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Tuesday, 3 May, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Poland

YANGON, 3 May— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland, which falls on 3 May 2005. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to trainees of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 7 of USDA.—MNA

- * Only those with the concepts of Our Three Main National Causes —non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—can create the history of the nation and can defend the Union.
- * Our Three Main National Causes are the foundation of the Union spirit.

Those with noble and deep political convictions could bring genuine development to the State
Narrow-minded lackeys of colonialists could not create the development of national history
There was no place for bigoted henchmen of colonialists in history of national development

YANGON, 2 May — Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended opening ceremony of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 7 of USDA held at Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA training school in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

Also present on the occasion were USDA Patron Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command, the members of Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the USDA CEC members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the directors-general, the managing directors, guests, course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win, course instructors and trainees. In his address, the Senior General said the USDA member trainees will have to learn situation of their own country,

(See page 8)



Dignitaries of State seen at the opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 7 of USDA.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 May, 2005

For the Union to be able to stand tall in the family of nations

The Union of Myanmar made up of 14 states and divisions is home to more than 100 national races whose forefathers had always lived together in unity and amity for ages. Therefore, all the national races of the Union are required to continue living together for ever in unity and amity like their forefathers, safeguarding independence and sovereignty and striving for national development through their united strength.

During his visit to Kachin State, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with departmental personnel, townsenders and members of social organizations on 26 April and at the meeting the Secretary-1 said that each and every citizen had two inborn duties, viz to defend their motherland and to strive for its development.

In carrying out the duty of national defence, it is necessary for all citizens to defend our national policy — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. It is an inborn duty of all the national people of the Union to crush any attempt to encroach upon national independence and sovereignty. In addition, they ought to lend themselves to the task of implementing political, economic and social objectives.

Myanmar was once one of the top nations in Southeast Asia. But, soon after regaining independence, due to armed insurgency, legacy of colonialists, the nation was not in a position to carry out development work. As such, Myanmar was left behind her neighbours.

Nowadays, as peace and stability is prevailing all over the nation, the government and the people are working hand in hand so hard that the nation is enjoying a rapid development in all spheres. Therefore, we would like to call on the entire national people to do their bit so that the nation will be able to stand tall in the family of nations.



CASH DONATED TO HNINZIGON HOME FOR THE AGED: Maha Upasika Bangkok Sitthipol of Thailand donates K 535,000 for the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi and member U Chit Myaing recently.—H

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

People's Desire

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

F&R minister to attend meeting of ADB

YANGON, 2 May— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun left here by air this afternoon for Istanbul, Turkey, to attend the 38th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank from 4 to 6 May.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and heads of department. The minister was accompanied by Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director General of Foreign Economic

Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Director Daw Ohnmar Sein of CBM and staff officer U Min Han Soe of the ministry. —MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun being seen off at the airport. —MNA

FM sends felicitations to Poland

YANGON, 3 May— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland, which falls on 3 May 2005. —MNA

PBANRDA minister meets USDA members



Minister Col Thein Nyunt gives a speech in meeting with USDA members. —PBANRDA

YANGON, 2 May— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 28 April inspected office of the re-

gional development in Lashio in Shan State (North).

At the office, officials concerned reported to the minister on work being carried out.

The minister proceeded to Lashio Township Development Affairs Committee and heard reports presented by officials on progress of work. This morning at the office of Development Affairs Department in

Thanlyetsoon, the minister met with Union Solidarity and Development Association members who will make study tour of Ayeyawady Division and explained programmes of the study tour. —MNA

Meeting on Penang-Myanmar Business Opportunities on 5 May

YANGON, 2 May— A Malaysian delegation comprising officials of Penang Province of Malaysia and entrepreneurs will visit Myanmar and hold meeting in cooperation with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Penang-Myanmar Business Opportunities at Traders

Hotel on 5 May. Business opportunities between Myanmar and Malaysian entrepreneurs will be discussed at the meeting. Those interested to attend the meeting may dial 381284, 321285 and 246495 at No-504/506, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township.

MNA

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ထူးချွန်ကြက်ခြေနီတွေ့ဆုံပွဲ- ၂၀၀၅

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Japanese PM arrives in Pakistan on two-day official visit

ISLAMABAD, 1 May — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi Saturday arrived in Islamabad from New Delhi on a two-day official visit for talks on bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

During his stay, Koizumi will call on President General Pervez Musharraf and hold official talks with his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz, likely covering nuclear proliferation, Tokyo's economic assistance to Islamabad as well as the UN reforms.

Koizumi will make a formal announcement about the resumption of the Official Development Assistance to Islamabad, said Japanese Ambassador Nobuaka Tanaka Wednesday at a news briefing

here. Pakistan had been receiving roughly 500 million US dollars of Japanese assistance annually prior to 1998 when it conducted nuclear tests.

Koizumi will also raise the nuclear proliferation issue with the Pakistani leadership since Japan has serious reservations about the alleged Islamabad-Pyongyang cooperation in nuclear technology, the ambassador added.

He, however, said Japan will not link its

planned resumption of the Yen Package Loan to Islamabad with the nuclear issue. Despite having serious concerns over nuclear matters, Japan has decided to resume the annual assistance suspended in 1998, he noted.

Besides, a number of bilateral agreements will be signed during Koizumi's visit, including 88-million-dollar grant for a water supply scheme and a barrage project, according to the ambassador.

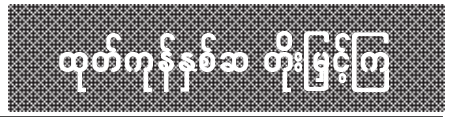
English-language newspaper *The Nation*

Saturday quoted an unnamed official as saying that the focus of Koizumi's talks with the Pakistani leadership will be on the UN reforms and he would seek Pakistan's support for Japan's bid to get the permanent UN Security Council seat.

The official said Pakistan is unlikely to announce its support for Tokyo's permanent seat in the UN Security Council in response to Koizumi's request. Islamabad is against the increase in permanent UN Security Council members as it does not want more centres of privileges in the United Nations, he explained.

Koizumi late Thursday kicked off his six-day visit to four Asian and European countries, India, Pakistan, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

MNA/Xinhua



ASEAN 4 countries to strengthen air links

PHNOM PENH, 1 May — Four new members of ASEAN will strengthen their air links to promote air transport, cargo services and tourism among the four countries.

The four, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, agreed to make a priority of opening direct air links between Myanmar and the three other member countries at the three-day meeting ended on Friday, local media reported on Saturday.

Airlines operating in the four countries were asked to conduct market surveys to assess the possibility of the proposal.

"Our four are making efforts to strengthen the cooperation on civil aviation industry in order to integrate our civil aviation into our other members," said Sinn Chansereyvutha, director of planning and policy at the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation.

The cooperation will benefit Cambodia's air transport and tourism, as well as the revenue. Total income earned from Cambodia's civil aviation and related services was over 25 million US dollars in 2004, *The Cambodia Daily* reported.

More than 18,000 airline travelled through Cambodian airspace last year, and 14 foreign airlines now serve the country's two international airports, accounting for some 445 flights each week, according to a report of civil aviation secretariat. More than 1 million people visited Cambodia last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam celebrates reunification day

HO CHI MINH CITY (Vietnam), 1 May — Military parades showing Vietnam's collective Army power, and matches of various local sectors such as banking, tourism, and garments, expressing the country's economic development in the industrialization and modernization cause, attracted more than 50,000 people to a solemn ceremony of the 30th anniversary of the country's reunification day in Le Duan boulevard on Saturday.

Giant billboards of Vietnam's late president Ho Chi Minh dominated the parade, which were followed by matches of representatives of security forces, students and workers with red flags and colourful flowers adjoining the street toward the Reunification Palace.

Thirty years ago, tanks of the Vietnam People's Army, on 30 April, crashed through the presidential palace of the Saigon regime based in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, just before the US-backed South Vietnamese Government surrendered to North Vietnam.

Addressing at the ceremony, Nguyen Minh Triet, Party secretary of Ho Chi Minh City said that the victory of 30 April,

1975 opened a new era for the Vietnamese people. This is the victory of the revolutionary heroism, of Vietnam's stuff and intellect.

Bringing into full play the strength and

unity in the wartime, the city determines to accelerate industrialization and modernization to become Vietnam's centre of industry, service, science and technology, Triet stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

Woori gets approval to open office in Shanghai

SEOUL, 1 May — Woori Bank, South Korea's second-largest lender, said Friday it has received approval from China's bank regulators to open an office in Shanghai's special financial district.

The lender has been given the go-ahead to open its office in Puxi, western Shanghai, making it the first South Korean lender to enter the special financial district.

Woori, Shinhan, Hana and Korea Exchange Bank now operate branches in Shanghai, but not in the Puxi area. Woori opened its Shanghai branch in 1995.

"We plan to open the office in early June and expand our currency operation," the lender said in a statement. Woori is the flagship of the state-owned Woori Finance Holdings Co, South Korea's third-largest financial services group. — MNA/Xinhua



Bangladeshi women freeing dust from rice in the wind at their Dhamrai village, 40 km (25 miles) from the capital Dhaka recently. —INTERNET

Indian, Chinese military delegations meet

SRINAGAR, 1 May — As part of the efforts to further strengthen Sino-Indian ties, a meeting between military delegations of the two countries was held at the Chinese Moldo garrison, a defence spokesman said here Friday.

He said the meeting assumes significance in view of the improved relations between the two countries following the visit of the Chinese Premier to India early this month.

Addressing the meeting Thursday, the Indian delegation led by Brigadier Nanvendra Singh highlighted India's commitment to the principles of International Labour Organization and stressed on the need to follow the principles of Panchsheel which has been the guiding spirit for improving Sino-Indian ties.

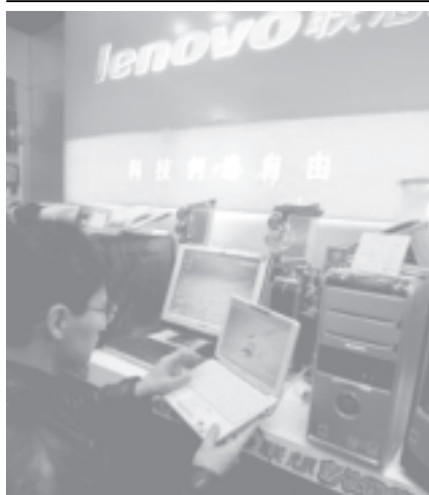
The Chinese delegation was led

by Colonel Dong Guohua.

"Such friendly interactions are clear signs of enhanced mutual trust and friendship gradually building up between the border representative institutions of both sides," the spokesman said.

Border personnel meetings are held four times a year between the Indian and Chinese military delegations in order to build confidence between the troops at local level and also to ensure peace and tranquility as per agreement of 1993, he said.

MNA/PTI



A Chinese man checks a laptop in front of a Lenovo sign at a computer shop in Beijing on 2

May, 2005.

INTERNET

China awards nearly 3,000 model workers

BEIJING, 1 May — The Chinese Government commended a total of 2,969 national labour heroes and advanced workers, including basketball player Yao Ming and track and field athlete Liu Xiang, at a grand rally held here Saturday on the eve of 1 May, the International Labour Day.

President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and other Chinese leaders attended the rally and awarded the winners.

In his speech at the rally, Hu said that workers, farmers and other working people from all social strata all have made lofty contributions in pushing forward social advancement and building a relatively affluent society. Their enthusiasm and hard-working attitude should be popularized and carried forward, he said.

Rocket superstar Yao Ming, the 2.29-metre centre for the US National Basketball League's Houston Rockets, and Olympic gold medal hurdler Liu Xiang, who had incurred much disagreement with the rank and file, are also among the winners, but they did not show up.

The nomination has drawn enthusiastic response around the country since the first release of their namelist

on 14 April. Some argued the award was meant to give ordinary workers, instead of social celebrities.

"We believe anyone who has contributed tremendously to social development, whatever his rank or whatever field of profession he specializes in, is worthy to the title of 'model worker'," said Yin Weimin, deputy director of the Judging Panel, told *Xinhua* on a previous occasion.

Among those rewarded along with her, more than 1,400 of them, or nearly 50 per cent, are workers from industrial enterprises and other businesses, more than 600 are farmers in rural area, and about 800 are functionaries in the sphere of social administration, as well as workers involved in public service.

Approximately 30 private business owners and 23 migrant workers from China's rural areas have been granted the honour for the first time.

MNA/Xinhua



Local super-market employees push trolleys loaded with goods as they participate in a parade during official celebrations held in front of the former southern presidential palace in Ho Chi Minh City, on 30 April 2005.

INTERNET

FBI helicopter crashes

WASHINGTON, 1 May — A helicopter of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crashed last Wednesday during a training exercise in the eastern state of Virginia, the FBI said on Saturday.

The chopper, a McDonnell Douglas 530 Little Bird, was being used in a Hostage Rescue Team "fast rope" training exercise when the accident occurred at a firearms range at the FBI Academy, located at the Marine Corps Base, Quantico, a statement posted on the FBI's web site said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two car bombs kill three, wound 13 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 May — Two car bombs targeting a military convoy and a politician in eastern and western Baghdad on Saturday killed three people and wounded 13 others, police said.

One car bomb was detonated near a joint Iraqi and US military convoy in Zayouna District in eastern Baghdad, killing two civilians, one of them a child, and wounding 10 others, the police said.

In a statement posted on an Islamic web site, the al-Qaeda wing in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack.

The second car bombing happened when a bomber blew up his car near a convoy of the head of an Iraqi Shiite party in western Baghdad, killing one of his bodyguards and wounding three others.

Six civilian cars were damaged in the attack, which took place at about 2.00 pm (1000 GMT).

Witnesses said the US troops arriving at the scene opened fire and killed a passerby, but the US military did not comment on the claim. The Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported a third car bomb attack, which targeted a passing US military convoy in Hathra neighbourhood in western Baghdad, without giving further details. — MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မုရွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Indonesia mulls incentives for gas investment

JAKARTA, 1 May — In a bid to increase gas output and secure domestic supply, the Indonesian Government is planning to draft another incentive package to lure investors to exploit the country's marginal gas fields, an official has said.

Upstream Oil and Gas Executive Agency (BP Migas) chairman Kardaya Warnika was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying although the details of the incentive package were being studied, one definite requirement would be for the output to be sold on the domestic market.

"Within one or two months we will come up with a more concrete proposal," Kardaya said.

Potential marginal gas fields are situated offshore Java, offshore and onshore Sumatra and East Java, said Kardaya.

"We are yet to make a genuine inventory of the potential," Kardaya said.

He said the incentive might not be similar to that given to the small oil field operators.

Only recently, to reach its target of increasing crude oil output to 1.3 million barrels per day from the less than one million bpd currently, the

government launched an incentive scheme for operators of marginal oil fields.

Oil operators of such fields — fields with a rate of return of less than 15 per cent and located within a producing block — will be able to recover 20 per cent more of the costs incurred on top of the 100 per cent already stipulated in their contracts.

At least eight oil companies, including PT Medco Energi International, BP Plc, Caltex Pacific Indonesia and Energi Mega Persada, have submitted applications to work in 30 marginal fields located within their operational areas.

Indonesia has a massive reserve of gas, one of the world's largest, estimated to be 188.34 trillion standard cubic feet (tscf), although annually, the country only manages to produce about three tscf, some half of which is exported.

The government has said that local industries as well as power plants needed to rely more on gas, amid record-high oil prices and surging state subsidies, and concerns over the availability of the conventional fuel in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

Badawi says Malaysia continues to fight corruption

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May — Malaysia would continue with its anti-corruption strategy which consisted of two main elements — preventive and punitive, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Friday.

"The preventive aspect of my strategy can itself be broken into two fundamental approaches. The first approach is to close the gap or opportunities for corrupt activities and the second is to inculcate individuals with noble values, ethics and personal integrity," the Prime Minister said in his keynote address on the final day of the two-day World Ethics and Integrity Forum here.

He said the government was instituting various measures to increase transparency and accountability in the public sector, and among them was public procurement through the tender system.

"Going forward, I have directed that all government linked companies to review their procurement systems so as to be more transparent and accountable," said Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister.

On the punitive aspect of the anti-corruption drive, he said, he had given firm directive to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) to carry out their investigations without fear or favour. — MNA/Xinhua



The scene of a car bomb explosion in Baghdad 2 May, 2005. —INTERNET

India, Japan to usher in a "New Asian Era"

NEW DELHI, 1 May — India and Japan on Friday resolved to usher in a "New Asian Era" to promote the vision of an Asian Economic Community as an "Arc of Advantage and Prosperity".

In a joint statement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Japanese Premier Junichiro Koizumi, the two leaders said both sides will take several measures for tapping the complementarities of the two economies and enhance bilateral trade.

The two countries will make a special effort to encourage level of investment by Japanese companies in India, the statement said.

India, the largest recipient of offi-

cial development assistance from Japan, confirmed that the ODA will continue to be utilized to support the country's efforts at accelerated economic development, particularly in infrastructure.

The two governments' agreed in principle to resume the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers scheme in India.

Japan has committed 134.5 billion for eight projects, including Delhi Metro and Ganga Action Plan, during 2003-04.

MNA/PTI



Mayors Itcho Ito from Nagasaki, center, and Tadatoshi Akiba from Hiroshima, second right, along with survivors march in New York City on 1 May, 2005, to commemorate the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan 60 years ago and to show support for the anti-nuclear proliferation act, soon to be reviewed by the UN.—INTERNET

FM says Pakistan never comes under external pressure

ISLAMABAD, 1 May— Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said Pakistan is a sovereign country and it never came under any external pressure.

Kasuri said that Pakistan's improving relations with the European Union will not affect its ties with the United States, state media reported here on Friday.

"I think its effect will be positive and our relations will further improve with European Union and the United States," the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* quoted the Minister as saying. For example, he said, even having good relations with the United States, Pakistan differed from US stance in Iraq's case.

"We have refused to send our Army to Iraq and we do not support US attack on Iraq," the minister said. He said Pakistan is a developing country and peace is necessary for its development.

"No foreign investment takes place where there is tension or lawlessness," he said, adding, "our policies and actions are in the interest of our country and we are not under any pressure". — MNA/Xinhua

PM says Singapore faces three major challenges

SINGAPORE, 1 May— Singapore is facing three major challenges including regional competition, an aging population and a restructuring economy, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in his Labour's Day message on Saturday.

Though Lee was optimistic about his country's economic outlook, he admitted that the emergence of a new Asia with energetic development of cities like Shanghai, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur is posing competition for Singapore. Lee announced that the government is looking at privately-managed pension plans and the way of prolonging retirement age to keep Singaporeans financially secure, senior citizens in particular.

He said that his government will adjust work conditions, lay down flexible employment terms, change employers' mindsets as well as update employees' skills to help Singaporeans stay employable.

As for the restructuring economy, which has made structural unemployment a growing problem, Lee said that jobs are being re-designed to make them more attractive, productive and better paying, especially for the lower-skilled and less educated.

But he ruled out the possibility of making the city state a welfare society, saying it will result in bigger government spending and higher taxes.

He reiterated that the growth rate of Singapore's economy is expected to be 3 to 5 per cent this year, which will create more jobs and opportunities for the people.

MNA/Xinhua

China to enhance friendly exchanges with Cambodia

BEIJING, 1 May— China is willing to enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation with mutual benefits with Cambodia, in a bid to continuously promote bilateral ties into new high, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here on Saturday.

Li made the remarks in a meeting with Norodom Ranaridh, President of Cambodian National Assembly and Funcinpec Party chairman, who is here to visit former Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

Ranaridh reiterated Cambodia's firm adherence to one-China policy, saying that Cambodia will also firmly support China's passing of the Anti-Secession Law, and stand for China's peaceful reunification.

Cambodian National Assembly and government agree China's view on reforms of the United Nations, Ranaridh said, noting that expansion of the Security Council is especially important.

Full consideration should be given to an increase in the representation of the developing countries in the Council, he said, stressing that reform should be made through serious discussions and cautious actions. The 82-year-old Sihanouk gave up the throne to his son Norodom Sihamoni last October. The former King, suffering from diabetes and colon cancer, is in Beijing for medical treatment.—MNA/Xinhua

China grants x-ray machine to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 1 May— The Chinese Government Friday handed over Mobile Container/Vehicle X-Ray Inspection System worth of 200 million Nepali rupees (2.86 million US dollars) to the Nepali Government.

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping and

Bhanu Prasad Acharya, Secretary of Finance Ministry of Nepal, signed the delivery and acceptance certificate regarding the machine.

Addressing the ceremony, Sun said the equipment which symbolized friendly relations would produce an

important influence in promoting economic and technology cooperation between Nepal and China.

Similarly, Acharya expressed sincere appreciation to the Chinese Government for providing generous and continued support in the socio-

economic development of Nepal.

"I believe that such support from the Chinese Government would contribute to the Nepali Government's efforts for modernizing the Customs administration and facilitate global trade," Acharya

added.

The Chinese Government has installed and tested successfully the operation of the inspection system at the Dry Port Customs Office in Birgunj City, located in Nepal's southern entrance border with India.

MNA/Xinhua



Over the past decade, hundreds of new highrise buildings have transformed the skyline of Dhaka, a former garden city of Bangladesh.

INTERNET

Malaysia to tap Dutch technology in floriculture, dairy farming

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May — Malaysia was keen to tap Dutch technological expertise particularly in areas such as floriculture, dairy production and dairy farming, a minister said on Saturday.

With the expertise, Malaysians could develop flower growing into a multi-billion dollar business, Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told reporters after the launch of "Window on Holland 2005" here.

Muhyiddin, who will visit Holland next month to look into these aspects, said the Malaysians could also embrace new ways to raise dairy production and enhance capacity in the dairy sector. "We need to work closely with Dutch business and may be work on joint-ventures" in areas such as dairy production, livestock rearing, floriculture and even fisheries, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

British companies in Indonesia focus on infrastructure

JAKARTA, 1 May — British companies will likely continue to focus on the country's infrastructure rather than the manufacturing sector for investment opportunities.

British Chamber of Commerce (Britcham) executive director Gary Andrews was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying most British firms in Indonesia had moved into the infrastructure sector, as there was only a limited number of British manufacturing companies here.

"Traditionally, British firms in Indonesia move in the infrastructure sector, including oil and gas, power plants and tap water treatment," he said.

He said that European countries tended to invest more in the infrastructure and service sectors, such as banking and insurance, as well as retail.

Furthermore, Andrews said firms in the Britain might be more interested in investing in the retail sector, considering that Indonesia was a consumer-driven economy.

"Indonesia should intensify promotion in the Britain to attract fresh investment, not only in the infrastructure sector but also retail, and maybe manufacturing," he said.

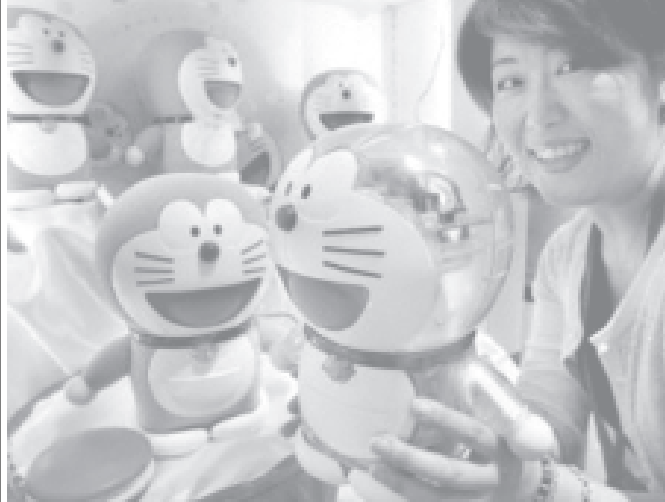
According to Andrews, many British firms in his country lack knowledge on the Indonesian market, preferring to invest in China and India.

MNA/Xinhua

WB approves \$300m credit for health sector of Bangladesh

DHAKA, 1 May—The World Bank approved 300-million-US-dollar credit to assist Bangladesh in strengthening the public health sector management and improving the quality of the public health care system.

The New Age Saturday quoted a World Bank Press release as saying that the credit is from the International Development Association, a concessional lending arm of the World Bank, which carries 0.75 per cent service charge, and has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period. The Press release said that Bangladesh now faces the threat of an increase in non-communicable diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases. In addition, communicable diseases like respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria, and tuberculosis remain prevalent, and HIV/AIDS rates are on the rise. — MNA/Xinhua



A Bandai Co employee displays a robot shaped as the popular cartoon character Doraemon on 2 May, 2005. —INTERNET

NZ prisoner number hits record

WELLINGTON, 1 May — New Zealand's prison population has reached 7,005 for the first time, according to Corrections Department, saying the figure by Tuesday was 600 more than on the same day of last year.

But the increasing use of jail is worrying criminologists and penal reformers, who said it could cause more crime and social problems in the long term, said Friday's Wellington-based *Dominion Post*.

Corrections Minister

Paul Swain told the local media the increase in the number of inmates, 15 per cent by 2006, reflected tougher sentencing and bail provisions introduced since 1999, when the Labour Party started to lead the government.

New Zealand has the

second highest rate of imprisonment in the developed world, behind the United States, and Howard League for Penal Reform President Peter Williams QC said he was concerned it was being used too often.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia, East Timor settle dispute over oil, gas reserves

CANBERRA, 1 May — Australia and East Timor have struck a deal over disputed oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the two governments have reached agreement on all major issues during three days of talks in East Timor's capital this week, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported on Friday.

Under the deal, East Timor will receive additional revenue of up to 3.9 billion US dollars, depending on oil and gas prices, said Downer.

In return, East Timor has agreed to postpone for some time final resolution of the sea boundary issue.

"The key elements

have been incorporated into a draft text," he said in Melbourne, capital of the State of Victoria.

"We're talking about them getting several billion dollars of additional revenue over and above what they would have otherwise got," he said.

The dispute arose following East Timor's independence from Indonesia when Australia insisted that a 1972 boundary agreed with Jakarta should remain in place, which gives Australia ownership of the oil-rich continental shelf, two thirds of the way across the Timor Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

India's "Pinaka" test fired successfully

BALASORE, 1 May — Indian defence scientists "successfully" test-fired two more rounds of Pinaka, the indigenously developed multi-barrel rocket system, from the Proof and Experimental Establishment (P and E) of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) at Chandipur, on Friday.

Defence sources said the artillery rocket was test-fired at 0535 hours (GMT) and 0550 hours (GMT), the sources said.

Developed at the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) at Pune, the 10-foot-long ground target mobile launch rocket had been subjected to several tests since 1995.

It had already been inducted into the Armed Forces. The trial being undertaken now was aimed at improving the entire system and sub-system of rockets developed by the DRDO, the sources said.

The sophisticated Pinaka is an area weapon system aimed at supplementing the existing artillery guns at a range beyond 30 kilometres.

The unguided rocket system, which was test-fired here, was meant to neutralize a bigger geographical area with its rapid salvo of rockets, the sources said.

MNA/PTI

Bangladesh Paper Association demands higher duty on import of newsprint

DHAKA, 1 May — Paper manufacturers in Bangladesh urged the government for imposing higher import duty on different kinds of paper and printing materials to protect local industry from uneven competition with smuggled ones.

They demanded a 50-per-cent supplementary duty on import of newsprint to check smuggling of white print through false declaration.

The Bangladesh Paper Mills Association made the demands in its budget proposals for 2004-2006 recently placed to the Nation Board of Revenue.

It sought some safe-guard measures like revision of duty structure for paper industry to protect the local manufacturers.

In the proposals, the association claimed that the seven paper mills run by the private sector has the capacity to produce little over 100,000 tons of paper annually, which it claims, is enough to meet the local demand.

But some traders are importing white paper from India declaring consignments as newsprint, pushing local manufacturers to an uneven competition here, said the association. — MNA/Xinhua

Feasibility report of INO presented to Indian Government

MUMBAI, 2 May — The two volume feasibility report on the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) was Monday formally presented to the government by the country's physicists at a scientific meeting at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) here.

The report on the 5-billion-rupee project of the country's hi-tech Neutrino Observatory was given to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar by the Neutrino Collaboration Group (NCG) formed by 17 institutes and universities.

Neutrinos are part of a set of elementary particles which form the basic constituent of matter in nature. They are almost massless, elusive and have no electric charge and hardly interact with matter. — MNA/PTI



The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C6) sits on a launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Center of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at Sriharikota, about 110 kilometers (69 miles) north-east of Madras, India, on 1 May, 2005. —INTERNET

Hailing the 15th annual meeting of MMCWA**Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA)***Aye Phyu*

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) was established in April 1991 as a non-governmental organization dedicated to serving the Myanmar society in promoting the health and wellbeing of mothers and children with the aim of improving the quality of life of the people.

In line with this objective, MMCWA has been giving assistance in the areas of health, education, economic and social matters that will promote the families and the overall standard of living, making sure that the operations get down to the villages and wards at grassroot level.

At present, MMCWA has been carrying out its activities throughout the country with the supervision of the Central Council including the 15 members of the Central Executive Committee, under which there are various Supervisory Committees at State/Division and District levels. They supervise and give necessary help to the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, altogether (324) in number, plus 15172 branch associations in the townships. To date, the total number of MMCWA members stands at about 4.38 million.

Regarding the educational activities, MMCWA has been operating an Early Childhood Development Centre in Yangon and 1246 community-based pre-schools and day-care centres nation-wide. These centres give valuable lifelong ideas and concepts to the children to enable them to adopt good habits and practices crucial for their physical, mental and intellectual development. Parenting education is one of the functions of those centres. In line with the "Education for All" policy of the Ministry of Education, MMCWA members at all levels in the States and Divisions try to ensure that all children of school going age get the chance to go to school and complete their primary education. In addition, stipends, school uniforms and stationery are provided for the needy students. For non-formal education, township and branch associations supervise and organize the opening of 3-R courses, voluntary night schools, evening classes and Reading circles to speed up the reading rate of those who have finished the basic 3-R course.

The role of the associations is more evident in the health area, especially in the remote places away from the hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries.

MMCWA has a total of 95 Maternity homes operating throughout the whole country. Primarily, these maternity homes are established to provide accessible, quality and appropriate ante-natal care, safe delivery, post-natal care and reproductive health services so as to reduce the morbidity and mortality rates of mothers and children.

MMCWA also operates health activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria prevention and control programmes are some examples. Nutrition Programme undertaken by the associations also benefit the mothers and children with their volunteer members helping in Community Nutrition Centres (CNC) and Village Food Banks (VFB) opened in 17 project areas as well as in many non-project areas. They also participated in other development efforts in villages and wards at the grassroot level in programmes as model village, clean water, tobacco free zone, and the like. Besides, the Diagnosis Centre situated in MMCWA

The Diagnosis Centre situated in MMCWA compound in Yangon has been offering medical services at a reasonable charge to the women for early detection of cancers of the reproductive system by means of mammography, Pap Smear, Colposcopy and ultrasonographic exams.

compound in Yangon has been offering medical services at a reasonable charge to the women for early detection of cancers of the reproductive system by means of mammography, Pap Smear, Colposcopy and ultrasonographic exams. Services like health education, counseling, and referral, where necessary, to relevant specialists are also provided at the centre. With due respect to the doctors who actually do the operations on children with harelip and cleft palate, credit should also be given to all association members who have participated in finding within their own areas children (in some places, adults too) with congenital defects, in arranging and helping in cash or kind or both for the corrective operations by the doctors.

We all know that health problems are usually related to ignorance and lack of education. Mothers

as focal persons in families play a significant role in the creation and maintenance of good health in the families. So in order to educate them on health matters, educative talks are held frequently on various subjects all over the country. Our associations succeeded in giving those educative talks enlightening mothers on many areas such as exclusive breast feeding, healthy living environment, so on and so forth. Actually they contributed a great deal to the successful implementation of Advocacy and Public awareness programmes with respect to HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. Traditional or indigenous medicine courses were also given to help mothers to better manage their families in health matters.

Another important area of MMCWA is to help mothers in income generation. Vocational training courses like knitting, sewing, cooking, etc., appropriate to the respective regions are carried out to promote family income. Sewing machines are also often sold to them on installment basis as part of the arrangement. Similarly, micro credit and loan scheme is quite common in many maternal and child welfare associations to help poor women get a start in doing business for extra earnings.

As far as the social area is concerned, MMCWA participated in the 'elderly-care' programme, providing medical and other help to the old people. Some volunteers even offered their time to those who were left alone in their houses to keep company with them and listen to what they said. To the needy ones like the twins and triplets mothers, MMCWA also provides support in cash or kind.

The activities mentioned here do not cover all those that are being carried out by all the associations. As one of the leading NGOs in the country, MMCWA, despite its main focus on mothers and children, is ready to give any kind of assistance to promote the condition of Myanmar people in whatever way they can. When natural disasters destroyed a place public-oriented volunteers of the associations usually come forward and render their services and help hand-in-hand with other national forces. Those are the members of the maternal and child welfare associations throughout the country. We also work in cooperation with local and international organizations including the UN agencies. No doubt we are a part of our nation's strength!

Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects extension tasks of runway and airfield of Mandalay Int'l Airport and Hkamti Airport

YANGON, 2 May — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe together with officials arrived at Mandalay International Airport yesterday morning. At the VIP lounge, the minister heard report on landing of aircrafts at home and those from abroad, passenger lounge, the electricity supply and the greening tasks of its environ by Director-General U Htun Hlaing of the Civil Aviation Department and officials. He gave necessary instructions on the report.

On arrival at Hkamti Airport, the minister and party heard reports on completion of extending and tarring its runway, earth works, use of machinery and fuel by project engineer U Win Lwin at the briefing hall of the airport project special group-4.

The minister and party then inspected progress of earth work with the use of machinery.

Afterwards, CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with executives of district, township and wards at the office of Hkamti District USDA and he urged them to take part in regional development affairs and nation-building tasks with concerted efforts and presented District EC member U Myat Ko the cash for the association.

The minister and party paid homage to Sayadaw U Kesara and members of Sangha of Theravada Buddhist Missionary School in Pawmine ward in Hkamti Township and offered them provisions and left there and arrived back Yangon yesterday evening.—MNA

Workshop on Enhancing Skills Recognition Systems in ASEAN Project at Traders hotel

YANGON, 2 May— The opening of Second Workshop on Enhancing Skills Recognition Systems in ASEAN Project took place at Traders Hotel this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein.

Also present were, officials of embassies from ASEAN countries in Yangon, heads of department under the Ministry of Labour, members of the Project Team led by Leader of the Project Acting Director Professor Tim Turpin of West Sydney University from Australia, representatives from ASEAN countries and guests.

The deputy minister and the leader of the project spoke on the occasion.

The project is implemented with the assistance of governments of ASEAN countries and Australia to encourage labour mobility.

Regional Competency Standards will be drawn at the workshop which continues tomorrow.—MNA

Those with noble and deep political ...

(from page 1)

Myanmar, and global issues at the course opened today. Subject of Myanmar and international affairs are wide and profound. By learning the subject they will know the events happened in the past and present and those to happen in the future, he said.

The Senior General said as the trainees are playing a part in building a modern developed nation, they will learn and analyze the subject in association with your experiences. It is necessary to know sources of international arena as global issues are interrelated in all aspects. Only then will they know correct points considering cause and effect and you be able to stand tall among others, he noted.

USDA laid down its seven objectives in December 2004 after the approval had been sought from those members from respective states and divisions. The objectives were adopted in accord with prevailing conditions of the State to fulfill requirements, to build promising future of the country and to prevent every form of destructive acts, the Senior General said. It is necessary to create a bright future of the State learning lessons from the past experiences, he pointed out.

When it comes to learning Myanmar affairs, the Senior General said, they need to widely learn correct situations of the past, present and future. And Myanmar's history has been put on record for the years countable by the thousand. He added that thanks to modern science, we have learnt that earliest human beings have inhabited the land of our country since over 40 million years. Myanmar's history has passed the stone age, bronze age, iron age and city state age. King Anawrahta of Bagan Period was able to establish the first Myanmar sovereign nation 1,000 years ago. King Bayintnaung of Taungoo Period and King Alaungphaya of Konbaung Period also established the second and third sovereign nation respectively, safeguarding territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State with the strength of unity. The



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets trainees of Myanmar and international studies course-7 of the USDA. — MNA

- mutual respects for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
- non-aggression;
- non-interference in each other's internal affairs;
- respect for mutual equality and work for mutual benefit;
- peaceful co-existence.

It can be said that the five principles are the defence programmes which arose based on bitter experiences and the rights lost under colonialists.

The five principles are also a basic foundation for world peace. All the global nations including super powers which are facing a series of wider and subtle problems ought to practise those principles. In the Union of Myanmar, they are still being practised as the foundation of the foreign policy.

If the political life of the State is assessed after the independence was regained, it can be seen that differences arose among the people due to party splits;

National Causes and made efforts for peace and stability. At the same time, it made endeavours for progress of border areas that lagged behind development. Later, it implemented the tasks for development after designating the major areas as development regions. Nowadays, it also laid down rural development tasks and is undertaking them.

When we review the measures, one can see links of peace and stability, unity and development. The basic concept of the measures is for equal development of all the regions. The equal development of all the regions is the national concept.

The spirit of peace and stability, solidarity, sharing and building the nation is the essence of the Union Spirit. Based on the spirit, infrastructures on national development which are practical needs are being built. The infrastructure building task is the main source of development. When one studies Myanmar affairs he will know how the government builds the nation with what kind of concept in a

*** Expose the true motive and background history of those who are always apt to meddle in international and domestic affairs**

*** It is necessary to prevent some sectarians from destroying the interests of the nation and the people and to try to reach our goal, crushing all the attempts of those sectarians even at the risk of our lives.**

Senior General said the sovereign Union of Myanmar is ancestral heritage that has been bestowed by the history. Imperialism did change the history of most countries of Asia and Africa, he noted.

Colonialists exploited the countries under their subjugation and those countries have been in total jeopardy as sovereignty, politics, economy and social life were destroyed.

In the world history, the imperialism turned out to be a system that crushed and destroyed the national character and the rights of citizens.

In the period of the early 19th century, Myanmar which has been under colonialists was free from the yoke of colonialists together with some Asian and African nations. The independence struggles of the peoples who put up much of a fight against aggressors are the events that should be documented in the history of Asian and African nations. So also, the Myanmar peoples and the Tatmadaw had to fight for independence, risking a lot of their lives, blood and sweat.

Asian and African nations including Myanmar, which were subjected to pressure and threat of colonialists, held a conference in Bandung, Indonesia over 50 years ago after their independence was regained and they laid down the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence which has still been held in high regard by the world.

The principles are:

that a lack of security for the people due to armed insurgencies of sectarians; and that national solidarity became weak owing to divide-and-rule policy of colonialists.

Those situations have caused deterioration in political, economic and social sectors of the nation. It is a common knowledge that there was no economic infrastructures as far as 1988. There will be no development in a region where there have arisen conflicts and lack of security. The history shows that there is no goal in a society in which unity is in chaos.

In such situations, reviews should be made on some neighbouring countries and the countries in the region.

It is obvious that some countries have reached a status of a developed nation, surpassing the status of developing nations during the period of between ten years and 20 years. It is required to clearly know what the country at present is in urgent need. The present task is to build a modern and developed nation. Every citizen have to perform the task with the determination of the citizens.

He said the government has been implementing the tasks for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation after laying down the goal and objectives since it took up the State duties.

The government laid down Our Three Main

short time. The infrastructures are being built for region-wise and sector-wise development and all-round development.

He said the first priority was development of border areas and later, 24 major development regions was designated. In order to fulfill the basic requirements of rural areas, rural development tasks are being undertaken with the aims of development of every region. The sector-wise development tasks are being carried out harmoniously, he said.

A large number of infrastructures such as dams, river water pumping projects and sluice gates were built for development of agriculture, the main economic sector of the State. At the same time, roads, railroads, bridges crossing rivers and streams, harbours for ocean-liners, airports are being built for boosting production, wider commerce and extended industries. Moreover, tasks for generating of electric power and other fuel are being implemented with greater momentum.

Considerable benefits has been gained in agricultural sector due to 173 dams and 271 river water pumping projects. There is a transport network because 57,153 miles of roads were built including Union roads, district to district roads and village to village roads. Newly opened ThanLwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) in February is a sign of region-and sector-wise development

(See page 9)

Those with noble and deep political ...

(from page 8)

and all-round development. Mone hydro electric power station, Paunglaung hydro electric power station and Tikyit coal-fired electric power station opened in 2005 generate electric power needed in industrial sector and socio-economic life. Hydro-electric power projects under construction will generate power for extended industrial

ease control measures on major diseases were carried out nationwide in co-operation with the people. He said they can study the tasks for upgrading of specialist hospitals, rural health care services and teaching of medical science in Myanmar studies sector.

Human resources play a vital role in building a peaceful modern developed nation. Only fit

democratic practices, he said.

He said the government set the precise goal and Our Three Main National Causes to be upheld. It also laid down twelve political, economic and social objectives and implemented with added momentum. He stressed that the government would continue to implement the seven-point Road Map until it succeeds hand in

only those with noble and deep political convictions could bring genuine development to the State and narrow-minded lackeys of colonialists could not create the development of national history.

Aims and objectives of some narrow-minded persons were totally against public interests and the history of the nation obviously showed that the people of Myanmar had never believed in the stooges of colonialists.

There was no place for the bigoted henchmen of colonialists in the history of national development.

In conclusion, Sen-

ior General Than Shwe urged the trainees to be serious with the study of Myanmar and international affairs, to make a thorough study of absolute truths about domestic affairs, to expose the true motive and background history of those who were always apt to meddle in international and domestic affairs and to see through the narrow-minded approaches and interferences and remove them. Moreover, he added that it was necessary to see through the machinations of stooges and lackeys of colonialists who were always trying to do something wrong and plotting

disintegration of the State. It was also necessary to prevent some sectarians from destroying the interests of the nation and the people and to try to reach our goal, crushing all the attempts of those sectarians even at the risk of our lives.

After the ceremony, Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the trainees, had breakfast at Bayintnaung hall and left.

MNA

Human resources play a vital role in building a peaceful modern developed nation. Only fit and highly-qualified human resources can build and safeguard the nation and its people. In any system or era, human resources with solidarity outlook, development outlook and defence outlook are needed.

sector.

The government made efforts for enhancement of social sector as part of all-round development in accord with the social objectives. It upgraded education and health sectors with greater momentum. Basic education schools, universities and colleges were opened for creation of opportunities to learn in every region. National education promotion plan is for all. The trainees have a chance to study the high opportunities to learn education and extended teaching of arts and science.

In health sector, dis-

and highly-qualified human resources can build and safeguard the nation and its people. In any system or era, human resources with solidarity outlook, development outlook and defence outlook are needed.

He said now the government has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is implementing it and the Road Map is the political process of the State.

Peace and stability, better economic foundation of the State and its people and development of human resources are basic requirements for democratic society and

hand with the people. The aim of the government is to build peace and stability, solidarity, development and a democratic nation. So, construction is the history of the Union of Myanmar and many generations. Only those with the concepts of Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty— can create the history of the nation and can defend the Union. Our Three Main National Causes are the foundation of the Union spirit, he said.

Senior General Than Shwe stressed that



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than offers the Seinbudaw to the Sayadaw. —MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends...

(from page 16)

Hngetmyatnadaw and offertories and officials and well-wishers Buddha images and offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw Bago Myoma Sarthintaik Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gandama delivered a sermon and the congregation led by Lt-Gen Khin Maung

Than shared the merits gained.

Next, the second session of the ceremony followed at the same venue.

The congregation led by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko conveyed round the religious objects and Buddha images to be hoisted atop the pagoda clock-wise.

After that, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials and well-

wishers hoisted the Seinbudaw and the Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda through the decorated carriage.

The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu three times.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

MNA

USDA youths tour Yangon

YANGON, 2 May—

Under the programme for exchanging visits of youth members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the visiting youths led by Yangon Division USDA Executive U Hla Tun Oo visited Ngamoeyeik Dam in Hlegu Township this morning. At the office of the dam, project officials explained facts about the

dam.

The visiting youths next paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma hill in Insein Township. The youth made cash donation for the Image through Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Shein Aung Bo.

Afterwards, the

youth proceeded to Defence Services Museum in Dagon Township and National Museum on Pyay Road.

In the afternoon, the youths visited Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) near Ahtayu village in Hmawby Township. Officials briefed them on matters on water supply tasks.—MNA



USDA member youths visit Defence Services Museum. —MNA

Members of State and Division USDA on excursion of Kachin State

YANGON, 2 May —

Under the programme to beef up the youth activities of Union Solidarity and Development Association, an excursion group numbering 32, members of State and Division USDA arrived at Mandalay railway station on 30 April afternoon to go on an excursion to Kachin State.

The group of excursion members led by Kachin State USDA Joint Secretary U Tin Maung Win and District organiser Dr Khin Maung Htun

left for Kachin State. On arrival at Mohnyin station on 1 May morning, they were welcomed by Chairman of Mohnyin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Din and members of USDA.

They then proceeded to Hopang and Mogaung stations where they were welcomed by officials.

They arrived at Myitkyina station in the evening and were welcomed there by Chairman of Myitkyina District PDC Lt-Col Myo Swe and

officials.

A welcoming ceremony took place at the hall of Kachin State USDA.

Members of State and Division USDA, on an excursion of Kachin State, visited Andawshin Pagoda in Ayeya Ward, Myitkyina Township and donated cash for the Pagoda and then paid homage to the reclining Buddha image near Ayeyawady River and visited Loka Man Aung Sutaung Pyi Pagodas.

MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Chauk



Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thuang inspects building of factories near Chauk, Magway Division.—INDUSTRY-1

YANGON, 2 May— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang together with Managing-Director of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries U Than Shwe, Managing-Director of Myanma Ceramics Industries Col Soe Yi and departmental personnel inspected Hydrogen peroxide factory (Chauk) project at Yetwin village in Chauk Town-

ship, Magway Division yesterday morning.

The minister held a meeting with departmental personnel at the briefing hall of the factory. Officials gave accounts of the building of Hydrogen peroxide factory (Chauk) and choice of place for Ceramic factory (Chauk), transportation of construction materials and arrangements for power supply.

Next, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the work site of the Hydrogen peroxide factory (Chauk) on the bank of Ayeyawady river and heard reports by MD U Than Shwe and the experts of China Machinery Complete Equipment Engineering Corporation of the People's Republic of China.

Next, the minister inspected the project of Ceramic Factory (Chauk) near the Hydrogen peroxide factory (Chauk) and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister inspected Win Thuzar Shop in NyaungU and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Rural development tasks supervised in Ingapu Township

YANGON, 2 May— CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made a tour of Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division, from 29 April to 1 May.

On 30 April, the CEC member attended the opening of Natsingone Bridge on Leikpaungswa-Kywezin rural road in Ingapu Township. The Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and the Secretary of Township USDA formally opened the facility.

Next, the minister attended the opening ceremony of Tonetu Bridge and new building of Moekaungkwin BEPS in Moekaungkwin village.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the construction site of SinkaungInn village BEPS and gave necessary instructions. Next, the minister met the principles of Nyaungpingyikwin BEPS, BEMS and Tittitukwin BEPS and village elders and gave necessary assistance.

Yesterday, the minister inspected Kyipin village BEPS and Kyauktalone village BEPS in Ingapu Township. Next, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the new building of Rural Health Care Centre in Kyauktat village.

During the inspection tour, the minister dealt with the five rural development tasks.—MNA

Work Efficiency Course (Officer) No 2/2005 of IPRD opened

YANGON, 2 May— The Work Efficiency Course (Officer) No 2/2005 of the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information was opened at the training hall of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Pansodan Street here this afternoon with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing, Managing Director of NPE Col Soe Win, Acting Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Daw Mya Mya, advisers, course instructors, train-

ees and others.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information, which is made up of MRTV, NPE, IPRD, PPE and Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, is to inform, entertain and educate the people. In this regard, the IPRD has a chance to directly contact with the people based on its media. This is an advantage of the IPRD when compared with other departments and enterprises. The trainees who have direct contact with the people are to make use of the advantage when they are in their regions.

The aim of the course is to improve work efficiency of the trainees, to enhance their spiritual ability, and to successfully implement the national objectives, the 2005-2006

objectives of the Ministry of Information and the 2005-2006 objectives of the IPRD.

That is why the trainees are to try their utmost to be well-versed and qualified in their respective fields. The course will inculcate the trainees with the spirit of cherishing the State and the people and will enhance and strengthen it. The trainees are to be loyal to the State and the people whatever difficulties they are faced with. The trainees are to be imbued with the correct patriotism based on Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Lectures in line with the objectives of the Ministry of Information and the IPRD are to be taught



CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects a rural health care centre in Kyauktat village, Ingapu Township.—FORESTRY

at the course, and the trainees on their part are to successfully implement those objectives. In conclusion, the minister thanked the course instructors and urged the trainees to try hard to be good at their studies.

The four-week course is being attended by 56 trainees from states and divisions.—MNA

Tilapia Fish Market Festival concludes

YANGON, 2 May— Prize presentation of Tilapia Fish Market Festival 2005 organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association under the arrangement of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was held at Thiri Annwa Hall of MFF in Insein Township this afternoon attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein. First, the minister delivered a speech. Next, officials explained matters on purpose of the festival and presenting prizes.

The minister presented awards to winners. Next, President of MFF U Htay Myint presented certificates of honour to those who participated in the festival.

The festival was held for the final day today and was crowded with people.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of Work Efficiency Course (Officer) No 2/2005.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents a prize to a winner of Fish Market Festival 2005.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivers a speech at 22nd Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee meeting.—MNA



22nd Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee Meeting concludes successfully

YANGON, 2 May—The opening of the 22nd Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee Meeting was held at Kengtung New Hotel in Kengtung, Shan State (East) on 30 April. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar-Thai Border Committee Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Hong Ngai and senior military officers, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint and Military Attaché Col

Ko Ko Maung. The Thai delegation was led by Commander of No-3 Military Region of Royal Thai Armed Forces Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee delivered opening addresses.

After the opening ceremony Myanmar delegation leader Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Thai delegation leader Lt-Gen Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee discussed matters on bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Coordination meetings of Secretaries of 22nd Myanmar-Thai Border Committee took place on 30 April and 1 May. The meetings were attended by Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Thai delegation led by Maj-Gen Jadet Sa-Nguan Chart of

Thai-Myanmar Regional Border Committee Office.

The closing of 22nd Myanmar-Thai Border Committee Meeting took place at Kengtung New Hotel on 1 May. Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee signed the agreement of Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee.

After delivering closing speeches by leaders of the two sides, Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee presented gifts to Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and the two delegations posed for documentary photos.

At the meeting, Myanmar and Thailand, ASEAN member countries, discussed matters on good neighbourliness and promoting cooperation between the two Armed Forces in a positive attitude and the meeting concluded successfully.

MNA



Myanmar and Thai delegation members pay homage to Khemarrahta Image in Kengtung.—MNA

Thai delegation visits Kengtung and Mongla

YANGON, 2 May—Thai delegation led by Commander of Military Region-3 of Royal Thai Armed Forces Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee arrived in Kengtung via Yangon on 29 April to attend the 22nd Myanmar-Thai Border Committee Meeting.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Myanmar-Thai Border Committee Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint and Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung.

At 2.30 pm on the same day, Myanmar delegation led by Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Thai delegation led by Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee proceeded to Mongla. They were welcomed there by national race leader U Sai Lin and officials of Shan State (East) Special Re-

gion-4, departmental heads and local people.

At the headquarters of Special Region-4, U Min Ein of Special Region briefed the guests on development of Mongla, drug control, cultivation of poppy substitute crops, livestock breeding and manufacturing goods.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw spoke words of thanks and introduced members of local national race to the two delegations.

Afterwards, they paid homage to Dwenagara Pagoda and enjoyed scenic beauty of Mongla.

The two delegations next visited Drug Elimination Museum of Special Region-4. Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee signed in the visitors' book.

They arrived back in Kengtung at night. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw hosted a dinner in honour of the two delegation members.

On 30 April, the two delegations paid homage to Kaba Aye Pagoda in Kengtung. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented the picture of the pagoda to

Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee who donated cash for the pagoda through the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

In the evening, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung hosted a dinner in honour of members of the two delegations. Members of the delegations exchanged gifts and enjoyed entertainment performed by national race cultural troupe. Afterwards, leaders of the delegations presented bouquet and cash to cultural troupe members.

On 1 May, members of the two delegations visited Maha Muni Buddha Image and Khemarrahta Image in Kengtung.

At 3.15 pm on 1 May Thai delegation led by Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee left Kengtung for home by special flight. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials. Before their departure, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented album and video tape on the tour to Lt-Gen Pichanmet Muangmanee. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw hosts a dinner in honour of Myanmar and Thai delegation members.—MNA

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 Dated 3 May 2005

France backs African mediation in Togo

PARIS, 1 May — France will not interfere with the internal affairs of Togo and continue to support the African mediation in the Togolese crisis, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier declared Friday.

"France will continue to work, as a European country and within the framework of the European Union, by backing the mediation led by African leaders especially in the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)," he said on the French-language TV5 channel.

Quoting an example of the Ivory Coast crisis, on the way to being settled following the mediation of South African President Thabo Mbeki, Barnier said "I say that by thinking of Togo. We have confidence in the African, in their mediation."

A joint delegation of the African Union and of the ECOWAS is awaited on Saturday in Lome to try to settle the Togo crisis provoked by the disputed presidential election on 24 April. — *MNA/Xinhua*

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Chinese journalist given 10-year imprisonment for leaking state secrets

CHANGSHA, 1 May — **Shi Tao, a Chinese journalist, was on Saturday sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment for being found guilty of illegally providing top state secrets to overseas organizations.**

The ruling was handed down by the In-

termediate People's Court of Changsha City, capital of central China's Hunan Province, at the first trial.

Shi, 37, who was employed by the *Contemporary Business News* published in Changsha, from 11 February, 2004 to 22 April, 2004, was also deprived of his political rights for two years, court sources said.

The court was told that the main contents of a certain important document were read out at one internal meeting of the editorial board of the *Contemporary Business News* last April, with a special warning saying the contents were classified and should not be spread further.

Shi, who was then head of the central editor desk with the news centre of the newspaper, attended the internal meeting and took notes. In the same day after the meeting, Shi sent the main contents of the document aboard via e-mail and had it published in an overseas publication. The e-mail was picked up time and again by several overseas Internet portals.

MNA/Xinhua

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ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ: ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလ ၂၇ ရက်

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Canada to combat overfishing

OTTAWA, 1 May— The Canadian Government is planning to spend an additional 20 million Canadian dollars (15 million US dollars) over the next three years to combat overfishing, it is reported here on Saturday.

Canadian Minister of Fishery Geoff Regan said on the eve of an international conference on overfishing beginning in the eastern coastal city of St. John's on Sunday that the money is in addition to funds announced in the federal budget for enforcement of international fisheries regulations outside of Canada's 200-mile limit off the East Coast.

The new funds will pay for an advocacy campaign at home and in Europe to promote global governance of fish stocks and creation of an ambassador for fisheries conservation to represent Canadian interests internationally, he said.—MNA/Xinhua



A Scalar employee displays their new 'Teleglass' which allows the wearer to watch full-length movies on a tiny screen hooked over the top of eyeglasses. Scalar and display material maker Arisawa Manufacturing will put them on the market next month at an estimated price of 50,000 yen.— INTERNET

Indonesia to hunt corrupt people overseas

JAKARTA, 1 May — The Indonesian Government would hunt corrupt people who escaped to other countries, with or without extradition treaty with them, official said here on Friday.

The Indonesian Government would use its friendly ties with the countries to pursue them, said Indonesian Vice-Attorney

General Basrief Arief.

"Pursuing the high class corrupt people who escaped to other countries, which have no extradition treaty with Indonesia, would be carried out by using the Indonesia's good relation with the countries," Arief who was quoted by the Detik online as saying. He said that the authorities had found out the hiding

place of the corrupt people, including China, Hong Kong, the United States and Singapore, which have no extradition with Indonesia. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhono has reaffirmed to clean up the country from endemic corruption, which hampered economic development in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Americans spend over 100 hours commuting to work each year

WASHINGTON, 1 May— Americans spend more than 100 hours commuting to work each year, American Community Survey (ACS) data released by the US Census Bureau on Saturday showed.

For the nation as a whole, the average daily commute to work lasted about 24.3 minutes in 2003.

Based on a ranking of states with the longest average commute-to-work times, the data showed that New York (30.4 minutes) and Maryland (30.2 minutes) residents spent the most time travelling to their jobs.

States with some of the lowest average commute times included South Dakota (15.2 minutes), North Dakota (15.4 minutes), Nebraska (16.5 minutes) and Montana (16.9 minutes).

In a ranking of large cities with populations of 250,000 or more, New York (38.3 minutes), Chicago (33.2 minutes), Newark of New Jersey (31.5 minutes) and Riverside of California (31.2 minutes) had among the nation's highest average commute times.

Among the 10 cities with the highest average commuting times, New York and Baltimore lay claim to having the highest percentage of people with "extreme" commutes, with 5.6 per cent of their commuters spent 90 or more minutes getting to work.

The American Community Survey data are based on responses from a sample of households across the nation in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine city claims world record of longest barbecue grill

MANILA, 2 May — The northern Philippine town of Dagupan has been proclaimed the owner of the world's longest barbecue grill event by the Guinness Book of World Records.

The title may have been nailed down more than an hour after the first of more than 2,000 grills or 2.006 kilometres were lighted at 5.00 pm Saturday by House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr, Immigration Commissioner Alipo Fernandez Jr, Mayor Benjamin Lim, Vice-Mayor Alvin Fernandez and guests.

De Venecia said he had no doubt whatsoever that Dagupan already retook its title in the barbecue grill event with the grand display of unity and cooperation of almost all the people of the city

and their visitors.

About 100,000 people excitedly poured into AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan's principal streets, to give a hand to their city in reclaiming the world's longest grills event from a town in Turkey that nailed down the crown in 2003 at 1.6 kilometres.

City Councillor Michael Fernandez, chair of the Bangus Festival, whose main event was the barbecue grill, expressed confidence that Dagupan already reclaimed its old world crown it earned 3 May 2003 at 1.007 kilometres that was however

short-live.

This was the fourth barbecue grill event called locally as "Kalutan ed Dagupan." The first event in 2002 did not produced any world record. It was the second one in 2003 when Dagupan finally clinched the world record by eclipsing the 634-kilometre barbecue grill put up by a city in Peru years back.

Fernandez said the documentation of the event will be sent to the London-based Guinness Book of World Records which earlier issued the bid number as the identification number of Dagupan City for the event.

He said the feat was made possible not for anything else but the unity and cooperation extended by the locals and guests so that the world's barbecue record can be achieved.

The world record in barbecue grill was so important for Dagupan which is zealously promoting its number one product—bangus

(milkfish) in the international market and anywhere in the world where there are Filipinos.

There were more than 25,000 pieces of bangus of more than 8,000 kilos that were grilled at one time for the world record-breaking feat.

After its documentation, the people grilled other food like meat, hotdogs, mussels and others which they all partook in a street party till midnight. — MNA/Xinhua



Actor Jared Padalecki arrives with Sandra McCoy for the New York screening of his new movie 'House of Wax', the final movie to be shown at the Tribeca Film Festival, on 30 April, 2005.—INTERNET

China praises hardworking, prolific journalist Gan Yuanzhi

BEIJING, 1 May — The Chinese Government has issued an order to honour Gan Yuanzhi, a hardworking, prolific journalist who died of a heart attack when on duty.

Gan, 39, is said to have released 1,051 stories in 1,059 days since he started working as a reporter at the Hainan Daily, mouthpiece of the provincial committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) of southern China's Hainan island province.

He died of a sudden heart attack on 4 September, 2004 when covering an event.

The order, jointly issued by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and the All-China Jour-

nalist Association, praised Gan for his great spirit of hard work and dedication to his career until the last minute of his life and called for all journalists in the country to learn from his example.

"All journalists should learn his Marxist viewpoint of journalism and his firm adherence to the journalistic principles of authenticity, balance, objectivity and fairness," said the order, hailing him as a model CPC member from China's journalism profession.

MNA/Xinhua

Teheran's new international airport reopens

TEHERAN, 2 May — A newly built international airport in Teheran, named after late leader of Iran's Islamic revolution Khomeini, reopened on Saturday after it was closed down last May due to security concerns. The new airport, some 80 kilometres southwest of Teheran and currently in its first phase, was officially inaugurated with the landing of a foreign aircraft.

It is the country's largest airport and has the potential to handle some six million passengers each year and this figure can be increased in three more phases.

Iran's civil aviation authorities announced last week that Iran is set to finally reopen the airport. It will handle all flights on the route between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. — MNA/Xinhua

Benfica edge Belenenses 1-0, extend lead in Portuguese league

LISBON, 2 May— Simao Sabrosa converted a 69th-minute penalty to give Benfica a 1-0 win over Belenenses to extend its lead to four points atop the Portuguese First-Division soccer league.

FC Porto kept pace with a 1-0 victory over Maritimo, improving to 57 points and moving one point past Sporting into second place.

Sporting will have a chance to reclaim second and climb back within three points of Benfica when it travels to play Braga on Sunday.

South African striker Benni McCarthy scored for Porto in the 25th, finishing off a pass by Helder Postiga for his 10th goal this season.

Ten minutes later Diego Ribas da Cunha appeared to have added a second, but it was annulled sparking protests from players and drawing the ire of the crowd.

Nacional trounced minnow Estoril 4-1.—MNA/Xinhua



Charlton Athletic's Talal El Karkouri, right, challenges Manchester United's Wayne Rooney during their English Premiership match at The Valley, London, on 1 May, 2005. Manchester United won the match 4-0.—INTERNET

Manchester United beat Charlton to pressure Arsenal

LONDON, 2 May— Manchester United made light of their recent scoring problems by cruising to a 4-0 win away to Charlton Athletic at The Valley on Sunday, closing the gap in the Premiership on second-placed Arsenal to a point.

Former England midfielder Paul Scholes capitalized on a fumble by debutant Addicks goalkeeper Stephan Andersen to score a 34th minute tap-in and Scotland international Darren Fletcher struck a well-taken second 10 minutes later.

England strikers Alan Smith and Wayne Rooney completed the rout, Smith

scoring in the 62nd minute after robbing Talal El Karkouri of possession and the unmarked Rooney striking a fourth past sorry Charlton five minutes later.

United, who remain third in the Premiership, need to overtake fellow FA Cup finalists Arsenal to qualify directly for the group stages of next season's Champions League.

Arsenal can restore their four point advantage if they beat struggling West Brom away on Monday.

Charlton, suffering their traditional end-of-season slump, had won just once in 11 previous Premiership matches and the defeat leaves them 11th in the table and all but blows their hopes of qualifying for the UEFA Cup.

While Charlton was slaughtered, their city rival Tottenham Hotspur notched up an impressive 5-1 win over Aston Villa to move closer to UEFA Cup football next season. A day after Chelsea won the Premier League title with a 2-0 win at Bolton Wanderers, the chase for European football continued with Spurs moving into a provisional UEFA Cup slot in seventh place.

Spurs were 3-0 up inside the opening half hour after two goals from Mali international striker Frederic Kanoute and one from captain Ledley King, while Gareth Barry pulled one back from the penalty spot for Villa just before the break.

MNA/Xinhua

Strasbourg win French League Cup

PARIS, 2 May— Racing Strasbourg salvaged their season by winning the League Cup after beating fellow Ligue 1 strugglers Caen 2-1 with a late free kick from defender Jean-Christophe Devaux on Saturday. Devaux fired home from 20 metres after 78 minutes to present Strasbourg, who are 14th in the league and threatened by relegation, with a ticket to next season's UEFA Cup.

"It was tough as we knew it would be," said Strasbourg coach Jacky Dugueperoux, whose team had crushed Caen 5-0 in their previous meeting, a Ligue 1 match in February.

"I had said before the final that there was not much difference between the teams and it showed.

"This doesn't salvage our season. It will have done only if we manage to remain in the top flight."

Powerful striker Mamadou Niang put Strasbourg in the lead on 39 minutes, heading in from close range following a cross by midfielder Yacine Abdessadki.

Caen, second from bottom in Ligue 1 and chasing their first major trophy, responded four minutes later, a swift counter-attack ending with striker Sebastien Mazure scoring from the edge of the area.—MNA/Xinhua

Cech relishes title triumph

LONDON, 2 May— Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech admitted clinching the Premiership title was by far the biggest moment of his career to date.

The Czech shot-stopper has enjoyed a tremendous first season in England and was chosen for the PFA Premiership team of the season last week.

He gave another demonstration of his quality with an important save from teammate Geremi in the 2-0 win at Bolton Wanderers that cemented The Blues' first league title in 50 years.

Cech revealed that celebrations after the triumph at Bolton had remained largely low-key, with next week's UEFA Champions League clash with Liverpool in mind, but was delighted to have picked up the first honour of his club career.

"I enjoyed it, it was a great feeling," remarked Cech. "The celebrations continued in the dressing room. Everybody was celebrating, players, the management, coach Mourinho. "We raised a small toast after dinner, but the big celebrations are still to come.

"It's certainly the biggest success of my club career. "When it was still 0-1, I knew we were very, very close to it, but it still wasn't over, because I told myself they could still score.—MNA/Xinhua

AC Milan beat Fiorentina, Cagliari draw Reggina

ROME, 2 May— Andriy Shevchenko scored two goals within eight minutes early in the second half as AC Milan rallied to a 2-1 victory at Fiorentina Saturday to move three points clear of Juventus atop the Serie A.

The record 12th win on the road this season lifted Milan to 76 points with four matches to play.

Juventus can once again tie its rival in first place with a victory as it hosts Bologna on Sunday.

The Turin team will be under heavy pressure as it can not afford losing points ahead of the May 8 showdown with Milan at San Siro, which is likely to decide the 2005 title.

At Artemio Franchi stadium, Shevchenko's goals boosted his team's confidence ahead of Wednesday's Champions League second-leg semifinal at PSV Eindhoven. Milan starts with a 2-0 lead from the first leg.

Fiorentina, a former powerhouse struggling in the relegation zone, played an impressive match, scoring the opening goal, but squandered some clear

chances and was punished by two great moves from Shevchenko, who improved his season record to 16 goals.

Midfielder Enzo Maresca put the Fiorentina team in front after 25 minutes with a quick, close-range header off a rebound from a corner kick.

Shevchenko kicked in a curling cross from Serginho in the 46th and headed in the game winner in the 54th, again fed by his Brazilian teammate.

"Fiorentina played very well, but we were able to turn the match in the second half," Shevchenko said. "We made a very important step forward. Now let's wait for tomorrow's results."

The 14th loss of this season left Fiorentina in next-to-last place with 34 points, within reach by last-place Atalanta which is at Udinese Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua



AC Milan's Andriy Shevchenko (R) scores as Fiorentina's goalkeeper Cristian Cejas (bottom) and Giorgio Chiellini look at the ball during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence on 30 April, 2005.

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign ideological policy balm for labour woes in Africa

NAIROBI, 2 May — The structural adjustment policies induced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have failed to create the required economic growth rates to absorb the unemployed people in Africa, a labour union leader said on Sunday.

According to Francis Atwoli, the secretary-general of Kenya's Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), African countries continue to languish in absolute poverty and underdevelopment due to the adoption of what he calls "foreign ideologies".

Speaking during the international Labour Day celebrations in Nairobi, the Kenyan labour union leader said African countries need a paradigm shift from foreign policies and stick to homegrown economic policies.

"For Kenya and Africa to grow at the rate required to reduce poverty, the whole continent must undergo a new era of re-birth. We should delink from foreign policies," Atwoli told workers who had gathered to mark the day.

The Labour Day celebrations, largely snubbed by Kenyans who felt nothing ever comes out of the national cer-

emonies, focused on the theme "Show us the Jobs", a tactical demand on the government to show proof of the 500,000 jobs it pledged to create every year.

African companies are facing stiff competition on the global scene, following rapid globalization currently catching up with ill-prepared firms on the manufacturing sector.

Atwoli said the manufacturing sector is one of the biggest casualties of the economic reforms induced by the World Bank and IMF, which has led to the retrenchment of workers as their working conditions deteriorate.

Cutthroat competition combined with the dumping of substandard goods has undermined the growth of local industries and employers have been forced to declare workers redundant and retrench them without paying dues, Atwoli said.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish PM optimistic about Mideast peace

ANKARA, 2 May — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that the ceasefire declared between Israel and Palestinians on 8 February makes Turkey optimistic about peace, security and stability in the future.

Erdogan made the remarks before his departure for his two-day official visits to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Heading a large Turkish delegation including four ministers, some 10 Parliament members and about 100 businessmen, Erdogan is on a tour aimed at mending fences with Israel and reaffirming support for the Palestinians.

Erdogan said "in our meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials, we will inform the parties that Turkey can help negotiations between Israel and Palestine. We may be able to sponsor conferences in Turkey that will contribute to Israeli-Palestinian ties." As for the relations with Israel, Erdogan stressed that Turkish-Israeli ties have a multi-dimensional shape, saying that "in the recent past, our economic and commercial ties with Israel have developed significantly. As of the end of 2004, our mutual trade volume reached two billion US dollars". "During my present visit, we will sign a Turkey-Israel Industrial

Research and Development Cooperation Agreement," he added.

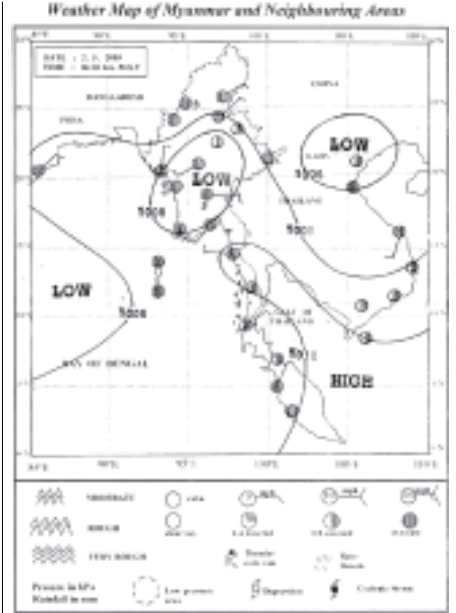
Erdogan is to meet on Sunday with Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Turkey had maintained close economic and defence ties with Israel but the bilateral ties took a chilled turn last year when Erdogan called Israel's assassination of Hamas leaders "state terror".

Israel considered Erdogan's visit as a return to "business as usual" between the two countries.

After the talks in Israel, Erdogan is scheduled to arrive in the West Bank city of Ramallah Monday to meet Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei. "Turkey supports its Palestinian brothers and sisters in living under an independent government's roof... Turkey will continue assistance to Palestine during its reconstruction process."

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 2 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Bago Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Monghsat (2.17) inches. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin States, Yangon and upper Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mon State Magway Division, (8°C) above normal Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature were Magway, Minbu and Tharrawady (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 1-5-2005 was 106°F. Minimum temperature on 2-5-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-5-2005 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 1-5-2005 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 2-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 1.46 inches at Yangon Airport, 1.93 inches at Kaba-Aye and 0.32 inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at 13:15 hours MST on 30-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South West Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-5-2005: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan State, upper Sagaing Division isolated in Northern Rakhine State, Mandalay, lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Tundery conditions in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree if certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree if certainty is (60%).



Tuesday, 3 May
View on today:

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အဝန်ထမ်းအောင်ပွဲခွင့်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ သဒ္ဒါပညာတော်ကော်မတီ၊ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတရား၊ ဓမ္မာတရားဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဝိသုသင်တန်း ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. ကဏ္ဍမန်ဥယျာဉ်
- 8:00 am
- 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
- 7. Song of Yesteryear
- 8:20 am

- 8. သင်္ဃန်းကျောင်းတော်
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အစားအသောက်အကျင့်တရား ရှောင်ကြဉ်သည့်အားဖြင့် သင့်အတွက် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Dance of national races
- 5:30 pm
- 7. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဂီတ
- 5:45 pm
- 8. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:15 pm
- 9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဇာတ်လမ်းပုံရိပ်" (အပိုင်း-၅၀)
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
- 12. Musical programme
- 7:15 pm
- 13. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အကျိုး
- 7:25 pm
- 14. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
- 7:40 pm
- 15. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ နှလုံးသားဝါး အလှည့်စားပွဲနှင့် တရားမဝင် ရောင်းဝယ်မှုတိုက်ဖျက်ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ၏ အဖွဲ့ဝင်များအား နှစ်စဉ် အဖမ်းဆီးပစ်ခတ်မှုများကို ဖြည့်စွက်အကြောင်း သိစေရန်
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 8:15 pm
- 17. International news
- 8:30 pm
- 18. Weather report
- 8:45 pm
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗဟုမန်ဆောင်း၏ ရုစိသံတို" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 9:00 pm
- 20. The next day's programme



Tuesday, 3 May
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Love is blind
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Gotta tell you
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Whenever you go
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -In this life
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch Time Music: -Hello darling -I love you -Truely, madly, deeply -How do I live
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level-II Unit
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:25 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure -I'm all about you -Life is good
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw atop historic Mahavijayaranthi Pagoda in Phayagyi Model Village



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials hoist Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop Mahavijayaranthi Pagoda .—MNA

YANGON, 2 May—A ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop historic Mahavijayaranthi Pagoda on Thuwunna Mantala Hill in Phayagyi Model Village, Bago Township, Bago Division, was held in the precinct of the pagoda this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Bago Panhlaing Sarthintaik Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita

Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Sasana, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the Presiding Sayadaws of Bago Myoma Sarthintaik and Dhammar Lankara Kyaungtaik, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife, senior military officers, heads of department, local authorities, well-wishers, guests, social organizations and local people.

The first session of the ceremony was held with

the recitation of Namo Tassa three times.

Next, the congregation led by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasana.

Later, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented Seinbudaw and offertories to a Sayadaw while Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife presented

(See page 9)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects use of electricity at ministries, departments

YANGON, 2 May — Chairman of Electricity and Fuel Use Supervisory Committee member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by

Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and member Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials, inspected use of electric-

ity at departments and ministries here this morning.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at the office of the Ministry of Industry-2 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where he checked the use of electricity and gave instructions to officials on efficient use of electricity, use of power only at the places where there is not enough sunlight during the day time and proper use of electrical facilities in the office rooms.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected the use of electricity at the office of the Ministry of Mines and departments, and left necessary instructions to officials.

They went to the Ministry of Industry-1. Minister U Aung Thuang reported on efficient use of electricity. Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected proper use of electricity at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Ministry of Home Affairs and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

INSIDE

Members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Associations throughout the country work in cooperation with local and international organizations including the UN agencies. No doubt MMCWA members are a part of our nation's strength!

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Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects consumption of electricity at an office under the Ministry of Industry-2.—MNA