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Monday, 30 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

Industry-1 Minister inspects Pakokku Textiles Factory (Project)

YANGON, 29 May—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning inspected storage of the long staple cotton produced from Aunglan at the shed of the Pakokku Textiles Factory (Project) of Myanma Textiles Industries in Pakokku, Magway Division.

Next, Minister U Aung Thaung looked into progress of installation of the weaving machines and test-run of them.

At the briefing hall of the factory, Project Manager U Myint Thein Oo reported to the minister on work carried out and future tasks and Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung on other salient points.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of engineering work, growing of shade trees and flowering plants in the environs of the factory.

Afterwards, the minister presented a fruit basket to Chinese technicians.

The factory is situated on the road leading to Shwetatit Pagoda in Pakokku.

Later, the minister proceeded to Salingyi in Sagaing Division where he inspected the Winthuza shop.—MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Pakokku Textiles Factory (Project) in Magway Division. — INDUSTRY-1

Energy Minister checks maintenance of Pyay-Seiktha gas pipes

YANGON, 29 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials from the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Transport, inspected the repair and maintenance tasks of Pyay-Seiktha 10-inch diameter gas pipe lines across Ayeyawady River this morning.

At the briefing hall, General Manager U Than Htut of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and Deputy Director U Salai Yawla of Water Resources and Improvement of River Water System Department reported on laying of pipe line across the river, underground pipe

lines, testing and other related work. Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave supplementary reports.

Next, the minister and the deputy minister gave instructions on preventive measures before the rainy season, long term maintenance tasks, prevention of bank erosion and work to be carried on.

The 10-inch diameter gas pipe lines across Ayeyawady River was successfully laid by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Transport through cooperation in November 2004. Now, it pipes 1.5 million cubic feet of gas daily for Kyangin

Cement Plant and Myanaung Natural Gas Power Plant. — MNA

INSIDE

Health professionals could also play an important role of setting health facilities, hospitals and workplaces tobacco-free. Most of the health facilities in Myanmar prohibited smoking and chewing of betel quid with tobacco within the hospital compounds.

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DR NYO NYO KYAING



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than inspect laying of natural gas pipe linking Pyay and Seiktha. — ENERGY

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 30 May, 2005

Enhance socio-economic life of rural people through better transport

The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, has laid down and is implementing project for development of border areas and national races and the 24 development zones for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Meanwhile, the five rural development tasks have been laid down and work is well under way to bring about better transport in rural regions.

Projects to provide better transport in rural regions started in 2000-2001 fiscal year, and 25,341 miles and six furlongs of rural roads with 6,655 bridges, and 5,316 miles and one furlong of urban roads with 11,065 bridges were constructed up to 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Better transport project in rural and urban regions has been implemented, and it is incumbent upon officials concerned to strive together with local people for accelerating the momentum of regional development tasks in the coming fiscal year.

Moreover, they must not lose sight of their duty to meet the set standards, maintain such facilities and ensure their durability.

Relentless efforts are being made for timely completion of village-to-village roads, village-to-town roads, town-to-town roads and district-to-district roads which are being implemented under the project.

Secure and smooth transport between towns and villages has been in existence as the government spent K 17,890 million on construction of roads and bridges across the nation for the purpose, thereby contributing to regional development and further strengthening friendship among national races. Better transport is a prerequisite for national development. Only when there is better transport will other sectors develop.

The majority of the people reside in rural regions. Fulfilling the requirements of rural dwellers amounts to enhancing socio-economic life of the entire national people. Only then, will they understand the goodwill of the government, thereby contributing to further cementing Union Spirit among the people.

That is why the onus is on the staff of the Development Affairs Department, who are engaged in regional development tasks, to be in oneness with the people wherever they are assigned to. Hence, concerted efforts are to be made to accelerate the momentum of better transport already in place for regional development, which the rural people always long for.

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

Title recipient Sayadaw honoured

YANGON, 29 May — A ceremony to honour Dhammakathika Vahujanahatdhara title recipient Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayama of Ngadatgyi Monastery in Bahan Township was held at Taingtaya Hall of the monastery this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa, Chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials, members of Ngadatgyi

Pagoda Board of Trustees and disciples.

Yangon Division SNC Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla administered the Five Precepts. And, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The minister, officials and wellwishers donated alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayama and members of the Sangha.

Master of ceremonies Daw Khin Moe Oo of MTRV supplicated on the brief biography of the title recipient Sayadaw and religious affairs.

Next, the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. — MNA

Merits shared for completion of Wainayya Thukha Dhammayon

YANGON, 29 May — To hail the centenary of Wainayya Thukha Yegyanzin Association, a merit-sharing ceremony for the completion of Wainayya Thukha Dhammayon building was held in conjunction with a prize-giving ceremony for photo competition at Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

First, 'soon' (dawn meal) was offered to nine members of the Sangha at 5.30 am, and State Ovadacariya Dhammayangchi Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. Next, well-wishers donated a set of water cooler each and provisions to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.



Patron of Wainayya Thukha Yegyanzin Association U Chit Hlaing presents prize to a winner in the association's centennial photo contest.— MNA

Chaukhtetkyi Phayagyi Monastery Ovadacariya Sasana Nuggaha Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Khemindasami delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained

for the construction of the Dhammayon building that cost K 25.0 million.

At the prize-presentation ceremony for the photo contest hailing the centenary of the association, patrons U Chit

Hlaing, U Tun Aung and U Aung Myint, Chairman U Kyaw Thuang and Vice-Chairmen U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and U Thein Hsaung presented awards to the prize winners.

MNA

Symposium held at Traders Hotel

YANGON, 29 May — A symposium on Parenteral Nutrition Therapy of B/Braun medical company of Ger-

many took place at Traders Hotel this evening. Manager Dr Cao Nguyen Thanh of the company extended greet-

ings on the occasion. Professor of Institute of Medicine-I and Head of Department Prof U Saw Naing presided over the

symposium. Scientific Manager Dr Choo Lay Khoon gave talks on concepts of substrates usage in parenteral nutrition, Prof Tsann Long Hwang on metabolic and nutrition for critically ill patients and Dr Daw Phyu Phyu Aung of Nutrition Research Division on amino acids: importance and clinical application and replied to the queries raised by those present.

The efficacy of Aminoplasmal syrup was also clarified with the audio visual aid. Dr Cao Nguyen Thanh spoke words of thanks.

Totalling 150 medical professionals attended the symposium.— NLM



Manager Dr Cao Nguyen Thanh extends greetings at Symposium on Parenteral Nutrition at Traders Hotel.— NLM

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GREEN CITIES PLAN FOR THE PLANET! WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2005

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Int'l forum on better governance closes in Seoul

SEOUL, 28 May — The Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, hosted by the United Nations and South Korea, concluded its four-day meeting on Friday afternoon with adoption of the Seoul Declaration.

The closing ceremony of the annual forum was held at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in southern Seoul Friday afternoon after four-day in depth discussions of various sub-themes under the main theme "Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance".

The "Seoul Declaration" calls nations to take policy measures that will increase transparent and participatory governance. The declaration also recommends that governments "urgently address challenges of economic development and social inequity by working in cooperation with business firms and civil society".

Moreover, stressing the importance of reducing the growing inequality between rich and poor, urban and rural, con-

nected and unconnected, the declaration recommends developing sound indicators to accurately evaluate government performance and outcomes.

Some 5,000 representatives from about 140 countries, non-government organizations and the United Nations held in-depth discussions on sub-themes, such as "Changing role of the state in the governance paradigm", at five plenary sessions of the first two days of the meeting.

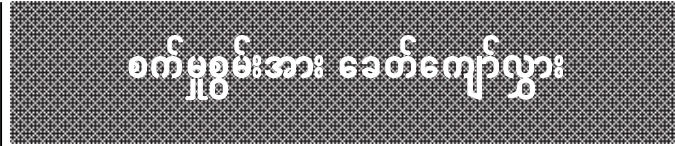
Then, in the last two days of the forum, a total of nine lower-level workshop sessions for more detailed talks on ideas presented at the plenary sessions were held.

Hua Jianmin, state councillor and secretary-general of the State Council, lead the Chinese

delegation to the forum and delivered speech in the first session on Tuesday afternoon on "China's effort to reinvent its government and make it more transparent in the process of reform and opening-up".

Moreover, on the sidelines of the forum, Ministerial Roundtable and Governors and Mayors Roundtable provided opportunities for senior officials of local governments from across the world to share experiences of innovation.

The Global Forum on Re-inventing Government was first established in 1999 by the United States. The previous four forums were hosted by Brazil, Italy, Morocco and Mexico. The UN offered to host the 7th forum in 2006. — MNA/Xinhua



Beijing starts construction on national gymnasium

BEIJING, 28 May — Beijing started on Saturday construction on the National Gymnasium that will host artistic gymnastics and handball competitions during the 2008 Olympic Games.

The National Gymnasium is the sixth new competition venue, after the National Stadium, the National Swimming Centre, the Beijing Shooting Range, the Laoshan Velodrome and the Wukesong Gymnasium, to be built in the Chinese capital for the 2008 Olympics.

The National Gymnasium, located in the projected Olympic Green in north Beijing, covers a floor area of 68,700 square metres and will have an 18,000-seat capacity upon its completion by the end of 2007.

The National Gymnasium, which resembles a traditional Chinese folding fan, will be turned into a fitness and recreational centre for Beijing's citizens.

According to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG), a total of 36 competition venues will be used for the 2008 Olympics, 14 of which will be built from scratch. Construction on nine has already started and the rest will begin this year.

MNA/Xinhua



Laos Deputy Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith (R) looks at a giant panda eating bamboo at a giant panda breeding centre in Ya'an, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 27 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesia to speed up gas network construction

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Indonesian Government would provide fiscal and non-fiscal supports for the business community to speed up the construction of an integrated gas transmission network that would link the islands of Java, Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Jakarta Post reported on Friday.

After meeting Vice-President Jusuf Kalla Thursday, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said that supports would include the exemption of import tax for materials and capital goods needed for gas network construction.

"During the meeting, we decided to take necessary steps to help

speed up the project construction so that we can immediately take advantage of this energy source," said Purnomo.

The government has initiated projects, which will distribute gas from production points in East Kalimantan Province, South Sumatra Province, Riau Province and East Java Province to industrial and household con-

sumers in Java and Sumatra islands.

The projects, which are estimated to cost some 3 billion US dollars with a combined transmission line of over 2,000 kilometres, are expected to be completed by 2009. The projects will all be led by state gas utility firm PT Perusahaan Gas Negara (PGN). — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese hostage died of gunshot wounds after opening fire

BAGHDAD, 29 May—A Japanese hostage held in Iraq died from wounds he received after opening fire on his captors who had not intended to kill him, the militant Sunni group which kidnapped him said in an Internet message.

Relatives and officials confirmed Saturday that a man shown in a video released by the Islamic militants in Iraq was missing Japanese security contractor Akihiko Saito, but could not verify the fighters' claim he was dead.

The Army of Ansar al-

Sunna group posted on its website Saturday a video of what it said was the body of Saito, a 44-year-old former Japanese soldier taken hostage in Iraq about 20 days ago.

A four-minute video message on its Arabic website showed the man's

back covered in blood and a picture of his passport.

The group, linked to the Al-Qaeda terror network, said Saito died as a result of injuries incurred during his capture in Iraq on 8 May. It warned people against working with US troops. — Internet



Chinese residents wave as they march on a street during an international walking festival in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Brazilian petroleum firm signs 4 agreements with Japan

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 May — Brazilian state-owned petroleum firm PETROBRAS announced Friday here the signing of four agreements with Japan, three on financing and one on fuel alcohol exporting.

The first one establishes

a strategic partnership between the Brazilian petroleum firm and the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which consolidates old ties between the two institutions. Another agreement is about the obtainment of a 900-million-US-dollar

loan for the modernization of the Henrique Lage Refining Plant, in Sao Paulo state. The funds will be provided by the JBIC, the Nippon Export and Investment (Nexi), Sumitomo Bank, Itochu Corporation and Mitsui.

MNA/Xinhua

New proposal calling for 10 more elected UNSC members

UNITED NATIONS, 28 May — Opponents of the idea to increase the permanent seats on the UN Security Council circulated a working paper on Friday calling for an increase of 10 non-permanent seats on the body.

The proposal would bring to 20 the number of non-permanent seats on the Security Council. Under the proposal, all the 20 non-permanent members on the enlarged Council may have a chance for immediate reelection.

“Retiring members may be eligible for immediate reelection subject to the decision of their respective regional groups,” said the paper, prepared by Pakistan, Italy, Algeria, Mexico and dozens of other countries opposed to the plan to add new permanent members to the Council.

The group, dubbed “Uniting for Consensus”, has presented the working paper to Jean Ping,

president of the General Assembly, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The group proposes that the non-permanent members of the expanded Council shall be elected for a term of two or three years.

According to the paper, the 10 new non-permanent seats would be divided among the five existing regional groups within the United Nations, with Africa and Asia each getting three, Latin America gaining two, and Western Europe and Eastern Europe each obtaining one.

The proposal would leave the five regional groups to decide criteria and arrangements for

reelection and rotation of allocated non-permanent seats.

“Each regional group could decide whether it wishes to be represented continuously, frequently or periodically by certain states from their regions,” the group said, arguing that its proposal is more flexible and realistic than the formula to increase new permanent seats.

“It can evoke the ‘broadest possible agreement’ and thus prevent a political division among member states on the issue of Security Council expansion,” the group stressed.

In the paper, the group also expressed the hope that their proposal could

be the basis for a consensus decision by the 191-nation General Assembly and the UN Charter could be amended in line with the decision.

The paper was put forward just days after the group and Japan, Germany, Brazil and India — the four aspirants for permanent Council seats — failed to reach any agreement on the Council’s enlargement at a meeting under the auspices of Annan. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Four killed in mine blast in Turkey

ANKARA, 28 May — Two Turkish soldiers and two citizens were killed in a landmine blast in southeastern Turkey on Friday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Diyarbakir’s Governor Office was quoted as saying that the four were killed when a tractor carrying them hit a landmine, planted by outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) militants, near Lice Town of Diyarbakir Province. On Wednesday, two soldiers and two village guards were killed in an ambush on a military vehicle in the southeastern province of Batman.

The PKK, with 4,000-5,000 militants, wants to set up a Kurdish state covering southeastern Turkey, northern Iraq as well as parts of Iran and Syria.

It launched an armed campaign against the Turkish Government in 1984, but fighting subdued significantly after PKK commander Abdullah Ocalan was captured in 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

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Researchers in Thailand said they had successfully bred and raised hundreds of the threatened Archer fish, which had never before lived for more than a week after artificial breeding on 27 May, 2005.

—INTERNET

China pushes economic, trade cooperation with Uzbekistan

BEIJING, 28 May — China hopes to substantially carry out cooperation with Uzbekistan on energy resources, mining, telecommunication and infrastructure, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Thursday.

“China and Uzbekistan are close neighbours and should take geographical advantage to promote economic cooperation, which is in compliance with the needs of the two countries,” he said during his meeting with Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

Wen noted that the two countries have maintained good momentum for economic and trade cooperation, the bilateral trade volumes have increased every year and mutual investment has also expanded.

Wen spoke highly of a treaty on friendly and cooperative partnership signed by the heads of the two states on Wednesday.

Sino-Uzbek relations have developed according to the principles of mutual respect, equality and recipro-

city, he said, and the two countries have supported each other on issues concerning their national sovereignty and territorial integrity and maintained consultations in the international affairs.

“This lays the political basis for the friendly and cooperative partnership between the two countries,” Wen said.

Karimov said the treaty signed Wednesday is of great significance to furthering the relations between Uzbekistan and China. Uzbekistan will implement the agreement conscientiously and with all its effort and push forward the bilateral ties and cooperation.

He also said his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao was “frank” and “constructive”, and achieved satisfactory result. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A man is treated in hospital in Fallujah 65 kilometers west of Baghdad in Iraq on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Russia, China benefit from bilateral relations

MOSCOW, 28 May — Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov said here on Thursday that the rapidly developing bilateral relations between Russia and China brings great benefit to the people of both countries.

The rapid economic growth in Russia and China promoted the cooperation and complementarity between the two countries, Fradkov said when meeting with Li Guixian, who is here to attend a session of the Sino-Russian Committee on Friendship, Peace and Development.

Fradkov said both Russia and China should seize the opportunity to push forward the mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

He also said that the Sino-Russian committee should play a greater role in deepening mutual understanding between the Russian and Chinese people as well as boosting bilateral economic cooperation.

Li, who is the co-chairman of the Sino-Russian committee and also the vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, said the Sino-Russian strategic partnership has maintained strong momentum in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua

1,655 US soldiers killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 28 May—As of Saturday, 28 May, 2005, at least 1,655 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 1,264 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

AP count is eight higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 11 am EDT on Friday.

The British military has reported 88

deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 10; 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, 1,517 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,155 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—*Internet*

Annan regrets at failure of nuke treaty review conference

UNITED NATIONS, 28 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan voiced regret on Friday at the failure of a global conference to agree on ways of strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

“The Secretary-General very much regrets that the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty closed today without substantive agreements,” said a statement issued by a UN spokesman.

“The states parties missed a vital opportunity to strengthen our collective security against the many nuclear threats to which all states and all peoples are vulnerable,” the statement added.

“While the vast majority of NPT states parties recognize the treaty’s enduring benefits, the Secretary-General warns that their inability to strengthen their collective efforts is bound to weaken the treaty and the broader NPT-based regime over time.”

After nearly one month of discussions, delegations of 187 NPT states parties on Friday concluded the conference without any recommen-

dations to plug loopholes of the treaty.

The statement said Annan regarded the September UN summit as a unique opportunity to renew the efforts to strengthen the global collective security system. “He challenges leaders to use that opportunity to make bold commitments and address the pressing challenges to which the review conference could not provide answers,” it said. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese workers work at a production line at the General Motors Corp’s new plant in Shanghai, on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

China approves Ford Motor Credit Co to commence business

BEIJING, 28 May — Ford Motor Credit Company won final approval from Chinese authorities Friday to begin business in China and expects to begin providing auto financing at the beginning of the third quarter this year.

“China has become a growing market that is an integral part of Ford Motor Company’s global strategy,” said Jack Hu, president of Ford Automotive Finance China Limited (FAFC), the name under which Ford Motor Credit will do business in China. John Noone, president of International Operations at Ford Motor Credit. “We hope to continue to work with the relevant authorities in the future as they develop rules governing the finance industry.”

FAFC will initially focus on financing the dealer vehicle inventory needs of the Ford dealers in China. In the meantime, it will also begin a pilot programme for consumer purchases of Ford Motor Company vehicles.

In addition to Ford Motor Company’s one-billion-US-dollar investment, Ford Motor Credit has made a 60-million-US-dollar investment in China. It will invest more as its business needs grow. —MNA/Xinhua

Australia, PNG to continue talks in aid programme

CANBERRA, 29 May — Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have wound up first round of talks here and will hold further talks in an effort to resume deployment of Australian police in PNG.

After the first round of talks, the foreign ministers of the two countries said it will take time to resurrect an aid programme, which is worth more than 620 million US dollars and involves the placement of about 300 Australian public servants and police officers in PNG.

Further negotiations are expected to take place over the next two weeks in the PNG capital, Port Moresby, Australian

Broadcasting Corporation radio reported on Friday. The talks are aimed at resuming the deployment of Australian police in PNG after more than 100 Australian policemen working in PNG returned earlier this month due to a PNG Supreme Court ruling, which found their powers and immunity were unconstitutional.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya Airways to start flights to China’s Shanghai in August

NAIROBI, 28 May — Kenya’s national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ), announced here on Friday it will introduce new flights to Shanghai this August to tap into China’s 15.4-billion-US-dollar tourism market.

The KQ Managing Director Titus Naikuni told Xinhua in Nairobi that the airline is finalizing a bilateral service agreement between Kenya and China to give KQ the go-ahead to start flights to China later this year.

However, Naikuni said the new flights are subject to obtaining confirmation of the operating license approvals and slots at Shanghai airport.

Kenya Airways announced on Friday it has recorded the highest profit in its history after its annual after-tax profit tripled to 3.8 billion shillings (50 million dollars) from 1.3 billion (17 million US dollars) due to cost-cutting

and an increase in passengers.

Naikuni said the airline was encouraged by the Chinese Government’s co-operation, adding that they have obtained permission and was only waiting for the operating license to start the flights.

“We are optimistic and have been encouraged by the support from the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) at the recent bilateral discussions in Beijing. They have given us permission and is currently waiting for the license to introduce the new flights,” Naikuni said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to issue stamps on Danish fairy-tale writer

WUHAN, 28 May — The State Postal Bureau of China will publish a set of stamps in commemoration of the 200th birth anniversary of Danish fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

The stamps, which are self-adhesive, will premiere in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 1 June, International Children’s Day, according to Zhang Bin, an expert with the postal bureau of Wuhan.

A complete set will have five stamps, including four 80-fen stamps and one 60-fen stamp. Also in circulation will be a miniature sheet, with a face value of five yuan, a booklet with a price tag of 10 yuan, as well as a full sheet with a price of 30.4 yuan.

Hans Christian Andersen, born in Denmark in 1805, was a poor shoemaker’s son. His high reputation today rests on his fairy tales, which were written between 1835 and 1872. Since his stories were introduced to China in 1913, his “Ugly Duckling”, the “Emperor’s New Clothes” and the “Match Girl” have become very popular among Chinese. Several of his stories have even been selected into textbooks in Chinese primary and middle schools.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe launches Biomedical Science, Technology Institute

HARARE, 28 May — The Zimbabwean Government on Thursday launched the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AIBST).

Minister of Science and Technology Development, Olivia Muchena, said at the officially launching ceremony that the government would invest in the development of science and technology to improve and sustain the country’s health delivery system through research. AIBST, which is a brainchild of Zimbabwean scientist, Collen Masimirembwa, is a centre for biomedical science, research, education and diagnostic services in Zimbabwe.

It aims to develop drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tools or an improved patient-specific disease management and treatment systems.

It also aims to provide infrastructure for efficient delivery of affordable high quality health care for all citizens, establish a reliable institute to undertake CD4 (a kind of immune cell) counts and viral loads, establish a DNA bank in Zimbabwe next year.

“To date, competition for provision of similar biomedical services is limited in the subregion and Africa as a whole. Therefore the sky is the limit for AIBST’s growth to be a Referral Biomedical Centre servicing the entire continent,” Muchena said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier searches a man at a checkpoint during an anti-terrorist operation in Baghdad on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesian police tighten security on foreign facilities

JAKARTA, 28 May — Indonesian police strengthened security in foreign facilities that possibly targeted by a certain group as they had recently found clues that the group had prepared for attacks in the country, police chief said here on Friday.

Police chief General Da'i Bachtiar said that the embassies of the United States, Britain, Australia are among the places under reinforced security.

Bachtiar said that the cell from the group of Azhari, the most dangerous Malaysian fugitive and bomb expert, had intensified their activity for preparing the attacks.

Although some of the cell member had been arrested, the group kept recruiting new members, he said.

"We strengthened places security in places which possibly targeted," said Bachtiar.

"Based on intelligent analysis there have been communications among their groups (members) that we analyze as a preparation to conduct an attack again. Our investigation into the group of Azhari, of course it becomes target to be captured and we still have not been able to arrest them."

However the police chief said despite the intelligence had got clues about a plan to attack foreign embassy in Jakarta, but he said that it could also be a trick, which could lead the security authority pay less attention on other places.

"Based on intelligent analysis it seems there is a picture that show map

of US Embassy in Jakarta.... Based on the analysis of intelligence it could be a trick or a lead into astray, it could occur. Because it is not a certain those terrorist will carry out the attack in those places," he said.

Meanwhile, spokesman of Jakarta police named only Tjptiono told *Xinhua* that the Jakarta police had tightened security of foreign embassy offices, and keep securing the places which possibly targeted, such as mall shopping centres, hotels and others.

"We have increased personnel and equipment,... We patrol every one hour in front of the embassies,... and we keep pay attention on hotels, mall shopping centres," he said.

The United States has closed all its diplomatic mission offices in Indonesia since Thursday because of security threat and the country warns all its citizens that the terrorist threat here remains high.

It said that the attacks can occur at any time and be directed to any location, including those frequented by foreigners as well as the identifiably American and other Western facilities or businesses in Indonesia.

Previously the Australian Government also issued similar warning.

MNA/Xinhua



Cable cars move above snow capped peaks near the Line of Council, during the inauguration of the cable car at Afarwat in Gulmarg, some 60 kilometres (38 miles) west of Srinagar, India, on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

India tests rocket launcher "Pinaka"

NEW DELHI, 28 May — India successfully tested the indigenously built multi-barrel rocket launcher "Pinaka" from a defence range in the eastern state of Orissa on Friday, officials said.

The rocket launcher (DRDO) at Chandipur in the coastal district of Balasore at 12.19 pm, *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted the officials as saying.

This was the latest in a series of tests of the *Pinaka*, an artillery system with a range in excess of 40 kilometres.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan says centrifuges to IAEA not to affect security

ISLAMABAD, 28 May — Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said on Thursday that sending centrifuges to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would not have any negative impact on national security.

Jilani confirmed to the local Geo TV channel that Islamabad has sent samples of centrifuges to the IAEA.

"Pakistan has only sent used and old centrifuges to the IAEA under some conditions and guidelines. This action is part of our cooperation with the IAEA to curb nuclear proliferation," Jilani said.

He said that Pakistani experts themselves gave the centrifuges to IAEA and they would also be present during the inspection.

"Pakistani experts would bring back the centrifuges after the completion of inspection," Jilani said.

IAEA Spokesman Mark Gwozdecky was quoted on Thursday by the BBC Urdu-language service as saying that the centrifuges were sent to the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna on Tuesday.

He also confirmed that a Pakistani delegation held talks with IAEA officials on Wednesday.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said last month that Pakistan wants to send parts of centrifuges for the IAEA inspection to remove suspicions and doubts that Islamabad provided centrifuges to Iran and other countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt Air purchases 12 "Boeing" planes

CAIRO, 28 May — EgyptAir holding company, owner of Egypt's flag carrier, will purchase 12 Boeing 737/800 planes worth 850 million US dollars to meet the potentially growing flow of passengers, the official MENA news agency reported on Friday.

Boeing was awarded the contract after the US aircraft manufacturer offered several advantages, an official of the company said, without elaborating.

Under the deal, the planes will be received as of mid-2006 until late 2007, said the official, adding the 157-seat aircraft will be used for flying to European and Middle East cities.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to host ICO Trade Forum in June

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 May — Malaysia will host the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Trade Forum on 20-21 June in Putrajaya, in a bid to further tap the business potential among member countries, an official statement announced on Friday.

The forum, to be chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would cover a whole range of trade, investment and services issues, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in statement released here.

"There is potential to

further strengthen trade relations among the ICO countries as intra-ICO trade accounted for less than 12 per cent of ICO members global trade compared with intra-ASEAN trade accounting for 23 per cent ASEAN's global trade and intra-European Union (EU) trade

of 70 per cent of EU's global trade," MITI said.

More than 800 participants are expected to attend the trade forum, including members of the business community, representatives from trade and investment promotion agencies and government officials.— *MNA/Xinhua*



A female researcher seen in a lab in Tokyo, Japan, on 27 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Thailand's trade deficit puts pressure on economic stability

BANGKOK, 28 May — Thailand's trade deficit for the fourth consecutive month has put pressure on the country's economic stability and needs to be gradually solved from the outset, the Bank of Thailand has said.

Bandit Nijathaworn, deputy governor of the bank, was quoted Friday by the state-run *Thai News Agency* as saying that the continued trade deficit stemmed from many factors including global economic slowdown and rising oil prices.

"The trade deficit for the 4th month in a row has pressed the economic stability. It shows the country's current spending level has shaken the

stability.

People have begun to overspend. It needs to be addressed from the outset to prevent any effect on the economic stability," he noted.

He said the trade deficit could be handled in three approaches.

The first is to boost saving in the economic growth cycle and reduce unnecessary spending. And the second approach is to keep a monetary and

fiscal discipline.

It will help put the trade balance at a proper level and ensure efficiency of the local investment, particularly in mega projects, and spending, he said.

The third is to attempt to allow local fuel prices to move by market mechanism because it will help reduce consumption and boost saving, he noted.

MNA/Xinhua

World No-Tobacco Day 2005: Health Professionals against Tobacco

Dr Nyo Nyo Kyaing

World Health Organization estimates that currently there are 1.3 billion smokers in the world. Tobacco consumption continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and the death toll from tobacco consumption is now 4.9 million people a year; if present consumption patterns continue, the number of deaths will increase to 10 million by the year 2020, 70% of which will occur in developing countries. Action must be taken now to prevent this from happening. All over the world, governments, anti-tobacco advocates, health professionals, scientists, researchers, education personnel, media personnel, NGOs and the community are joining hands to combat against this preventable morbidity and mortality.

Every year, member countries of World Health Organization celebrate World No-Tobacco Day on the 31st of May. To encompass various aspects of tobacco control, different slogans and themes are selected every year. Examples of the World No-Tobacco Day slogans include *Growing up without tobacco in 1998*, *Tobacco kills: Don't be duped in 2000*; *Second-hand smoke: Let's clear the air in 2001*, *Tobacco free sports. Play it clean in 2002*, *Tobacco free film. tobacco free fashion, Action! in 2003* and *Tobacco Control and Poverty: a vicious cycle in 2004*. The theme of this year's World No-Tobacco Day is "Health Professionals against tobacco: Be a role model". This year, World No-Tobacco Day will be celebrated throughout the country with the aim of highlighting the role of health professionals in the area of tobacco control.

Health professionals have a prominent role to play in tobacco control. They have the trust of the people; their voices are heard across a vast range of social and economic arenas. They can contribute to comprehensive tobacco control programmes involving prevention through education, communication, informational campaigns that raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco on health and other demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation in a significant way. They reach a high percentage of the population in the society. Health professionals have the opportunity to help change their behaviour. They can impart valuable advice, guidance and can answer the questions from the general public, in par-

ticular from their patients, related to the consequences of tobacco use. They can help encourage their patients to stop tobacco use.

In community and clinical settings, health professionals are the most knowledgeable in health matters and they are expected to act on the basis of this knowledge. In their society and their communities they are expected to be role models for the rest of the population including in general, their behaviour in health-related matters such as diet, exercise and tobacco use. Research has shown that health professionals who are smokers are less likely to promote smoking cessation or engage in tobacco con-

Although almost all of the doctors agreed that it is their responsibility to ask their patients about their tobacco use, it was found that medical doctors did not practice this habit regularly; the majority of doctors asked about tobacco use and gave advice to quit only when complaints were related to tobacco. The main constraint among the doctors was the time factor.

trol. More efforts need to be made by health professional organizations and health professional schools to assist them in becoming tobacco-free models.

All health professionals in the everyday health-care setting need to address tobacco-dependence as part of their standard of care practice. Medical and paramedical schools teach their students to include questions about tobacco use when monitoring vital signs and at every counter with a patient the health care provider must assess tobacco use and note it on the client's chart.

A Medical Doctor's Tobacco Use Survey was conducted in Myanmar among the registered medical doctors in 2003 to identify the prevalence of tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) among the registered doctors of Myanmar, to find out the behaviour pattern of practicing Myanmar medical doctors regarding tobacco use and to find out the knowledge and attitude of Myanmar medical doctors regarding tobacco use. Prevalence of tobacco use among the medical doctors was less than the general population; 10% among the medical doctors versus 31% among the general population, 12% of male doctors

versus 48% of males in the general population, 0.8% of female doctors versus 20% among the general population. The study reported that 20% of male doctors and only 0.8% of female doctors were tobacco users, 12% of registered doctors were smokers, 4% did not smoke but chewed betel quid with tobacco whereas 3% smoked as well as chewed betel quid. About 10.6% answered that they had successfully quit tobacco use.

Although almost all of the doctors agreed that it is their responsibility to ask their patients about their tobacco use, it was found that medical doctors did not practice this habit regularly; the majority of doctors asked about tobacco use and gave advice to quit only when complaints were related to tobacco. The main constraint among the doctors was the time factor. They could not find enough time to talk to patients about dangers of tobacco and to give advice to them to quit. More than 85% agreed that doctors required more training on tobacco cessation.

Health professionals could also play an important role of setting health facilities, hospitals and workplaces tobacco-free. Most of the health facilities in Myanmar prohibited smoking and chewing of betel quid with tobacco within the hospital compounds.

Health professionals could also participate actively in anti-tobacco movements, providing evidence-based best practices for decision makers and at the national level to promote the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Myanmar is a party to this convention, having ratified the convention on the 20th of April, 2004. This Convention had come into force since 27 of February of this year. Being a party to the Convention, Myanmar is obligated to implement the provisions of the Convention. Health professionals and everyone who knows about the negative effects of tobacco use should not only become role models but also impart their knowledge to the public, promoting community awareness on dangers of tobacco. Many national and international NGOs involved in health should also participate in this anti-tobacco movement to save our people from the health, social and economic impacts of tobacco use.

Commander attends sapling planting ceremony in Bago Station, inspects Irrigation facilities of Lagunbyin Dam

YANGON, 29 May — The sapling planting ceremony was held at the local battalion of Bago Station under control of Yangon Command in Bago Township, yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were Bago Station Commander Col Thant Swe, Indaing Station Commander Col Bo Lwin, senior military officers, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, departmental officials, Tatmadawmen of regiments and units and their families.

In his address, the commander said that today's sapling planting ceremony is the second time for Bago Station under the instructions of Yangon Division. The manageable scale of planting saplings is to be carried out at the regiment, company and families respectively. And, the regiments and units are to organize participation of the people for setting up model saplings plots. Yangon Command laid down plans to hold seed sowing ceremonies and tree planting ceremonies for welfare of the Tatmadaw families and greening of the regiments and units.

Bago Station Commander Col Thant Swe reported on growing of saplings in the station, purpose of holding the tree planting ceremony and Deputy Director of Bago Division (East) Forest Department U Aye Lwin on collection of seeds and saplings and nurturing system.

The commander and wife viewed stoves, sample seeds and documentary photos of sapling nurturing tasks and greening of Bago Yoma mountain range displayed by Forest Department and books on agricultural technology, farming equipment, medicines and samples of quality paddy strains exhibited by Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Next, they sowed the seeds and planted saplings.

Later, the commander and wife grew teak and star flower saplings in commemoration of the ceremony.

A total of 56,000 saplings and 42,000 seeds of perennial, crop, windbreak and flowery plants were planted at the ceremony in Bago Station.

After that, the commander inspected progress in digging the canal crossing Yangon-Bago Six-lane Highway to supply water from Lagunbyin Dam near Minlwingon Village of Hlegu Township to 11,000 acres of farmlands in Kyeeganthaik, Saingtigon and Alantabo Villages. The commander gave instructions on water supply tasks to be carried out not only for agricultural purpose but also for greening the region all the year round.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party oversaw the main canal of Lagunbyin Dam stretching 10.76 miles. Director U Kyaw Thein of Irrigation Department and officials conducted the commander round the site.

The commander gave instructions on maintenance for durability of the main canal, upgrad-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe grows a sapling to mark the sapling planting ceremony of Bago Station. — YANGON COMMAND

ing of the canal's embankment to laterite one and minimizing of waste water from the dam. — MNA

Preliminary conference of...

(from page 16)

members of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint (Retd), Chairman of Ayeyawady Division War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee Secretary of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Hlaing, members of Division WVO Supervisory Committee, departmental officials and guests.

The first session of the conference was presided over by Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung.

Next, the commander delivered a speech.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and wellwishers presented K 15.5 million donated by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and companies from the division to Ayeyawady Division WVO Supervisory Committee.

At the second session, Lt-Col Thein Hlaing delivered a speech. Captain Win Myint (Retd), Captain Maung Aw (Retd) and Captain Tun Yi (Retd) submitted a report to the preliminary conference of Ayeyawady Division WVO (2005). Delegates from Maubin, Hinthada, Pyapon, Myaungmya and Patheingyi Districts discussed five sectors in the report.

The chairman reported on five future tasks and resolutions for approval. The preliminary conference ended with chanting of slogans.—MNA

Dry day inspection teams discharge duties



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party supervise dry day inspection teams.— MNA

YANGON, 29 May — Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, together with leader of the inspection team Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe and members Director General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Khin Yi, senior military officers and departmental heads this morning supervised dry day inspection teams checking the motor vehicles used by Tatmadaw and departments at the

main points of Yangon City and so did leader of inspection team Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, deputy leader Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and members Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and departmental heads in the evening. The inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill and wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules. — MNA

Myanmar baseball delegation leaves for Switzerland

YANGON, 29 May — At the invitation of Asia Baseball Federation and International Baseball Federation, President of Myanmar Baseball Federation U Aung Myat Oo (Ginvera), Vice-President Dr Naing Win (Panasonic) and General Secretary U San Maung Myint left for Switzerland to attend the annual conference of ABF and IBF to be held in Switzerland from 2 to 4 June. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by the officials of MBF.—MNA

Myanmar baseball delegation seen at the airport before departure for Switzerland. MBF



Paper reading session on health held

YANGON, 29 May — An annual paper reading session on health organized by the Central Health Education Division of the Health Planning Department and NGOs took place at the National Health Museum in Myaynigon, Sangyoung Township here on 26 May.

Deputy Director of CHED Dr Khin Maung Lwin addressed the session. U Khyin Khant Hlyan of Partner Organization and group leader U Ral Marjoric read the papers on supply of clean water for schools, building of fly-proof latrines and giving help in control of HIV/AIDS. Then, they answered the queries raised by those present.

Similar paper reading session will be held on 24 June and any one can attend it. — MNA

Over K 50 billion invested in...

(from page 16)
Technological Adviser to the factory Mr Alistar Chang and officials conducted them round the hall.

The commander attended to the requirements.

Next, they proceeded to Pearl Garment Factory on Bhamo Atwinwun Road in the zone-3. They oversaw making of jerkins and other garments. Manager Daw Hla Hla Thein and

officials explained matters related to their works.

After hearing the reports, the commander instructed them to make arrangements for more distribution of quality products to the people.

At Popular Garment Factory, they viewed sewing of T-shirt, sport shirt, jerkin and garments. Managing Director U Hla Win and officials conducted them round the factory. Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave suggestions on ex-

tension of the works and production of quality goods, and attended to the needs.

Yangon Division has established industrial zones for the increase of production in the industrial sector of the State. Hlinethaya Industrial Zone was set up on 1398 acres of plot in 1995. The Industrial Zone is formed with seven parts. A total of 428 factories of the industrial zone have invested K 57,593.235 million in their production.

MNA



Ministers, deputy ministers and guests visit Pun Hlaing International Hospital. (News on page 16) — MNA



SPA/FMI Group of Companies Chairman U Thein Wai speaking at opening ceremony of Pun Hlaing International Hospital. (News on page 16) — MNA

Self-reliant village libraries put into service in Mudon Township

YANGON, 29 May — Self-reliant libraries were opened in Kwamta Village and Thayagon Village in Mudon Township on 26 May morning.

Present on the occasions were Mon State Information and Public Relations Department Assistant Director U Win Kyi, local authorities and wellwishers.

Mudon Township Peace and Development

Council Chairman U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and Head of Township IPRD Daw Moe Moe Sanda Tun formally opened the libraries. Next, the books donation ceremonies followed at the respective libraries. Mudon Township PDC Chairman U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and Mawlamyine District IPRD Staff Officer U Tin Tun explained the purpose of opening the libraries.

Officials accepted 50 books for Kwamta Village library donated by Mon State IPRD Assistant Director U Win Kyi; 50 books by Head of Mudon Township IPRD Daw Moe Moe Sanda Tun; K 10,000 each by U Aung Lun and U Yu Teik; 50 books for Thayagon Village library by Mawlamyine District IPRD Staff Officer U Tin Tun; 60 books by WO-II Myo Min Aung; 80 books by writer Tekkatho Nang Phyu Phyu Tun; 35 books by Daw Tin Tin Htay; 20 books by Daw Nyunt Thein; 35 books by Daw Khin Si; 60 books by Daw San Maw; and 50 books by Head of Township IPRD Daw Moe Moe Sanda Tun. MNA

CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Than Htay attends opening ceremony of Kywetalin BEHS (Branch)

YANGON, 29 May — A ceremony to open Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kywetalin village-tract in Shwedaung

Township, Bago Division (West), co-organized by Shwedaung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and

the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the ceremonies to conclude the summer courses and present the membership

applications of USDA was held at the school yesterday morning, attended by Central Executives Committee for USDA Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay.

The deputy minister delivered an opening speech. The Township Education Officer and the chairman of Shwedaung Township PDC presented certificates on basic summer course and advanced computer course to the trainees. The deputy minister then accepted 7,306 membership applications from 11 village-tracts in Shwedaung Township.

The CEC member

donated cash for the school. He also attended the opening ceremony of artesian well in Warle village, Yattha village-tract and the ceremony of presenting membership applications, organized by Thegon Township USDA.

The CEC member and the chairman of Thegon Township PDC formally opened the artesian well and made the speeches. The deputy minister accepted 3,000 membership applications from Warle, Sabe, Gyokon and Yattha villages and donated cash for the development tasks of the villages. — MNA

Kyauktada Township school enrolment day ceremony held

YANGON, 29 May — Kyauktada Township school enrolment day ceremony of school-age children was held at Kyauktada Township BEHS this morning, attended by CEC Member (Yangon Division In Charge) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Director U Aung Chein and officials of No 3 Basic Education Department, Township PDC chairmen, the head of township education department and so-

cial organizations.

After reporting on the progress of school enrolment tasks, the deputy mayor made a speech and donated stationery and school uniforms to school children.

Afterwards, donations of stationery, school uniforms and cash continued. The school children and officials accepted the donations of wellwishers including stationery and school uniforms worth of K 760,000 donated by donor U Ohn Shwe. — MNA



A swimmer participating in Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Women's and Men's Age-wise Swimming Championship Sunday. — NLM



Treasurer U Han Tun Maung (Seinhlyan) presents prize to a winner in MOC Chairman's Cup Women's and Men's Age-wise Swimming Championship. — NLM

China budget funding for re-employment up 31%

BEIJING, 29 May — China's central government budget stands at 10.9 billion yuan (1.32 billion US dollars), up 2.6 billion yuan, or 31 per cent, year-on-year, officials with the Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The central government also increased budget funding for employment training programmes for farmers to 400 million yuan (nearly 50 million US dollars), compared with 150 million yuan (about 20 million US dollars), said an official with the ministry.

Following rapid growth in budget funding for re-employment and social securities, this year's increased funding arrangements for re-employment programmes for

urban and rural residents show the government's commitment to a more harmonious society, said the official.

The Ministry of Finance will continue its effort to support efforts to improve social security system in urban China, and to provide basic living allowance for those laid off by state-owned firms, he said.

The Chinese central government increased its allowance for re-employment by 2.225 billion yuan (271 million US dollars),

or 54.6 per cent, in 2004, while local governments also made similar arrangements, according to the ministry.

Meanwhile, the ministry earmarked 14.4 billion yuan (1.75 billion US dollars) in living allowance funding for jobless workers, and delivered 52.4 billion yuan (6.39 billion US dollars) in transferred payment for pension fund, which helped ensure retirees get their pension in time and in full. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Manufacturer of inferior milk powder sentenced in Shenzhou

HANGZHOU, 29 May — Local court in Shengzhou, a city in east China's Zhejiang Province, sentenced a businessman to prison for producing and selling substandard milk powder.

The man, named Xu Jiedong, was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined 400,000 yuan (48,193 US dollars), according to a local newspaper.

In December 2003, two babies in Yingshang and Linquan counties in east

China's Anhui Province died from malnutrition after consuming the milk powder supplied by Xu's company.

As the legal representative of Shengzhou Tianbuer Co., Ltd., Xu illegally produced 65.22

tons of inferior milk powder in 13 varieties from April 2003 to April 2004.

The substandard milk powder was sold for more than 700,000 yuan (84,337 US dollars), the local newspaper said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia not to pay ransom for hostages in Philippines

JAKARTA, 29 May — The Indonesian Government will not pay ransom for the release of three Indonesian citizens who are being held in hostage by a militia group in the southern Philippines, the Vice-President said on Saturday.

"They (the captors) want money. But the government will never give them," Vice-President Jusuf Kalla was quoted by the Detikcom online news service as saying. Kalla said from his hometown in South

Sulawesi that the government has sent a team to the Philippines to coordinate efforts with local authorities to seek the release.

Three Indonesian people who worked for a Malaysian tugboat were kid-

napped by a group who called themselves the Jammi Al Islamiah on 30 March.

Local media reports said the group asked a ransom of some 790,000 US dollars for their release.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Uganda farms more coffee exports in April

KAMPALA, 29 May — Uganda earned 15.3 million US dollars from exporting coffee in April, representing a 13-per-cent rise compared with March and 74-per-cent up against April last year, according to a monthly report from Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).

Uganda exported a total of 211,388 60-kilo bags of coffee in April, while 177,569 bags of coffee worth of 8.8 million dollars in April last year.

The UCDA attributed the rise in volume last month to "the recovery in coffee prices on the world market that impelled farmers and traders to offload coffee stocks in their possession".

"Coffee exports in the past seven months

totalled 1.44 million bags valued at 82 million dollars, representing a nominal drop in volume of 0.5 per cent and an increase in value of 22.8 per cent over a similar period last year," the report said.

The report said that "world coffee prices continued with the positive trend observed since beginning of this season, which is likely to continue owing to a supply deficit of around eight million bags in

2005/06 coupled with the approaching Brazilian frost scare period, which starts in late May and continues into August".

Countries in the European Union were the major importers of Uganda coffee representing 90 per cent.

Uganda is a major coffee producer and exporter in Africa. The nation projected to export 200,000 bags of coffee in May.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Germany, Spain urge France to say "yes" to EU Constitution

PARIS, 29 May — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Friday called for France to say "yes" at the 29 May referendum on the European Union (EU) Constitution.

As last efforts two-day ahead the referendum on Sunday, Schroeder and Zapatero headed for France to insist on the imperative that France approve the EU constitutional treaty, which need the approval by all 25 EU member states and aims at simplifying decision-making in the European Union following last year's expansion of the bloc to the post-Communist east and the Mediterranean.

The two heads of government addressed respectively for the "yes" campaign in link-up, with Schroeder in front of a rally of 800 people in the

French southwestern city of Toulouse alongside former French minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Zapatero in front of a rally of about 3,000 people in the northern city of Lille hosted by French Socialist party leader Francois Hollande.

"I ask you for a yes to the European Constitution, a yes in the name of the left," said the Spanish Prime Minister.

"Spain votes 'yes', France votes 'yes' and Europe votes 'yes'," said Zapatero, adding "Europe needs France, its enthusiasm, its culture, its strength and its momentum."

"The 'no' is sad and pessimistic," he added. "We want Europe because it means peace, freedom and solidarity."

In Toulouse, the German chancellor urged the French to vote "yes" "with all their heart and their head" and "clearly say yes to the Constitution for which 'we are fighting'".

France and Germany share a great responsibility for Europe to last eternally and must assume that responsibility for future generations, said Schroeder, to whom both countries are engine of all important issues of Europe.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Italian President calls for more help for Africa

ROME, 29 May — Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Saturday called for commitment by the international community to projects to help eradicate poverty in Africa.

In a message to a conference promoting Italian-African cooperation for development, Ciampi said Italy and the European Union could contribute to

forging a "solid partnership" with Africa.

The President recalled that in the coming weeks and months international organizations such as the United Nations and the G8 would be discussing development in poor parts of the world, Africa in particular.

"I hope that there emerges a common strategy to reduce the unaccept-

able divide between north and south of the world and to increase the number of concrete projects which alleviate the suffering of African populations."

African nations must commit themselves to consolidating democratic institutions, respecting human rights and encouraging peaceful coexistence, the President added.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Colombia seeks IDB presidency

BOGOTA, 29 May — Colombian President Alvaro Uribe will recommend the country's ambassador to the United States Luis Alberto Morero as candidate to the Presidency of the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), the local Press said on Friday.

Moreno was appointed in 1998 as ambassador to Washington by ex-president Andres Pastrana and Uribe ratified him to stay in the post in August 2002.

The Moreno candidacy to the IDB leadership will be soon proposed by the President, said the government in a statement released Friday by the Press.

Incumbent IDB President Enrique Iglesias, from Uruguay, will retire this year ahead of schedule, after 17 years heading the multilateral organization. His current tenure, the fourth of his, is due in 2008.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



KFC Germinal Berschot player Mohamed Camara celebrates with the Trophy after his team won the Belgian soccer Cup against FC Brugge, at the King Baudouin stade in Brussels on 28 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Ugandan President stresses industrialization in Africa

KAMPALA, 29 May — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has said that Africa's primary goal is to transform the pre-industrial society to a modern one, according to a Press release issued here by the State House on Saturday.

Museveni made the remarks on Friday evening when he met a visiting delegation of 14 senior Nigerian Government and military officers led by Adamu Fika, who are in Uganda as part of their Africa study tour.

Museveni said Africa's goal could be achieved through education and health for all as well as liberalization and industrialization.

The President pointed out that although Uganda's economy has relatively grown by 6.5 per cent of GDP per year,

this has been due to the mushrooming of small enterprises.

"There is need for the government to intervene in certain sectors to stimulate the liberalization and growth of the economy that can lead to the transformation of society," he said.

Museveni noted that other concerns include political and economic integration that the East African countries Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are striving to achieve, saying that other elements involve having an economy that is export

oriented and adding value to products.

The Ugandan President hailed President Olusegun Obasanjo, the government and people of Nigeria for preserving the federation of their country. Fika highly commended the strong impact on the people of Uganda made by the political, economic and social sectors.

He particularly cited the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, saying the people of Nigeria are proud to be associated with the people of Uganda whose sustained campaign against the scourge has generated world-wide admiration.

MNA/Xinhua

EU asks for formal consultation with China on textiles

BRUSSELS, 29 May — The European Union (EU) on Friday asked the Chinese authorities for formal consultations on two categories of textiles and clothing products — flax yarn and T-shirts.

The EU's move would trigger an urgency procedure, which requires China to limit exports of textile or textile products in these categories to a level no greater than 7.5 per cent above the amount that entered the EU market during the period from March 2004 to February 2005.

"European Commission guidelines invite China to do this within 15 days. However, a mutually satisfactory agreement between the EU and China could also be concluded through negotiation during this period," the EU executive European Commission said in a statement.

"The Chinese Government perfectly understands that this procedural step does not preclude or displace the intensive discussions between China and the EU," the statement said.

The Commission said the request is made after a thorough and fruitful telephone discussion between EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai.

"This will be followed by further contacts on Monday and in the coming week, when discussions can be expected to intensify at technical and political levels," it said.

The EU and China have already been in close, high-level contact recently to try to find a solution. On Wednesday, the EU head office gave green light to Mandelson to continue informal talks with Chinese authorities until 31 May.

Earlier last week, Mandelson announced that he would request the EU to launch formal consultations with China over T-shirts and flax yarn. Meanwhile, there are seven other categories of textile imports from China currently under the EU's investigation.

To ease the situation, China agreed on 20 May to raise export tariffs on goods in 74 categories by as much as five times.

However, China says that it will scrap recently agreed plans to increase export tariffs on textiles should the EU and the United States also impose quotas on imports.

"If the US and the EU formally carry out restrictions on any of these categories, we will not impose export tariffs on the items in question," the Chinese Commerce Ministry said. Under the rules of the World Trade Organization, all quantitative quotas on textile products should be lifted since 1 January, 2005.

MNA/Xinhua



Madrid's mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardon speaks beside a logo of Madrid 2012's Olympic bid during an interview with Reuters at Madrid's city hall on 23 May, 2005. Ruiz Gallardon expressed his confidence that Madrid will gain victory in Singapore on 6 July to organize the 2012 Olympic Games.

INTERNET

62 kilos of heroin, 70 kilos of hashish seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 29 May — Turkish security forces seized 62 kilos of heroin and 70 kilos hashish in two separate operations recently, the semi-official *Anatolia News Agency* reported Saturday. The heroin was discovered in

a truck in the southern city of Mersin, said the report, adding seven people were detained in the operation and an investigation is under way. The hashish was confiscated from a truck near Ovapinar Village in Muradiye Town of the

eastern city of Van, and one person was arrested, the report said.

Turkey serves as an important drug smuggling route linking Asia, the Middle East, the Mediterranean Sea and Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria's gas flaring reduced by 20% since 1999

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 29 May — Gas flaring in the Africa's biggest oil producer has been reduced by 20 per cent since 1999 and will be reduced to zero in 2008, a high-ranking official from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation said on Saturday.

Dada Yomi, group managing director of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, made the remarks at the weekend at a capacity building workshop for members of the Senate Committee on Gas Matters in Port Harcourt, south Nigeria.

He said gas flaring would be a thing of the past if the Nigerian Government's efforts to properly monetize the nation's gas reserve began to yield results.

He noted the government's intention to emphasize on gas was to enable an alternative source of earning for the nation as the oil reserve would not last forever.

Nigeria's proven crude oil reserve is about 34 billion barrels which is targeted to last for about 33 years based on current level of oil production.

The natural gas reserve on the other hand is 187 trillion standard cubic feet, which is calculated to last for over 200 years.

"Many oil producing countries in the world are already developing their gas sectors, awaiting the commencement of a viable market in the US billed to begin in 2009, we also need to be prepared," he said.

Acting Chairman of the Senate Committee on Gas Matters Farouk Bunza said the workshop was necessary owing to the need to diversify the nation's sources of income. — MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to collaborate with foreign stakeholders in gas projects

ABUJA, 29 May — The Nigerian Government will collaborate with foreign stakeholders in the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) business to meet the increasing demands of the cooking gas, the official *News Agency of Nigeria* reported Friday.

Presidential adviser on petroleum and energy Edmund Daukoru was quoted as saying that Nigeria would fully support any move to ensure availability of the commodity in the interest of consumers. "I believe LPG production should be private sector driven and I look forward to that," Daukoru said.

The Nigerian Government had set up a technical committee on revival of LPG in collaboration with the World Bank, he said, adding the government would welcome useful suggestions that could assist in removing bottlenecks associated with LPG production.

According to C.

Onitiri, chairman of the Nigerian LPG Association, massive production, importation as well as resuscitation of the Exxon-Mobil jetty in Bonny in Nigeria's southern state of Rivers "will undoubtedly force down the unbearable high cost of the product".

He said ensuring acceptable procedure for common access of LPG depots as well as affecting a waiver of import duty and value added tax (VAT) on LPG would also ensure availability and affordability. Onitiri said a waiver of import duty and VAT on LPG alone was capable of reducing the cost of the product by about 40 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

G-8 to set no timetable for reducing global warming

LONDON, 29 May — The forthcoming 2005 summit of the Group of Eight industrialized nations (G-8) will not set a timetable to reduce global warming, British news paper *The Independent* reported on Saturday.

The G-8 summit will discuss the role of nuclear power in reducing climate change, but it is not

preparing to set new targets or a timetable to cut global warming, the paper said, citing a leaked draft communiqué on climate change for the G-8 summit.

The paper, Draft G-8 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, which outlines the key climate change issues for the G-8 summit, shows no new

timetable for reducing carbon emissions or any ambitious new targets for progress after 2012, said the paper.

According to the draft, talks about "cleaner" technologies will include nuclear power, despite public opposition to expanding the technology in Britain. The draft says that the G-8 summit,

which is held at Gleneagles in Scotland from July 6-8, will end with a joint statement on nuclear power. In 2005, Britain becomes the presidency state of the G-8, the eight industrialized countries grouping Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada, Russia and the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

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INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy for the supply of the following plant with complete accessories:-

Tender No. & Description	Qty.	Closing Date/Time
Tender No. 47 (T) Urea Plant/MPE/SL/2005-2006	1 Unit	30-6-2005/noon

Urea plant-200 m.ton per day in Sa-Le (B) side

Detail Tender Documents are available at the Department of Finance, No. 23 Minye Kyaw Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hour on payment of one hundred (100) US\$ (or) FEC per set.

Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially will be accepted, and to be reached the office of Director (Planning) on or before closing date.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

WB to earmark huge money to ensure road safety in Iran

TEHERAN, 28 May—An Iranian transportation official said on Friday that the World Bank has planned to earmark 480 million US dollars to help promote the safety of Iran's roads, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

"The World Bank has envisaged to allocate 480 million US dollars for the safety plans offered by our organization, and the aid will be provided in two phases," Mohammad Doustdar, official of Iran's Road Transportation and Maintenance Organization, was quoted as saying.

Issues such as investments in the Roads Safety Plan, supporting the Commission on the Safety of the Roads as well as the Cabinet's ratifications on the matter are top on the agenda of the organization to cooperate with the World Bank in the current year, Doustdar said.

The official said that

the organization would take measures such as proposing limited tariffs on imported cars to encourage drivers to replace their obsolete vehicles, a move necessary to promote transportation security in Iran.

"Given the fact that the average age of 49 per cent of the vehicles operating in the country's cargo fleet is over 25 years and as the result they are considered old for safe operation, the organization proposes that in the current year's budget bill, the rate of the tariffs imposed on truck imports not exceed more than 5 per cent," Doustdar said.

MNA/Xinhua

German-Polish border park put on UNESCO World Heritage List

BERLIN, 28 May—The German Government said on Friday that a park straddling the Neisse River on both sides of the German-Polish border has been put on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The 700-hectore Muskauer Park was landscaped by Prince Hermann von Pueckler-Muskau from 1815 to 1844.

A statement by the government said the park is not only one of Europe's most beautiful landscape gardens but also a fine example of cross-border cooperation by both nations to restore and rebuild a garden work of art.

The park was split between Poland and former East Germany after World War II and a cooperation agreement on the park was signed in 1989.

"Muskauer Park is an exceptional example of a European landscape park that broke new ground in terms of development towards an ideal made-made landscape," UNESCO said. —MNA/Xinhua

Uganda trains first batch of "MIG" jet fighter pilots

KAMPALA, 28 May—A checkout ceremony for Uganda's first batch of upgraded *MIG* jet fighter pilots in past 25 years was held at Entebbe Airbase on Thursday, reported Radio Uganda on Friday.

The training now leaves Uganda Air Force boasting six world class pilots and sixty technicians, according to the radio. The group is expected to use the acquired skills in giving the Air Force total control over Uganda's airspace.

Officiating at the ceremony, President Yoweri Museveni said he was glad to be part of the revival of Uganda Air Force which faced setback in 1970's.

The President called on the Uganda People's Defence Force leadership to support the fresh professionals in developing their skills further and attending to their welfare so that they can render better services to Uganda.

He urged the young professionals to avoid contracting AIDS, which he said would be a terrible disappointment after acquiring this specific and expensive expertise.

MNA/Xinhua

More Zambian couples use family planning methods

LUSAKA, 28 May—The number of Zambian couples using family planning methods has increased steadily from 15 per cent in 1992 to 34 per cent in 2001-2002, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) said on Thursday.

Quoting results from the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, the CSO said the use of modern contraceptive methods rose from 9 per cent in 1992 and 14 per cent in 1996 to 23 per cent in 2001-2002.

The use of traditional contraceptive methods increased from 6 per cent in 1992 to 12 per cent in 1996 but has since remained at the same level.

The survey also show that of the married non-users, 69.9 per cent of

women and 71.7 per cent of men have intention to start using contraceptives in the future.

CSO Deputy Director John Kalumbi attributed the increased use of family planning methods to economic concerns, as high prevalence of poverty are forcing parents to have less children.

According to CSO, the size of an average Zambian family has decreased from 6.7 in 1992 to 5.9 in 2001-2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian Govt allocates state funds to boost eco in south

ROME, 28 May—Italian Economy Minister Domenico Siniscalco announced on Friday that 10 billion euros (12.6 billion US dollars) of state funds have been allocated for measures to boost the economy in underdeveloped areas.

The minister said at a Press conference that about half of the funds would go on infrastructure investments and the rest on tax breaks and other business incentives.

The measures will improve Italy's GDP by 0.2 per cent in 2005, 0.5 per cent in 2006 and 1 per cent when they are fully in place, Siniscalco said.

The centre-right gov-

ernment of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has been under attack lately from employers and unions over the country's poor economic performance.

Some of Berlusconi's allies have pressured him to make helping the southern economy a key plank in the government's policy in the remainder of the legislature.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says EU N-proposal portrays new position

TEHERAN, 28 May—Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani said here Friday that the European Union (EU) had presented a proposal that portrays its new position on Iran's nuclear programme in the latest round of talks.

"I have brought the EU's proposal to Iran because it portrays a new position on the part of the Europeans, and we must make a decision over the proposal," Rowhani said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

Rowhani made the comments upon his arrival in Teheran after holding a key round of talks in Geneva on Wednesday with foreign ministers of the European trio of Britain, France and Germany.

The negotiator said that he had informed the Europeans in the talks that Iran could no longer tolerate the delaying of the talks and would resume some uranium enrichment activities.

"The Europeans have proposed to present a comprehensive plan within the next two months for all-out cooperation with Iran in different areas including technical and nuclear issues," Rowhani added.

"Iran would inform the European trio if it has accepted their proposal. If the proposal is rejected, Iran will resume the enrichment activities," he stressed.

Iran and the EU have just prevented the deadlocked bilateral nuclear negotiations from going further to crisis in Wednesday's talks, during which the two sides in fact prolonged the negotiations to wait for the result of Iran's presidential elections

on 17 June.

The current deadlock came as a result of the EU's repeated rejection to Iran's demand of keeping restricted uranium activities.

Frustrated Teheran in late April threatened to resume its highly sensitive uranium enrichment activities, which it suspended in last November in exchanged for the economic and technological incentives promised by the EU.

Teheran's threat was immediately hit back by the EU, which warned of backing a US-proposed referral of Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council, which might inflict harsh sanctions on the country.

MNA/Xinhua

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Scholars from Japan, China, S Korea publish history textbook

TOKYO, 28 May — Scholars and civic organizations from Japan, China and South Korea have published a history textbook based on a common recognition of the past history of their countries.

In a news conference held Friday evening to announce the publication of "History to Open the Future", the joint committee for the publication said their work to publish such a history textbook began in March 2002 in the eastern Chinese city of

Nanjing. The committee had held 10 meetings to solve controversies before the publication of the history textbook for middle school students, written in Japanese, Chinese and Korean. It is the first time the

scholars of China, Japan and South Korea have joined forces in writing a common history book, according to the committee. The Korean-version copies of the textbook were officially published in South Korea on Thursday. —MNA/Xinhua

Greece PM promises free access to Internet for top students

ATHENS, 28 May — Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis promised on Friday that free Internet would be provided to students who have distinguished themselves in their studies within the framework of the government's objective to create conditions so that young people have easy access to the highways of new knowledge.

In a speech on Friday night in Thessaloniki, northern Greece, at an event marking the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the local Polytechnic School, the Prime Minister noted the need to cover, as soon as possible the "digital gap" separating Greece from the world's most developed countries.

He said that within this framework, and with understanding with the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE), from the next academic year the top student each year in every school will have the right of free access to ADSL and speedy

Internet for the whole academic year.

Karamanlis said that from the next academic year OTE will offer to pre-graduate and postgraduate students of the universities and technical institutes a special reduced price of five euros per month for ADSL access (today it is 36 euros), while it will offer a reduced by 50 per cent activation fee.

At the same time, the existing Internet services have agreed with OTE to offer students a special product from the service of the speedy Internet at a considerably lower price. Therefore, the entire service will be offered at a price

of 15 euros a month compared to the existing price of 85 euros. Touching on the educational system, he said that "it must acquire stability, not to change from minister to minister and from government to government, to have flexibility of adjustment to continuous changing facts so as to respond to the demands of modern era".

"The aim and ambition of our policy in education is to meet the modern facts, the increased demands of the modern era, the needs of the social whole, the expectations and the visions of the new generation," Karamanlis said. —MNA/Xinhua



People surf the Internet in Jinan, China recently. INTERNET

Clinton, Patil discuss ways to improve tsunami relief work

NEW DELHI, 28 May — Appreciating the Indian Government's work in the aftermath of the tsunami tragedy, UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Relief and former US president Bill Clinton on Thursday discussed with Home Minister Shivraj Patil and senior officers means to improve and hasten rehabilitation efforts.

Patil had a half-hour meeting with Clinton at a hotel here where the former US President is staying. Home Secretary V K Duggal and other senior officials of the ministry were also present.

Duggal and other officials briefed Clinton on the post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts for nearly an hour after Patil's departure.

"What we were able to talk about here is what we can do to do a better job (on rehabilitation) more quickly," Clinton told reporters later.

He said money had already been committed by the international com-

munity and the Indian Government "has been very good working with us (the UN, but) everyone knows this is the most difficult period (for rehabilitation work)".

The former US President, on his third visit to India, said the government had done a "great job in the aftermath of the tsunami. There was no outbreak of disease, no starvation and you had no body dying of contaminated water. Within a year or so, we had great long-term rehabilitation projects". Clinton said he was "eager" to meet tsunami-affected people when he tours Nagapattinam District in southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Friday.

"I am eager to go to the sites tomorrow (Fri-

day), talk to people to know their ideas how to involve local people in populations that are often left out (on the basis of) class, gender, etc," Clinton said.

He said the devastated economy in tsunami-hit areas had to be brought back on the rails. "But it is easy to talk, hard to do anywhere in the world," he added.

Clinton later called on former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his residence here. Party sources described it as a "courtesy call".

The former US president will also meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi before leaving for Tamil Nadu. MNA/PTI

Smart solid-state lighting sources will save energy for world

LOS ANGELES, 28 May — Humans can cut the electricity used for lighting in half by adopting solid-state light sources, which convert electricity to light with greater efficiency than incandescent or fluorescent lights, US researchers projected on Thursday.

"Smart" solid-state light sources now being developed will also benefit people all over the world after being applied in transportation, communication, agriculture and medicine, said a paper published in the 27 May issue of the journal Science.

In this article, researchers Fred Schubert

and Jong Kyu Kim of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute described current research to transform lighting into "smart" lighting.

The ability to control basic light properties, including spectral power distribution, polarization, and colour temperature, will allow "smart" light sources to adjust to spe-

cific environments and requirements and to undertake entirely new functions that are not possible with incandescent or fluorescent lighting, they said.

For example, "smart" solid-state light sources have the potential to adjust human circadian rhythms to match changing work schedules, to allow an automobile to imperceptibly communicate with the car behind it, or to economically grow out-of-season strawberries in northern climates. Solid-state lighting sources such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs) already offer energy savings and environmental benefits compared to traditional incandescent or fluorescent lamps.

Fundamental principles of physics place far greater limits on the efficiency of incandescent and fluorescent lights than on solid-state lights. In theory, solid-state devices with perfect materials and designs would require only 3 watts to generate the light obtained from a 60-watt incandescent bulb. MNA/Xinhua

Washington to assist Pakistan's social sectors

ISLAMABAD, 28 May — The United States will provide an assistance of 147.6 million US dollars to Pakistan for improving its social sectors including education, health, employment creation, economic opportunities and electoral and legislative process.

A memorandum of understanding in this connection was signed by visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca and Pakistani Minister of State on Economic Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar here on Thursday.

After performing the signing ceremony, Rocca said the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud of expanding its cooperation with Pakistan in education, health, economic growth and governance.

She said the USAID is providing the fund to improve the quality of Pakistan's education and health services, help create employment and economic opportunities and improve electoral and legislative processes. MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

SPORTS

Almost no Asian countries train football talents systematically

QINGDAO (China), 29 May— Mohamed Hammam, president of Asian Football Confederation (AFC), on Saturday said all Asian countries, except Japan, had failed to pick up and train their talented young players in an organized manner, a key factor deterring football development in the region.

"I have no doubt that immense football talents exist in Asia," said Mohamed in a Press conference at eastern coastal city of Qingdao in China, adding that, however, many of the talented were undiscovered for the lack of systematic talent-training strategies in the country.

"The strategies change as the president of national football associations change," he said.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of AFC, said without a consistent strategy to develop young talents, Asian countries cannot really make progress in football. "What China has achieved is by chance; What Malaysia has achieved is by accident," he said.

Mohamed said AFC had pledged to assist its member countries to tackle this problem as a priority in the next few years.

About 20 AFC officials, together with 30 officials of national associations in Asia had come to China for the official inauguration of Vision Asia this Friday. The 10-year programme was aimed at upgrading Asian countries' football level from the grassroots.

It included launching a community-based, semi-professional city league in two Chinese cities — the coastal Qingdao and the central Wuhan. The league would be kicked off on Saturday and Sunday.

"China is a gold mine

of football, unfortunately the products are still buried underground," Velappan said, "through the city leagues we are going to bring it up, to polish it, and market it."

Zhang Jilong, AFC vice-president, stressed that the focus of city league

should be placed on discovering young talents and training them properly. He said AFC had urged China's Football Association to forge long-term partnership with Education Ministry in training young football players.

MNA/Xinhua



Kuwait's Muhammad Husain (R) of Al Kuwait fights for the ball against Qatar club Al Sadd's Wesam Rizk during their AFC Champions League match in Doha City on 25 May, 2005.—INTERNET

England beats United States 2-1 in friendly

WASHINGTON, 29 May— Manchester United winger Kieran Richardson scored twice in his international debut to give England a 2-1 victory over the United States on Saturday in a national televised friendly meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Richardson, who helped West Brom escape Premiership relegation while on loan this season, scored on a free kick in the fourth minute and off a pass from Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole in the 44th minute.

The Americans finally scored in the 79th minute, when Landon Donovan took a free kick and Carlos Bocanegra flicked it while sliding in front of the goal. England goalie David James made a nice kick save, but the ball caromed

straight back at David Dempsey, who headed it in.

England played a largely second-choice lineup with Joe Cole, Ashley Cole and Sol Campbell the only regulars. David Beckham and Michael Owen are expected to join the team for Tuesday's game against Colombia in New Jersey.

The United States was not at full strength, either, likely due to its World Cup qualifiers June 4 and June 8 against Costa Rica and Panama.—MNA/Xinhua

Sharapova leads Russian charge at French Open

PARIS, 29 May— Australian Open champion Marat Safin and Wimbledon winner Maria Sharapova led the Russian charge into the last 16 Saturday at the French Open.

Safin, seeded third, excelled in his victory over friend Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, clinching the third round match 7-6 (7-5), 7-5, 1-6 and 7-6 (7-2).

Second seed Sharapova, in her quest for a second Grand Slam title, brushed aside fellow countrywoman Anna Chakvetadze 6-1, 6-4 in the third round where sixth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova and Nadia Petrova, seeded seventh, also made successful progress. Former French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne overcame an error-strewn start to edge unseeded Spanish Anabel Medina Garrigues 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the clay-court showpiece event.

The 18-year-old Sharapova was met with a little trouble in fending off two games points before taking her service game on the second game point at the start of the first set.

But the Siberian was soon to find her rhythm as she raced to break her 56th-ranked opponent in the second and fourth games.

Sharapova broke Chakvetadze, also at 18, in the opening game and the

second set went with serve until she served out to win the match.

"I thought I got to a really good start and I was in control from the first game. I felt like it was a pretty tough first game but after that I was pretty much in control," said Sharapova.

"I think as the rounds go on, it's going to be a lot tougher than it is right now. So I know that as the matches go on, I have to raise my level another notch," she said. "Mentally and physically, it's more

draining. But it's what it's all about and that's how the best are the best."

The 2003 winner Henin had a shaky start, making five double faults and 22 unforced errors in the first set before losing 6-4 under the blazing mid-afternoon sun on Court One.

Tenth seed Henin set up a fourth round clash against 19-year-old Kuznetsova on Sunday. The US Open winner sent American Marissa Irin packing, winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-0.—MNA/Xinhua

Women's World Floorball Championship starts in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 29 May— The 5th Women's World Floorball Championship started here on Saturday with the participation of over 700 athletes from 18 countries and regions.

This is the first time the bi-annual tournament is being held outside Europe and also in Singapore, whose team, the Singapore Orchids, is taking part in the Division B competition.

During the nine-day competition, the 18 participating teams are divided into two divisions with top eight teams in Division A and the remaining 10 in Division B. The teams will be competing for the honour of championship in their respective divisions. But at the end of each championship, the top team from Division B gets promoted to Division A while the bottom team of Division A is relegated to Division B.

The Singapore women's team consisting of 23 players, founded in 1999, aim to finish among the top three teams in Division B, which also includes Australia, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States.

The Singapore women's team has done very well by finishing fifth in Division B in the last championship held in Switzerland in 2003 and came in second in last year's Asia Pacific Floorball Championship.

Division A includes the Czech Republic, Japan, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland, with Finland and Sweden being believed to be this year's top two teams competing for the top honour.

Floorball, first introduced in Sweden in the mid-1970s, grew quickly in Europe. Over the years, it made sense to grow the game outside Europe and with Asia being the latest hotbed for rising sporting stars.

The floorball world championships are played every year, in even years for men and in odd years for women.—MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

J	A	M	A	I	C	A	S	H	A	P	P	Y
A	S	O	S	C	S	L	S	I	S	A	S	I
N	O	I	S	E	S	L	A	S	A	G	N	E
U	S	S	S	N	S	E	S	T	S	A	S	L
S	I	T	T	I	N	G	S	O	W	N	E	D
S	S	E	S	S	S	E	S	R	S	S	S	E
M	A	N	T	L	E	S	B	Y	W	O	R	D
U	S	S	S	I	S	B	S	S	S	V	S	S
S	A	T	A	N	S	A	T	T	R	A	C	T
I	S	I	S	E	S	L	S	R	S	T	S	R
C	U	R	T	A	I	L	S	A	G	I	L	E
A	S	E	S	G	S	E	S	I	S	O	S	S
L	E	D	G	E	S	T	A	L	E	N	T	S

New Ugandan soccer body to be instituted by October

KAMPALA, 29 May— A new assembly of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) will be in place in October this year to elect a new FUFA executive in December, local Press reported on Saturday.

Ugandan Government in February this year suspended former FUFA president Denis Obua and his executive, accusing them of mismanaging football. Obua was sent to Luzira Prison in March after he appeared in court following an arrest warrant issued by a local court.

In its efforts to re-organize the Ugandan soccer body, the world soccer governing body FIFA appointed a normalization committee which included former FUFA treasure Patrick Isiagi and other officials. However, the appointment was rejected by the Ugandan Government.

MNA/Xinhua



Mexico's national women's team's Veronica Charlin, left, controls the ball against Spain Barcelona's Ana Fuentes at the Universitary stadium in Toluca, Mexico, on 28 May, 2005, during a friendly soccer game.—INTERNET

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(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာစေးချောင်းဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အအေးရောဂါ
ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့် အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ
(က) မိုးဦးကျလာပြီးဖြစ်၍ လျှင်လျှင်ပေါလာသည့် အချိန်တွင် ဝါသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရုံသီး၊ ကြက်ဇောက်သီး၊ မင်းဂွတ်သီး စသည် သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အခွံ အစေ့ စသည်များကို စားသုံးခြင်းဖြစ်ပြီး မဆင်မဖြင့် ဖြန့်ပစ် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ယင်ပေါက်ဖွား၍ ယင်ပေါများခြင်း။
(ခ) ရာသီစာအမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်း။
(ဂ) မိုးရာဇ်၊ ရေတောင်၊ ရေဝပ်သဖြင့် ရေအိုင်၊ ရေဖွတ်ဖြစ်၍ ရေမြောင်းပိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချွန်ပိတ်ပေါင်းထူထပ်၍ ဖြစ်ပေါက်ပွားခြင်း။
(ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရပ်ခြင်း၊ အအေး ပတ်ခြင်း။
(င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်စုံတစ်ရပ် သန့်ရှင်းမှု မပြည့်စုံခြင်း။
(စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့် အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့ အကျင့် အားနည်းခြင်း။
၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ တို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကျွတ်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ် တားဆီးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုက်တွန်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ခ) ယင်နားစားများကို မဆင်မဖြင့် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အချိန်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများ ကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ ဖြန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(ဃ) မိမိတို့ မိသားစုအတွင်း ကျန်းမာရေး အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။
(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုပြုလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။
(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု၊ အပူအအေး အပြောင်းအလဲကို သတိရှိပါ။
(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ဖြစ်၊ ယင် နှိမ်နင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေး အမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်း စုပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးမျိုး ဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့လာပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံး သတင်းပို့ပါ။
(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။
ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

World server market revenue up 5.3% in first quarter

LOS ANGELES, 29 May— Worldwide computer server market reached 12.1 billion US dollars in the first quarter of 2005, up 5.3 per cent year over year, IDC said on Friday.

IDC, a US high-tech market research firm, said worldwide server unit shipment grew 13.5 per cent in the first quarter, but the growth rate was the lowest in two years.

IDC found that Linux servers posted their 11th consecutive quarter of double-digit growth, with year over year revenue growth of 35.2 per cent and unit shipments up 31.1 per cent.

"Customers continue to expand the role of Linux servers into an ever increasing array of workloads in both the commercial and technical segments of the market," IDC said in a statement.

Microsoft Windows servers also showed strong growth, as revenues and unit shipments grew 12.3 per cent and 10.7 per cent respectively year over year.

But Unix servers revenue growth slowed down to 2.8 per cent while unit shipment growth rate was at 5 per cent in the first

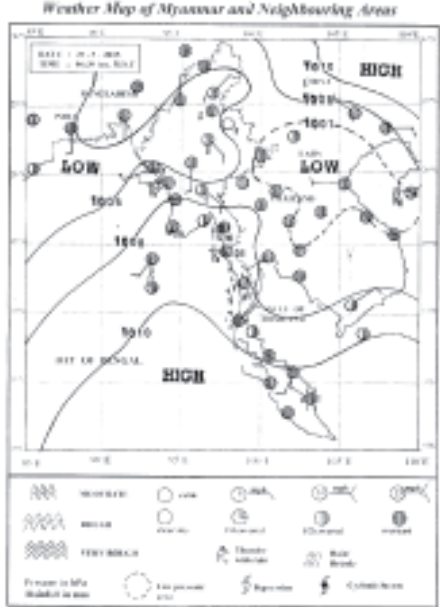
quarter. IBM held on to its top ranking as HP moved into a statistical tie for number 1 in the worldwide server systems market with 28.3 per cent and 27.6 per cent factory revenue share respectively.

Dell and Sun tied for third place in factory revenue with 10.8 per cent and 9.9 per cent share respectively.

This is the third consecutive quarter that Dell and Sun have been within one point of market share as Dell experienced 16.6 per cent year over year revenue growth while Sun's revenues increased 2.7 per cent.

In terms of unit shipments, HP maintained its number one position worldwide with 30.4 per cent server shipment share, followed by Dell with 24.5 per cent share.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 29 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Bago Division, Kachin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (2.16) inches, Yay (1.18) inches, TadaU and Pyarpon (0.98) inch each. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Yangon Division, Rakhine and Kayah States, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions, (8°C) above normal in Magway Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa (43°C), Shwebo, Myingyan, Nyaungoo, Minbu, Magway and Pakokku (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-5-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 29-5-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-5-2005 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 28-5-2005 was (8.3) hours Approx. Rainfalls on 29-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (8.27 inches) at Yangon Airport, (7.64 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (3.78 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (18) mph from West at (15:05) hours MST on 28-5-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is party cloudy in elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-5-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State and Bago Division and isolated in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in the lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-5-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Monday, 30 May Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Have you ever seen the rain
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Waiting for tonight
8.50 am National news/ Slogan
9.00 am Music: Aisy Waisy
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: -What About?
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Cassablanca-Bertie Higgins
-Wonderful life black
9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star
"The Corrs"
-Breathless
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Woman Affair's -Mottos highlighting maternal & Child health
-Kanthyaryar
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Monday, 30 May View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိတ၊ ဝဏ္ဏိဋ္ဌကဏ္ဍ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂီတ၊ ဆရာတော် တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသားများ သီသံဃာစာပေပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 5. Song of national races
8:10 am 6. Cute little dancers
8:20 am 7. အစပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Grammer made easy
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. Demonstratoin Exercises For Correct Pronunciation
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အစားအသောက်အကျိုးလိပ်ညာအရာ ရုပ်ပြိုင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယပန်း (သရုပ်အထူးပြု)
5:15 pm 6. Dance Variety
5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
5:40 pm 8. Song and dance of national races
5:45 pm 9. "ဆေးလိပ်တင်းကွာ အနုပညာ ကမ္ဘာ" လွင်ပိုး၊ မင်းဇော်ကျွန်း၊ စာနည်းကင်းကောင်း၊ ရိုးမြတ်နုနု၊ လှအာဇာလီတင်၊ ကြည်လဲလဲဦး၊ ဝမ်းပုံ
5:55 pm 10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
6:05 pm 11. Discovery
6:10 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတိုက်ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗျောက်မင်းဝန်" (အပိုင်း-၉၇)
6:30 pm 13. Evening news
7:00 pm 14. Weather report
7:05 pm 15. "ဆေးလိပ် ဆေးရက်ဆန်ကျင့်ရေး ပညာရှင်များ ဦးဆောင်စား"
7:20 pm 16. Musical programme
7:35 pm 17. Industrial Achievement
8:00 pm 18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗဟုမာန်ဆောင်း၏ ရုစံသံဇော်" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
22. မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစီစီစဉ်သရုပ်ဆောင်သော အရပ် ဓာတ်ပုံဖော်ပြချက်နှင့် မေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်
23. The next day's programme

Over K 50 billion invested in factories in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Commander inspects import-substitute products, export items of factories

YANGON, 29 May — Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, made an inspection tour of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

On arrival at Tokyo Pipe and Tokyo Plastics Factory of Myanmar Pipe and Accessories Co Ltd at the industrial zone-1, Managing Director U Thein Han reported on production process of import-substitute goods. The commander gave instructions on arrangements to be made to meet local market demands and produce quality export items.

The commander and party viewed various kinds of products of the factory displayed in the hall.
(See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Tokyo Pipe, Tokyo Plastics in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-1.
YANGON COMMAND

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(29-5-2005)

Dawei	2.16 inches
Yay	1.18 inches
TadaU and Pyapon	0.98 Inches

Preliminary conference of Ayeyawady Division WVO (2005) held



Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivers an address at preliminary meeting of Ayeyawady Division WVO for 2005. — MNA

YANGON, 29 May — The preliminary conference of Ayeyawady Division War Veterans Organization (2005) was held at the city hall in Patheingyi this morning.

Present were Patron of Ayeyawady Division War Veterans Organization Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung,
(See page 8)

Pun Hlaing International Hospital inaugurated

YANGON, 29 May — Pun Hlaing International Hospital built at Pun Hlaing Golf Course in Hlaingthaya Township was inaugurated this morning in the presence of Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

U Thein Wai of SPA/FMI Group of Companies first made an opening address and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, U Thein Wai and Prof Sinn Anuras of Group Medical Director of Thailand formally opened the hospital.

Serg Pun & Associates-SPA (Myanmar) Ltd invested \$ 21 million in the hospital which meets international standard.

The four-storey hospital comprises six operation rooms, four de-

livery rooms, two Caesarean sections, nine intensive care rooms, one laboratory and others.

The 95-bed hospital will be extended up to 350-bed facility and over 150 specialists at home and abroad will

give medical treatment.

Out-Patient Department of the hospital will be opened on 8 June and wards, intensive care units, operation rooms and emergency unit will be opened on 10 June. Expectant mothers may reg-

ister at the hospital for medical checks as of 29 May.

Deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials of embassies in Myanmar, resident representatives of UN agencies, members of social

organizations, district/township Peace and Development Councils, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and staff of the hospital were also present at the opening ceremony.

MNA



Pun Hlaing International Hospital being inaugurated by Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials. — MNA