Prime Minister lays cornerstone for constructing new Myanmar Engineering Society building

YANGON, 1 May — Cornerstones were laid for construction of a new building of the Myanmar Engineering Society at a ceremony held at the chosen site near the MICT Park on Tekkathokyaung Street in Hline Township this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign embassies to Myanmar in Yangon and charges d’affaires, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Chairman of the MES Dr Sein Myint and executives, officials of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association and guests. At the first session of the ceremony, Dr Sein Myint reported on facts about the project with the use of a scale model and charts. Next, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1, the Secretary-2, the commander, the ministers and the MES chairman took designated places. The Prime Minister laid the silver casket with nine kinds of gem in the middle of the foundation. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party put corner-stones at the same time. (See page 8)

Myanmar needs to protect its valuable natural resources and natural environment

Coordination meeting on conservation of environment held

YANGON, 1 May — A coordination meeting on conservation of environment was held at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinttha this evening, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were the ministers, the deputy ministers members of the Environment Conservation Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

In his address, the Prime Minister said regarding the conservation of environment a department was formed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In order to promote environmental affairs, the Environmental Conservation Committee comprising the ministers, the deputy ministers and heads of departments from related ministries was formed and duties were assigned, he said.

Now priority is being given to environmental conservation in international communities. He spoke of the need for Myanmar to protect its valuable natural resources and natural environment. In Myanmar there are plenty of unspoiled land and marine resources and natural environment. Myanmar possesses good natural environment such as major rivers including Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittaung Rivers flowing throughout the country, mountain ranges the length and breadth of the country and forests of invaluable various kinds of timber covered the whole nation, he said.

Continuing, he said, Myanmar is rich in precious stones such as jade, sapphire and ruby and above and underground resources such as mineral resources, petroleum and natural gas. There are a lot of still unexplored minerals, he added.

(See page 8)
Workers to stand firmly as national force

The State Peace and Development Council has been making self-reliant efforts with integrated and united participation of the entire people in marching towards the goal of emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In this regard, the government, after laying down national objectives, is harmonizing and integrating the State sector and private economic sector, while implementing the projects for development of the agricultural sector, the basic economy of the State, and flourishing of mechanized farming, in parallel to the emergence of a developed industrialized nation.

Now, the nation has enjoyed fruitful results of greater development under the national objectives thanks to the correct leadership and effective encouragement of the State, systematic combination of the State and private sectors, and enormous attempts of the mass of workers with a view to serving the national interest.

Therefore, the State Peace and Development Council has acknowledged the workers’ vital role in the development of the nation by concentrating on further protecting and promoting their rights and prospects including the tasks to create a better working environment, to prevent occupational hazards and to further raise their living standard in tune with the times.

However, internal and external destructive elements, who cannot bear the progress of Myanmar, are manufacturing various fabrications and driving a wedge among the entire people inciting the workers with the intention of enroaching upon the national solidarity.

In the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on 2004 Workers Day, it was stated that an obvious incident at present is the perpetration of a band of mischievous destructive elements, who are against Myanmar’s interests. The destructive elements are forming organizations under the guise of workers and unjustly tarnishing the reputation of the workers for self-interest, while getting involved in the affairs of the international bodies, with the workers’ rights as an excuse.

Hence, the entire workers are to strongly resist and overcome destructive acts, alien inspections, incitement, while keeping with the fine traditions of anti-colonialist struggle and sheer utility of the workers, farmers and the people.

The entire workers are thus urged to continue to stand firmly as a strong national force with the support of the government of the State in order to constantly defend and surmount the interventions and instigations of destructive elements, while making continued efforts for national development.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint offers canopied ceiling, Shwekyar Thingans to four Buddha Images of Mandalay Sutaungpyae Pagoda

Yangon, 1 May — A ceremony to offer canopied ceiling and Shwekyar Thingans donated by State Peace and Development Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw to the four Buddha Images kept in the Gandanatkittik of Sutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill was held at the pagoda yesterday morning. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony and offered the donations.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws and members of the Sangha totaling 18, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief Central Command Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Major Brig.-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Attorney General U Tin Shein, Deputy Commander Brig.-Gen Nay Win, Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Kyi Thein and members, members of the pagoda board of trustees and guests.

Before the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the mayor and party offered dawn ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws. Next, the ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa, and State Ovadacariya Shwegyin Sasanabang Abhidhaja Maha Rathna Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Waso Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghiya invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Then, the Sayadaws delivered a sermon. After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the mayor and officials presented Shwekyar Thingans to be offered to the Buddha Images and provisions and robes to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Mandalar Myaungtaik Shwe-wawin Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathna Guru Bhaddanta Sasana Bhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained and the ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tittha.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the mayor and the deputy commander offered Shwekyar Thingans to the four Buddha Images which are kept in Gandanatkittik of east, west, north and south. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid homage to the Sutaungpyae Pagoda.

Prizes presented for MTF President’s Trophy Tennis Tournament

Yangon, 1 May — The prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Tennis Federation President’s Trophy Tennis Tournament was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court here this evening. It was attended by Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, MTF President U Zaw Zaw and executives and guests. Before the ceremony the final matches of the tournament took place.

Secretary of panel of patron of leading Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye presented prizes to the winners in boys’ singles event (under 10) and girls’ singles event (under 10); Sports and Physical Education Department Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung presented prizes to the winners in boys’ singles event (under 12) and girls’ singles event (under 12); Col Tin Hla of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in boys’ singles event (under 14) and girls’ singles event (under 14); MOC Secretary SPEQD Director-General U Thaung Htike presented prizes to the winners in boys’ singles event (under 16), of women’s singles event (open) & of women’s doubles event (open); and MTF Executive President U Zaw Zaw prizes to men’s doubles tournament (above 60) and of men’s single event (above 55).

Next, Minster Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also presented prizes to team-wise winners in B-class (the first prize to Ayeyawady, the second to Top Star and the joint-third to Morning Star and Champion) and winners in A-class (the first prize to YCDC and the second to the Ministry of Forestry). Afterwards, MTF executive Major Tin Saw Naing donated award to those who won the consolation prizes of MTF Patron. Later, MTF President U Zaw Zaw extended greetings.

World Red Cross Day — 2004

Stop Discrimination

8 May 2004

Myanmar Red Cross Society

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents championship trophy to YCDC team which stood first in A-class team-wise event — MNA

Sermon to be delivered to mark success of Htitdaw hoisting ceremony of Thabhyinnyu Stupa

Yangon, 1 May — A ceremony to hoist Seunthaw, Hnetmyanawadaw and Shwehtawadaw atop Thabhyinnyu Stupa will be held on 3 May 2004 (on Fullmon Day of Kason) at the stupa to be built in Kyaukedyin Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division. Chancellor Sayadaw of Thitagu International Bud- dhist Academy Agga Maha Sanghamitta Dhammaviharadda and Aggalokkataik of Mandalay Dhammaviharadda and Shwekyar Thingans from Naypyidaw and Shwekyar Thingans from Mandalay will deliver a sermon at 7 am on Fullmon Day of Kason at the stupa to mark the success of the ceremony.

Temporary power cut in some townships of Yangon City, other townships

Yangon, 1 May — The combination of Nyangdon-Ywama gas pipeline that is sending gas to Ahlon and Ywama gas turbines will be conducted by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise from 6 am to 6 pm daily on 1, 2 and 3 May 2004. During that period, running of Ahlon gas turbine and Ywama power stations will stop on 1 and 2 May while running of turbines recycle power plant for Ywama power stations will come to a halt right through 3 May. There will be a temporary power cut in some areas from 6 am to 6 pm during that days, and regular distribution of power will resume only after 6 pm. MNA

People’s Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views and destroy the State’s peace and progress of the state

Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
732 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 May—As of Friday, April 30, 732 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 530 died as a result of hostile action and 202 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and Poland have each reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 594 US soldiers have died — 421 as a result of hostile action and 173 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of military operations, 3,864 US service members have been injured in hostile action, according to Defence Department figures as of 22 April.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command and military officials in Iraq:

A soldier attached to the 16th Military Police Brigade died Thursday in a non-hostile incident in Baghdad.

Two Marines died Friday in a suicide car bombing near their camp in Fallujah, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the Defence Department:

Army Sgt Adam W. Estep, 23, Campbell, Calif., died Thursday when a grenade hit patrol in Baghdad; assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Tex.

Army Pfc Martin W. Kondor, 20, York, Pa., died Thursday in an explosion in Baqouba, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

Marines hand over control of Fallujah to ex-Saddam General

FULFILL, 1 May—US marines handed over control of Fallujah to a former General in Saddam Hussein's army yesterday and began to withdraw troops from positions close to the besieged city.

In a significant climbdown by the US, the former Republican Guard General Jasim Mohammed Saleh arrived in Fallujah to take command of 1,100 soldiers from the disbandied Iraqi army who live in the city.

And in an apparent attempt to sabotage the new agreement, a suicide car bomb killed two US marines close to Fallujah yesterday.

“We have now begun forming a new emergency military force,” General Saleh said, adding that the people of Fallujah “rejected” US soldiers.

General Saleh was greeted by cheering crowds waving the old Iraqi flag, abolished by the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council. He met tribal leaders in a mosque.

A US Marine officer said it would not be a problem if those who had been fighting the soldiers joined the new force.

A demand that weapons such as rocket-propelled grenade launchers must be handed over has been softened into a demand that those who had been fighting US soldiers have achieved spectacular economic growth, but many have made only negligible economic progress, and others have even regressed.

The US willingness to concede so much is a recognition that the political cost of the siege has been high. Eight US Marines and several hundred Iraqis, many of them civilians, died.

UNSC adopts resolution to prevent WMD proliferation

UNITED NATIONS, 1 May—The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a crucial resolution aimed at preventing non-state entities and terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and punish those involved in proliferation of such technology or its components.

The resolution, drafted by the United States, comes in the wake of nuclear proliferation by top Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, but gives Islamabad a reprieve by not making it retroactive.

The resolution asks all states to refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempts to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery in particular for terrorist purposes.

It also demands states enforce effective law to prevent proliferation of such weapons, maintain account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport and prevent illicit trafficking in them.

However, several changes were made in the original draft to take into account India's concerns on various counts.

Severa7l Indian diplomats held extensive discussions with their counterparts from the permanent members of the Council and officials worked in capitals to ensure that the resolution takes into account Indian perspective.

The resolution, at India's instance, made — I

Kerry says Iraq is far from stable

HARRISBURG, 1 May—One year after President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq, Democratic presidential challenger John Kerry says the United States has not accomplished the mission of stabilizing the country.

“We need to put pride aside to build a stable Iraq,” Kerry said in a speech prepared for delivery Friday. “We must reclaim our country's standing in the world by doing what has kept America safe and made it more secure before — leading in a way that brings others to us so that we are respected, not simply feared, around the globe.”

Kerry was speaking Friday at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., four days after Vice President Dick Cheney denounced the Democrat's leadership on the same campus and one day before the anniversary of Bush's speech.

“ ’But we’ve seen the news. We’ve seen the pictures. And we know we are living through days of great danger.’” — Kerry

On 1 May, 2003, Bush spoke on the deck of an aircraft carrier with a banner that read “Mission Accomplished.” Critics have derided the banner’s declaration as US casualties mounted, with fighting particularly deadly in April.

“I don't think there's anyone in this room today or 6,000 miles away who doesn't wish that those words had been true,” Kerry said. “But we’ve seen the news. We’ve seen the pictures. And we know we are living through days of great danger.”

Kerry has chastised the president for failing to get more international assistance. He has said that other nations have an interest in a peaceful Iraq, so the United States should reach out to them to share the cost.

Kerry said that attempting to achieve a stable Iraq with a representative government secure in its borders will be difficult and there will be no guarantee of success. But he said the anniversary of Bush's speech is “a moment of truth.”

“It may be our last chance to get this right,” he said.

UNSG urges nations to establish true development partnership

UNITED NATIONS, 1 May—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Thursday for equal distribution of opportunities for development and urged developing and developed nations to establish true partnership for common development.

In an address marking the 40th anniversary of the Group of 77, Annan said that in the past 40 years, some developing countries have achieved spectacular economic growth, but “many have made only negligible economic progress, and others have even regressed.”

The Group of 77, created in 1964 and currently composed of 132 developing countries, is the largest nations bloc within the United Nations.

“Overall, the world has become a much more

A US Marine prepares to pack up a coil of barbed wire from a frontline position in Fallujah, Iraq on 30 April, 2004.

The Marines are turning over authority to the newly-created Fallujah Protective Army which will consist of former Iraqi soldiers from the Fallujah area.

A demand that weapons of mass destruction and punish those involved in proliferation of such weapons...
Iraqis see bright future - without the US

BAGHDAD, 1 May—The Iraqis are divided about what form of government they want, and the only government they dislike more than the US is the British, but they are broadly optimistic about their country’s future, according to a poll yesterday.

The survey, published by Gallup, CNN and USA Today, reflects an Iraqi population that is surprisingly upbeat.

Slightly more Iraqis think that the country is better off now than it was before the invasion. But a considerable majority believe that after another five years life will have improved since the Saddam Hussein days. Only 10% think Iraq will be worse off.

Most Iraqis, however, believe that the sooner the US-led coalition leaves, the better. Increasing numbers of Americans agree.

A poll published on the same day by the New York Times and CBS News showed US public support for the war eroding sharply with Americans evenly divided on whether the troops should be pulled out as soon as possible or whether they should stay for as long as it took to stabilise the country.

Only 47% thought the US had done the right thing to invade, down from 58% last month and 63% in December.

Asked what countries and organisations they had confidence in, there was backing for both the new Iraqi police and army, which had the support of about three-quarters of the population. —Internet

Nepal to participate in int’l carpet show in China

KATHMANDU, 1 May—Nepali carpet entrepreneurs will showcase their products at the Qinghai Tibetan Carpet International Exhibition scheduled to be held in north-west China’s Qinghai Province on July 9-12.

The Nepali carpet sector which is the country’s second largest earning sector is looking forward to a successful participation in the international exhibition.

The active participation in the exhibition will pave a way for export of Nepali carpet in new countries and come as a major boost to the Nepali carpet industry that has been suffering largely due to global economic slowdown.

"The liberators are worse than the dictators." "They have just lost the hearings and minds of Iraqis but all the Third World and the Arab countries are with the US," an Arab diplomat told reporters.

"That really, really is the worst atrocity," Atwan said. "The world will not accept it. They are a people of pride. It is better to kill them than actually abuse them." Arab satellite television, seen by millions of Arabs and Muslims, began their news bulletins with the pictures which they showed called the “savagery” of US troops against Iraqi prisoners.

"They (Americans) said Saddam committed crimes against the people; now they are committing more vicious crimes in front of the whole world," said Yemeni university student Faez al-Khayat.

Egyptian Mahmoud Sallal, 28, said: “It is quite clearly showed to me the whole insanity of this war. These soldiers are being treated as the savages of the Iraqi people and America claims to be the moral leader of the world, but they have exposed, the whole world sees them as they really are.” —MNA/Reuters

Iraqi prison photos mar US image

LONDON, 1 May — Photos purporting to show US soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners drew international condemnation on Friday, with Arabs saying the US image was doomed.

"This is the straw that broke the camel’s back for America," said Abdul-Bara Arwak, 27, a bank manager from Khartoum.

"The pictures could not have been worse in the Arab world, with the sexual humiliation in the pictures especially shocking."

"It affects the honour and pride of Muslim people. It is the worst atrocity," Atwan said.

"Actions of this kind are in no way condoned by the coalition." The pictures could not have been worse in the Arab world, with the sexual humiliation in the pictures especially shocking.

"That really, really is the worst atrocity," Atwan said. "The world will not accept it. They are a people of pride. It is better to kill them than actually abuse them." Arab satellite television, seen by millions of Arabs and Muslims, began their news bulletins with the pictures which they showed called the “savagery” of US troops against Iraqi prisoners.

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Kerry raps Bush on security

PHILADELPHIA, 1 May — The Democrat John Kerry on Thursday declared US cities at risk because of a lack of safeguards on chemical plants, as he took aim at President George W Bush’s leadership in the war on terror.

Kerry said the Bush Administration talks tough on homeland security but has failed to fully follow through in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on America.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee highlighted homeland security as Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney met privately with the commission investigating the events leading up to the strikes on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Kerry did not comment directly on that meeting when he addressed the National Conference of Black Mayors but he did discuss other potential threats to the country.

"It’s nearly 2-1/2 years after 9/11 and the Administrations is dragging its feet when it comes to fighting to secure our chemical plants in this country," he said.

"I wish they policies were as tough as the tough rhetoric that you keep hearing," the four-term senator from Massachusetts said.

The Bush campaign fired back by accusing Kerry of politicizing the issue of America’s security.

"John Kerry has played politics with homeland security throughout this campaign, and today he is doing it again," Steve Schmidt, spokesman for the Bush-Cheney ‘04 campaign, said in a statement.

Kerry said there are more than 100 chemical plants located in areas where one million people could be endangered by an attack. Seven of those plants are in the Philadelphia area, he said.

"We don’t have a second to spare," Kerry said. He also cited delays in upgrading security in nuclear weapons sites. The senator also told the mayors the Administration was not providing enough aid to cities to help pay for the cost of overtime and equipment for police and firefighters in their efforts to prevent an attack.

Kerry also said to address doubts about the strategy in Iraq, where the US death toll is rising.

"We now know that the (Iraqi) mission is not accomplished — and it is time for a new plan," Kerry said, referring to a banner Bush stood before last May 1 when he declared the end of major combat in Iraq. —MNA/Reuters

Iraqi prison photos mar US image

Iraqi soldiers deployed in Iraq will end before May 5.

Dominican soldiers to be withdrawn from Iraq soon

Havana, 1 May — The Dominican Republic announced Thursday that the withdrawal of its 300 soldiers deployed in Iraq will end before May 5.

Dominican Armed Forces Secretary Jose Miguel Soto said the soldiers will be back, reports from the capital Santo Domingo stated.

The Dominican Republic, Honduras and Spain decided to pull their troops out of Iraq, in the wake of escalating combat between the resistance and the forces of the United States.

Soto did not detail which country would receive the 300 Dominican troops mobilized from Iraq. —MNA/Xinhua
Zapatero urges broader UN role in Iraq

PARIS, 1 May—Spain’s Prime Minister expressed strong backing for French and German opposition to US policy in Iraq Thursday, urging a broader UN role to help stabilize the country.

Wrapping up trips to Paris and Berlin, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero echoed French and German approaches toward the Middle East nation, while moving his country further from its recent alliance with the United States on Iraq.

“We are prepared, in the UN Security Council, to talk all the diplomatic effort so that Iraq can rediscover peace and stability,” Zapatero said reporters after meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

The Socialist Zapatero is of a different political stripe than the conservative Chirac. But their two countries’ views have come together, as Zapatero withdraws Spanish troops from Iraq. His predecessor Jose Maria Aznar was a US ally in Iraq.

“Everybody knows that I disagreed with the previous government over the Iraq intervention, and that I have brought home

The Spanish troops,” he said.

On Wednesday, the last 260 of the 1,300 Spanish troops who participated in the U.S.-led occupation returned home. Another 1,000 soldiers remain in Iraq to pack up military hardware to send home.

In a Madrid ceremony on Thursday marking the end of Spain’s mission in Iraq, Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono said his country will not send in any more soldiers.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, in an interview published Thursday in an Italian newspaper, said France supports a new UN plan for the hand-over of sovereignty in Iraq.

UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has proposed an interim Iraqi government to be chosen by the United Nations, the current Governing Council, the coalition and a group of Iraqi judges.

British Army probes alleged torture in Iraq

LONDON, 1 May—Britain said on Friday it had launched a probe into allegations British soldiers had tortured Iraqi prisoners, the day after similar revelations involving US troops received widespread condemnation.

British’s Army chief General Sir Mike Jackson ordered an immediate inquiry after it emerged that The Daily Mirror newspaper in its Saturday editions was to publish photos of British soldiers abusing prisoners.

The paper told Reuters the images included one of a British soldiers urinating on a crouching, hooded Iraqi.

“I am aware of the allegations which have been made today of abuse of prisoners by British soldiers in Iraq,” Jackson said in a statement. “The allegations are already under investigation. If proven not only is such appalling conduct clearly unlawful it clearly contravenes the British Army’s high standards.

“If proven the perpetrators are not fit to wear the queen’s uniform. They have besmirched the good name of the Army and its honour.” The US military has brought criminal charges against six soldiers relating to accusations of abuses from November and December 2003 on some 20 detainees, including indecent acts with another person, maltreatment, battery, dereliction of duty and aggravated assault.

First Asian cornea and contact lens conference opens in HK

HONG KONG, 1 May—More than 200 participants from seven Asian countries and regions met here on Wednesday at a two-day conference to show their latest findings on cornea and contact lens.

At the first Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference being held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), international and local optometry experts including six PolyU scholars are presenting their latest research findings in the field.

A study, conducted by PolyU MPPh student Alice Yung Mo-sze among 80 university students wearing soft contact lenses, showed that micro-organisms were found in 43 per cent of the samples of contact lens, less care and lens care solutions from collected subjects, while 27.5 per cent of the subjects owned more than one contaminated items.

More detailed analysis showed the highest rate of contamination found in the contact lens case (42.5 per cent), followed by lens care solution (18 per cent) and the contact lens (10 per cent). Yang said these findings were similar to those reported in other countries.

As suggested by PolyU researchers, contact lens wearers are reminded that it is essential to take proper care of their lenses and accessory items and to replace them at regular intervals. They should also visit a professional optometrist for an eye-examination at least once a year.

Pope, Italians appeal for release of Iraq hostages

VATICAN CITY, 1 May—Pope John Paul on Thursday appealed for the release of three Italians held hostage in Iraq as several thousand people marched to St Peter’s Square to press for their freedom and for an end to the conflict there.

The kidnappers, who stormed a fourth Italian last week, have threatened to kill the three security workers unless Italians protest against Rome’s military presence.

In a tape aired on Arab television Monday, the Vatican’s foreign minister, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, told demonstrators.

“I am aware of the allegations which have been made today of abuse of prisoners by British soldiers in Iraq,” Jackson said in a statement. “The allegations are already under investigation. If proven not only is such appalling conduct clearly unlawful it clearly contravenes the British Army’s high standards.

“If proven the perpetrators are not fit to wear the queen’s uniform. They have besmirched the good name of the Army and its honour.” The US military has brought criminal charges against six soldiers relating to accusations of abuses from November and December 2003 on some 20 detainees, including indecent acts with another person, maltreatment, battery, dereliction of duty and aggravated assault.

China, Malaysia police jointly seize 23-kilos of “ice”

BEIJING, 1 May—Chinese and Malaysian police have jointly cracked a major cross-border drug case, seizing 23 kilos of “ice”, or methamphetamine, and capturing 32 suspects, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) announced here Thursday.

In a joint move launched on 27 April, police also captured 1,970 kilos of semi-finished drugs, two pistols, eight sedans, and a batch of raw material and equipment for making ice.

This is the first time for police from China and Malaysia to cooperate in cracking down on drug production and trafficking.

The MPS said that it has kept a close watch on this cross-border drug ring since two years ago and it dispatched a special work team to Malaysia earlier this month to seek collaboration with Malaysian police.

On the early morning of 27 April, police from China and Malaysia launched an operation simultaneously in their own countries.

The Chinese police captured Ye Wenjun and 16 other suspects in east China’s Shanghai Municipality and Fujian Province.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian police captured Cai Qinghai, Qian Yongdong, and 13 other suspects. They also destroyed a large ice-producing factory and seized the 23 kilos of ice, 1,970 kilos of semi-finished drugs, and batch of raw material and equipment for making ice.

Some 90 million to travel during May Day holiday

BEIJING, 1 May — More than 90 million tourists were expected to travel during the seven-day holiday that starts on May 1, the China Daily on Friday.

Tourists related industries expected to reap some 35 billion yuan (4.2 billion US dollars) from countryside travel, said Zhang Xi, the deputy director with China’s National Tourism Administration.

Railway stations and airports have been ordered to check the temperatures of all passengers from Beijing and Anhui Province.
Spanish Premier presides over dissolution of Iraq brigade

BADAJOZ (Spain), 1 May — Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero presided over the official dissolution of Spain’s Plus Ultra brigade after the last combat troops were removed from Iraq, in line with the new Socialist government’s pledge.

At an informal gathering later Thursday, Zapatero thanked the troops and awarded medals to 21 soldiers, telling them of “the deep bond” between him, the government, the Spanish people and the military.

“Today, and in line with the orders you have given, the Plus Ultra II brigade has been disbanded and no new troops will be sent to Iraq,” Defense Minister Jose Bono told the prime minister at the official ceremony in the presence of top military brass.

“Before 30 days are over all Spanish soldiers (still in Iraq) will be coming home, God willing; thus your order will have been fulfilled, which is binding for the good of Spain and for peace,” he added.

After the return of Spain’s 1,300 men contribution to the international Plus Ultra brigade which was wound up Wednesday, only about 1,000 Spanish troops, sent to organize the pull-out, remain in Iraq’s south-central town of Diwaniyah.

Morale of US Marines in Iraq hit

NEAR FALLUJA, 1 May — Under cover of darkness, US Marine snipers hunting the guerrillas of Fallujah spent a long night on Iraq’s desert sand, emerging with little but frustration.

“We were on some very exposed ground and we didn’t get anyone,” said an exhausted Lance Corporal Miguel Nunez, 22, of Elgin, Texas.

It was their tenth ambush mission in Iraq, none of which killed or captured a guerrilla near the city, site of a weeks-long standoff with guerrillas who the US military says include Saddam Hussein loyalists and foreign Muslims.

For weeks US Marines operating near the volatile city have been searching houses, hunting suspected guerrillas and setting up ambush positions deep in enemy territory.

But the operations have yielded few tangible results and despite their high-tech weapons and draconian discipline, Marines are struggling against resourceful guerrillas with no clear leadership, structure or supply lines.

Marines say the guerrillas have mastered the art of attacking them and then melting away in villages where it is impossible to distinguish between guerrillas and civilians.

“They fire their AK-47s from their homes, walk out the back door and then actually walk up and shake hands with American soldiers when the fighting is over,” said Lance Corporal Peter Johnson, 20, of Wheaton, Illinois.

“It is just impossible to tell them apart. They can’t aim very well and they don’t have lots of weapons but they are resourceful and smart. They are getting better.”

That reality is especially troubling for Marines who had hoped to launch an offensive in besieged Falluja but have instead been searching for guerrillas in nearby villages along roads infested with bombs.

So far they have seen signs of guerrilla activity only in hamlets where assault rifles are hidden in wheat fields, while they listen to air strikes and explosions around Falluja in the distance.

Malaysia to sign US trade deal, eyes FTA

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May — Malaysia will sign a pact with the United States on May 10 that may open the way for a free trade agreement (FTA), Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz was quoted on Thursday as saying.

Despite deep business ties, Malaysia has sometimes had prickly political relations with the United States, particularly during the tenure of former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who retired last October. Rafidah said she would sign the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in Washington, providing for a deepening of consultations on business and investment.

“It has already been approved by the Cabinet,” she told the Business Times, daily in an interview.

Rafidah dismissed a question about whether an FTA could be signed this year, though she seemed open to the concept.

“No, once we sign the TIFA, then we start talking about how far we can go between both countries going towards an FTA.”

The United States is easily the largest single market for Malaysian exports, mainly electrical goods and semiconductors. It took just under six billion ringgit (1.6 billion US dollars) of the 31.7 billion ringgit in products shipped in February.

The mainly Muslim nation opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and has repeatedly castigated Washington for its stance in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Rafidah herself has been a strident critic of the United States and other rich countries for their positions in World Trade Organization free trade talks, saying they do little for poorer countries.

But she was not available for comment on Thursday about Brazil’s WTO victory against the US cotton subsidy regime, a decision seen by analysts and diplomats as a fillip to poorer countries trying to free up farm trade.

Chinese, Indonesian FMs hold talks

BEIJING, 1 May — China is ready to work with Indonesia to push forward bilateral ties as well as the strategic partnership with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here Thursday.

China and the ASEAN have made significant progress in developing relations in recent years, which benefits from the support of Indonesia, said Li during talks with his Indonesian counterpart Hasan Wirayuda.

Li and Hasan also co-ordinated on the first meeting of the joint committee between the Chinese and Indonesian governments.

Li said that China and Indonesia are friendly neighbours, and both are influential developing countries, stressing that Sino-Indonesian relations are at their best point ever.

He noted that the two countries have supported each other on issues concerning sovereignty and territorial integrity, and cooperated fruitfully on economy and trade, as well as in dealing with the regional and international affairs.

Hasan said that China is an important partner for Indonesia and ASEAN, and Indonesia attaches importance to the relations with China.

He expressed gratitude for the support of China on Indonesia’s stability and development, and for the loans provided by China in particular.

Shell plans to shift “IT” jobs to India

LONDON, 1 May — The oil major at the centre of a corporate crisis over its proven reserves, plans to move thousands of jobs to India in an attempt to cut its huge Information Technology budget by 475 million pounds, a spokesman of the company said on Wednesday.

In a big restructuring of the service, labelled IT Vision, the Anglo-Dutch multinational company plans to standardize and consolidate its IT outsourcing business by outsourcing services where necessary.

The IT workforce worldwide, which totals 9,300, will fall by between a fifth and a third by 2006, the spokesman said.

LA officials fear attacks on city malls

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Security was beefed up on Thursday at several malls and shopping centres near the Los Angeles Federal Building after police said they had been told one of them could be targeted for a “terrorist” attack.

Police said extra patrols are on duty at the malls near the Federal Building on the city’s west side, as stick-ups and street crime increased.

A police statement said, “Recently, federal officials received an unsubstantiated potential threat, which indicated an attack would take place at a shopping mall in the general vicinity of the Federal Building in the West Los Angeles area. No specific mall was named.”

The information indicated the attack would occur on April 29, 2004.

A US Army soldier stands guard at a checkpoint outside the town of Falluja, Iraq on 30 April, 2004 as US commanders met with local representatives to work out details of a deal aimed at lifting the monthlong siege of the city.
Towards the new prosperous nation

Khaung J (Azees)

There is a song “Unity is required”. It is sung by vocalist Laphai Zaw Kham, an ethnic Kachin from a hill station, Kukai, in northern Shan State. I love the words of the song so much. It was composed in my Azees language. I would like to translate the verses of the song into Myanmar to share my feelings with the readers.

Oh! The national races in the dark
Dawn has come
And unity is required
If nationalities live in harmony and oneness
Tomorrow will be brighter
If there is unity among national brethren
More prosperous will we be in future
Need a vision for future
Firm unity among brethren
Will undoubtedly lead to a prosperous new nation
In the past years
Disunity arose because of suspicions
And brethren fought one another like enemies
People passed time living in isolation
For nationalities to be happy
Let’s work together in coordination
Without doubts and make efforts
The song is melodious, and its meaning is excellent.
I like the song and its meaning so much. The vocalist composed the song for the ethnic Zai-wa (Azees), but its words reflect the past and present situation of the nation.

I was born in Phaungsi, a village, located at a place nearest to the border with the People’s Republic of China in Muse Township, northern Shan State. It was a remote place far away from the town where the local office was located. Soon after the nation regained independence, my grandpa organized people in the village and its surrounding areas, and formed a security unit to safeguard their own region. In round about 1950, Kuominung thugs intruded into Phaungsi region where only a small stream marked as the border between Myanmar and China. But the Kuominung thugs could not stay long in the area, as the village defence forces drove them out in cooperation with the local people. And when multi-coloured insurgency broke out in northern Shan State, the village defence forces of Phaungsi, Monokes and Hmoeslon areas defended their region together with the Tattmadaw. The insurgents of north-east military region of the Burma Communist Party started to enter my native land on 1 January 1968. The village defence forces fought back the intruders gallantly with all-out efforts. As the intruders had greater manpower, the defence forces had to leave the village. From then on, the village fell under BCP rule till 1969. Due to the Kuominung intrusion soon after the nation regained independence, followed by the outbreak of multi-coloured insurgency and the BCP encroachment, the villagers did not get the opportunity to taste the independence at all.

The village defence forces led by my grandpa attacked the enemy troops in hand with the Tattmadaw till peace was restored in the entire region. My three elder brothers and 19 others from the village sacrificed their lives while trying to defend their region. Till now, the village defence forces are loyal to the State and are discharging regional defence duties together with the Tattmadaw. As the multi-coloured insurgents torched the villages in the Phaungsai-Monekoe region, the people had to leave their homes and flee to Muse, Kukai and Labio townships. They were separated from their families and had to live in fear, facing sufferings for many years.

The people of the region who had faced the bitter experiences of the internal insurgency, are very happy, when peace has been restored in the area by the Tattmadaw. Government. They say that they are able to fully enjoy the taste of independence only at present. As we had already faced the bitter experiences of the internal insurgency for many years, we do not want the recurrence of the unstable situation. We will not let the peace be threatened again. We have already made a firm resolve to collectively safeguard peace and to take part in the respective sectors in perpetuating peace.

To the extent of my knowledge, the situation is ripe to restore peace in the whole nation at present. Besides, it is time peace prevailed in the entire nation. In addition, the way towards the golden age has been clearly paved.

In this regard, I would like to urge all the national races to coordinate among themselves and walk hand in hand and in unity to reach the new prosperous nation.

(Translation: TMT)

Cash donated for two-storey monastic building

YANGON, 30 April — A ceremony to donate cash for constructing a two-storey monastic building at Myanmar monastery in Kusinaron, Utta Pradesh, India, was held at the Maha Thirunadwogy on Kaba Aye Hill there at 4.30 pm today. Wellwishers Dr Aung Win + Daw U U Aung and U Kyaw Myint + Daw Khin Aye Tun of Arzani Street, Bahan, Yangon, donated K 30 million for construction of the monastic building to Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko. The deputy minister then handed over the donation to construction engineers group. — MNA

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp, which saves household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

All this needs to be known

Wellwishers present K 30 million to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko. — MNA

 Talks on Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held

YANGON, 30 April — The working group of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation on 29 April visited No 1 Basic Education High School of Kamayut Township here and gave talks on the MWAF.

First, Adviser of MWAF Daw Myint Myint Aye made an address. Next, Prof Daw Khin Swe Myint and Prof Dr Thein Thein Myint explained matters relating to the MWAF. — MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at cornerstone-laying ceremony of new building of Myanmar Engineering Society. — MNA

Prime Minister lays cornerstone ...

(from page 1) The Prime Minister covered the silver casket kept in the middle of the foundation, with stone inscriptions. The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1, the Secretary-2, the commander, the ministers and the MES chairman sprinkled scented water on it. The Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

The second session followed at the conference hall of the MICT Park. On the occasion, Dr Sein Myint reported on activities of the MES; and MES General Secretary U Than Nyunt, layout of the building and fund raising programmes.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said that the Myanmar Engineering Society was launched in 1916. But 30 years later, it was ceased to exist for various reasons. And since the Diamond Jubilee of Yangon University held in 1995, it has become alive again, he said. The association is made up of members in various fields of engineering and technologies. It has stood proudly as a strong force that consists of engineers who have retired from government departments, new generation engineers including ones who are still in service, he said.

The association won the ASEAN energy award in 2001, ASEAN Engineer Outstanding Award in 2002 and two ASEAN Engineer Outstanding Awards in 2003, he said.

Playing the main role in building up modern developed nation, the association stands as a national force made up of engineers and experts from 21 ministries and development affairs committees, he said.

Nowadays, the association members have been constructing railroads, roads, bridges, irrigation facilities and sky-high buildings. The government will keep on providing assistance for greater success of the association, he said.

In conclusion, the General called on the association members to make efforts to enhance their knowledge and experience in order to participate in unison in building up a modern developed nation.

Next, the MES general secretary expressed words of thanks.

The five-storey building will be constructed on one-acre land near the MICT Park in Hlin University Campus, Hlin Township.

Myanmar needs to protect...

(from page 1) He said there are above and underwater resources including unspoiled and uninhabited islands, coral reeds in off-shore of Myanmar waters and living and non-living things. In the north of the country, there are snow-capped mountains coming down from the Himalayan Ranges.

He said natural resources and natural environment can be destroyed because of the two factors—Natural Environmental Degradation due to Human Action. Therefore systematic arrangements are to be made for environmental protection and conservation.

There are barren areas in the middle parts of Myanmar due to reckless felling of trees. As a result, soil became dry and the climate became warmer and dry. The government laid down and implemented the Arid Zone Greening Project, he said.

Thanks to these systematic measures with the use of modern methods to recover from the environment, degraded natural areas could be turned into farmland and forests. Now, the government has been and is still practising shifting cultivation methods to increase forest resources and forests.

In implementing Bago Yoma Greening Project from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009, cultivation of crops on 199,640 acres of land, upgrading of 159,100 acres of natural forest area and natural tree grafting of 182,950 acres including conservation of 1.33 million acres of natural forest area, 86,500 acres of teak plantations and 73,650 acres of watershed area out of 4.77 million acres of reserve and protect forest areas in Bago Yoma will be carried out.

Furthermore, minimizing of slash and burn cultivation, mixed cropping, establishment of model forest village, growing of village fuel-wood plantations and organizing the use of wood-substitute fuel are to be performed.

In addition, the Forest Department and companies who produce wood under the supervision of Myanmar Timber Enterprise will co-operate to plant 10,000 acres of teak plantations.

Coordination Meeting on Bago Yoma Greening Tasks held

YANGON, May 1—The Coordination Meeting on Bago Yoma Greening Tasks held to be implemented as the five-year projects beginning May 2004 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State was held at Thiri Oktha Hall in Bago yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, local authorities, officials of Bago Division Forest Department, Arid Zone Greening Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise and departmental officials.

The commander gave necessary instructions. Next, departmental officials participated in the discussions.

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with rules and regulations prescribed.

After that, Vice-Chairman of the committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on tasks to be taken by the ministry including extended cultivation of forest plantations for environmental conservation, illegal cutting of timber, slash and burn farming and prevention of forest fire.

This was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

MNA
**YANGON, 1 May—** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence gave instructions on supply of water for agricultural purposes and dredging tasks to Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of CentralCommand Maj-Gen Ye Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry for Construction, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Education the Ministry for Health.

First, the commander reported on the places where water can be pumped from Dokhtawady River, the irrigated areas of Shwehanlo Dham, Natyegon, Thanywa, Mongmao and Samon Dams, the farmlands in Meiktila and Wundwin township with the use of pumped water at 6 pm yesterday.

Officials discussed water supply matters. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Accompanied by the commander, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers, other ranks and family members from regiments and units of Mandalay Station at the station meeting hall.

In the afternoon, they inspected Mandalay General Hospital. They paid homage to Phayagyai Taik Nayakyaung Sayadaw State Ovaçażyariya Abdihaja Maha Rathia Gura Abdihaja Agga Maha Sadhhammajotika Bhaddanta Medhiyabivamsa, aged 94 and 74 vasa, receiving medical treatment at the hospital and asked after health of the Sayadaw. Later, they went to Mandalay International Airport and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

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**Myanmar’s participation in China-ASEAN Trade Fair coordinated**

**YANGON, 1 May—** The coordination meeting on Myanmar’s participation in China-ASEAN Trade Fair was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce on Strand Road here at 6 pm yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, heads of departments under the ministries that are going to stage exhibitions, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, officials of Union of Myanmar Forest Product Joint-Venture Corporation Ltd and Association that are going to stage exhibitions.

First, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone made an opening speech. Next, Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade reported on matters related to China-ASEAN Trade Fair, followed by a general round of discussions.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave a supplementary report.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. — MNA

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**L & F Ministry holds biannual meeting on meat sector**

**YANGON, 1 May—** The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held the second biannual meeting 2003-2004 on meat sector at the Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise on Station Street in Insein Township yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Nyunt, Acting Rector of the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science Dr Maung Maung San and Managing Director of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise U Khin Maung Aye presented reports on tasks carried out during the second six-month period of 2003-2004.

Next, the minister presented prizes to outstanding livestock breeding farms and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects roads, bridges on Myitkyina-Bhamo-Tagaung-Mandalay Road**

**YANGON, 1 May—** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Brig-Gen Soe Nwe of Bhamo Station and officials, inspected durability of Sakkala Bridge at the border of Shweyegu Township in Kachin State and Maibin Township in Shan State (North) on 29 April. On arrival at Ngao Village, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials.

At the local battalion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected reports on prevention of bank erosion at Shweili Bridge (Ngao) and construction of 66 miles Ngao-Maibin Road by officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected prevention of bank erosion.

Accompanied by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint saw over roads and bridges on Myitkyina-Bhamo-Tagaung-Mandalay Road. On arrival at Tagaung Township, they were welcomed by officials.

They inspected renovation of Laymyetnnya Pagoda in Tagaung.

The pagoda was built in the 11th Century by King Anawrahta.

Next, they looked into completion of Myanmar two-storey building of Tagaung Basic Education High School, progress of the town and Tagaung Hospital.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental officials and local people at the hall of Tagaung General Administration Department. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and fulfilled their requirements.

At the construction site of Tagaung, Bhamo-Myitkyina Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on repair of 57 miles and five furlongs long Tagaung-Ngao road section by Senior Engineer U Aye Naing Tun of Public Works.

In Twininge Village, Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Win Maung reported on construction on Twiminge-Moneck Road and Kinchaung Bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the requirements. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the Nursery of Forest Department in Okkan Village, Madaya Township. They arrived in Mandalay in the evening. — MNA

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**Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks in Yangon City**

**YANGON, 1 May—** Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chair of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also inspected the similar tasks in Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt, South Okkalapa and Kamayut townships.

Workers of YCDC, NGOs and people and they gave instructions to responsible officials and fulfilled their needs.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also inspected the similar tasks in Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt, South Okkalapa and Kamayut townships. Officials reported on carrying out of sanitation tasks and dredging of drains.

The commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions.

Similar tasks were also undertaken in North Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (East), (South), (Sekkkan) and (North), Thakayta, Tamway, Dawbon, Thin-gangyun, Sanyyoung, Dagon, Pabedan, Lannah-daw, Bahan and Ahorn townships. — MNA

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets Division and District Agricultural Coordination Committee members in Mandalay**

**YANGON, 1 May—** The meeting of the Division and District Agricultural Coordination Committee Office, the Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry for Construction, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Education was held at the meeting hall of Central Command Headquarters on 30 April.

Also present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry for Construction, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Education the Ministry for Health.

First, the commander reported on the places where water can be pumped from Dokhtawady River, the irrigated areas of Shwehanlo Dham, Natyegon, Thanywa, Mongmao and Samon Dams, the farmlands in Meiktila and Wundwin township with the use of pumped water and field study.

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Accompanied by the commander, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers, other ranks and family members from regiments and units of Mandalay Station at the station meeting hall.

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India not to accept externally prescribed norms

United Nations, 1 May — India has firmly told the UN Security Council that it would not accept any norm or standard which is not in its national interests, infringes on its sovereignty or falls within the jurisdiction of its Parliament.

In a letter to the Council, the Government said it had adopted a resolution on Wednesday to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of non-state entities and terrorists, India’s UN Ambassador Vijay Nambiar expressed full support and “unwavering” commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery.

But simultaneously he questioned the tendency of the 15-member Council to assume legislative and treaty making powers on behalf of the international community, binding on all states, “a function not envisaged in the United Nations charter”.

Nambiar said, “India cannot adopt any obligations arising from treaties that India has not agreed or ratified,” he asserted, pointing out that the position is “consistent with the fundamental principles of International Law and the Law of Treaties.

India, Nambiar said, “will not accept externally prescribed norms or standards, whatever their source, on matters within the jurisdiction of its Parliament, including national legislation, regulations or arrangements, which are not consistent with India’s constitutional provisions and procedures or are contrary to India’s national interests or infringe on its sovereignty.”

Though the resolution as adopted addressed both of India’s concerns, the letter said, states Indian position on these sensitive issues.

However, the letter said India regarded the resolution as a “further step” in the process initiated by New Delhi in the General Assembly on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and “as such we generally support it.”

“Our approach has been that of a responsible state possessing nuclear weapons. We take note of the recognition in the draft of the inherent and reinforcing linkage between disarmament and non-proliferation,” Nambiar added — MNA

Doctors suggest microwave ovens should carry clear warnings

London, 1 May — Microwave ovens should carry clear warnings about the dangers of exploding eggs, which can cause facial and eye injuries, doctors said here. They issued the plea in a letter to the British Medical Journal after a nine-year-old girl suffered serious eye damage when a boiled egg reheated in a microwave blew up in her face.

Bits of egg pierced the cornea and ruptured the lens of her eye, reducing her vision, until the damage was corrected. Saurabh Goyal, an eye specialist at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Kent, southern England, said warnings in microwave instruction manuals are not enough. “In view of the potential seriousness of injury from exploding microwave eggs, such warnings should be made more obvious, possibly being displayed on the microwave oven itself,” Goyal and colleagues said in the letter. They added that eggs with intact shells and yolks and even defrosted eggs can explode when cooked in a microwave oven.

MNA/Reuters

ADB says Pakistan to achieve eco growth in next fiscal year

Islamabad, 1 May — Pakistan is expected to achieve acceleration in economic growth during the next fiscal year thanks to the country’s successful implementation of economic reforms and continued buoyancy in domestic and external sectors, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

Pakistan’s economic recovery started in the second half of financial 2002 and gained momentum in 2003. The report notes that there has been a sharp rise in investment in Pakistan’s largest textile industry. The large scale manufacturing sector especially the textile industry is expected to grow by 8 to 9 per cent in the next two years. The report said a sharp rise in worker remittances, as well as a decline in interest payments on foreign debt pushed up the current account surplus by 49.5 per cent last year. The country’s external debt and liabilities also declined by one billion US dollars to 35.5 billion dollars in fiscal year 2003. The government has implemented a comprehensive debt reduction strategy of paying off expensive outstanding liabilities. Releasing the report at a news conference here, the ADB Country Director Marush Ali Shah said Pakistan’s economy is gaining higher rates of growth which will be reflected both in terms of employment and investment over the next couple of years.

— MNA/Kohua

OAS says mixed results for Latin America in drug war

Washington, 1 May — Latin America and the Caribbean are doing a better job in the war on drugs but budget problems and savvy traffickers threaten that progress, the Organization of American States said on Friday.

The report noted that there has been a sharp decline in the seizures of illegal substances was dropping, seizures were rising or holding steady and nations increasingly were working together. The 34-member OAS includes Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Canada, some of the largest suppliers of cocaine, marijuana and heroin to the United States. “There is evidence of sustained progress in implementing control measures, particularly in harmonizing a legal framework to deal with various facets of the drug problem,” said the report by the group’s Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

Tong’s visit to Beijing comes amid the decisions taken have not been accompanied by appropriate budgetary support”, the commission said. “The (drug) problem did not occur overnight, the solutions will not occur overnight,” the report said. “Unfortunately, Canada’s Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Kennedy chairs the drug abuse control commission.

“With all the look at those charts ... they are indicative of the kinds of trends that we would like to see,” he said in a Press conference. The commission issues recommendations to countries on issues ranging from the control of chemical precursors used to make drugs to national drug plans. Of the 325 recommendations made in 2001-2002, 82 had been completed. 186 were “in progress” and 57 had not been addressed, mostly due to budget problems, Kennedy said. The OAS report said the cultivated areas of coca fell from 196,000 hectares (484,300 acres) in 1993 to 163,000 hectares (402,800 acres) in 2002, a 17-per cent drop. But criminals “are using new techniques to maximize the cocaine they can produce from a smaller area”, Kennedy said. — MNA/Reuters

Hu Jintao vows to carry on with anti-corruption drive

Beijing, 1 May — The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held a workshop at the Great Hall of the People, in central Beijing, Friday, to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ren Bishi, one of the first-generation leaders.

Chinese President and CPC Central Committee General Secretary Hu Jintao addressed the meeting and pledged to carry on with the will of the older-generation revolutionaries, by studying and displaying their revolutionary spirit, lofty moral and excellent style. In his speech, Hu called Ren a great Marxist, an outstanding proletarian revolutionary, politician and organizer, an extraordinary leader of the CPC and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, and one of the important members of the CPC’s first generation leadership. Ren has dedicated his all to the liberation of the Chinese people and the birth of New China. Hu noted that he has stood as the prototype of the whole party, the whole Army and the whole people. Hu said. He termed Ren as a man who is good at combining the basic principles of Marxism and the realities of the Chinese revolution.

— MNA/Reuters
Paris, Berlin, Madrid to work together in EU construction

PARIS, 1 May — France, Spain and Germany are determined to work “hand in hand” in the European construction, French President Jacques Chirac said here on Monday after meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

“There is in Berlin, as in Paris, a very strong desire to go forward and build together with Spain on the road to Europe, in the framework of a sincere, loyal cooperation,” Chirac said at a joint news conference with Zapatero.

“We hope to be the most fruitful partners in Europe, which is peaceful and democratic, accountable for peace and holding some message of economic and social development, with a social pact,” he added.

The Spanish leader said for his part that “France and Spain must work together towards the construction of a dynamic, united, strong Europe without ulcerous motives. Spain will have an attitude of cooperative and shared work with Berlin and Paris”. The Spanish Prime Minister had met German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder on Wednesday in Berlin, where he said that Madrid, Berlin and Paris were in “intense negoti-ations” with Washington on a new United Nations resolution on Iraq.

To Chirac, the cooperation between the three countries does not exclude disagreements, especially the budget of the European Union (EU) for 2007-2013.

The French President reiterated his opposition as five other countries, including Germany and Britain, to the EU budget exceeding 1 per cent of European gross domestic product (GDP), while Spain hopes it for 1.18 per cent.

He also said that Paris, Berlin and Madrid would establish “a constant and daily cooperation” to deal with the issues where they have divergence.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to introduce new $10 polymer notes

SINGAPORE, 1 May — Singapore is due to reintroduce new $10 polymer notes by issuing 100 million Singapore dollars (about $8.9 million US dollars) worth of such notes next Tuesday.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said that it will continue to issue the current 10-dollar paper notes as part of a phased introduction of the new notes, which have a familiar look but with a few added security features.

The MAS said that the phased introduction will allow banks and businesses to fine-tune their machines and make the necessary adjustments gradually to avoid abrupt and costly changes.

In 1990, Singapore introduced its first polymer notes and the 50-dollar note lacked wide acceptance due to machine processing problems. The MAS said that the new polymer note will be available at seven local banks as of next Tuesday, and it will issue more such notes in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire kills four in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 1 May — At least four people, including three children, were killed and over 6,000 made homeless by a fire near the capital Dhaka on Thursday.

Fire service sources said the fire broke out at a big slum at Keraniganj, just south of the River Buriganga that flows in the south of the capital.

The fire destroyed around 600 homes and injured 15 people. Several children are still missing.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe steps up preparations for Asian tourists

HARARE, 1 May — The Zimbabwean Tourism Authority has stepped up preparations for Asian tourists, aimed at promoting Zimbabwe as a tourist destination, local newspaper The Herald reported Thursday.

Various task forces have been set up to look at several issues concerned with Asian tourists, including arrival introduction, language barrier, cuisine, pricing of the goods and services, and security.

Apart from concentrating on these aspects, Air Zimbabwe will introduce flights between China and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe was granted the Approach Destination Status (ADS) by China last year. The granting of ADS status allows Chinese to visit the country and it also provides for the operations of air services between the two countries and in other agreement for security and other travel related issues.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s industrial sector records rise in production value

HANOI, 1 May — Vietnam reached an industrial production value of 114 trillion Vietnamese dong (7.3 billion US dollars) in the first four months of this year, or year-on-year rise of 15.4 per cent.

The non-state sector recorded the highest industrial production growth of 21.4 per cent. It invested in a 14.1 per cent, and the state-owned sector had 12.6 per cent, according to statistics of the General Department of Production on Thursday. Products with high growth in production value were motorbike assembly up 37 per cent; coal up 32.4 per cent; television sets 30.9 per cent; ready-made clothes, 22.6 per cent; and crude oil, up 12.5 per cent.

Southern provinces of Binh Duong and Khanh Hoa took the lead and second in industrial production growth, with the increases of 32.3 per cent and 23.9 per cent, respectively. Vietnam posted an industrial production growth of 16 per cent in 2003 and targets to record an increase of 15 per cent in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian Govt announces rescue package for sugar industry

CANBERRA, 1 May — The Australian Government announced on Thursday a federal rescue package of $44 million Australian dollars ($320 million US dollars) for the sugar industry.

The package was unveiled by Prime Minister John Howard in the sugar processing town of Bundaberg, Queensland, amid complaints from sugar farmers after failure to have sugar included in the free trade deal with the United States concluded in May of last year. It was estimated that sugar growers would gain 800 million Australian dollars ($580 million US dollars) if they were included in the agreement. About 7,000 farmers will benefit from the rescue package.

MNA/Xinhua

Greece, Chile sign defence memorandum

ATHENS, 1 May — A memorandum of mutual understanding was signed on Thursday by Greek Defence Minister Spilos Sipiliotopoulos and his visiting Chilean counterpart Michelle Bachelet Maria. Sources said the memorandum provides for the creation of committees to look into prospects of cooperation between Greece and Chile in the defence sector, such as training, forces organization and the defence industry.

The Chilean Defence Minister was also briefed on the security situation in southeast Europe, since his country is one of the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The two ministers praised the very good relations between the people of Greece and Chile and expressed the political will to further develop bilateral ties with Greece.

MNA/Xinhua
Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)

Host Institutions: University of Foreign Languages, Yangon; Embassy of the People’s Republic of China
Sponsor: The State Commission of Chinese Proficiency Test
Date: May 15, 2004 (Saturday)
Place: University of Foreign Languages, Yangon

Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)

Date: May 15, 2004 (Saturday)
Place: University of Foreign Languages, Yangon
Application period: From April 6, 2004 (Tuesday) to April 30, 2004 (Friday)

The TEST has three different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training.

Further information may be obtained from University of Foreign Languages, Yangon, 119-131 University Avenue, Yangon; Telephone: 513198 and University of Foreign Languages, Mandalay; Telephone: 32330.

HSK Guide Books may be purchased at the Cultural Section of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, No.94, Kha Yae Pin Rd, Dagon Township, Yangon and Office of the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China: Yadana Lane, Yangyi Aung Road, 35th Street (Between 65th and 66th Streets), Mandalay.

UNICEF to help Uganda improve health of children, women

KAMPALA, 1 MAY— The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will help Uganda improve health of children and women in the country’s northern and northeastern districts from next Monday, when the country will inaugurate the Child Days, according to a Press release issued by UNICEF here on Thursday.

The initiative supported by UNICEF, the World Health Organization and other partners will accelerate routine health service activities at the district level.

The nationwide activities throughout the next month will include provision of Vitamin A supplements to children aged six months to five years, routine and catch-up measles immunizations for children under ten years of age one to five years, and vaccinations against maternal and neonatal tetanus for pregnant women.

The UNICEF representative in Uganda Martin Mogwanja said in the Press release that “UNICEF is especially hopeful that the activities in May can ease the suffering of children living with the lasting impact of the conflict in northern and northeastern Uganda, but this by no means is the final solution. Children in those regions have every right to good health as their peers elsewhere, and it is up to all concerned parties to swiftly and peacefully end the fighting so that this right can be attained.”

UNICEF’s support for the Child Days implementation includes the provision of funding, supplies and equipment as well as technical assistance.

China holds big potential for diamond consumption

BRUXELLES, 1 MAY— China holds great potential for diamond consumption with its rapid economic growth, said Abbey Chikane, director of the World Diamond Council and Chairman of the South Africa Diamond Board, Thursday.

China’s disposable income per person is on the rise, people value quality and brand more. Diamonds are a luxury item, but we hope they will enter more Chinese people’s lives as luxury cars or watches have,” said Chikane at the opening ceremony of a South African diamond culture and jewellery exhibition, the biggest of its kind in the country.

Besides bringing top-quality diamonds to Chinese consumers, said Chikane, it was more important to promote a diamond culture in China and let people understand more about diamond jewellery.

AIDS is a national concern.
Study says siblings, pets, farms help stop allergies

London, 1 May—Having siblings, pets and living on a farm reduces the risk of allergic illnesses in babies but having early infections increases it, Danish researchers said on Friday.

Sterile, modern environments have been blamed for the increase in asthma, dermatitis and food allergies over the past century because the immune systems of babies are simply not exposed to many microbes. Scientists also thought that early infections would have a protective effect against allergies but Christine Stabell Benn, of the Danish Epidemiological Science Centre in Copenhagen, found they increase the risk of developing allergies.

“We found that having older siblings protects against allergic diseases but it is not by means of transferring infectious diseases because these diseases are actually associated with an increased risk of disease in the child,” Stabell Benn said in an interview.

“We think each infection the (an allergic illness) increases.”

The human immune system developed to deal with many different microbes. Scientists believe that when it does not encounter them early in life, it overreacts later and allergic diseases develop.

Pets, living on a farm, attending day care and having older siblings increase a baby’s exposure to microbes.

Benn and her team interviewed 24,000 women during pregnancy and when their children were six and 18 months old. Their findings are reported online by the British Medical Journal.

About 10 per cent of the children suffered from dermatitis at 18 months old. The researchers found that the risk of all allergic illnesses increased with each infectious disease the child suffered before six months old, but it decreased if the child had three or more siblings, attended day care or lived on a farm or with pets. — MNA/Reuters

Reports show way to customize cancer treatment

Washington, 1 May — A quick genetic screen may be able to tell doctors which lung cancer patients will benefit from new, targeted cancer drugs that have dramatic effects on many cancers but only in a few people, US researchers said here.

They found a specific DNA mutation in people who were virtually cured of their cancer by a new drug called Iressa, made by AstraZeneca PLC.

Iressa has excited doctors because it is the first drug to work really well against lung cancer. Most patients suffering from lung cancer are killed by the disease, whereas those diseases are actually associated with an increased risk of disease in the child, Stabell Benn said in an interview.

“With each infection the risk of (an allergic illness) increases.”

WHO to host consultation on animal-human transmitting diseases

Geneva, 1 May—The World Health Organization (WHO) has agreed to host an international consultation to identify the factors that lead to diseases’ transmission from animals to humans (zoonoses) and to improve surveillance systems for monitoring and control.

“The consultation to be held jointly by the WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), in collaboration with the Dutch Health Council, will take place at WHO’s Geneva Headquarters from next Monday to Wednesday, the WHO said in a press release.

The consultation is aimed at providing guidance in strengthening capacity of countries and that of the international community to collect and share information across many sectors.

NASA’s Michael Foale and Russian Alexander Kaleri spent six months aboard the 16-nation, 95 billion US dollars station. Dutchman Andre Kuipers, from the European Space Agency, spent just 11 days there doing 194 space experiments on his maiden trip into space.

The craft landed near the northern Kazakh town of Arkalyk in the Central Asian steppe at 4.11 am Moscow Time (0011 GMT).

“Everything is stable, the cosmonauts returned to Earth,” a spokesman at mission control outside Moscow said by telephone. “It was a soft landing.”

The capsule had disengaged from the International Space Station a few hours earlier and started its return to Earth.

The start of Kaleri’s and Foalle’s daunting six-month mission last October was heavily overshadowed by China’s launch of its first spaceman.

But their return is being watched with avid interest amid intense preparations for an operation to locate and find them quickly.

A similar Soyuz capsule carrying the US astronauts Kenneth Bowersox and Donald Pettit and Russia’s Nikolai Budarin back from the ISS made a hard landing hundreds of kilometres off target last May because of a technical glitch that caused an early re-entry.

The next ISS crew landed safely with clockwork precision last October, even though one member of the crew had apparently been a wrong button.

General Vladimir Popov, commander of the recovery operation, said two all-terrain vehicles known as Bluebirds had already been sent to the assumed landing area to check the density of the ground, atmospheric pressure and weather conditions.

The capsule’s bright orange parachute was due to unfold 15 minutes before the landing, which should have been cushioned by the blasts of several “soft landing engines.”

“Of course, we always admit a possibility of a so-called ballistic landing, but we do hope for the best and all we need right now is a bit of luck,” Popov said by telephone from Arkalyk. — MNA/Reuters

GMS countries sign 9 documents to strengthen cooperation

Pnompenh, 1 May — Six Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries Friday signed nine Annexes and Protocols of the Cross-Border Agreement to boost trade, cooperation and investments among six countries.

Vice-Transport Ministers of GMS countries from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam signed the nine documents of the agreement, including seven annexes, one protocol and one amendment related to transport, customs and communication.

“We consider this a very important milestone in the region’s development, one that demonstrates most clearly the strong commitment of the participating countries to subregional economic cooperation,” said Shymy Bajpai, Country Director of Asian Development Bank’s Cambodia Resident Mission.


Singapore, Chile agree to strengthen bilateral cooperation

Singapore, 1 May — Singapore and Chile on Friday agreed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of science and bio-technology.

This came following Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and visiting Chilean President Ricardo Lagos held their talks focusing on ways of boosting cooperation between the two countries, according to local media reports.

The two countries are also discussing with New Zealand a three-way free trade agreement (FTA). Once this FTA is sealed, it will be the first trans-Pacific agreement that spans across three different regions.

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Rivaldo handed ultimatum by Bolton
Bolton (England), 1 May — Rivaldo has been told to make up his mind over a proposed move to Bolton Wanderers, after manager Sam Allardyce expressed fears his club were being used by Brazil's World Cup winner.

The former AC Milan and Barcelona forward, who is a free agent after leaving Brazil's Cruzeiro in February, has returned home after last week's talks with the Premier League club.

Allardyce, who is still waiting for an answer from the 32-year-old, told Thursday's Bolton Evening News: "At this time of year, nobody wants to make a decision, but we will be asking for a decision either way before very long.

"We are wise enough to know what's going on behind the scenes.

"We're probably being used to create interest from elsewhere.

You'd be surprised how many other football clubs it kick-starts into action.

"I'm disappointed we haven't got a decision yet," he added. "That tells me there is still hope, but there will have to be a movement from his Brazilian agents soon.

"If there isn't a positive move in a few days, we will have to call time on it."

Figo cleared to face Deportivo
Madrid, 1 May — Real Madrid midfield star Luis Figo will be able to play in this weekend's clash at Deportivo Coruna after Spanish authorities withdrew the red card he was given in Sunday's 2-1 home defeat by Barcelona.

The Portuguese international was sent off by referee Alfonso Perez Barrull after picking up a second booking for a reckless challenge on Barca defender Carlos Puyol in the second half of the match against Real's local rivals. The Spanish Football Federation appeals committee decided on Thursday that Figo did not deserve the sanction.

Spanish media reported that Real had provided evidence to support their case.

Real, who lie second in the Primera Liga one point behind leaders Valencia with four games left, will have to make do without central defender Ivan Helguera. He was given an automatic ban after picking up a fifth yellow card.

AC Milan to make two big signings
Milan, 1 May — Serie A leaders AC Milan will make two major signings for next season, club vice-president Adriano Galliani said on Thursday.

"Two champions will be signed," Galliani, who effectively runs the club on behalf of owner and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, told Milan's web site.

The European champions could win their 17th title with a victory over second-placed AS Roma on Sunday, having recently followed the example of Real Madrid by focusing their transfer activity on one or two big name players every year.

Brazilian Calu and Kaka joined the club this season while their compatriot Rivaldo, who has since left the club, and Italy defender Alessandro Nesta were purchased in 2002.

Media reports have indicated that Lazio's Dutch defender Jaap Stam is one target.

UEFA clarify offside interpretation before Euro 2004
Evora (Portugal), 1 May — UEFA will distribute a DVD to national football associations in an effort to clarify interpretation of the offside rule in time for Euro 2004.

FIFA introduced new guidelines last year on how to interpret the rule, emphasizing that players who do not touch the ball or block the goalkeeper's view should not be flagged offside.

The guidelines caused confusion in some leagues and UEFA is now seeking to clarify its own position before the European Championship finals, starting on June 12.

"We're emphasizing that the offside rule itself has not changed," Ken Riden, vice-chairman of UEFA's referees committee, said on Thursday. "We're talking about interpretation and application.

"It's important that we let players and coaches know how referees will apply the rule.

Riden was speaking at the end of a four-day workshop and training camp with referees and assistant referees who will officiate at Euro 2004.

The officials were shown an early version of the video that will be sent to national football associations before the tournament and were able to discuss the examples shown.

Chelsea's Duff dislocates shoulder in training
London, 1 May — Chelsea's Irish winger Damien Duff has dislocated his shoulder for the second time this season after a fall in training on Thursday.

He is having an assessment made of the problem before deciding whether to raise a flag for offside or not, said Riden. "It's difficult to educate spectators on the correct interpretation.

"If we had had professional referees from the European Tour for instance, they would have been familiar with the players who sit in front of them.

"Every single player in the British Open would ask for somebody professional to do the job.

Roe's decision to root out the putter he first started using seven years ago was rewarded with a round of just 25 putts, including a 20-foot and two 15-footers among six birdies.

It gave him a chance of winning 10 years after his third tour success, the 1994 French Open.

Rohan Kassam

Unrepentant Roe shares Italian Open lead
Milan, 1 May — Britain's Mark Roe had yet another reminder of last year's British Open disappointment as he used his long-handle putter to good effect to share the lead in the Italian Open first round on Thursday.

Roe shot an eight-under-par 64 to earn a one-shot advantage with Frenchman Gregory Havret over New Zealand's Michael Campbell and Swede Christopher Hansell.

But while Roe was delighted to finish with a stunning four-iron approach for eagle and to hole a series of lengthy putts, the 41-year-old Englishman was unrepentant over his attack this week on the Royal and Ancient, organizers of the British Open.

After calling its decision to use non-professional recorders a "farcce," Roe, who was disqualified from last year's Open for signing for the wrong score, went back on the attack when asked if having two of the five recorders for this year's British major on duty was a good move.

"It's not a step in the right direction because they (the R and A) are not employing the proper people," he told reporters. "If we had had professional recorders from the European Tour for instance, they would have been familiar with the players who sat in front of them.

"Every single player in the domestic front, Chelsea have seven points, one ahead of United in the race to finish second behind champions Arsenal and claim an automatic slot in the lucrative Champions League.

Chelsea have three games left in a season which finishes on May 15. With a crunch game in prospect on May 8 against United at Old Trafford.

Lippi to leave Juventus at end of season
Milan, 1 May — Juventus manager Marcello Lippi will leave the Serie A champions at the end of the season, Italian news agency ANSA said on Thursday.

"It has been fantastic, but I think it's time for me to step aside," Lippi was quoted as saying.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
7 Building paste for cracks
8 More miserly
10 French bean
11 Tartan trousers
12 Bird's home
13 Lucid
17 Colourless
18 Speddy
22 Cower
23 Cut short
24 Not outside
25 Spanish dance
8 Money miserly
9 French bean
4 In the middle
5 Appropriate
6 Take hold of
9 His cattle (anag.)
14 Small onion
15 Remedy for all ills
16 A cheese
19 Fit out
20 Vulgarly bright
21 Evidence

DOWN
1 Curd
2 Flier shop seller
3 Place of pilgrimage
4 In the middle
5 Appropriate
6 Take hold of
9 His cattle (anag.)
14 Small onion
15 Remedy for all ills
16 A cheese
19 Fit out
20 Vulgarly bright
21 Evidence

S P O R T S

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 2 May, 2004

14

Vijay Singh of Fiji, hits from the sand trap guarding the 9th green in first round HP Golf Classic action in New Orleans on 29 April, 2004. — INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar
WEATHER

Saturday, 1 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, isolated in Mon and Kayah States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and fathers has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, eastern Shan and Mon States, lower Sagoa, Bago, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Ayeyawady, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in northern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (4°C) each in Magway, (3°C) in Yangon-U Minbu, Aunglan and Tharrawady.

Maximum temperature on 30-4-2004 was 39.2°C in Mon State, minimum temperature on 1-5-2004 was 22.8°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 1-5-2004 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 30-4-2004 was (93) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-5-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-4-2004 was 5.0 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 5 mm (0.20 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Kaba-Aye was 5 mph from South at (17:30) hours MST on 30-4-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09:30) hrs M.T. today, Yesterday’s the low pressure area over Northern East Bay and South Andaman Sea has moved to South West Bay and has still persist. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-5-2004: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagoa, Ayeawaddy, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State, Divisional and Districts will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelyhood of isolated rain or thundershowers in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-5-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty in (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-5-2004: Partly cloudy.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 2 May, 2004
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends coord meeting on upgrading environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon)

YANGON, 1 MAY—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting to coordinate all-round upgrading of the environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) at the Agricultural Museum at Kandawgyi Garden, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the work committee and guests.

First, the commander reported on upgrading tasks being carried out at Education Zone, Central Symbol Zone, Relaxation Zone and Recreation Zone on time, completion of the tasks zone-wise and tasks to be undertaken.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on completion of nine agricultural educative booths, the agricultural museum and shops and sanitation of Kandawgyi Lake.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyi reported on construction of modern restaurants in the gardens.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on construction of the fresh water fish garden in the Education Zone and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Maung Thein on completion of upgrading tasks at the Central Forest Zone, growing of flowery plants for landscaping, building of the water fall and water fountain, cent per cent completion of Zoo (Yangon), collection of animals, income and coordination with scholars for upgrading tasks.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on completion of 14 work sites in the section one of Relaxation Zone and six under construction, building of wooden Walkway in the section-2, Khemadipa Bridge and fencing and conference hall and requirements. Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U NYi Hla Nge reported on tasks of quality control in the construction works.

Next, Mr John Inada reported on drawing of modern designs for land preparations and landscaping in cooperation with Myanmar engineers and progress of tasks.

Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Shwe reported on advanced construction tasks in the Recreation Zone and Barbecue Garden. Afterwards, those present participated in the discussions.

After attending to their needs, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address, saying that Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens is to be upgraded into the modern one which will be a symbol of the city and it must be the gardens like National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin for the public relaxation and recreation.

It is necessary to systematically carry out agricultural works and upgrading tasks in the zone meeting the set standard for ensuring durability of it.

The upgrading tasks are to be performed at the gardens where the people can relax peacefully.

In addition, various kinds of rare trees and herbal plants are to be grown in the gardens. All the departments concerned are to coordinate upgrading tasks for the public who can take rest in the gardens.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected construction of the elephant plaza in the relaxation zone, sales centres at the education zone, agricultural educative booths, building of Fresh Water Fish Garden, upgrading of the barbecue garden, construction of Overhead Bridge linking Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects small rice mills of MAPT

YANGON, 1 MAY—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected small rice mills innovated by engineering branch of the milling division of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Commerce at Setsan in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

The Secretary-1, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein and officials, arrived at the workshop of engineering branch of the milling division of MAPT.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Managing Director of MAPT U Min Hla Aung and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported to the Secretary-1 on sample of rice milled by the small rice mills.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the milling of rice by small rice mill DJ-300.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected rubber roll husker-installed small rice mill that can mill 7.5 tons of paddy a day.

They also inspected paddy cleaner and rice grader-installed rice mill that can mill 6 tons of paddy a day and rubber roll husker, paddy cleaner and rice grader-installed small rice mill that can mill 7.5 tons of paddy a day.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported on production of high quality small rice mills by MAPT.

Next, Chief Engineer U Ni Paw reported on production of the small rice mills and their quality. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements.

In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said the quality small rice mills manufactured by MAPT are good. He spoke of the need to produce rice mills of high quality that are popular among the consumers.

He also said necessary assistance including dissemination of technology is to be provided to private industrial zones and industrialists for production of the mills on commercial scale.

The Secretary-1 presented cash awards for engineers and staff to Chief Engineer U Ni Paw.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected renovation of 360-kilowatt generator, control panel of 10-ton rice mill, paddy dryers and paddy cleaners.

Under the instruction of Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the Chief Engineer and staff innovated paddy cleaner and rice grader.

The rice mills last longer and can produce ready-to-eat rice with less broken rice after installation of the paddy cleaner and rice grader.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions on innovation of rubber roll husker during his previous inspection tour at the workshop.

The rice mills can mill more paddy and boost production of high grade rice after installation of these machines.

The mills of MAPT can be used with the 10-HP and 12-HP diesel engines and they can be used in the paddy fields easily. — MNA