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Thursday, 19 May, 2005

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

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Australian Ambassador

YANGON, 18 May — Mr Robert Joseph Davis, newly accredited Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Australian Ambassador Mr Robert Joseph Davis. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to Myanmar Mr Robert Joseph Davis. — MNA

Seed-sowing ceremony held

YANGON, 18 May— Sagaing Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee organized a seed-sowing ceremony at the compound of Division Development Affairs Committee in Monywa on 15 May morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of

Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai Khaing, Patron of the supervisory committee, senior military officers, members of division, district and township MCWAs, members of

social organizations, and service personnel.

Joint-Secretary of the supervisory committee Dr Daw Yee Yee Lwin presented matters on the ceremony.

Next, the commander and wife and those present collectively sowed seeds.

—MNA

School enrolment day observed at Aungmingala BEPS in Hmawby

YANGON, 18 May — The school enrolment day ceremony was held at Aungmingala Basic Education Primary School in Hmawby Township this morning, attended by Minister for Education U Than Aung.

On the occasion, the

minister said that school enrolment rate was 96.56 per cent in 2004-2005 academic year, and the target has been set to reach cent per cent rate of the enrolment in 2005-2006 academic year.

Next, the minister presented school uni-

forms to students and books to the headmistress. Officials also provided school equipment and stationery to students. A similar ceremony was held at BEPS in Ngakhonmasan Village of Hmawby Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 May, 2005

Towards a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy

The Union of Myanmar is endowed with such favourable conditions as terrestrial and aquatic resources, educated human resources and healthy workforce, strong economic capital and community peace.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the government is carrying out development work for the progress of all the regions across the Union, for narrowing down the economic and social divide between one region and another and for enhancing the living standard of the entire national people.

The opening of a new pulp plant was held in Thabaung Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Division, on 14 May and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address at the ceremony, the Prime Minister said that the national people working for their own interests as well as for the interests of their region could be regarded as those working for improving the national economic life and that, in the same way, the interests of each and every region should be commensurate with the interests of the Union.

The economic situation of the nation is getting better and better year after year and states and divisions are also equitably developing. Moreover, all the regions of the Union are now enjoying peace, stability and development. Mutual trust and understanding and cooperation among the national races have been achieved and national unity is becoming more and more consolidated.

As a result, some groups of national races have exchanged arms for peace unconditionally and are now working together with the government for all-round development of the nation.

The entire national people are now working actively and unitedly for the development of the Union and for smooth transition to a democratic system suitable to the nation and the people.

Therefore, we would like to call on the people living in the Union to fully cooperate with the government to achieve the common goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.

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ကျောင်းအုပ်နှံ့ရေးသီတင်းဝတ်
မေလ၏ နောက်ဆုံးသီတင်းပတ်



ကျောင်းနေအရွယ်ကလေးကျောင်းအုပ်နှံ့ရေး
ပြည်သူ့အားလုံးဝါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး။

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

Appointment of Nepalese Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 18 May — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Lt-Gen (Retd) Victory SJB Rana as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Nepal to the Union of Myanmar.

Lt-Gen (Retd) Victory SJB Rana was born on 3 August 1945. He joined the Royal Nepalese Army in August 1965. Since joining the Military Service, he had served in various capacities in the Royal Nepalese Army. He served as a Chief of General Staff in Royal Nepalese Army and retired in 2003. He is married with Mrs Padma Rana. He has one son and one daughter. — MNA

Deputy Minister leaves for Cambodia to attend drug control meeting

YANGON, 18 May — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun left here by air this morning to attend the ministerial meeting for drug control of six countries to be held in Cambodia on 19 May.

The deputy minister was seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, Director-General U Than Swe of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, Police Adjutant-General Police Brig-Gen Soe Win Myint and officials.

Before the meeting, Joint-Secretary Police Col Kham Aung of CCDAC, Director (International) Police Col Thein Kyi and Director of PBANRDA U Nyi Nyi attended the preliminary meeting of the 2nd ASEAN-China drug elimination conference on 15 and 16 May and the senior officer meeting for drug control on 17 and 18 May. —MNA



PBANRDA Deputy Minister being seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport before departure for Cambodia.—PBANRDA

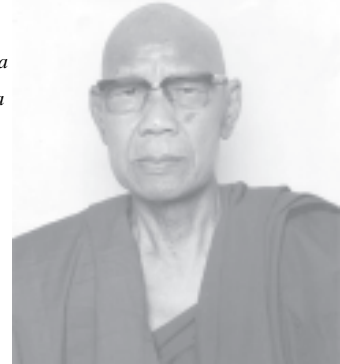
Health education talks held

YANGON, 18 May— Under the arrangements of AIDS/HIV Control Project, Shan State (South) Health Department and Mongnaung Station Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Loilem District jointly conducted the health education talks at the basic education primary school in

Mongnaung Station on 11 May. Present on the occasion were the wife of Brig-Gen Aye Thaung of Mongnaung Station, senior military officers, Tatmadaw members and families, health staff, and members of social organizations. Head of Shan State (South) Health Depart-

Bhaddanta Sumanabhivamsa passes away

State
Ovadaçariya
Bhaddanta
Sumanabhivamsa
passes
away.
MNA



YANGON, 18 May — State Ovadaçariya and Presiding Nayaka of Masoeyin Monastery of Maha Aungmye Township Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumanabhivamsa, aged 79 and 59 vasa, passed away on Monday, 16 May, and the final rites ceremony will be held on Thursday, 26 May. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents certificate of honour from International Hockey Federation to Vice-President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Naing at the ceremony of Global Youth Hockey Marathon Umpires, jointly-conducted by MOC,IHF and MHF. — MHF

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 18 May — President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry U Win Myint scored an ace of 154 yards at the 5th hole in City Golf Resort (Ngwethawda course), yesterday morning.

His partners were U Aung Naing (Asia Winner Industrial Co Ltd) and U Inn Ya (Top De-tergent).

NLM

All this needs to be known

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

African countries strive toward aviation liberalization

JOHANNESBURG, 17 May — African countries are finding ways to speed up the process of deregulating and liberalizing the aviation industry at an air transport conference opened in Sun City, about 200 kilometres north of Johannesburg, on Monday.

Some 40 ministers from African countries gathered at the four-day conference with the aim of strengthening cooperation among African airlines, improving safety and security, reducing the cost of flying and committing to the swift implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on open sky in Africa.

The declaration, which was endorsed by African heads of state in 2000, aims to liberalize the rules that govern African skies, making it possible for African airlines to fly anywhere in

the continent without applying for landing rights.

The treaty allows for flexibility in the granting of traffic rights, more routes for African airlines and the scrapping of limits on flight frequencies within the African market.

The African open-skies policy should have come into effect in December 2002, but has been slowed by a lack of political will on the part of many governments, aviation analysts said.

Travel within the continent is hampered by lack of service between many African cities, with the result that some countries are only accessible via Europe.

“This obviously dampens prospects for economic development,” said Collen Msibi, a spokesman for the Transport Department.

The International Civil Aviation Organization said last year that the liberalization of the aviation industry in Africa was long overdue.

MNA/Xinhua



Singaporeans too dependent on Govt in tackling terror threat

SINGAPORE, 17 May — A majority of Singaporeans trust their government to fully handle a terrorist threat but lack self-preparedness, Channel NewsAsia quoted the latest survey by the Ministry of Information, Communications and Arts as saying on Sunday.

A record high of 76 per cent surveyed think the security measures taken by the government adequate, while 70 per cent believe that the government would be able to ensure a quick recovery after a terrorist attack.

The survey also showed that only 52 per cent of those polled know what to do in a terror attack, suggesting a worrying lack of self-preparedness among Singaporeans.

While about 90 per cent polled hold that Singaporeans should keep united in the face of terrorist threats, experts warned that people are too dependent on the government.

The report said that the government will continue to enhance Singaporeans' awareness of vigilance and getting them prepared for emergencies, and reinforce the need for national resilience in its fight against terrorism. — MNA/Xinhua

China offers plan to halt mountain torrents

BEIJING, 17 May — A plan for the prevention and control of mountain torrents, the first of its kind in China, passed expert examination last week, according to the Ministry of Water Resources of China.

Jointly written by five government departments of the State Council, the plan will offer powerful technological support to the country's mountain torrent prevention and control work.

According to the ministry, mountain torrents include floods, mud flows, landslides and other natural disasters caused by rainfall in mountainous areas during rainy seasons. They can cause tremendous amounts of damage as they are generally sudden, powerful and difficult to prevent.

More than 1,000 experts and local governments from 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions were involved in the writing of the plan, which includes five main points.

The ministry said the plan includes a thorough investigation of the country's frequent mountain flood areas and analyzes their causes and characteristics.

“As a result of unfavourable climates, terrain and human activities, mountain torrents have become a key cause of human casualties,” said the ministry.

Statistics from the ministry indicate that 1,500 of the country's 2,100 counties are located in mountainous areas and about 74 million Chinese people are still under threats posed by mountain torrents, mud flows and landslides.

From 1950 to 1990, mountain torrents killed about 152,000 people, 67.4 per cent of those killed by floods.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors make their way along a restored section of the Great Wall on 17 May, 2005.—INTERNET

UAE to provide one million jobs to Nepali workers

KATHMANDU, 17 May — United Arab Emirates (UAE) will provide one million jobs to Nepali workers in the coming few years, a government official said here Monday.

“The UAE Government has instructed all private and government companies to give high priority to Nepal because there are comparatively fewer Nepali in UAE than from other countries, and

they are known for their hard work and sincerity,” Purushottam Ojha, acting secretary of Ministry of Labour and Transport Management, told reporters. The ministry has also been informed about the significant increase in the quota for Nepali workers in UAE, Ojha noted, adding, “There are about 100,000 Nepali who are waiting to go to UAE this year alone.” Nepal has been the source country of labour for UAE since 2000, and about 100,000 Nepali have gone there in the last five years.

After Malaysia and Qatar, UAE is the third country where increasing number of Nepali are going for employment. Every day, about 500 Nepali workers are going aboard, and 100 of them head for UAE.

MNA/Xinhua

1,622 US soldiers killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 18 May — As of Tuesday, 17 May, 2005, at least 1,622 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,242 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 11 am EDT Tuesday.

The British military has reported 87 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,484 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,133 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 12,516 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday.

Internet



Sony Corp unveils its new HDR-HC1 digital high-definition video camera recorder in Tokyo on 17 May, 2005.—INTERNET



A Star Wars fan dressed as a Stormtrooper character jokes around with a Thai child at a promotion for the upcoming Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith movie at a cinema in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 May, 2005.—INTERNET

ဝက်ပူပွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Vietnam, Laos to exempt import taxes on counterpart's goods

HANOI, 17 May — Vietnam and Laos are negotiating on lists of goods of the two countries to enjoy zero import tax, local newspaper *Investment* on Monday quoted Vietnam's Trade Ministry as saying.

The ministry will submit such a list to the Vietnamese Government, asking it to approve the application of the zero tariff on Laos goods in the list in the third quarter of this year. However, the report did not mention the quantity as well as type of goods in the list.

The tax preferential treatment is a step leading to a Vietnam-Laos free

trade agreement, the report said.

Since Vietnam and Laos signed an official trade agreement in 1961, their trade has increased gradually, with two-way trade standing at 142 million US dollars in 2004, up from 110 million dollars in 2003, according to the Lao Embassy in Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao addresses 2005 Fortune Global Forum

BEIJING, 17 May — To achieve its goal for the first 20 years of this century, China must be prepared for a long and uphill journey ahead, President Hu Jintao said at the opening ceremony of the 2005 Fortune Global Forum held Monday in Beijing.

Hu said, "We in China have identified the goal for the first 20 years of this century. That is to firmly seize the important window of strategic opportunities to build a moderately prosperous society of a higher standard in all-around way for the benefits of our over one billion people."

"By 2020, we will quadruple China's GDP of 2000 to approximately four trillion US dollars with a per capita level of some 3,000 US dollars, and further develop the economy, improve democracy, advance science and education, enrich culture, foster greater social harmony and upgrade the texture of life for the people."

"We are deeply aware that China, for a considerably long period of time

to come, will remain a developing country. The population figure of 1.3 billion alone will make the fulfillment of the above goal a formidable challenge, and we must be prepared for a long and uphill journey ahead."

Hu said, "To realize this goal, we must uphold the scientific approach in achieving economic and social development of the country. We must put the people first, making the fundamental interests of the broadest masses of people our point of departure and endeavouring to satisfy their growing material and cultural needs to pursue the comprehensive development of man."

"We must focus on economic development as our central task, making

development our top priority and facilitating an all-round progress in economic, political and cultural aspects and in the building of a harmonious society." Hu said, "We must stick to the direction of reform for a socialist market economy, step up institutional innovation, deepen reforms aimed at galvanizing creative vitality of society and increase the inherent dynamics for economic and social development."

"We must adhere to our basic policy of opening to the outside world, building a more open market place and allowing the country to participate more broadly in international economic and technological cooperation and competition with

still wider and higher dimensions."

"We must follow a new course of industrialization, endeavour to overhaul the economic structure, quickly transform the ways of economic growth by improving its quality and efficiency, vigorously develop the circular economy and build a resource-effective and environment-friendly society, thus blazing a trail of development characterized by higher productivity, comfortable life for the people and a sustainable eco-system."

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Thailand allow tourist cars to enter their territories

HANOI, 17 May — First right-handed wheel cars from Thailand will arrive in Vietnam late this month, following a recent agreement reached by the two countries, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Monday.

Cars carrying Thai tourists are permitted to enter Vietnam's seven central localities such as Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam and Nghe An via the Lao Bao border gate in Quang Tri Province or the Cau Treo border gate in Ha Tinh Province, while Vietnamese people can visit tourism sites in Thailand by left-handed wheel cars.

The free movement of tourist cars in parts of Vietnam and Thailand will help boost tourism sectors of the two countries, since it takes only six hours for Thai tourists to travel from Thailand's northeastern region to Vietnam's central beaches, the report said.

Over 20,900 Thai visitors came to Vietnam in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 29.9 per cent, according to the Vietnam's National Administration of Tourism.

MNA/Xinhua

Kazakhstan's Defence Chief says to withdraw troops from Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Kazakhstan should withdraw its soldiers from Iraq when their current mandate expires, the Central Asian country's Defence Minister was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying on Tuesday.

"It's time to think about ending the work of our military unit in Iraq," Defence Minister Mukhtar Altynbayev said.

"After the term of the

troops there finishes at the end of July, maybe we won't send any more," the minister said.

Kazakhstan currently has 27 soldiers stationed in war-torn Iraq.

Internet

New guideline to ease small companies' financial strain in China

BEIJING, 17 May — China's banking watchdog has required domestic banks to restructure their businesses to take advantage of the niche market of small non-public companies, a new growth point in China's economy strained by capital shortage.

Calling the market of bank loans toward small companies "vast and promising", Shi Jiliang, vice-president of the China Banking Regulatory Commission said here Sunday that the commission would soon issue specific guidelines to help domestic banks make better use of these new opportunities.

After years of opening-up and economic reform, China's non-public economy, most companies of which are small and privately owned, has contributed more than one-third of the country's total gross domestic product and created more than 70 per cent of the job opportunities in cities and towns, as official statistics reveal.

A common problem restricting their growth potential is capital shortfall as

they face more difficulty than large and state-owned companies getting bank credits.

Giving no timetable for the release of the guideline, Shi said commercial banks should provide loans on a voluntary basis and following the rules of the market.

Banks are allowed to design their own products and set their own prices. A sound interior governance mechanism must be established to better control market risks, he said.

Given that Chinese laws require lending rates should not be three times higher than the benchmark interest rate set by the Central Bank, analysts said that commercial banks may have to walk a tight rope so as not to break the ceiling.

MNA/Xinhua

A photographer is seen taking pictures of the Miss Universe 2005 crown as it is put up on display by the Mikimoto Pearl Company at a hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 May, 2005.
INTERNET



Restrictions on textile exports “not good” for Sino-US trade ties

BEIJING, 17 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Monday that the United States' decision to take special safeguard measures, which leads to quotas, or trade restrictions, on three kinds of Chinese textile products exported to the US is “not good” for Sino-US trade ties.

Wen told a US Chamber of Commerce delegation led by President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas Donohue that it's normal that some problems have emerged in Sino-US trade but they should not be politicized.

According to World Trade Organization agreements, quotas on textile trade were eliminated worldwide as of January 1 this year, leading to surging Chinese textile exports. But the United States alleges that such growth has disturbed its market, though China has levied export taxes on such products to restrain growth.

US Secretary of

Commerce Carlos Gutierrez announced last Friday that the US Government has decided to re-impose quotas on three types of apparel imports, including cotton knit shirts, cotton trousers, and cotton and man-made fiber underwear, from China.

“The integration of global textile trade reflects great progress in the world's multilateral trade system and as major trade countries, both China and the United States should jointly preserve such a fruit from a long-term of point of view,” Wen said.

“We two countries should properly handle those problems in

points of consensus on developing Sino-US trade and economic ties,” Wen said.

Sino-US trade soared by more than 60 times in the last two decades, proving “Chinese and US economic and trade cooperation is reciprocal and reasonable,” according to Wen.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce show that Sino-US trade has grown from 2.5 billion US dollars 26 years ago to 169.6 billion US dollars in 2004.

“Such a development has promoted the two countries' economic progress and brought concrete benefits for the people of both countries,”

the Chinese Premier said.

During Wen's last trip to the United States in 2003, the two sides agreed to expand trade and economic cooperation and reached five points of consensus, which stressed mutual-benefits, development, dialogue and coordination, equality and the promise not to mix trade issues with politics.

Wen said China does not seek large trade surpluses and it only accounted for 2.8 per cent of China's trade volume last year, which exceeded 1,000 billion US dollars for the first time and hit 1,150 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian PM approves \$ 40b for rural development

NEW DELHI, 17 May — In a move to boost rural infrastructure development under the plan outlined in the budget, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday approved an outlay of 1.74 trillion rupees (40 billion US dollars) for the mega project, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported. This plan “is the most important initiative of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government this year, offering a new deal to rural India”, the Prime Minister said while chairing a meeting of the Committee on Rural Infrastructure.

He said it will entail an investment of over 1.74 trillion rupees during a four year period (2005-09) in six critical areas of rural infrastructure.

The mega project will bring an additional 10 million hectares under assured irrigation, connect villages with a population of 1,000 (or 500 in hilly/tribal areas) with a road, construct six million houses for poor, provide drinking water to over 74,000 new habitations and provide power and telephone connectivity to all villages. Currently, an estimated 125,000 villages and 23 million households in the country still lack electricity connections, while 66,822 villages are awaiting telephone links.

Manmohan Singh urged the implementing ministries and province governments to facilitate “absorptive capacity” so that the “system does not become a constraint on our ability to deliver”.

MNA/Xinhua

US, EU have no grounds for complaint in China's textile issue

SINGAPORE, 17 May — Chris Patten, the European Union commissioner, said here Monday that the United States and the European Union have no grounds for complaining about the surge in China's textile exports.

“It's interesting that it is China which has been able to take the greatest advantage of the scrapping of quotas in the textile business,” Channel NewsAsia quoted Patten as saying.

The United States and the European Union said that China's increased textile export since the abolishment of the worldwide quota system on certain textile products on 1 January this year has

disrupted the market order of other countries.

China, on the other hand, denied the allegation, saying that the United States and the European Union violated the rules of the World Trade Organization by imposing restriction to curb China's textile exports.

Speaking at a regional trade exhibition held here, Patten noted that as a result of economic

development, China and India will eventually play a leading role in the world alongside the United States.

He also urged the integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), such as developing a proper market and a Customs union, so as to be much stronger in the competition with China and India.

MNA/Xinhua



Shoppers queue up at cashiers at a Tokyo supermarket on 17 May, 2005. —INTENRET

Vietnam sets to reform 124 enterprises under Defence Ministry

HANOI, 17 May — Vietnam will restructure 124 enterprises under its Ministry of Defence from now to the end of 2006, according to local newspaper *Investment* on Monday.

Under a recent government decision, of the 124 enterprises, 19, mainly construction companies, are slated for equitization, two for bankruptcy and one for merger. The state will keep on holding capital in other enterprises after restructure.

Only one company under the ministry will be established in the period. Now, many businesses under the ministry specialize in construction and machinery installation.

MNA/Xinhua

HK to set new charge for child-delivery of non-HK mothers

HONG KONG, 18 May — A plan of minimum package charge of 20,000 Hong Kong dollars (2,564 US dollars) for non-Hong Kong residents receiving obstetrics services has been submitted to the Hong Kong Legislative Council, in a bid to reduce the number of non-Hong Kong mothers giving birth in public hospitals.

According to a government Press release, the fee will cover delivery and maintenance bills in a public ward for the first three days of hospitalizations. The same minimum charge will apply irrespective of the mode of delivery, which is a clinical decision to be made by doctors.

If a non-eligible mother stays more than three days in hospital, the extra days will be charged at the current daily flat rate — 3,300 Hong Kong dollars (385 US dollars) per day. Other public ward charges currently applicable to non-eligible mothers will remain.

In a Legislative Council paper, the Hospital Authority has made reference to the level of relevant fees in the private sector when determining the quantum of the minimum package charge.

MNA/Xinhua



A Beijing cyber cafe seen on 17 May, 2005. —INTENRET

Japan's current account surplus hits record high in fiscal 2004

TOKYO, 17 May — Japan's current account surplus hit a record high of 18.29 trillion yen (about 171 billion US dollars) in fiscal 2004, up 5.8 per cent from a year earlier and logging a record high for the second straight year, according to a preliminary report released by Japanese Finance Ministry on Monday.

It was also the third straight yearly expansion, and was spurred by brisk exports to the Asian and US markets and a record high surplus in the income account, the ministry said in the report.

The balance of trade in goods and services for the year to March 31 posted a surplus of 9.52 trillion yen (88.9 billion dollars), down 0.9 per cent.

The surplus in mer-

chandise trade grew 2.0 per cent to 13.56 trillion yen (126.7 billion dollars), with exports up 10.2 per cent to 58.83 trillion yen (549.8 billion dollars) and imports up 13.0 per cent to 45.27 trillion yen (423.1 billion dollars).

Exports to all major trading partners increased, with those to Asia up 13.6 per cent and shipments to the United States up 3.6 per cent. Exports to the

European Union rose 5.9 per cent.

Imports from Asian economies increased 13.5 per cent and those from the European Union rose 4.6 per cent. But imports from the United States shrank 0.3 per cent. Imports were inflated in value terms due to surges in oil and other commodity prices.

According to the report, the balance of Ja-

pan's services trade for fiscal 2004 logged a deficit of 4.04 trillion yen (37.7 billion dollars), up 9.5 per cent from a year earlier for the first expansion in two years.

The income account, covering income from Japanese investments in foreign securities and payments by foreign employers in Japan, marked a record high surplus of 9.73 trillion yen, up 14.3 per cent from a year earlier.

The current account balance — the broadest gauge of trade in goods and services — is the difference between a nation's income from foreign sources and foreign obligations payable, excluding net capital investment.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam to develop rubber industry

HANOI, 17 May — Vietnam plans to increase its rubber tree acreage to 700,000 hectares with dried latex output of some 520,000 tons in 2010 from current 500,000 hectares, and build more rubber processing plants in the coming years, the Vietnam Rubber Association said on Monday.

Besides growing more rubber trees in the central highlands region, the southeastern region and some remote areas, Vietnam will intensify investment in raising productivity of existing rubber plantations, renovating ways of collecting latex, and building new processing plants adjacent to material zones, the association noted.

Many local experts have proposed the Ministry of Industry build several new rubber plants with annual capacity of 1,300-1,500 tons each in the central highlands region, and 9-10 other plants with annual capacity of 6,000-20,000 tons each in the southeastern region.

Vietnam, which now exports around 90 per cent of its rubber output, shipped 495,000 tons of rubber worth 579 million US dollars to 46 countries and regions, mainly China, South Korea and Germany, last year, posting year-on-year respective rises of 14.2 per cent and 53.2 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua



Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, said it will expand its network in China dramatically this year while also boosting its export business from the country.

INTERNET

Thai pigs declared free from avian flu

BANGKOK, 17 May — The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives confirmed Sunday that no cases of avian flu had been found among Thai pigs, pointing to strict measures to ensure that the virus did not spread from poultry to other animals.

Speaking in response to the discovery of the H5N1 virus among pigs in Indonesia. Dr Charal Trinvuthipong, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, stressed that Thailand had been carefully monitoring for signs of the disease in pigs, but had not found any instances of the virus, local newspapers reported Monday.

Under Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives rules draw up during the height of the bird flu crisis, farmers are told not to raise chickens and pigs together, and to inform district livestock officials immediately if they discover any animal dying of unknown causes.

The Indonesian discovery is particularly worrying, given the genetic similarities between pigs and humans, and the fact that pigs are often responsible for the spread of the human influenza virus. Scientists are concerned that the spread of avian flu to pigs could lead to the emergence of a new and potentially fatal strain of human flu.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore remains prime target for transnational terrorism

SINGAPORE, 17 May — Singapore is still a prime target for transnational terrorism, the most immediate threat to all countries, Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said in Parliament on Monday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, Tan urged Singaporeans to adopt "security consciousness" as a way of life, since a recent survey showed that they are too dependent on the government for the response to a terrorist attack.

However, he ruled out the possibility of any public alarm, saying that Singapore has taken security measures such as screening every piece of luggage at the airport.

Getting increasingly aware of the real threat posed by terrorism, countries in the region including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand are promoting cooperation to tackle the problem, said Tan.

He warned that the recent arrest of key terrorist leaders might cause terrorist groups to split, each with its own agenda, which will make the situation even worse.

MNA/Xinhua

Donors commit to provide \$2.2b to Sri Lanka

KANDY (Sri Lanka), 17 May — A top Sri Lankan official told an international donor forum on Monday that the donors have firmed up commitments worth 2.2 billion US dollars to rebuild the areas devastated by the 26 December tsunami.

Finance Minister Sarath Amunugama told the Sri Lanka Development Forum that this figure was higher than the original estimate of two billion US dollars needed over a period of three to five years.

Sri Lanka's donors are

attending a two day meeting from Monday in this central hill town to review the country's progress in its development and poverty reduction strategies.

Amunugama, who chaired the forum, said "I am glad to report to you

that pledges made round the table has been much more than we anticipated."

P B Jayasundera, the secretary to the Ministry of Finance, said 90 per cent of the pledges or 1.92 billion US dollars would be grants.

The Sri Lankan Government is also expected to benefit from international debt relief worth 300 million US dollars, further easing the burden of reconstruction bill caused by the tsunami.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga earlier in the day had told the delegates that she would be making an announcement on the joint co-ordination mechanism to be entered with the Tamil Tigers during the next few weeks.

The donors had mooted the idea of a joint mechanism to co-ordinate the relief operations in the Tamil regions in the north and east following allegations of discrimination by the Tamil Tigers.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian model displays Marks and Spencer summer 2005 collection at a fashion show at their showroom in New Delhi, India, on 17 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Because of conspiracy of destructive elements

Sai Thiha

At the press conference 3/2005, held on 22 April 2005, the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council explained in detail the great conspiracy of a remnant handful of colonialist stooges still upholding feudalism and narrow racism. Their perpetration posed a grave danger to the entire nation and the people.

On the auspicious Myanmar New Year Day, that fell on 17 April 2005, the conspirators, who are none other than Sao Hkam Hpa and his cohorts, betraying the national cause, announced the formation of a self-styled government. Two days later on 19 April, the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar declared the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa unlawful, followed by the declarations of all the national race groups, which have made peace with the Government, and social organizations including the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the largest NGO in Myanmar in which new generation youths numbering half the nation's population are members, proclaiming their stance to oppose and condemn the conspiracy. In addition, all the ten political parties including the National League for Democracy that are legally existing in Myanmar also opposed and denounced the conspirators.

The essence of the proclamations stands witness to the fact that all the nationalities of Myanmar, with strong patriotism and Union Spirit upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, never tolerate and give an inch to any act that may endanger the Union, national unity and the sovereignty's continued existence. In other words, only those with the concept of Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty — can shape the nation's history and future and can also defend the nation. "Our Three Main National Causes" is the foundation of Union Spirit.

The 17th April 2005 ushered into New Year which was an auspicious day. But, Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices inheriting the colonialists' evil legacy intentionally chose the day to tarnish it according to the wish of their neo-colonialist masters.

All the clarifications made by the Information Minister at the press meet are free from subjective, slanted and biased views, but are only the objective accounts, worthy of being chronicled. The people of the nation welcomed and applauded his clarifications as they reflect the Tatmadaw's unwavering stance — the interest of the entire nation and the people is the first and foremost priority.

The greater momentum the National Convention is gaining at present, and the sincerity of the SSNA brigade 11 under the command of U Kan Na and the PSLA led by U Aik Mone, that have unconditionally exchanged arms for peace recently, are the real auspicious and encouraging news welcoming the New Year.

All the renegades and fugitives from the present Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts to the expatriates led by Sein Win and the oldest expatriates are different in form from one another, but in essence they are the same. They all are destructive elements. The one-time elite refused to forget the time of their good days and held onto their beliefs adamantly.

The forces that unanimously and energetically oppose and denounce the traitorous acts of Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices are the constructive elements to build and defend the nation. Their main

concept is that the national interest of the Union of Myanmar is the driving force in all aspects. In other words, as they are the majority, they represent the nation as her main strength and their resolve is prevailing over the evil wish of a handful of saboteurs in a democratic way.

The greater momentum the National Convention is gaining at present, and the sincerity of the SSNA brigade 11 under the command of U Kan Na and the PSLA led by U Aik Mone, that have unconditionally exchanged arms for peace recently, are the real auspicious and encouraging news welcoming the New Year.

The tug of war between the right and the wrong, the constructive and the destructive and the good and the evil always reaches its nodal point at one time. The world today has seen the downfall of the colonialism, and the rise of neo-colonialism that always has a hand in every conspiracy in any part of the world.

The history of national unity which has started since time immemorial witnessed a milestone when the Panglong Agreement was reached in 1947. All of us know that the national brethren signed the Agreement after overcoming the many difficulties and attempts to divide the nation. When the colonialists were about to lose their colonies, as the last straw, they sowed seeds of mistrust among the national races to cause disintegration and disarray in the former colonies. History stands witness to the fact.

At present also the expatriates of the one-time elites are seeking advice from the neo-colonialists with the sole intention to break up the Union. Thus, all the nationalities should be aware of and ward off their perpetration with unity.

* * *

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 18.5.2005.

Monkey meat sparks virus outbreak in Republic of Congo

JOHANNESBURG, 18 May — Nine people have died from an infection caused by an Ebola-like virus in the northwestern reaches of the Republic of Congo, travel health specialist Dr Andrew Jamieson warned here on Monday.

"The first cases apparently appeared among Itoumbi villagers who had gone elephant hunting and who touched and ate a dead monkey they found in the forest," Jamieson said.

According to health authorities, at least 11 people have contracted the disease since 4 May.

The outbreak occurred in the Itoumbi and Mbomo Districts, located 700 kilometres and 900 kilometres northwest of Congo's capital city, Brazzaville.

Besides being a danger to people living in the area, the warning was also important for people travelling to the region, which borders northwest Angola where there are many South Africans

working in the diamond industry. Health officials were trying to track down 56 people suspected of close contact with the dead to ensure early diagnosis and to contain the spread of the highly contagious virus.

Both the Ebola and Ebola-like Marburg viruses spread through contact with bodily fluids. The United Nations' Integrated Regional Information Networks quoted Congo's Minister of Health Alphonse Gando as saying that people must absolutely avoid all contact with patients, even if they are relatives and, above all, not touch dead animals in the forest."

Jamieson explained that the virus falls under

the category of acute haemorrhagic fevers, of which there are about eight or nine.

MNA/Xinhua

S African retailers reject union demand on local products

JOHANNESBURG, 18 May — South Africa's four major chain stores Monday rejected labour union demands that clothing retailers buy more local products.

Foschini, Truworths, Woolworths and Edcon said in a joint statement "this solution is unequivocally rejected by the... major retailers as it will ultimately increase poverty and hardship."

"The requirement for retailers to sign a code guaranteeing local procurement levels irrespective of price, quality and variety seems to suggest that retailers can simply insist their customers pay more and control their preferences and tastes," it said.

The retailers said they were as concerned about the state of the local clothing and textile manufacturing industry as the Congress of SA Trade Unions (COSATU) and the SA Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU).— MNA/Xinhua

African experts call for better airline connectivity

NAIROBI, 18 May — African countries must urgently address airline connectivity and airspace safety to boost its tourism potential, experts said at a travel forum which opened in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Monday.

The participants, including air travel experts and ministers drawn from several African countries called on their governments to enhance access to air transport and improve connectivity of

flights to promote intra-regional tourism.

Speaking during the opening of the 30th African Travel Association (ATA) Congress convened in Nairobi, Zambian Tourism Minister Patrick Kalifungwa singled out connectivity of flights as one of the challenges facing Africa's quest for air access.

He warned that it would be "very difficult" for Africa to see the continent as one destination without easy connections to and within the continent.

"One of the challenges facing Africa is air access. This is a policy issue whose solution lie with the support and intervention from heads of government," said Kalifungwa, who is also ATA president.

African countries

represented at the congress are striving to come up with coherent strategies to overcome the challenges that hinder tourism development.

The congress aims to promote the tourist attractions of Africa to the travel industry in North America.

It is being attended by 16 African tourism ministers and mainly targets African-American tourists who are said to be interested in cultural experiences and heritage tourism.

ATA was established in 1975 as a non-governmental organization and is an affiliate member of the World Tourism Organization and the American Society of Travel Agents with over 30,000 members worldwide.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar Buddhist delegation leaves for Thailand Annual meeting of Yangon...

YANGON, 18 May— To attend the ceremony to mark Fullmoon of Kason (Buddhist Day) and the International Buddhist Conference to be held in Thailand from 18 to 21 May, the Myanmar Buddhist delegation led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara left for Thailand by air yesterday evening.



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara is seen off at the airport. — MNA

The Myanmar Buddhist delegation compris-

ing nine members of the Sangha and six lay persons was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and departmental officials. —MNA

Construction of roads, bridges in Ayeyawady Division inspected

YANGON, 18 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made an inspection tour along Yangon-Pathein-Hsamalauk-Maubin Road yesterday morning.

Senior Engineer U Sai Moe Kyaw of Maubin District briefed the minister on preventive measures against erosion of piers at Maubin Bridge and maintenance of roads and bridges in Maubin District.

Maj-Gen Saw Tun instructed him to make preparations for prevention of bank erosion and maintain roads and bridges.

The minister and party oversaw construction of Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon section. Next, he looked

into installation of trusses at the main portion of Pyapon Bridge on Pyapon bank.

In-charge of the bridge project Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Hse reported on progress of the task. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks with momentum.

Pyapon Bridge will be 3,932 feet and 8 inches. It will have 28 feet wide motorway and six feet wide pedestrian way on either side. The bridge can withstand 60-ton load. On completion, the bridge will contribute to better transport of Yangon-Nyaungdon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon-Dedaye-Kungyangon-Dalla Road. — MNA

Messages of felicitations exchanged between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and ROK

YANGON, 19 May — On the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, the following messages of felicitations were exchanged between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries.

Message from His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar to His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea:

On the auspicious occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the republic of Korea, it gives me pleasure to convey to your excellency my warm congratulations and sincere felicitations.

I am happy to note that the traditional ties of amity and cooperation that exist between Myanmar and Korea have been further strengthened over three decades as a result of the joint efforts of our leaders.

Myanmar attaches great importance to its relations with the Republic of Korea and considers it an important partner in the ASEAN+3 process. We appreciate the economic and technical assistance provided by Korea for our national development projects. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the NGOs of the Republic of Korea which are providing assistance to Myanmar in the field of health and social welfare.

We are also encouraged by the growing interaction between the business communities of the two countries and hope that these interactions will continue to develop in the years ahead.

Myanmar will work hand in hand with Korea in promoting international peace and stability as well as in realizing regional cooperation programmes.

By promoting closer cooperation and mutual understanding in the years ahead, I am fully convinced that the traditional cordial ties of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Korea will be consolidated. Please, accept, excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Message from His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea to His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar.

On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Korea, I wish to convey my heartfelt greetings and message of friendship to the government and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Republic of Korea and the Union of Myanmar share common ground as they have both succeeded in nurturing a distinct culture on the basis of deep tradition as well as the creative adoption and assimilation of foreign cultural influences. Our two countries have also earnestly endeavoured to gain a deeper understanding of each other since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975.

This memorable event will indeed generate momentum to elevate the existing cordial and cooperative relations between our two countries to a higher level on a firm basis of true friendship, mutual respect and profound understanding.

I am confident that the Union of Myanmar will assume a greater role in the maintenance of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia and beyond within the framework of the Korea-Myanmar friendship as well as the Korea-ASEAN partnership.

I would like to express, once again, my sincere best wishes for a brighter future and further development to the government and the people of the Union of Myanmar.

Annual meeting of Yangon...

(from page 16)

township MMCWAs are to actively participate in implementing the seven-point road map of the State, he said. In conclusion, Maj-Gen Myint Swe urged members of Yangon Division MCWA to carry out the tasks of the association under the supervision of Yangon division and district MCWAs and also called on Yangon district and township peace and development councils to provide necessary assistance to the associations.

Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of the Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Dr Hla Myint, Secretary of the Yangon Division MCWA presented prizes to the winner township MCWAs.

At the second session, Dr Hla Myint reported on future tasks for 2005 and officials of the township MCWAs presented the reports for 2004. — MNA

Rail Transportation holds...

(from page 16)

new ideas, to spend finance in accord with rules and regulations, and to supervise efficient use of fuel. The ministry plays a key role in transport sector of the State. The ministry is to lay special emphasis on meeting GNP and GDP. Arrangement are being made by the Ministry to extend Yangon circular rail road and to build new overpasses in Yangon. The ministry is now carrying out maintenance and fitness of Yangon-Mandalay railroad and security measures at stations, offices, factories and warehouses and railroad.

Next, the deputy ministers gave supplementary reports on reviewing strong points and weaknesses experienced in the last year for realization of project tasks of the ministry and requirements for future tasks to be carried out in the next year.

Afterwards, the directors-general, managing directors, principal and commander of railways police force presented reports on their respective work plans. Later, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Ministers Thura U Thuang Lwin and U Pe Than presented prizes to outstanding service personnel.

After that, division officers and general managers of Myanmar Railways reported on sector-wise tasks. — MNA

POEM

Building up strength is the only answer

- * If he sees one
Not depending on him, attending to one's own needs
Self-reliant, for needs fulfilled
Planning and striving
He doesn't feel good
But unbearable, wants to destroy
All that he sees, that's his habit.
- * Depend on him, gets one's needs
Fulfilled, using one's own strength
Well developed, setting one wishes
Fulfilled as he likes, then only he likes
That's his habit, that's the way.
- * Will hit if not dependent
Will manipulate if dependent
For those with such mindset
Is it worth depending, you don't even need
To think of it, you know automatically
Your strength is within the household
United, massive and solid
If only one can build, will our lives
Be sufficient all round, and secure
Peaceful, for sure
Hands firmly held, with good zeal
Let's do it with zest, my brothers.

Meru (Trs.)

1st meeting of UMFCCEI Executive Committee held

YANGON, 18 May — The 1st meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry took place at the federation office on Merchant Road this morning with an address by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads and officials

of the Ministry of Commerce, President of the UMFCCEI U Win Myint, the vice-president and CEC members and guests.

The president of the UMFCCEI extended greetings at the meeting and explained the tasks being carried out by the federation. Afterwards, the UMFCCEI president handed over the first prize secured in the Asia-Af-

rica Trade Fair held at the Republic of Indonesia, to the minister.

Next, Chairman of the Panel of Patrons of the UMFCCEI Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein made a speech on the arrangements for the systematic measure of the federation, enhancing the exports, responding the rumours on commerce with the correct news, pro-



U Win Myint hands over the prize to Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein.

MNA

Information Minister receives Indian guests



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Indian guests. — MNA

YANGON, 18 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received General Manager Mr Yogesh M Kharbanda of The Printer House (P) Ltd, New Delhi, India and party at the Ministry of Information at noon today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television, Acting Managing Director Col Aung Nyein of the Printing and Publishing

Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, Head of Office U Ye Tint and officials.

MNA

Minister receives UN Coordinator

YANGON, 18 May — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min received Coordinator of UN Agencies in Myanmar Mr Charles James Petrie at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San

Street this morning.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Soe Win of the Cooperative Department, Director-General U Sein Than of the Cot-

tage Industries Department, Managing Director Col Hla Moe of the Cooperative Exports and Imports Enterprise and officials.

MNA



Minister Col Zaw Min meets Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie. — COOPERATIVES

testing the destructive acts with the strength of people and cooperative measures to be taken for the social and economic affairs and security of the people.

Afterwards, CEC members and officials

discussed matters on tasks of the federation and read out the declaration of the UMFCCEI on the strong condemnation of inhumane, violent and destructive act. At the second session of the meeting, the president of

the federation made opening speech and those present took part in the discussions.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

MNA

CEC member tours Mon State

YANGON, 18 May — USDA CEC member Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met with local people in Kawkhani Village of Mawlamyine Township on 14 May.

Similarly, he met with local people and USDA members at Dhammayon in Pha-auk Village and accepted 4,138 membership applications.

On 15 May morn-

ing, he inspected progress in building Ywalut Station Hospital. Next, he looked into construction of Phanpha Village Post-Primary School in Chaungzon Township.

On 16 May, the CEC member oversaw construction of the tar-road in Thanbyuzayat Township. He met with local people and USDA members in the township. In Mudon Township, he

inspected Basic Education High School No 1 and attended to their needs.

On 17 May, the CEC member met with secretaries and executives of Mon State, district and township USDAs at Mon State USDA Office. In the afternoon, he met with secretaries and executives of Paung and Thaton township USDAs.

MNA

Coordination meeting on development affairs committees winds up

YANGON, 18 May — Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, gave the concluding remarks at the second-day coordination meeting of development

affairs committees at Development Affairs Department in Botahtaung Township yesterday morning.

Officials submitted their papers to the meeting. Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe reviewed the

papers and gave necessary instructions.

Director-General U Myo Myint of DAD laid down future tasks for 2005-2006 financial year.

Next, Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave the concluding remarks. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt addressing the meeting on development affairs committees. — PBANRDA

Uzbek President rejects international probe into unrest

ALMA-ATA, 18 May — Uzbek President Islam Karimov said Tuesday his country does not need an international investigation into Friday's violence in the eastern town of Andijan, as it is the internal affair of the country.

Uzbekistan is a sovereign country and can conduct an investigation into the Andijan unrest without the involvement of foreign parties, Karimov told a Press conference in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

The President said no peaceful demonstrators were involved in the unrest, and that all the demonstrators were militants.

The militants attacked Army barracks, seized weapons and ammunition, stormed a prison and freed the inmates, he said. They also seized government offices and killed law enforcement officials.

Karimov accused foreign journalists of slanted coverage of more than 500 killed in the Andijan riots, saying such false reports were misleading.

He also rejected "groundless" criticism from British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. He said Straw was provided with "false information."

Violence culminated days of protests on Friday as thousands of armed protesters plunged Andijan into chaos, releasing prisoners and clashing with security forces.

Uzbekistan's Prosecutor-General Rashid Kadyrov said Tuesday that 169 people had been killed in the violence, of whom 32 were government troops and the others militants.

"Only terrorists were liquidated by government forces," he told a news conference, with Karimov at his side. A criminal suit was brought against those responsible for the unrest, he said.

Karimov blamed a branch of the outlawed radical Hizb ut-Tahrir Group for the turmoil. — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela signs contract to purchase Russian assault-rifles

CARACAS, 18 May — Venezuela signed an agreement with Russia on Tuesday to purchase 100,000 Russian-made Kalashnikov AK-103 assault-rifles, Defence Minister Jorge Garcia Carneiro said. The initial payment of 27 million US dollars will cover half of

the contract, he said. The first batch of 28,000 rifles, which cost 386.22 dollars each, will arrive in the country in October, and the remainder will be delivered in December and March 2006, according to the minister.

The contract includes

a commercial offer by Russia to help build a factory to produce the assault rifle in Venezuela, he said.

There are also plans that 45 Venezuelan experts of the Armed Forces will be trained in Russia on how to make the assault rifle.

MNA/Xinhua

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၃၁၆)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Blair's third-term agenda unveils

LONDON, 18 May — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday presided over the state opening of the Parliament as a tradition and unveiled the Blair Government's third term plans which centres on security and public service reform.

The third-term government will continue to pursue economic policies which trench stability and promote long-term growth and prosperity by securing low inflation and sound public finances, read the Queen from a speech written by ministers.

MNA/Xinhua

OPEC to take actions to rein in soaring oil prices

KUWAIT CITY, 18 May — The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will take active measures to control the soaring oil prices, the 11-member cartel's chief said Tuesday.

OPEC President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, also the Kuwaiti Energy Minister, was quoted by the Kuwait News Agency as saying that OPEC is keen to supply needed oil to the world market in order to maintain a certain price level in the interests of the producing countries.

He said worldwide oil output is expected to reach 106 million barrels per day (bpd) during the second quarter of 2005.

The OPEC chief announced last week that the cartel will continue with the same oil production level. OPEC's actual output tops 29 million bpd at present.

Kuwait is seeking the help of international oil companies to increase its oil production in northern oil fields from 450,000 bpd to 900,000 bpd, the official said, adding Kuwait has spent about 10 billion US dollars in oil projects as part of its long-term strategy.

Kuwait, an OPEC member, has the world's fourth largest proven oil reserves of 99 billion barrels, after Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

ITU vows to create equitable information society

GENEVA, 18 May — The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) vowed to create an equitable information society during its celebrations held here Tuesday to mark this year's World Telecommunication Day.

ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi said communication is "a basic human right", which the organization is committed to extending to the "information poor".

"At ITU we believe in communication as a basic human right," he said, adding they are determined to provide "more equitable access to modern information and communication technologies for millions of the 'information poor' for whom modern communications remain far out of reach."

According to the ITU chief, information and communication technologies (ICT) have the unique potential to bring enormous progress to the entire world in the next decade.

ITU, which has helped create a solid basis for the information so-

ciety on a global scale, keeps "reforming its own structure to meet the new challenges each decade brings," he said.

In a recent report by leading business consultants Booz Allen Hamilton, ITU was listed among the world's top 10 most enduring institutions.

The organization, founded in Paris on 17 May, 1865, is commemorating its 140th anniversary with a theme of "Creating an Equitable Information Society: Time for Action."

It also marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Maitland Report, commissioned by ITU in 1985 to provide a global snapshot of the state of ICT access and furnish guidance on how to improve access worldwide.

MNA/Xinhua

Neo-Nazi crimes reportedly go up in Germany

BERLIN, 18 May — Neo-Nazi crimes increased in Germany last year although the overall number of right extremists dropped, the German Domestic Security Agency said in its annual report on Tuesday.

The report said that there were 12,051 right extremist crimes reported in 2004, compared with 10,792 in 2003. Violent neo-Nazi crime cases also increased from 759 in 2003 to 776 last year.

Members of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), a right-wing extremist party, also increased from 5,000 in 2003 to 5,300 in 2004.

The number of neo-Nazis rose to about 3,800 last year from 3,000 in 2003.

However, the overall number of Germans in far right groups declined last year to 40,700 from 41,500 in 2003, according to the report.

The NPD won 9.2 per cent of the vote in the state of Saxony in September last year, the far right's best result in six years and another

rightist group, the German People's Union (DVU), won seats in the regional parliament of neighbouring Brandenburg by gaining over 6 per cent of the vote.

German Interior Minister Otto Schily expressed his concern over the growth of the neo-Nazis and rightist movement.

"It must serve as a warning to all of us that the number of neo-Nazis in Germany in 2004 rose more than 25 per cent from the previous year," he told reporters.

"The (NPD) party leader describes the super-criminal Hitler as a great statesman," Schily warned.

In 2003, the German government had sought to ban the NPD in the country, but failed in the constitutional court.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors walk between business aircraft and a helicopter during the media day of the 5th Annual European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition, EBACE, at the Geneva Palexpo Conference Centre located immediately adjacent to the Geneva International Airport, Switzerland, on 17 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Iran urges to settle Caspian dispute among littoral states

TEHERAN, 18 May — Iran said on Monday that all issues and disputes over the Caspian Sea should be resolved through negotiations only among the littoral states, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“Any interference by other countries will not only lead to new challenges, but will make the issue more complicated,” Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi was quoted as saying at the 17th meeting of the Caspian Sea working group.

The conference, which kicked off here on Monday, gathered representatives of five Caspian Sea littoral states, namely, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

The five countries have not yet reached an agreement on key issues over the Caspian Sea like the exploitation of resources since the split of the former Soviet Union.

In an effort to put an end to the disputes,

Kharazi said the Caspian Sea could serve as a platform for effective cooperation among the littoral states and expansion of amicable ties in the region, stressing the need to continue negotiations in order to reach a unanimous agreement.

He added that Iran was willing to speed up efforts toward an agreement among the Caspian Sea littoral states on the major topics.

The Iranian minister also called for drawing up some related principles required to systematize the relevant activities so that the littoral states will benefit from the Caspian Sea privilege.

He further said the treaty on the Caspian Sea between Iran and the

former Soviet Union is still legitimate.

“Until a new agreement is reached among the littoral states, the current legal regime based on the treaty signed between Iran and the former Soviet Union will be still valid and legal,” he said. Meanwhile, Kharazi urged to avoid unilateral measures in conflict with the interests of the littoral states, calling upon the countries concerned to be flexible with a constructive attitude to settle the disputes.

In addition, Iran’s special representative for the Caspian Sea Affairs Mehdi Safari voiced Teheran’s opposition to the militarization of the Caspian region.

MNA/Xinhua

British MP rejects US Congress’ oil-for-food charges

WASHINGTON, 18 May — British MP George Galloway, testifying before the US Congress on Tuesday, strongly denied charges by the US Congress that he received oil kickbacks from the Saddam Hussein regime.

“I am not now, nor have I ever been, an oil trader, and neither has anyone on my behalf,” he said in remarks to the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

“I have never seen a barrel of oil, owned one, bought one, sold one, and neither has anybody on my behalf,” Galloway said.

The committee last week released documents and said it had “detailed evidence” that under the now-defunct oil-for-food programme, Saddam

Hussein gave Galloway the rights to export 20 million barrels of oil.

The oil-for-food programme allows Iraq to sell oil and use the money to buy essential supplies, but the United States has charged that the Saddam Hussein regime used the money for its own pur-

poses. Meanwhile, Galloway, a strong opponent of the US-led Iraq war, also launched offensive against the Iraq war and said the war was based on “a pack of lies” and resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Georgia fail to reach agreement on base pullout

MOSCOW, 18 May — Russia and Georgia have failed to reach any agreements on the withdrawal of the Russian military bases from Georgia by 2008, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said on Tuesday.

“No agreements on the withdrawal of the Russian bases by the year of 2008 have been reached” by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Georgian Foreign Minister Salome Zourabichvili at the meeting in Warsaw, Yakovenko was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

The spokesman said that at the talks in Warsaw, the two foreign ministers discussed a draft agreement proposed by Russia, which stipulates that the withdrawal of the Russian bases from Georgia should be completed in 2008.

Commenting on reports that Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili claimed in Warsaw that Russia concede and agree to pull out its bases by the year of 2008, Yakovenko said the two sides agreed that delegations specializing on military issues will continue to discuss the draft at a meeting in Moscow or Tbilisi in the near future. — MNA/Xinhua

US industrial production drops 0.2% in April

WASHINGTON, 18 May — US industrial production fell 0.2 per cent in April after an increase of 0.1 per cent in the previous month, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday.

The April performance surprised economists who had been expecting a rise of 0.2 per cent in the country’s output of factories, mines and utilities.

March’s industrial production was revised to a 0.1-per-cent increase from the 0.3 per cent rise initially estimated. But industrial output in the first quarter is still reported to have risen at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent. In April, the output indexes for manufacturing and mining were unchanged, and the production of utilities dropped 2.3 per cent. Compared with a year ago, April’s industrial production was up 3.1 per cent.

The rate of capacity utilization for the total industry fell 0.2 percentage point to 79.2 per cent in April. That was 1.8 percentage points below its 1972-2004 average. — MNA/Xinhua

Moscow court on Khodorkovsky trial finds new convict

MOSCOW, 18 May — The Moscow Court on former Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s trial Tuesday found Andrei Krainov — a former director of the Volna company and one of the defendants — guilty of pocketing 22 billion of non-denominated roubles (about 791.3 million US dollars), the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Krainov was also found guilty of causing a property damage to the tune of 53 billion non-denominated roubles (some 1.9 billion dollars), in the episode of appropriating 20 per cent of shares of Russia’s major fertilizer component maker, the Apatit company. — MNA/Xinhua

Int’l arms exhibition opens in Minsk

MOSCOW, 18 May — An international exhibition of weapons and military hardware opened in the Belarusian capital of Minsk on Tuesday, which a Russian official said showed a “growing military cooperation” between the two countries, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

“The exhibition shows the growing Russian-Belarusian military-technical cooperation,” Vladimir Paleschuk, deputy director of the Russian federal service for military-technical cooperation, was quoted as saying.

The main sections of the arms show, the third of its kind in Minsk, are armoured vehicles, missile and artillery systems, small arms, short-and medium-range air defence systems, as well as anti-aircraft missiles.

About 120 companies from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and non-CIS states are participating in the exhibition, said the report.

The exhibition, which will end on Friday, focused on Russian producers, and Russian-Belarusian joint ventures’ products are also presented broadly at the event, ITAR-TASS said.

Two large war industry groups estab-

lished by Russian and Belarusian enterprises are operating successfully now, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese dancers perform as decorated balloons adorn the skyline at the 2005 Fortune Global Forum during a reception in the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, China, on 17 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Belgium to adopt tough new traffic fines

BRUSSELS, 18 May — Stiff new fines for running a red light, talking on a mobile phone at the wheel and other motoring faux pas are due to enter into force on 1 October, the Belgian Government announced on Tuesday.

Although road accidents are in steady decline in Belgium, this should not prevent the government from intensifying its efforts to crack down on motorists who flout the law,

said Mobility Minister Renaat Landuydt.

While some penalties will be lowered, others will increase dramatically, depending on how dangerous the infraction is deemed. The new system will place motoring infractions in four categories, from one to four, according to the gravity of the crime. Parking illegally, for instance, used to incur a stiff penalty of 150 euros (about 195 US dollars), which will drop to a mere 50 euros (about 85 dollars) in future.

The fine for using a mobile phone while driving, by contrast, will double from 50 euros to 100 euros (about 130 dollars), although this particular new penalty will not kick in until March 2006. Running a red light, meanwhile, will cost 100 euros as of 1 October. And in the event of a motorist getting caught driving more than 30 kilometres per hour above the posted speed limit, he or she will be ordered to appear before a court of law, receive a stiff penalty and possibly even have their licence revoked. — MNA/Xinhua

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**INVITATION TO TENDER
(TENDER NO. 6(T) MPE/HSD (4)/2005-2006)**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of (5,000 ± 10%) Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender Closing Date 31-5-2005 at 12:00 noon.
3. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hour commencing 18-5-2005 on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

**Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**

**Ministry of Industry (1)
Myanma Ceramic Industries
192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.
Yangon, Myanmar**

INVITATION TO TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Ceramic Industries for Ceramic Insulator and its fittings Production Plant, which is to be established at Chauk Township, Magwe Division. Tender forms and detail information are available on payment of Kyats 5000/- (five thousand only), at Myanmar Ceramic Industries, Planning Department within Office Hour, starting from 18th May 2005. Closing Date of Tender is 20th, June 2005 (Monday), 15:00 Hour Myanmar Standard Time. Please contact Phone No. 562036, 566074 for detail information.

**Managing Director
Myanma Ceramic Industries**

Bush urges to develop alternative fuels

WASHINGTON, 17 May— US President George W Bush urged on Monday the development of alternative energy like biodiesel and ethanol to reduce the US dependence on foreign oil.

Bush made the call during a visit to the Virginian BioDiesel Refinery more than 220 kilometres south of Washington. The refinery makes biodiesel from soybean oil.

“Our dependence on foreign oil is like a foreign tax on the American dream, and that tax is growing every year,” Bush said, adding that his government is seeking higher crude output from oil-producing countries in efforts to ease the current pressure on oil price.

Bush also elaborated on his government’s energy policy in the long-run towards less US dependence on foreign oil.


One important thing to do was to find alternative fuels to diversify en-

ergy supply, he said, while stressing economic and environmental benefits from biodiesel and ethanol, which are made from soybeans, corns, or waste products like recycled cooking grease.

The measures also included better fuel conservation and efficiency with a focus on the development and use of diesel engine technology and hybrid vehicles, and increasing domestic oil output including opening oil wells in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The US President also noted the need to help China, India and other developing countries to enhance their energy efficiency with the aim of easing the pressure on global oil supply.

MNA/Xinhua

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More hidden dangers detected on Shaanxi’s ancient city wall

TAIYUAN, 17 May— More hidden dangers have been detected on the ancient city wall of Pingyao in north China’s Shaanxi Province though the earlier collapsed part was renovated in May, a local cultural heritage official said.

“A total of 52 dangerous sections were recently confirmed on the 630-year-old wall which was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site in 1997 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,” said Dong Yangzhong, an official with the Shanxi Provincial Cultural Heritage Bureau.

The wall has a circumference of 6,162 metres. Of the 52 sections in a dangerous state, 26 sites are particularly vulnerable to collapse. The hidden dangers were spotted by a specialized construction institute which examined the entire wall using advanced technology, Dong said.

Experts suggested emergency measures, such as putting warning

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (083)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (083) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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Singapore may hold presidential elections between June, August

SINGAPORE, 17 May— Singapore may hold the third presidential elections anytime between June and August this year, Channel NewsAsia quoted the Home Affairs Minister as saying on Monday.

Responding to a question in Parliament, the

minister, Wong Kan Seng, said that the nomination and election dates will depend on when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong issues the Writ for the Presidential Elections.

He added that anyone who is interested in being a candidate must apply to the Presidential Elections Committee for a Certificate of Eligibility from 31 May to not later than three days after the issue of the writ.

The six-year tenure of the incumbent President S. R. Nathan will be over at the end of August this year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Macedonia, Bulgaria sign judicial cooperation memorandum

TIRANA, 17 May— Macedonia and Bulgaria on Monday signed a memorandum to enhance judicial cooperation, according to the *Macedonian Information Agency (MIA)* monitored here.

Under the memorandum, which was signed in Skopje, capital of Macedonia, the two countries will join hands in combating organized crime, human and drug trafficking, money laundering, corruption and terrorism.

Macedonian Justice Minister Meri Mladenovska-Gjorgjievska and her visiting Bulgarian counterpart Anton Stankov signed the document on behalf of their governments.

Mladenovska-Gjorgjievska hailed the step taken by the two countries, saying it has opened new possibilities for bilateral and regional cooperation in the judiciary sphere.

Bulgaria’s experiences were helpful for Macedonia in the modification of the national constitution and the judiciary reforms, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

SkodaAuto to turn India into regional export hub

NEW DELHI, 18 May — SkodaAuto, a wholly owned subsidiary of the global automobile major Volkswagen Group, plans to significantly boost operations in India with a view to making the country its export hub for the South Asian region, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The company also plans to nearly double its production capacity at the local facility in the current year and enhance the usage of local automobile components for SkodaAuto cars.

“We plan to make India the manufacturing hub in the South Asian region, which would include Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan,” said Imran Hassen, managing director of SkodaAuto India.

A host of global automobile giants like South Korea’s Hyundai and Ford have unveiled plans to

make India their export bases to take advantage of a vast pool of cheaper manpower and availability of high quality auto components.

Hassen said SkodaAuto India was looking at doubling the production capacity of its local unit at Aurangabad in Maharashtra, the only manufacturing facility of the company outside Europe, to meet rising consumer demand.

SkodaAuto India currently rolls out 15,000 cars a year from the Aurangabad facility that includes luxury models like Superb, RS, Rider, Elegance, Automatic and Ambiente.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS is a national concern.

DRIVE SAFELY

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42% NZ women diagnosed with mental depression

WELLINGTON, 17 May—New Zealand women are suffering poor mental health but are not getting the support or information they need, according to the results of *Next* magazine's national women's health survey announced Tuesday.

About 42 per cent of the women were diagnosed with clinical or postnatal depression, said the survey report.

The survey, which received almost 5,000 responses, covered topics including long-term health, nutrition and diet, smoking and alcohol, mental and spiritual well-being, alternative health and medicine, and access to advice. Sue Turner, acting chief executive of the Mental Health Foundation, said that the figure exceeds estimates, however the response also shows that many women are seeking help.

A third of respondents said they did not feel they received adequate support when depressed.

"Partners ranked very low as support people for women with depression, behind close friends and

other family," said *Next* Editor Susannah Walker.

Women are looking beyond conventional medicine for help however, with 92 per cent saying that they believe natural remedies to be valid treatments. Massage is the most common alternative therapy used in the last year followed by homeopathy, bach flower remedies, and naturopathy, said the survey report.

"We were also shocked to find that only 11 per cent of women consider themselves to have excellent self-esteem. For most women that's probably only one of their friends," said Walker.

"Good health starts from within and we are going to be working hard to give women the information and support they need to feel better about themselves," said Walker.

MNA/Xinhua

Microsoft launches enhanced desktop search

LOS ANGELES, 17 May— Microsoft Corp on Monday launched its final edition of desktop search software with free enhancements for Windows 2000 and XP customers.

The desktop search came as part of the new MSN Search Toolbar from the MSN network of Internet services owned and operated by Microsoft.

The enhancements will make it easier than ever to find and retrieve documents, e-mail, images, video and more on their Windows-based personal computers, Microsoft said.

"By offering the most integrated desktop search capabilities for Windows, now people can search their PC as fast as they can search the Web," said Yusuf Mehdi, senior vice president for the MSN Information Services and Merchant Platform division at Microsoft.

MNA/Xinhua

US gasoline prices down slightly last week

WASHINGTON, 17 May—The average retail price of gasoline in the United States declined by 2 cents last week to about 2.16 dollars a gallon nationwide, the US Energy Department reported on Monday.

The department said in its weekly survey that the average price of regular-grade gasoline in the country was 2.163 dollars per gallon but it was still 14.6 cents a gallon higher than the same time a year ago.

The retail gasoline prices were highest on the West Coast, averaging 2.437 a gallon, and cheap-

est in the Gulf Coast, where they averaged 2.063 a gallon last week. In the Midwest, gas averaged 2.072 per gallon.

One of the key factors underpinning the high price of gasoline is the high cost of crude oil resulting from strong demand, tight global supplies and geopolitical uncertainties.

Analysts termed the high gasoline prices in the United States as one of the reasons that result in the slowdown of US economy in the first quarter of this year. US economy growth slowed down to an annual rate of 3.1 per cent in the first three months, the lowest growth rate in two years. —MNA/Xinhua



Miss Universe 2005 contestants wave while posing for a group photograph after visiting the Singha beer factory in Pathum Thani Province, about 46 km north of Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Malaria kills 329 people in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 17 May— Malaria has killed 329 people in Zimbabwe since the beginning of this year, according to the malaria statistics issued by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare on Monday.

The statistics showed that a total of 267,396 reported malaria cases, 329 deaths were recorded from January to April of this year.

This figure is a massive reduction from the 567 deaths and 300,021 cases reported during the same period last year. Minister of Health and Child Welfare David Parirenyatwa said, for a long time people were saying they want him to show them some proof of how effective the government's malaria control programme is, especially since the use of the so-called controversial DDT. — MNA/Xinhua

Some 60,000-100,000 volunteers to serve 2008 Beijing Olympics

BEIJING, 17 May—Some 60,000 to 100,000 volunteers will be mobilized to serve the 2008 Olympics to be held in China's capital, Vice-Mayor Liu Jingmin said here on Monday.

Volunteers are always indispensable to the Olympic Games, and the Beijing Volunteer Association has worked out an action plan for the Games, which will begin to be carried out in early June, said Liu at the sports round-table meeting of the ongoing For-

tune Global Forum.

Beijing is also preparing for the 2008 Paralympics, with efforts focused on removing obstacles for the handicapped in information exchange, traffic and living, said Liu, who also serves as executive vice-president of the

Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Games.

Liu said that over the past three years, Beijing has spent 600 million yuan (72.3 million US dollars) in upgrading its public service facilities, roads and tourist destinations.

Special sidewalks and

audio crosswalk signals for vision handicapped people and obstacle-free overpasses have been arranged in major areas of the city.

Buses, subway stations and the airport are being revamped for the handicapped, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



Kathy Murtha reloads a rack of donuts, at Dunkin' Donuts in Fairview Park, Ohio, on 17 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Shaanxi sets up emergency aid scheme for W-E gas pipeline

XI'AN, 17 May— Northwest China's Shaanxi Province has worked out an emergency aid scheme to ensure the safe operation of the country's massive west-to-east gas pipeline that runs through nine provinces and municipalities including Shaanxi.

A 350-kilometre section of the pipeline — about 3,980 kilometres long and extending from northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Shanghai — stretches across the province. It was put into operation on 1 January this year, with a daily transmission of 9.5 million cubic metres of gas.

The pipeline, under high-pressure operation, is vulnerable to natural disasters and man-made damages, the experts said, adding that gas leaks could lead to fire, explosion or gas poisoning.

There are a lot of hidden dangers due to insufficient coordination between the local government and the pipeline administration company,

according to the experts.

Under the newly established emergency aid scheme, however, the relevant departments have developed a long-effective regular mechanism to take charge of the joint safety supervision and prevention measures, which will be effective in finding and eliminating the hidden dangers, the experts said. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

AC Milan gives up struggle for Serie A champion

ROME, 18 May—Reigning Serie A champions AC Milan have given up the struggle for re-winning the first division this season and are shifting all attention to their Champions League final against Liverpool in Istanbul on 25 May.

Veteran defender Paolo Maldini admitted that the Serie A title was "long gone" and thus it was better to concentrate on the Istanbul final over the next eight days, local media reported.

"It's a terrible thing to have to admit because we really wanted to win both

the title and the cup. But there's nothing we can do now except prepare for what is going to be our most important match of the season," he added.

With two matches left in the season, AC Milan remains five points behind Juventus of Turin, which needs just two points to

clinch its 28th Serie A title.

The two sides were level in the standings when they met in Milan May 8 in a showdown match which saw Juventus win 1-0.

AC Milan then drew this past Sunday while Juventus won and extended its lead.

"We only messed up one match all season and that was the one against Juventus. We obviously made a choice and our goal now is to win the Champions League," said AC Milan defender Alessandro Nesta.

AC Milan is expected to play it safe in Friday's match against Palermo and will most likely field a second string team.

MNA/Xinhua



AC Milan's Ricardo Kaka reacts after missing a shot during their Serie A soccer match against Lecce at Via del Mare Stadium in Lecce, southern Italy, on 15 May, 2005. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.—INTERNET

Glazer owns 75.7% of Man Utd

LONDON, 18 May—US billionaire Malcolm Glazer said on Monday he had raised his stake in Manchester United to over 75 per cent, finally seizing full control of the British soccer club he has battled to acquire for more than two years.

Glazer said in a regulatory filing he had raised his holding in the world's most famous soccer brand to 75.7 per cent, as part of a 790 million pound (1.5 billion US dollars) takeover of the entire club. At that level Glazer can now delist Manchester United Plc from the London Stock Exchange and implement new plans for the club without having to seek approval from other shareholders.

It is not yet clear if Glazer intends to continue buying shares in the market until he reaches the next key threshold of 90 per cent, above which he can force out any remaining minority shareholders.

After a bitter two-year-plus takeover battle, the US tycoon took control of the 15-times British soccer champion last Thursday by buying a 28.7-per cent stake from the club's biggest shareholder, Cubic Expression, an investment vehicle for Irish racehorse magnates John Magnier and JP McManus.

That elevated his stake to 56.9 per cent and, under Britain takeover rules, kicked off a mandatory offer for the remaining shares.

Furious fans have vowed to fight on, saying Glazer has no knowledge of football and plans to cream the profits off the club to pay back the debts used to buy it.

In particular they object to the 265 million pounds of debt Glazer plans to pile onto United's balance sheet.

A hardline group of fans defaced the merchandise store at United's Old Trafford football stadium in Manchester on Monday. But the anti-Glazer graffiti was soon painted over, and there were no reports of other disturbances or protests.

Meanwhile, the Shareholders United fan Web site still urges United fans to buy up shares in a bid to stop Glazer. They are also pushing fans to boycott United merchandise and its sponsors' products.—MNA/Xinhua

Soccer legend Ronaldo visits Ramallah

RAMALLAH, 18 May—Soccer legend Ronaldo visited the Palestinian territories as an envoy of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Monday to support an anti-poverty project, local Press reported on Tuesday.

In his capacity as Goodwill Ambassador for the UNDP, Ronaldo inaugurated a new centre for disadvantaged youth during his visit to Ramallah and visited several anti-poverty projects including the UNDP's "Football Workshops."

The workshops have been designed to promote sports as a forum to teach leadership, confidence and discipline based on core principles of tolerance, cooperation and respect.

"I am very eager to visit all of these

important projects," Ronaldo told reporters. "It has always been a dream for me to go to the region to contribute as much as I can, with a message of peace and hope."

Welcoming Ronaldo's visit, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei said, "The Palestinian people are very grateful for the expression of solidarity from this star. Under the difficult circumstances, Ronaldo is scoring a major goal against poverty." —MNA/Xinhua

WADA asks FIFA to comply with global rules on doping by September

OTTAWA, 18 May — The World Anti-Doping Agency warns FIFA of the danger of losing soccer's place in the Olympic Games if the sport's world ruling body does not comply with global rules on sanctions for drug offenders by this September.

WADA says FIFA's insistence on six-month suspensions, rather than two-year bans, for serious drug offenses is in breach of the world anti-doping code adopted by Olympic sports federations last year.

"This is not acceptable," WADA president Dick Pound said. "There will be immediate consequences if they're not compliant."

WADA's executive committee, which met in Montreal Sunday and Monday, gave FIFA until its congress in Marrakech, Morocco, in September to make the changes required.

Since governments, such as Germany, also are signatories of the anti-doping code, they could deny FIFA access to stage events within their borders. The World Cup is set for Germany next year.

"One consequence might be that governments will not accept FIFA tournaments on their territories," WADA vice president Brian Mikkelsen said.

WADA accepts FIFA's position that doping cases should be judged on an individual basis, but the two sides differ on the length of sanctions.

WADA cannot sanction organizations such as FIFA, but can recommend measures to governments and national soccer associations.

Pound said last week he had spoken regularly with FIFA president Sepp

Blatter and he "fully understands the problem and the need for making the internal rules code compliant."

FIFA gave unanimous approval to the code at its congress in Paris last year.

"In due course, they'll receive a response from our executive committee," said CONCACAF general secretary Chuck Blazer, a member of FIFA's executive committee. "I don't understand. They agreed to what we're doing when we signed this document at our congress. I'm sure we'll get down to the facts, but I'm not sure everybody is working from the same set of information."

WADA also said it will conduct 30 per cent more out-of-competition tests this year, over 3,000 in all, focusing particularly in sports and regions where such programs are weak.

WADA also announced Montevideo, Uruguay would be the site of its Latin American regional office.

WADA said it will seek to organize a third world conference on doping in 2007. The first two meetings were held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1999 and Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2003, where its universal code was adopted.

The WADA code, approved by international federations and national governments, sets out uniform rules against performance-enhancing drugs cutting across all sports and all countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Manchester United focused on FA Cup final

LONDON, 18 May—Rio Ferdinand dismissed fears on Tuesday that Malcolm Glazer's takeover of Manchester United will affect the team in the FA Cup final against Arsenal on Saturday.

"It has not been difficult for the players to focus at all," said the 26-year-old defender.

"This is a massive game for us, it's a one-off cup final we have to win to put some more silverware into the cabinet.

"That is our aim and nothing that happens off the pitch is going to get in the way of it."

The England international is looking forward to appearing in his first FA Cup final after sitting out last year's win over Millwall because of an eight-month ban for failing to

attend a drugs test.

Ferdinand also played little part in the post-match celebrations but does not feel victory in this year's final is imperative as a means of paying back the fans for his absence.

Instead, he feels all the United squad should view their date in Cardiff as a chance to make up for a poor season.

"It was a weird feeling. It was the first FA Cup final I had ever been to in any capacity and I was looking around with mixed emotions," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany defender Lahm out for six months

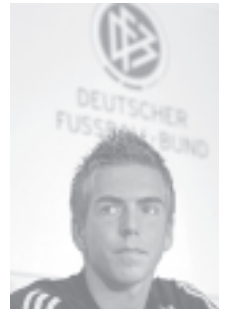
BERLIN, 18 May—Germany defender Philipp Lahm will be out of action for at least six months after tearing ligaments in his right knee in practice, his Bundesliga club Stuttgart said Tuesday.

The injury rules him out of the June 15-29 Confederations Cup, as well as Stuttgart's final match of the season against champion Bayern on Saturday.

Lahm was sidelined just five weeks after making a comeback from a stress fracture in his foot. Bayern Munich loaned Lahm to Stuttgart two years ago and is scheduled to reclaim him at the end of this season. Prior to news of Lahm's injury, Bayern signed a one-year extension to its contract with defender Bixente Lizarazu for another year.

Lizarazu returned to Bayern during the winter break to sign on for the second half of the season.

MNA/Xinhua



German champions Bayern Munich suffered a huge blow with German international defender Philipp Lahm ruled out for six months with a cruciate ligament injury.—INTERNET

မိုးဦးကျနှင့် မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများအတွက် နှိုးဆော်ချက်

- မိုးဦးကျရာသီတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သော ရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားလေ့ရှိပါသည်။
(က) ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောနှင့် ကာလဝမ်းရောဂါများ အပါအဝင် ဝမ်းနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် ရောဂါများ၊ အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါနှင့် သံကောင်း၊ တုပ်ကောင်ရောဂါများ
(ခ) သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးနှင့် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါ
(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာစေး၊ ချောင်းဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အဆေးမိရောဂါ
၂။ ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့် အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ
(က) မိုးဦးကျလာပြီဖြစ်၍ လျှင်လျှင်ပေါလာသည့် အချိန်တွင် ပါသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်အောက်သီး၊ မင်းဂွတ်သီး စသည် သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အနံ့၊ အရသာ စသည်များကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မဖြင် စွန့်ပစ် ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်ပေါက်ဖွား၍ ယင်ပေါများခြင်း။
(ခ) ရာသီဥတုအပြောင်းလဲမှုအသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်း။
(ဂ) မိုးရွာပြီး ရေတင်း၊ ရေဝပ်သဖြင့် ရေအိုင်၊ ရေကန်ပြင်ပ၌ ရေမြောင်းပိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချွန်နွယ်ပိတ်ပေါင်းထုထပ်၍ ခြင်းပေါက်ဖွားခြင်း။
(ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းလဲမှုဖြစ်၍ အပူရှိန်ခြင်း၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
(င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း။
(စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့် အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့ အကျင့် အားနည်းခြင်း။
၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါတို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ် တားဆီးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုက်တွန်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ခ) ယင်နားစာများကို မဆင်မဖြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဂ) စားကြင်းစားကျွန် အစိုက်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ကျင့်သုံးလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။
(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းလဲမှုအသီးများကို သတိရှိပါ။
(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ဖြစ်၊ ယင် နှိမ်နင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ပိုင်ခန်း ရပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။
ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ဦးဘကြည် (ထားဝယ်) (၇၅-နှစ်)

(Bagan Book House)

ရန်ကုန်မြို့ 9(D-1) မိုင်ချို (၁) လမ်း၊ မိုင်ချိုရိပ်သာ၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်နေ (ဦးချိန်ရယ်) (ဒေါ်အေး) တို့၏ သား၊ (ဦးဘကြည်) တို့၏ ညီ၊ (ဦးမြား) ရင်-ဒေါ်အုန်းသင်) တို့၏ သားသမီး၊ ဒေါ်လှရီ၏ ခင်ပွန်း၊ ဦးဘကြည်-ဒေါ်အေးတို့သည် ဦးစိုးသိန်း-ဒေါ်ရီရီနှင့် ဦးရွှေအောင်-ဒေါ်ကေသွယ်အောင်တို့၏ ဖခင်၊ မောင်အောင်ဇော်ရွှေ-မောင်စန္ဒာယု၊ မနိုင်ဇင်သော်၊ မောင်လင်းဇော်ရွှေ၊ မသုဉာဉ်မြတ်၊ မခင်ရူပါအောင်၊ မောင်မျိုးသီဟ၊ မောင်ဆက်ပိုင်အောင်တို့၏ အဖိုးဖြစ်သူ ဦးဘကြည် (Bagan Book House) သည် ၁၇-၅-၂၀၀၅ အင်္ဂါနေ့ ညနေ ၇:၀၅ နာရီတွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါ၍ ၁၉-၅-၂၀၀၅ ကြာသပတေးနေ့ ညနေ ၄ နာရီတွင် ရေစေးအေးတိုက်မှ ရေစေးသုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင်သင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါမည်။ နေအိမ်မှ နေ့လည် (၂:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ကားများထွက်ပါမည်။ ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

China, Iceland agree to start FTA feasibility research

BEIJING, 18 May — China and Iceland on Tuesday agreed to start feasibility research on forging a free trade area.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Icelandic counterpart Olafur Ragnar Grimsson both agreed to study and hailed their political, economic and trade ties during talks in the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing.

China and Iceland have maintained frequent high-level visits, expanding trade and economic cooperation and sound cooperation in international affairs, Hu said. China appreciates Iceland's adherence to the one-China policy and support to its effort in reunification, Hu said, adding that China spoke

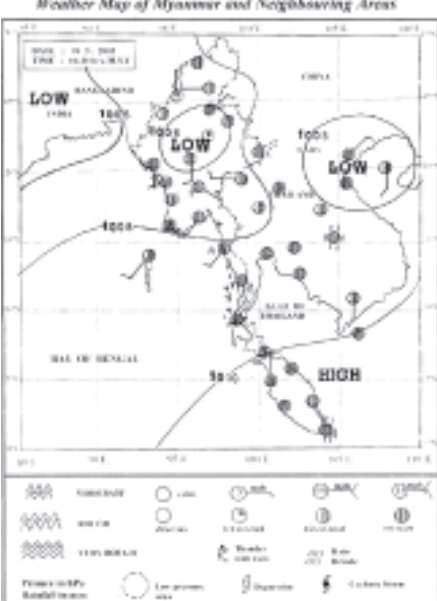
highly of Iceland's recognition of the country's full market economy status.

MNA/Xinhua



Thursday, 19 May Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Sweet love
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: -Good thing
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: -Big Big World
9.05 am Music: -Black coffee
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Love just it
-One heart
-With you
-Missing your love
-Angle of your heart
9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
-Myanmar cuisine
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Pourri
-China starts producing ethylene out of corn
-Wireless e-mail drives up global PDA shipments
-Study shows antioxidant enzyme prolongs animal lifespan
-VN encourages overseas science, technology study
9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-I Remember
-Reality
-Without you
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawei (0.51) inch. Day temperatures were about normal in Chin State. (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Division. (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Kayah States, Yangon, Bago and Sagaing Divisions and (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (45°C), Minbu (44°C), Aungmye and Meiktila (43°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 17-5-2005 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 18-5-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-5-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2005 was (10.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (2.84 inches) at Yangon Airport, (3.46 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1.89 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (19:45) hours MST on 17-5-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-5-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-5-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

Strong wind warning

(Issued on 18th May, 2005)

As the day temperatures rise markedly all over the country till the onset of Southwest monsoon, local strong winds are likely in the afternoon/evening over most of the areas. Surface wind speeds may reach (40) to (50) mph accompanied at times by squalls and hails in some places.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 20:00 hours MST on 18th May, 2005)

As earthquake of moderate intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (900) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (18) hrs (10) min (40) sec MST on 18th May 2005.



Thursday, 19 May

View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံသယဟော နာယကအဖွဲ့အကဲအစီအစဉ်အဖွဲ့၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ အရမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ 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. Dance of national races
8:05 am 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:10 am 7. Dance variety

- 8:20 am 8. ဟင်းရွက်ရေကောင်းတံခံ
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 am 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အစားအသွေးကောင်းစေရန် ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု)
5:15 pm 6. Cute little dancers
5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတစား
5:40 pm 8. "မေမြာပြုံး မတီးမမြည်" (နေရဲလင်း၊ မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊

- ရင်ဖုန်းအိမ်ချယ်၊ မိုးတော်၊ နိုင်သူလွယ်၊ (ပါရီကီတာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်)
6:00 pm 9. Musical programme
6:15 pm 10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်
6:30 pm 11. Evening news
7:00 pm 12. Weather report
7:05 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဓားလမ်းဆွဲ "ချစ်သောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)
7:35 pm 14. Musical programme
8:00 pm 15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. ရွာသမားအကြိမ် (၁၂ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့နိဂုံးကျေမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အဇေး၊ အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ (ရာမယဏတော်တော်ကြီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ) (ဒုတိယပိုင်း) (ဒုတိယဆု) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း)
19. The next day's programme

Annual meeting of Yangon Division MCWSC held

YANGON, 18 May — Annual meeting and prize presentation ceremony of the Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held at Yangon Division Peace and Development Council office this morning with an opening address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

In his opening address, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association- MMCWA plays a critical role as a social organization in

implementing the developmental tasks of the State.

We see that MMCWA is making efforts for all round development of social affairs including physical fitness, education and economy of mothers and children. State/division MCWAs are also participating in implementing the welfare tasks of the MMCWA.

Maternal and child welfare associations in Yangon Division have also successfully implemented the tasks of the MMCWA in 2004 with the assistance of local authorities.

Hence, Yangon Di-

vision MCWSC won the first prize of MMCWA for 2004, he said.

He continued to say that efforts should be made to organize the people for the permanent members of the association in order to achieve the objectives of the MMCWA.

In 2004, membership of MMCWA reached over 660,000 including over 240,000 permanent members.

He said that it is the main objective of the association to organize the 10 percent of the population in every township to become permanent members.

One of the future

tasks of MMCWA laid down at the 15th MMCWA's annual conference is participation of MMCWA in implementing the seven-point

ference is participation of MMCWA in implementing the seven-point

Road Map of the State. Hence, Yangon division, (See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents overall movement award to a winner.— YANGON COMMAND

Commander, Minister oversee forests, nurseries, greening tasks in Sagaing Division



YANGON, 18 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected Kaunghmudaw Nursery of Arid Zones Greening Department in Sagaing yesterday morning.

He also inspected Pegadoc Nursery in Sagaing and preparations for growing trees on either side of Sagaing-Monywa Road. Yappoesar Nursery in ChaungU, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung heard reports on plans

to put land under forest plantations.

In Ayadaw, officials reported on preservation of forests on Monywa-Shwebo Road. On arrival at Yayhtwet Nursery in Wetlet Township, officials submitted reports on greening tasks on both sides of Sagaing-Shwebo Road.

In Amarapura, the minister inspected progress of plywood and wood-based product factory project.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspect preparations for planting trees on either side of Monywa-Sagaing Road. — MNA

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds first four-monthly coord meeting

YANGON, 18 May — Ministry of Rail Transportation held its first four-monthly coordination meeting for 2005 at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning, with an address by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaug Lwin and U Pe Than, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, principal of Central Institute of Transport and Communication in Meiktila and advisers, heads of departments, officers at division and state level and offi-

cially concerned.

During the meeting, the minister delivered an address. In his speech he said those present are to

make all-out efforts for realization of project tasks to be carried out by the ministry through (See page 8)



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min addresses coordination meeting of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.— RAILWAYS

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At present also the one-time elites are seeking advice from the neo-colonialists with the sole intention to break up the Union. Thus, all the nationalities should be aware of and ward off their perpetration with unity.