least 36. The US military also announced that two of its soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash on Monday in Diyala Province.

Eight US troops killed in Iraq on Memorial Day

BAGHDAD, 29 May — Eight US troops were killed Monday in an attack in Iraq’s Diyala Province, a US military official said.

The official said that a Kiowa helicopter was shot down between Baquba and Muqdadiya with small arms, killing the chopper’s two pilots.

A quick-reaction force was called in to recover the chopper.

One of the force’s vehicles was struck by a roadside bomb, and five more US troops were killed. A second vehicle in the force was hit, killing one soldier.

The number of US troops killed in Iraq during May is 112, making it one of the deadliest months of the war.

The deadliest months for US troops occurred in 2004 — 137 in November and 135 in April.

Since the start of the war, 3,454 US service members have died. Seven civilian contractors of the Defence Department also have been killed in the war.

Renegade police?

There are conflicting reports about exactly how Tuesday’s abduction took place and how many people are missing.

Witnesses said it was carried out by what appeared to be a police unit.

The street was sealed off at both ends and the kidnappers, in police camouflage uniforms, walked straight past guards at the finance ministry, the witnesses said.

A police source told the BBC that dozens of police vehicles were used in the operation.
London, 29 May— Anti-whaling countries have rejected an offer which could have seen Japan scale back its Antarctic hunting program.

Japan had said it would consider scrapping plans to include humpback whales in the catch.

In return it sought approval of its request for limited commercial hunting by four coastal communities.

But anti-whaling countries at the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission rejected the move as "needless act of provocation."

The IWC meeting opened in Alaska on Monday.

The proposed humpback hunt has been a major issue in anti-whaling countries, notably Australia and New Zealand which both run healthy whale-watching industries with humpbacks as their star turn.

The inclusion of the humpback whale is a highly provocative act.

Japan plans to add 50 humpbacks next season to its annual Antarctic hunt, which it runs under regulations permitting whaling for scientific research.

Internet

Global warming and hurricane link spurs controversy

Washington, 28 May — Climate scientists agree there have been a lot of strong hurricanes lately. They agree that warmer seas have given these storms some extra punch. But they disagree how much global warming is to blame.

With the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season about to begin, the controversy over the role of climate change in boosting hurricane intensity is a matter for debate among the researchers who watch the water and the clouds and work to figure out what makes the worst storms so furious. "As far as I can tell, there is no dispute that higher sea temperatures mean more energy for these storms to feed on," said Kevin Trenberth of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, part of a consortium of US universities.

"The big issue in anti-whaling countries is, how do we see the sea surface temperature changes over the last 30 years or so, and that's where the scientific debate is," he added. "That's where the scientific debate comes in and that's where some of the dispute seems to lie." Trenberth is convinced that global warming is a major factor in spawning the kinds of intense hurricanes that kill, and he is hardly alone.

Internet

28 new planets found outside solar system

Beijing, 29 May — A leading team of planet-seekers has announced the discovery of 28 new planets outside our solar system, increasing the number of known exoplanets to 236, at the annual meeting of American Astronomical Society in Honolulu, Monday.

Jason Wright of the University of California, a member of the team, said at the meeting: "Taken together, in the last year our teams have increased the number of known planets by 12 percent and shown that at least 30 percent of stars known to host planets have more than one object orbiting."

"The planets are among 37 new objects spotted within the past year. Seven of the objects are failed stars called brown dwarfs, with masses that dwarf the largest, Jupiter-sized planets but too small to sustain the nuclear reactions necessary for stellar ignition."

"At least four of the newly spotted planets belong to multi-planet systems, supporting the idea that at least 30 percent of all planet-parent stars have more than one planetary companion."

"Since smaller planets and those outside our solar system are trickier to detect, "We are beginning to see that our home is not a rarity in the universe," he said.

Geoffrey Marcy, a professor of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley, said: "We are easily able to detect giant planets like Jupiter and Saturn orbiting other stars."

Most orbit far from the star like our own Jupiter and Saturn orbit from the sun," Marcy added.

"Among the 28 new planets, a Neptune-like planet orbiting the star Gliese 436 is found covered with water— albeit rock-hard, hot water in a most un-earthlylike chemical state because of the intense pressures on the planet."

Wright said that this is the first planet outside the solar system for which astronomers could infer the presence of water with near certainty, but he cast doubt on the idea that there is life there. Internet

Gritty Romanian film wins Palme d’Or in Cannes

Cannes (France), 28 May — A hard-hitting Romanian movie set towards the end of the Communist era won the Cannes Film Festival’s top honour on Sunday.

"4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days", directed by Cristian Mungiu, was the critics’ favourite to win the Palme d’Or in the Cannes Film Festival’s 60th birthday.

They included "Alexandra", by Russian art house director Alexander Sokurov, and three US entries — "No Country For Old Men" by the Coen Brothers, "Zodiac" by David Fincher and Gus Van Sant’s "Paranoid Park".

The nine-member jury also awarded the Grand Prix runner-up prize to "The Mourning Forest", a lyrical Japanese movie about mourning and grief directed by Naomi Kawase.

Best director was Julian Schnabel for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly", based on the true story of French journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby who suffered a stroke and was paralysed yet managed to write a book using one eyelid to communicate.

Best screenplay was awarded to German-Turkish director and writer Fatih Akin for "The Edge of Heaven", a cross-border story of love and reconciliation.

Best actor was Kustantin Lavronenko, who played the male lead in Russian film maker Andrey Zvyagintsev’s "The Banishment", another gloomy film that features an abortion.

"We Own The Night" at the 60th Cannes Film Festival on 25 May, 2007. —Xinhua

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Since smaller planets and those outside our solar system are trickier to detect, “We are beginning to see that our home is not a rarity in the universe,” said Geoffrey Marcy, a professor of astronomy at the University of Cali-
Iran, India and Pakistan to sign gas pipeline agreement in July

TEHERAN, 28 May — Iran, Pakistan and India are striving to sign an agreement in July to export natural gas from Iran to the two states, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday. Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh, result of agreement is 30 July and all sides will make their best efforts to prevent any delay, he said.

According to the IRNA report, although India and Pakistan, the former in particular, are under US pressures to suspend talks, the states are seriously pursuing talks and trying their best to achieve a mutual understanding on the cost of gas transfer from Iran.

The new round of expert talks will be held in Teheran on Tuesday and Wednesday on the details of the agreement.

The seven-billion IPI gas project envisages a 2,670-kilometre pipeline, covering 1,115 kilometres in Iran, 705 kilometres in Pakistan and 850 kilometres in India, and it would help to transport Iran’s gas to meet India and Pakistan’s increasing energy requirement.

Peruvian police evict 10,000 traders from illegal market

LIMA, 29 May — Peru’s National Police on Monday evicted 10,000 traders from Lima Province’s Santa Anita market, which had been operating illegally for four years.

Some 5,000 officers with body armour forced the stall-holders out, using teargas, clubs, and attack dogs. Despite some skirmishes no injuries have been reported.

The eviction is in line with a court order proclaiming that the traders must leave, returning the land to Lima Province’s municipal government.

After the eviction, trucks laden with police took up strategic positions and officers searched the stalls for children and other people hiding from the operation.

The 80-hectare market is about 5.5 kilometres east of the Peruvian capital Lima.

China-built gas power station starts operation in S-W Nigeria

LAGOS, 29 May — Two units of China-built Papalanto gas turbine power station went into operation in southwest Nigeria’s Ogun State over the weekend.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo attended the official commissioning ceremony held in Papalanto, which is about 70 kilometres west to Lagos, Nigeria’s economic capital.

Obasanjo said he is delighted to see the power station to produce electricity for the residents of his hometown. He expressed thanks to Chinese companies’ excellent work in the projects to improve Nigeria’s infrastructural facilities, such as highways, power stations and water projects.

China-VPM pledges to enhance trade cooperation with Czech

BEIJING, 29 May — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu on Monday pledged to enhance trade cooperation with Czech, which is regarded as China’s important trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe.

Hui made the remarks in a meeting with Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Riman. Considering Czech as one of the first countries to set up diplomatic ties with China, Hui said his country attaches great importance to developing its cooperation with Czech, which is in the interests of the two peoples.

The two countries enjoy sound foundation and great potential for cooperation, and are highly compatible in economy, Hui said.

In recent years, China and Czech have expanded cooperation in various areas including trade, agriculture, technology, education and culture, the vice premier said. Riman said his government spoke highly of the progress in bilateral cooperation, calling on the two sides to provide convenience for mutual investment and promote balance in bilateral trade.

The Czech Government appreciates China’s measures in protecting intellectual property rights, Riman said, adding he believes these measures will help expand investment of Czech enterprises in China.

Vietnam to face cement oversupply in 2010

HANOI, 29 May — Vietnam is estimated to encounter oversupply of 10-12 million tons of cement each year in the 2010-2012 period, according to local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times on Monday.

With a cement output of over 60 million tons in 2010, Vietnam will become the biggest cement producer in Southeast Asia in the year, according to the forecast of the Vietnam Cement Association.

The Ministry of Construction has recently proposed the Vietnamese Government limit the licence of new cement projects to deal with the potential oversupply. A large number of new using the revert-furnace technology are being implemented nationwide.
Australia joins call for open World Bank appointment

SYDNEY, 28 May — Australia on Sunday joined South Africa and Brazil in urging the United States to abide by an agreement of the Group of 20 economic powers to open up selection of the new head of the World Bank to non-American candidates.

Australia said it strongly supported the G-20 position that the heads of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be appointed using an open, transparent selection process with candidates not restricted by nationality.

The US Government looks set to appoint an American as the new head of the Bank after the resignation of Paul Wolfowitz over accusations he authorized a pay rise for his companion.

President George W Bush has delegated the task of choosing Wolfowitz’s replacement to US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

The United States has traditionally selected the head of the World Bank since the institution was established 60 years ago. Under the same convention, Europe has chosen the head of the Bank’s sister organization, the IMF.— MNA/Reuters

Tests ordered at 2nd Wales farm for mild strain of bird flu

LONDON, 28 May — Vets investigating an outbreak of a strain of bird flu in Wales have ordered tests on birds at a second farm, officials said on Saturday.

Authorities confirmed an outbreak of bird flu on Thursday among chickens at a farm in Denbighshire, North Wales.

But it was the low pathogenic H7N2 strain of bird flu, not the H5N1 strain, which is potentially deadly to humans and has caused scares elsewhere in the past.

Officials say two people who visited the farm or had been in contact with the infected birds had tested positive for H7N2. They said it was very rare for humans to become infected with bird flu and the risk to the general public was low.

Christianne Glossop, Wales’s chief veterinarian, said on Saturday she had ordered samples to be taken from birds at a second farm, this time on the Llyn Peninsula in Wales.

Fire kills three children in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, 28 May — Three children were killed and four persons injured on Saturday by a fire in Bayan area of Kuwait, the official KUNA news agency reported.

Nabeel al-Husianan, Director of local fire brigade’s Public Relations and Information said the victims include a 10-year-old boy and two girls, ten and fourteen years old apiece.

The injured were their mother, 42, her son aged seven years, her 13-year-old daughter and their 43-year-old housemaid.

The official said preliminary investigations showed that the children died from inhaling the fire’s smoke. He added that the fire erupted in their house’s first floor and the fume extended to the casualties in the second floor.

On Friday, an enormous blaze broke out at a huge warehouse in Kuwait’s Shuwaikh Industrial Area with several fire fighters injured.

The local media estimated that the material losses totalled as much as 17 million US dollars.

Kuwait’s daily temperature has reached over 40 Celsius in May to begin its four-month-long broiling summer, when the hotness and dryness can easily cause fire.— MNA/Xinhua

Three killed, 22 bodies found in Iraq’s rampant violence

BAGHDAD, 28 May — Three people were killed and 13 others wounded in separate attacks in Iraq on Sunday, as 22 bodies found in execution-style on the condition of anonymity.

A civilian was killed and four others wounded when they caught across fire, the source said, adding that there was no word on casualties among the US and Iraqi forces.

Two farmers were killed and nine others injured when gunmen opened fire on them in the Nahrawan area, some 30 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, the source added. Separately, the police collected 22 unidentified bodies in different parts of the capital, including 15 in Doura District in southern Baghdad, the source said.

“Most of the battered bodies were for men aged in 20s,” the source said.

The bodies were handcuffed, blindfolded and showing signs of torture with bullet holes in their heads and the chests, he added. —MNA/Xinhua

In this photo Jamison Stone, 11, poses with a wild pig he killed near Delta, Alaska on 3 May, 2007.—INTERNET

_A robot rock-and-roll player draws attention of visitors during the high-tech expo in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 May, 2007._ XINHUA

_In this photo made available by Israel’s Nature and Parks Protection Authority, nature guide Arthur Du Mosch, 49, holds a wild leopard as park rangers arrive at the scene, in his bedroom in a small community near Sde Boker in southern Israel, on 28 May, 2007._—XINHUA
Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State has an annual average rainfall of 190 inches. However, it is very hot after the rainy season and the region cannot grow crops all-year round. So, the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built a dam on the Pyaing Creek in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

The Pyaing Creek passes through Rakhine Yoma mountain range and flows down into the Kissapanadi River. The creek is surrounded by several lush and green forests and mountain ranges. The Pyaingchaung Dam was put into commission on 30 March 2007. It is located near Mindan Village and benefits some 5000 acres of arable lands.

The dam also generates 40 to 60 kilowatts and the electric power will be supplied to Kyauktaw Township. With a water storage capacity of 25,205 acre feet, the dam will irrigate 4000 acres of summer paddy or 5000 acres of farmlands, thereby contributing towards development and greening of the region.

Now, it is irrigating 1000 acres as pilot cultivation of summer paddy. The earthen dam has an 860 long and 116 feet high main embankment, four dykes stretching 38 feet, four dykes stretching 925 feet, a 630 feet long, four feet wide and six feet high reinforced concrete conduit, a 550 feet long and 30 feet wide reinforced concrete broad crest type spillway, an eight-mile long main canal, distributory canals stretching 17 miles and 18 canal buildings.

Now, Zeechaung Dam Project is being implemented by the Irrigation Department on the Zee Creek, about two miles from the Maha Muni Buddha Image, in Kyauktaw Township, with the aim of supplying irrigation water to about 1000 acres for growing summer paddy and crops with the multiple cropping pattern, and generating 80 kilowatts to supply sufficient electric power to surrounding areas especially to the Buddha image compound.

The earthen dam has a catchment area of three square miles, an annual inflow of 13,200 acre feet, an 840 feet long and 115 feet high embankment, a 640 feet long, four feet wide and six feet high conduit, a 50 feet wide reinforced concrete broad crest type spillway, a three miles long main canal, distributory canals stretching five miles, and 80 canal buildings.

In the past, Kyauktaw Township could grow only one crop: monsoon paddy. Thanks to the Pyaingchaung Dam and ongoing Zeechaung Dam Project, the region will be able to cultivate summer paddy and apply the multiple cropping pattern. The dams constructed by the government will contribute to development of the region.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 29-5-2007

MWAF gives talks on AIDS, dental and oral health

YANGON, 29 May—The working group for nationalities affairs of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation conducted educative talks in Dagon Myothit (North) Township yesterday. Leader of the working group Daw Khin Khaing briefed on MWAF and Prof Dr May Win Aung Khin gave talks on AIDS and Prof Dental Surgeon Daw Hla Darni Chain on dental and oral health. Officials of MWAF, trainees of advanced vocational training course (wicker works) of the Central Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and families of staff of the school attended the talks which was held at the training school in the township.

After the talks, Daw Darni Chain presented toothpaste tubes and brushes to the trainees. — MNA

Prof Dr May Win Aung Khin give talks on AIDS. — MNA
Kalay Industrial Zone will achieve greater progress, ...

(from page 1)

Chin State Manager U Aye Ko Ko of MAS reported on cultivation of tea in townships. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. Altogether 14,952 acres of tea—9,403 acres in Falam and 5,549 acres have been put under the tea in Mindat Districts. Altogether 8,649 million tea plants are grown for extended cultivation of 3,000 acres in the districts in 2007-2008. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected thriving tea plantation of USDA and plucking of tea. They visited tea farms of Yantahlo Basic Education High School on Haka-Falam Road and Kalaungchan plantation. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended collective tea cultivation in Falam District. Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and members of Chin State PDC grew tea plants. They proceeded to Longpatywa of Sasana Rekkhita Pariyatti Sartintaik on Haka-Kalay Road and paid obeisance to Saydaw Bhaddanta Nandiya and presented offertories to the Sayadaw. They went to tea farms of departments and Township Manager U Khwaha Ran reported on thriving tea cultivations. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected tea plantation of Settlement and Land Records Department, MAS and Township Immigration and Population Department. Altogether 100 acres of tea have been grown. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the regional battalion and Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented gifts to local national race leaders. In Falam, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with Tatmadawmen and families of the regional station. He urged them to carry out farming, social welfare task and implement five rural tasks in cooperation with local people and to grow physic nut and perennial crops. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented gifts to them. At the opening hall of tea farm of the station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint spoke of the need to grow more tea and physic nut to exceed the set targets. The station has grown 77,500 tea plants on 21.5 acres of land. It has also cultivated 290 acres of physic nut. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party then visited the tea plantations of Falam District Hospital, District and Township General Administration Department offices and Balv village. Balv, a model physic nut cultivation village has put 35 acres under the crop. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party then inspected the Balv Bridge. At Hinsush camp, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made arrangements to upgrade the 115-mile section of Kalay-Falm-Haka road. Up to now, the road has been tarred up to 98 miles. The remaining over 16 miles of the road has been gravelled. In Tiddim Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected my charms. Forty farmers in 23 villages have raised 561 head of my charms. They took part in the tea growing ceremony of Swaleik village in the township. They visited Shiwekaungkaun Family Farm where 50 acres of tea, five acres of pear and 10 acres of strawberry have been cultivated. The farm will put five more acres under tea this year. During the inspection of Kalay-Tiddim-Falam-Haka road, they fulfilled the requirements in upgrading the facility. Their inspection tour included private and government rubber farms, forest nurseries and physic nut plantations in Tiddal and Kalay townships. The forest nursery has planted 70,000 saplings of physic nut and other valuable hardwood. During the inspection of Kalay industrial zone, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were conducted round it by industrialists. The zone is producing jeeps of various types including two-door jeeps, super jeeps and small jeeps, car parts, farm machinery, household goods and other goods. At his meeting with industrialists, Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled their requirements, saying that the zone will achieve greater progress and success if it can manufacture more quality products with ready markets to fulfil regional requirements. Technicians and entrepreneurs should make innovative efforts jointly to manufacture standard farm machinery, small generators, paddy husk-fired generators, machinery for tea factories to fulfill regional needs. The zone should also extend physic nut cultivation at all possible plots. Industrialists explained functions concerning communication functions, assembling of husk-fired generators and power distribution and manufacturing small-scale generators. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected husk-fired power station of the zone and its functions. The station is supplying power to 450 houses of four villages in the surrounding areas of the zone. The 300-kva generator of the station consumes eight to 12 baskets of paddy husk per hour. The generator is a product of the zone. — MNA

Forestry Minister opens workshop on forest research

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — As part of the plan for development and promotion of forests research being implemented by Forest Research Department with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Forest Department under Ministry of Forestry today opened a workshop on strengthening forest research.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an opening address and Resident Representative of FAO Mr. Tang Zinping extended greetings at the opening of the 3-day workshop. Experts from FAO, officials of FREDA and BENCA, and participants from the Forest Department and universities totalling 50 gathered at the first day of the workshop. The national level workshop will end on 31 May. — MNA

Literary talks given in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — A meeting on construction of Kyishtuang village tract self-reliant library was held in conjunction with a literary talk at the Dhammayon of the village in Pyinmana Township on 18 May. On the occasion, Director U Than Tun of Information and Public Relations Department and head of Pyinmana District IPRD U Khin Maung Tun briefed on construction of the library. Afterwards, the director and Secretary of Pyinmana Township Writers and Journalists Association U Kyi Aung gave literary talks. U Thein Htwe of Nan Sein Confectionery donated K 150,000 for work proficiency course 2/2007 for officials through the group leader of the course. — MNA

NLD attempts to harm the interest of State and people, instigate to cause unrest relying on external elements

YANGON, 29 May — Eight members from Danubyu Township National League for Democracy, Ayeyawady Division— U Soe Myint of Kanngugyi village, U Nyein Maung of Thephyu village, U Thein Hlaing of Ngapyinchaung village, U Kyee Ngwe of Yonechaung village, U Chein of Pyinkatha village, U Yin Htwe of Danubyu No 1 Ward and U Mya Aung of Linpunpin village— resigned from Danubyu Township National League for Democracy, Ayeyawady Division of their own volition, sending their resignation letters to NLD Headquarters and local authorities on 26 January. In their resignation letters sent to Danubyu Township MultiParty Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that the party and its leaders attempted to harm the interests of the State and the people and incite unrest in the country relying on external elements. Therefore they did not have trust and interest in the party any longer and resigned from the party of their own volition, they said. — MNA

Eight members resign from NLD

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Ministers on inspection tour of Yadanabon... (from page 16)

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 30 May, 2007

The commander presented K 340,000 for the trainees provided by Yangon Division PDC to one of the trainees. Next, on behalf of the trainees Daw Khing Zar Tun spoke words of thanks.— MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Hayt Win meeting with trainees who will attend the Course No 42 of University for Development of National Races. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Hayt Win meeting with trainees who will attend the Course No 42 of the University for Development of National Races at the Yangon Division PDC office this afternoon.

First, the commander greeted the UDNR trainees and those who will attend the UDNR.

The trainees were extended a change of arms for peace and assurance of 100% payment with necessities. It is learnt that more armed group members were extended a change of arms for peace during the months of January, February, March and April 2007.

29 armed group members... (from page 16)

Money Collector Sale Pinnya, Private Aik Pe of Battalion-9, Privates Sai Tun and Lone Aung of Headquarters; In the area of the Western Command, Tun Shoe Maung with the rank of Cpl of KLP armed group; Private Tun Aye; In the area of the Southern Command, Privates Henry and Saw Zaw Wah of Battalion-5 of Brigade-2 of KNU armed group, bringing in with them one magazine and 20 rounds of ammunition; Privates Saw Aung Min, Saw Tha Soe, Al Thapalay and Nay La Kye (a) Sein Lon Kyaw, Private Saw Hto Bi of Brigade-2 of KNU armed group, bringing in with them one magazine and 20 rounds of ammunition; and a dependent of Battalion-2 of Brigade-1 of KNU armed group, bringing in with him one carbine, one magazine, five rounds of ammunition and one walkie-talkie and Private Chi Bu (a) Than Oo and three dependents of Battalion-2 of Brigade-2 of KNU armed group bringing in with one walkie-talkie exchanged arms for peace during the months of January, February, March and April 2007.

Altogether 29 persons who had exchanged arms for peace along with five family members exchanged arms with an armed welcome by the respective military camps and officials and provided with necessities. It is learnt that more armed group members are to follow suit.— MNA

STI to organize workshop on management and English communication skills

YANGON, 29 May — STI Education will organize a workshop on management and English communication skills at Myanmar Info-Tech Building in Hlinye Township on 2 June.

Prof Daw Hla Myint (Retd) will give talks on "Art of the Boss... Take the Lead," "Double Diploma inSupply Chain Management and "Logistics Management", Ms Natalia Talikowski on "How to Inspire your English Communication Skills" and "Inspiring your Teaching Career". Moreover, talks on "Diploma in Supply Chain Management and English communication skills at TESOL" will be given at the workshop.

Those interested in the subjects may attend the workshop free of charge.

Jointly conducted by foreign universities, STI Education has run diploma courses on teaching, management, tourism management, logistics management and English communication skills. It also organizes workshop on teaching and management monthly.

More information is available at Room No 3, Building-7 and Room No 7, Building-4, Ph 507046; 507048; 507151 and 507152. — MNA

FAO Resident

Representative goes on study tour of livestock breeding zones in Tatkong

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping together with Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Nyunt and Director Dr Aung Gyi of Livestock Breeding Zone Establishment Project went on a study tour of Kangyi and Shwemyoth Livestock Breeding Zones established by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in Tatkong Township yesterday.

The resident representative and party made observations on milch cows, goats and sheep raised by Tatkong Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and cow farms and goat farms of private entrepreneurs. Next, they were conducted by officials around the township doctor accepted medicines for Hladon Township Hospital presented by the commander.

Afterwards, the ministers presented USDA and MMCWA uniforms to officials. They also visited Sadon market.

Next, the commander and the ministers inspected tea plantation along Hsadon-Kanpaikti road. In Kanpaikti, they met departmental officials, town elders and local people and fulfilled the needs. At the ceremony, the secretary of State USDA accepted USDA applications from local people.

Later, the commander presented clothes for locals, Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, USDA uniform and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein K 500,000 for livestock management tasks to officials.

Afterwards, the commander and ministers arrived at China-Myanmar Border Post in Kanpaikti and arrived back in Myitkyina.

Ministers on inspection tour of Tatkong...
Mayor inspects measures for proper flow of drainage

YANGON, 29 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Myittanyunt Ward in Tamway Township today morning.

First, officials concerned briefed the mayor and party on clearing of rubbish and silt in the drains in Myittanyunt Ward for proper flow of drainage. Next, the mayor gave necessary instructions and inspected proper flow of drainage.

Upon arrival at Thuwunna No 23 Ward in Thingangyun Township, the mayor and party looked into measures for proper flow of drainage and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the mayor and party oversaw major repair of Thanthumar road with the use of heavy machinery and progress in building of the embankment. Afterwards, the mayor gave instructions on tasks to be carried out to meet the set standards and attended to the needs.

Training Workshop on Management of Medical Emergency opens

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — Training Workshop on Management of Medical Emergency was opened at General Hospital (300-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

The opening ceremony was attended by directors-general, deputy directors-general and directors of the departments under the ministry and trainee specialists from state and division hospitals.

Deputy ministers call for Speedy flow of goods at Muse trade zone

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe met with officials of the 105th-mile Trade Zone in Muse on 23 May and gave instructions on speedy flow of goods, production of high-quality goods and security at the trade zone.

The two deputy ministers also met with entrepreneurs at the trade zone the next day and attended to the needs of them. During the tour of the trade zone, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Col Hla Thein Swe inspected the zone and security measures the zone. On the inspection tour of Shan State (North), Finance and Revenue Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe visited Myanmar Economic Bank branches, revenue departments and customs departments in Lashio, Hsipaw and Nawngkio.

At the meetings, he urged officials concerned to carry out the tasks of the departments effectively and with honesty and to serve the interests of the State. He also called on them to make efforts to exceed the targets of the departments and to be loyal to the State.

Minister underlines development…

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivers an address at opening of basic computer course No 4 of Ministry of Immigration and Population. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — A basic computer course No.4 of the Ministry of Immigration and Population was opened at the ministry here today with addresses by Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Sein Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials concerned.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said as information and communication technology is very important for the development of a nation, it is necessary for all to become computer literate. Therefore, the trainees are required to study hard so that they can use computers practically and efficiently at the work site.

After the ceremony, the minister viewed learning of the trainees. A total of 30 trainees are attending the eight-week course.

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CHINESE WOMAN HAS BULLET TAKEN FROM HEAD 64 YEARS ON

BEIJING, 29 May — A Chinese woman’s 64-year-old headache has ended after doctors removed a bullet that relatives said lodged in her skull when Japanese soldiers shot her during World War II, state media reported on Monday.

Jin Guangying, now 77, lost consciousness after a Japanese patrol in Jiangsu Province fired on her in 1943 as she went to meet her grandfather, a guerrilla fighter, the Beijing News said.

“When she came to, her head was wrapped in a bandage and she never realized there was a bullet lodged deep in her head,” the paper said.

Later, she would regularly have headaches, foam at the mouth and “talk nonsense... like she had gone mad”, the paper said.

Jin’s family had thought her symptoms were due to a tumour, the paper said, quoting Wang Zhengping, the woman’s daughter.

“Because our family was poor, we were never able to have her taken for a thorough check-up,” Wang said.

A military expert in Nanjing, the Jiangsu capital, had identified the bullet as one used by Japanese soldiers at that time, the newspaper said.

Jin’s relatives planned to seek redress for her more than 60 years of suffering.

“As her children, we will soon go to Nanjing to consult with relevant experts as to how to seek compensation from the Japanese Government, and will definitely be seeking public apology,” the paper quoted Wang as saying. — MNA/Reuters

INDONESIA, MALAYSIA TO JOIN HANDS AGAINST ANTI-PALM OIL CAMPAIGN

JAKARTA, 29 May — Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to coordinate in efforts against an anti-palm oil campaign in the United States and Europe, Indonesian Industry Minister Fahmi Idris said here Monday.

Idris, who earlier had a meeting with Indonesian Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantono, said Apriantono had returned from an annual meeting on palm oil in Malaysia.

“The two countries have agreed to start a programme and proportionally explain about palm oil,” Idris said at the vice presidential office quoting Aprianto.

Idris said the producers of cooking oil made from corn, soybean and sunflowers and others had campaigned for the danger of palm oil for human health, triggered by their fears of failure in competition with palm oil, which has lower price, in the market.

Idris noted that palm oil contained a compound which is beneficial for human health.

Indonesia and Malaysia are the world’s two biggest producers of palm oil.

MNA/Xinhua

BOMB KILLS FOUR IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

BANGKOK, 29 May— A bomb planted on a motorcycle in a busy market in southern Thailand killed four people on Monday, the Army said, the latest victims of a separatist insurgency in which more than 2,100 people have now died. “There are four dead and 23 injured, five of them seriously,” Army spokesman Acra Tiproch said.

Two of the dead were children.

The blast, in the southern province of Songkhla which has avoided much of the daily violence, came less than a day after a string of seven small bombs in the provincial capital, Hat Yai, wounded 13 people. — MNA/Reuters

Hamas rockets fall, Israel considers escalation

GAZA, 29 May — Hamas kept up rocket fire into Israel on Monday in defiance of a ceasefire call by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli threats to escalate military strikes in the Gaza Strip.

In the first internal Palestinian violence since a 19 May ceasefire, fighting between Hamas gunmen and members of a security force loyal to Abbas’s Fatah faction erupted in the territory. There were no reports of casualties.

At least seven rockets struck the town of Sderot in southern Israel but no one was hurt, the military said. Previous salvos during an almost two-week-old surge of cross-border fighting have killed two Israelis — one a motorist hit on Sunday.

Israel has struck back with an aerial bombing campaign that has killed more than 40 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them militants. Yet the failure to end the rocket barrages has prompted the Israeli Government to speak of tougher action.

“I think the measures are effective but not enough, and we have a large battery of some more steps that I hope we will be able to take,” Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter told Reuters during a visit to Sderot. He did not elaborate. — MNA/Reuters

INTERNET

POLICE SAYS JAPAN FARM MINISTER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

TOKYO, 29 May — Japan’s Farm Minister, Toshikatsu Matsuoka — under fire for a series of political funding scandals — has attempted suicide and his lungs and heart have stopped functioning, police and media said on Monday.

The Cabinet minister’s suicide attempt comes with less than two years to go before an election for Parliament’s Upper House, a key test for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government.

“The Cabinet minister’s suicide attempt comes with less than two months to go before an election for Parliament’s Upper House, a key test for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government. This will have serious political fallout, but at this point it’s hard to tell how much,” a government official told Reuters.

Matsuoka was found unconscious in his room at a residential complex for lawmakers in central Tokyo near Parliament and had been taken to hospital, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki told a hastily called news conference.

Public broadcaster NHK said Matsuoka had attempted to hang himself in his room.

Media reports have linked Matsuoka to a number of political fund scandals, including a case in which he had declared substantial office expenditures when his office was in fact rent-free.

Last week, media said the minister had received political donations from businessmen involved in a bid-rigging scandal. Matsuoka has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. — MNA/Reuters

INTERNET

STUDENTS WORK IN THEIR CLASSROOM AT SCHOOL IN ALASKA IN SEPTEMBER 2006. SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES THINK THEY ARE JUST GREAT AT MATHEMATICS: BUT BY THE AGE OF 14 THEY ARE TWO YEARS BEHIND THE LEVEL IN OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND OVERALL COME 24TH IN A CLASS OF 29.

INTERNET

A FLOCK OF DUCKS IS SEEN IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF HA TAY, VIETNAM. AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF SCIENTISTS HAS ISOLATED ANTIBODIES THAT COULD PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR BIRD FLU IN HUMANS, SAYS A NEW STUDY. — INTERNET

INTERNET

A LEAF FROM A STAR WARS DISPLAY DURING THE OPENING DAY OF ‘STAR WARS CELEBRATION IV’ IN LOS ANGELES ON THURSDAY, 24 MAY. THE FIVE-DAY CONVENTION CELEBRATES THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STAR WARS SERIES. — INTERNET

INTERNET

THE BLAST, IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF SONGKHLA WHICH HAS AVOIDED MUCH OF THE DAILY VIOLENCE, CAME LESS THAN A DAY AFTER A STRING OF SEVEN SMALL BOMBS IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, HAT YAI, WOUNDED 13 PEOPLE.
DRASDAK, 28 May— The second tallest person in the world and Nepal’s tallest person, Rajan Adhikari, with the height of 2.29 meters, arrived here Saturday on a world tour programme carrying message of peace and love around the world.

Born in the same village of Morang in western Nepal, Rajan Adhikari and his 24-year old partner Chitra Poudel, a disabled cyclist in Nepal, have embarked “The World Tour 2007 for World Peace & Love”. In the first phase of their tour, they will visit India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Singapore.

“Our objective is to spread the message of peace and love in a world suffering from violence, intolerance and hatred and spreading the message of humanitarian brotherhood all over the world,” Rajan told a Press conference here on Saturday.

A awareness about HIV/AIDS and narcotic drug, raise voice against child labour and exploitation and give inspiration and love to disabled people of the world, not pain and hatred to them, are their other major objectives, said Rajan, who was born in 1978.

“We would also like to introduce natural beauty of Nepal, Nepali culture and Nepali people, their warm hospitality to the people of all the countries of the world,” he said.

The second phase will cover other countries, including China, Rajan told Xinhua. “The world tallest person is Chinese. We hope to meet him in China this year,” said Rajan, who is scheduled to stay in Bangladesh for two days.

“We started our tour on 2 May and will finish the first phase tour in four months. Then we will go back to Nepal and after two months rest, we will begin our second phase tour,” Rajan said. From Nepal to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, they mainly travelled by train and bus.

MNA/Xinhua

Bombs hit southern Thai city, nine wounded

BANGKOK, 28 May—Seven small bombs wounded at least nine people in the southern Thai city of Hat Yai on Sunday in an attack resembling ones carried out by Muslim separatists, police said.

Army-commander-in-chief General Sonthi Boonyaratglin declined to say immediately if separatists were responsible for the attacks, but said the bombs, all the size of soda cans, were aimed at causing chaos rather than major damage.

“The bombs weren’t meant to destroy or sabotage, but just to wreak havoc,” Sonthi, the leader of the bloodless coup which ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra last year, told TVS television. One of the wounded was in serious condition after the bombs hit two department stores, two hotels, a restaurant, a Chinese shrine and a pharmacy in the city, the centre of the rubber trade in Thailand, the world’s biggest producer, police said.

Muslim insurgents have hit several cities in the far south, an independent sultanate until annexed by overwhelmingly Buddhist Thailand a century ago, with a series of small bombs designed to cause chaos rather than mass deaths. More than 2,100 people have been killed in the latest insurgency in the region, where most people speak a Malay dialect, since it erupted in January 2004. — MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill three police officers in northern Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 28 May—Gunmen killed three police officers in two attacks in the Sunni-dominated Salahudin Province north of Baghdad, a provincial police source said on Sunday.

“Three gunmen in a car opened fire late Saturday at Major Hayys al-Jubouri, commander of a police commando battalion in the province, while he was driving his car in the Shirqat Town, 280 kilometres north of the capital,” Colonel Hassan Ahmed from the police source said on Sunday.

Jubouri was killed along with another police captain, Major Haiys al-Jubouri, commander of a police commando battalion in the province, while he was driving his car in the Shirqat Town, 280 kilometres north of the capital.

In separate incident, gunmen driving a car shot dead Captain Makki Ismail, a police officer in the provincial police, while he was travelling in his car on a main road near Tikrit, some 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, Ahmed said.

In Baghdad, three more policemen were injured when a roadside bomb went off near their vehicle in the Kasrah neighbourhood in the northern capital, police said.

Insurgents frequently attack Iraqi security and police forces, accusing them of collaborating with the US occupation.— MNA/Xinhua

Mercury rises to record high in north China

BEIJING, 28 May—High temperature records in northern Chinese cities were broken as dry, warm mass controlled the area on Saturday.

In Ngang City of Hebei Province, mercury rose to record high in north China and breaking the city’s record in May since 1951.

Beijing’s temperature reached 37.2 degrees Celsius, the second-highest in the country.

In Nangong City of Hebei Province, mercury rose to above 38.5 degrees Celsius, the second-highest in the country.

Ten counties and cities in the central and southern part of Hebei saw temperatures rise to above 39.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday, including the provincial capital Shijiazhuang, where the temperature reached 39.5 degrees Celsius, the second-highest in the country.

Beijing’s temperature reached 37.2 degrees Celsius, breaking the city’s record in May since 1951.

The capital is mulling a new index heatstroke forecast that differentiates heliosis probabilities for people of different age and sex, according to Huang Zili, a researcher at the national meteorological centre.

The current heatstroke forecasts are based on temperature, humidity and wind force but take no account of pathology of people with varied physique.

The new heatstroke index will be added to weather forecast before the Beijing Olympics, Huang said.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
Survivors’ molecules may lead to new bird flu therapy

Bangladeshi vendors display chickens in a cage at a market in Dhaka on 3 May, 2007. Bird flu has spread to six more farms in western Bangladesh, forcing authorities to cull thousands of fowl and destroy eggs, government officials said on Monday.

BEIJING, 29 May — Culling immune-system molecules from survivors of bird flu could provide a new therapy for the hard-to-treat H5N1 flu strain, an international team reported Monday.

“Obviously we’re interested and excited about this potential,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, infectious disease chief of the National Institutes of Health.

“Obviously we’re interested and excited about this potential,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, infectious disease chief of the National Institutes of Health.

If the research pans out, it could be possible to stockpile these antibodies, the immune system’s search-and-destroy force, as an additional way to treat or even prevent H5N1 in case the worrisome flu strain ever mutates to spark a worldwide epidemic, the researcher added.

More work is needed before trying these purified antibodies in people. It’s standard to test flu vaccines and treatments in ferrets, who respond to influenza more like people do. Then the antibodies would need testing in healthy people, to see if they’re safe.

If so, they might be tried as a treatment for people still falling ill with H5N1 in parts of Asia. The only treatment now is Tamiflu, which doesn’t always save them.

Blood inflammation plays role in Alzheimer’s disease

WASHINGTON, 28 May — People whose blood shows signs of inflammation are more likely to later develop Alzheimer’s disease than people with no signs of inflammation, according to a study published in the 29 May issue of Neurology.

The study, which is part of the larger Framingham Heart Study of the US National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, involved 691 healthy people with an average age of 79.

Blood tests determined whether the participants had signs of inflammation. Then the participants were followed for an average of seven years. During that time, 44 of the participants developed Alzheimer’s disease.

Chemical plants urged to tighten safety inspection

BEIJING, 28 May — China’s work safety watchdog Monday issued a circular, requiring chemical sectors nationwide to take strict precautions against serious accidents.

The State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) made a public notice of a recent blast in north China, saying the direct cause was due to improper operation that generated high temperature and TNT, which is highly explosive.

The SAWS also pointed out problems including disorder in management, inadequate training and improper layout of the plant. On 11 May, a blast occurred in a chemical workshop in Cangzhou in Hebei Province, in which five people were killed and 80 injured, including 14 seriously-wounded.

This month also witnessed other accidents relating to work safety. On 4 May, 33 people were poisoned or injured in an ammonia leak in a chemical plant in east China’s Anhui province.

Car bombs rock Iraqi capital; at least 38 dead in separate attacks

BAGHDAD, 29 May — Two car bombs rocked separate areas of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 38 people, an Interior Ministry official said.

Around 1:30 pm (5:30 am ET), a parked car bomb detonated near a police checkpoint and a busy market area in Tayaran Square in central Baghdad.

At least 23 people were killed and 55 others were wounded in the attack, the official said.

About an hour later, another parked car bomb exploded in a street market in the southwestern neighbourhood of Hay Aml, the official said.

Initial reports indicated 15 civilians were killed and 36 others wounded, the official said.

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 29 May — A British soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Monday, the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier, who was serving in Helmand Province in the south of the country, died “as a result of enemy action”, the ministry said in a statement.

The soldier’s family had been informed of the death and had requested a 24-hour delay before the soldier’s name was released, it added.

Britain sent thousands of troops to Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan about a year ago with an expanding NATO peacekeeping force. They have seen heavy combat there in recent months.
Derby beat WBA 1-0 to return to Premier League

**London, 29 May** — Derby County won promotion to the Premier League for the first time since 2002 on Monday after beating West Bromwich Albion 1-0 in the Second Division playoff final at Wembley Stadium.

The match, worth an estimated 60 million pounds (119 million US dollars) to the winners in terms of increased TV revenue, gate receipts and sponsorships, is regarded as the single richest one-off match in world soccer. It was played in a highly competitive spirit from the first minute to the last.

The only goal came from Stephen Pearson who turned the ball in from close range after 61 minutes.

Pearson, who signed for Derby for £500,000 from Celtic in January, had not scored for the club before but he took his chance superbly after being set up by substitute Giles Barnes, who had been on the field for only three minutes.

The win also marked a personal victory for Derby manager Billy Davies, who lost twice in playoffs with Preston North End and has won promotion in his first season in charge at Pride Park. Derby, who finished third in the table, eight points ahead of West Brom, go up alongside champions Sunderland and automatically promoted runners-up Birmingham City.

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Fiorentina allow striker Toni to leave

**Milan, 29 May** — Italy striker Luca Toni has been told he can leave Fiorentina, the Serie A club said on Monday.

Toni, who has been heavily linked with a move to Bayern Munich in the Italian Press, held a meeting with Fiorentina President Andrea Della Valle and automated striker Luca Toni to leave Fiorentina. Arow team from Venice celebrates after winning the Regatta of the Ancient Maritime Republics in Venice on 27 May, 2007. The annual race re-enacts the ancient rivalry of Venice, Pisa, Genoa and Amalfi. — INTERNET

Inzaghi returns to Italy squad for Euro qualifiers

**Milan, 29 May** — AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi returned to the Italy squad on Monday for the Euro 2008 qualifying games in Faroe Islands and Lithuania.

Inzaghi was not selected for the 2-0 win over Scotland in March but has won a recall for the Group B matches on Saturday and four days later thanks to his two goals in Milan's European Cup final win over Liverpool last week.

Fellow Milan players Alessandro Nesta and Alberto Gilardino have, however, been left out by coach Roberto Donadoni, with media speculating Nesta had asked for a rest.

Fiorentina striker Luca Toni is missing after undergoing a foot operation but teammate Alessandro Gamberini has received a surprise call-up in defence.

There is also a return for versatile Palermo player Aimo Diana, who missed out on last year's World Cup triumph because of a groin injury.

Livorno forward Cristiano Lucarelli is rewarded for his 20 goals this season with a place in the squad but Francesco Totti, the Serie A's top scorer with 26 goals, continues to take an extended break from the national side.

** MNA/Reuters

Bolivia to fight FIFA ban on high-altitude matches

**La Paz, 29 May** — Bolivian President Evo Morales vowed on Monday to lead an international campaign against FIFA's ban on high-altitude soccer matches, saying it amounts to discrimination.

The world soccer body's decision to set a limit of 2,500 metres above sea level for international games is a blow to Bolivia, which enjoys the advantage of playing at high altitude and can only make a move to play elsewhere.

The ban would hit Bolivia hard as it has the best trained players in the world, according to FIFA's anti-doping rules.

Morales, a keen soccer fan, said the ban was unfair and would not allow Bolivia to compete at such a level.

"I am not going to accept a situation that discriminates against our people," he said.

Morales said he was ready to take the matter to the United Nations and other international bodies.

"I will take this issue to the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee," he said.

The ban was imposed on Bolivia in 1999 after several international matches were played at altitudes above 2,500 metres.

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China expresses “strong dissatisfaction” with US military report

BEIJING, 29 May — China on Monday expressed its “strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition” to a report by the US Defence Department on China’s build-up of its military strength.

The report exaggerates China’s military strength and expenditure with ulterior motives,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a written statement.

“It disseminates the ‘China threat’ theory, which looks down upon China and exhibits a cold war mentality,” she said. “As a peace-loving country,” Jiang said, “China sticks to a path of peaceful development and adopts a defensive national defence policy. She continued, “The international community has a fair judgment that China is an important force in promoting peace in the Asia-Pacific and the world. It is the responsibility of any sovereign nation to conduct necessary national defence build-up to safeguard national security and territorial integrity.

“This report is propagating the ‘China threat theory’ is completely erroneous and futile.”

“Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory and China firmly opposes any country that interferes in its internal affairs through any means.

“The Chinese Government adheres to the principle of peaceful reunification and ‘one country, two systems.’

“We will show our utmost sincerity and do our best in seeking peaceful reunification of the motherland but we will never tolerate ‘Taiwan independence’ and allow any secessionist activities.”

Miss USA Rachel Smith stands in front of the other contestants at the start of the Miss Universe 2007 pageant at the National Auditorium in Mexico City on 28 May, 2007. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Tuesday, 29 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State, Tanintharyi Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan States, lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Eastern Shan State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.63) inch, Yez (2.20) inches, Dawei (0.90) inch, Taungtwingyi (0.79) inch and Bhamo (0.71) inch.

Maximum temperature on 28-5-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 29-5-2007 was 81°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 29-5-2007 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 28-5-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 29-5-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (25.28) inches at Mingaladon, (29.49) inches at Kaba-Aye and (26.66) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (11) mph from West at (15:15) hours MST on 28-5-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening 30-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, fairly widespread in Kayin State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and isolated in remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2007: Likelyhood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 30-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Ministers on inspection tour of Yadanabon Myothit construction project

YANGON, 29 May — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Yadanabon Myothit construction project being built in PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division on 24 May.

On arrival at the construction site, those in charge briefed the ministers and party on accomplishment of the construction tasks and future tasks. After inspecting the construction tasks, the ministers attended to the needs and gave instructions on timely completion of the construction project meeting the set standards.

Next, the ministers conducted entrepreneurs from local and foreign companies around the project site.

At the briefing hall, officials concerned briefed the ministers and party on committee-wise functions, construction of buildings and roads, water supply tasks carried out by Development Affairs Department and power supply for the project. After hearing the reports, (See page 9)