Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Poland

YANGON, 3 May — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland, which falls on 3 May 2004.—MNA

World’s nations including US as well as UN Agencies and international organizations acknowledge Myanmar’s efforts for eradication of drug menace

Prime Minister attends Special Meeting of Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control 1/2004

YANGON, 2 May — A Special Meeting 1/2004 of the Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control (CCDAC) was held at the Drug Elimination Museum, Kamayut Township this evening.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and made a speech.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the CCDAC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Director-General of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, chairmen and officials of the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association, Myanmar Narcotics Elimination Association and Border Area Development Association.

At the outset, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech on the occasion.

He said efforts to eliminate the narcotic drugs is not the tasks carried out only at present but, in the successive governments, the Union of Myanmar has been striving for elimination of narcotic drugs on its own or with the cooperation of neighbouring countries and international organizations.

In the time of the present government, greater success has been achieved in efforts to eliminate narcotic drugs with the cooperation of the neighbouring countries.

Moreover, in the time of the present government, drug elimination tasks have been carried out with added momentum in cooperation with local national races and that the major 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs has been implemented since 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Under the 15-year plan, three 5-year plans have been implemented. The first five-year plan will conclude in the fiscal year 2003-2004 and it can be seen that significant achievements have been made.

At a time when success has been achieved in the first 5-year plan of the 15-year plan, the New Destiny Project has been implemented in order to accelerate the momentum of drug elimination drive.

Under the New Destiny Project, the ministers and the deputy ministers made field trips and presented food, seeds for poppy substitute crops, pedigrees and agricultural and livestock breeding methods to poppy growers. The tasks have been carried out with a view to providing assistance immediately to poppy growers who have faced difficulties due to destruction of poppy fields.

After implementing the New Destiny Project, drug elimination tasks have gained more achievements. Therefore, it can be vividly seen in the reports of poppy yield survey, jointly carried out by Myanmar and the United States that both poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar have decreased significantly year by year.

In the year 2004 also, Myanmar and the United States have successfully made the poppy yield survey as the tenth year. (See page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control Special Meeting 1/2004.—MNA

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

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister hoists Htidaw atop Naga Cave Aungchantha Pagoda (Page 16)

Perspectives

Kason Fullmoon Day, Buddha Day (Page 2)

Five factors of striving (Page 8)

Circulation 22,479

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control Special Meeting 1/2004.—MNA

Kataññuta, gratitude towards the grateful; this is the way to auspiciousness.
**People’s Desire**

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

**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 Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, this morning inspected sanitation tasks and tasks for proper flow of water at drains being carried out by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, 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 inspected the above-mentioned 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), (Seikkan) and (North), Thakaya, Tanway, Dawbon, Thingangyun, Singyoung, Dagon, Pabedan, Lanmadaw, Bahan and Ahlone townships. — MNA

**Extension project of Yangon International Airport inspected**

**YANGON, 2 May—**Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation U Win Maung arrived at the construction site of extension project for Yangon International Airport this morning.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of work and future tasks presented by Project Manager U Nay Lin of Asia World Co Ltd. The minister gave instructions on completion of construction projects as early as possible.

After giving instructions, the minister inspected construction of bored piles, land preparation for the apron, construction of the power station, the water treatment plant and drains. Moreover, the minister also inspected construction of water tank which supplies water for greening of the airport and its environs. — MNA

**Paper-reading session held to remember Saya Taik Soe**

**YANGON, 2 May—**The paper-reading session to remember Saya Taik Soe, organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Myanmar Library Association, was held at the hall of Sarpay Beikman this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung) and U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun/Thantay), officials, Chairman of Myanmar Library Association U Khin Maung Tin and members, writers and enthusiasts.

In the morning session, Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), U Kyaw Win (Manoktha Kyaw Win), U Aye Cho (MA) and U Aung Maung (Aung Maung) submitted their papers.

In the afternoon session, U Min Naing (Min Naing), U Sein Hlaing (Thura Zaw), U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myet) and U Myint Kyaw (Cultural Institute) read out their papers. — MNA

**Sermon to be delivered to mark success of Hitadhaw hoisting ceremony of Thabhyinyu Stupa**

**YANGON, 1 May—**A ceremony to hoist Simbaw-daw, Hitadhawadaw atop Thabhyinya Stupa will be held on 3 May 2004 (on Fullmoon Day of Kason) at the stupa to be built in Kyaukyedwin Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division. Chancellor Sayadaw of Thitthaung International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Sadhammatojika Dha Maha-dhammakathika Bhagana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Sannissara will deliver a sermon at 7 pm on Fullmoon Day of Kason at the stupa to mark the success of the ceremony. — MNA

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**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 3 May, 2004**

**Kason Fullmoon Day, Buddha Day**

The Fullmoon Day of Kason is a day of significance. It was an auspicious day on which Gotama Buddha attained enlightenment. Gotama Buddha was born, He attained enlightenment and entered Mahapar-Nibbana on this day.

It was also the day on which, as a recluse in Gotama Buddha’s previous existence he, and old, will be observing the Fullmoon Day in this world-cycle.

The Fullmoon Day of Kason is marked by the waterpouring ceremony at the Mahabodhi tree, the holy Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa) at the foot of which Gotama Buddha attained Buddhahood. Devotees also poured water there to make sure it did not die of drought during summer, especially in Kason, the middle of the hot season, and the custom has survived to the present day.

In reverence of the Lord Buddha and upholding the traditions, the Buddhists, young and old, will be observing the Fullmoon Day of Kason by pouring water at the Mahabodhi tree, taking sabbath, doing meritorious deeds, paying homage at the pagodas and paying obeisance to the monks.

Buddhist devotees of Myanmar have been able to do meritorious deeds with peace of mind and delight in view of flourishing of the Sasana throughout the country.

Thanks to earnest efforts of the government and immense generosity of the wellwishers, there have emerged a great number of occasions and incidents for promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism across the country for years.

For example, with the contribution of the government and donation of the wellwishers, new pagodas and religious edifices were constructed and Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw hoisted atop pagodas across the country.

Moreover, provisions were donated to a host of Kyautwaikas and nunneries, and religious tiles conferred on outstanding Buddhist monks at grand ceremonies.

With Theravada Buddhism flourishing in the country, the Fullmoon Day of Kason will be observed by the Buddhist devotees with full of essence upholding the fine traditions.

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With Theravada Buddhism flourishing in the country, the Fullmoon Day of Kason will be observed by the Buddhist devotees with full of essence upholding the fine traditions.
Four US service members killed in Iraq

Fallujah, 2 May—Guerrillas killed a US soldier and two civilian contractors in northern Iraq and attacked a US convoy Saturday in Baghdad, as scores of people took to the streets of Fallujah to celebrate a deal to end a monthlong siege of the city.

The soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack on his convoy Saturday near the town of Qaraya, 45 miles south of Mosul, the military said. A second soldier died Saturday of wounds suffered in a Friday roadside bombing in the same area. The latest deaths brought to 140 the number of US service members who have died since the current wave of violence began in early April.

In another Saturday bombing, two foreign contractors were killed and five other foreigners were injured in an attack in the northern city of Mosul, the US military and witnesses said. Nationalities of the victims were unavailable.

In the Baghdad attack, a bomb set a military tanker truck ablaze as a convoy traveled along the main highway between Fallujah and the capital. When US reinforcements arrived, the attackers fired four mortar shells, which caused no casualties, witnesses said.

Elsewhere, a British soldier was wounded Saturday in an ambush in the southeastern city of Amarah, the British military said. The Al-Mahdi Army, led by radical anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, is active in the area.

The latest violence followed a deal signaling the apparent end of the siege of Fallujah, launched last month after a mob killed four US contractors and mutilated their bodies.

Amid mounting international criticism, the US military forged an agreement to withdraw US Marines from much of the city and turn over security to an Iraqi force made up largely of former soldiers from Saddam Hussein's army, which the US-led occupation authority disbanded last year.

Some 1,360 Iraqis have also died, according to a count by the Associated Press — more than in any month since Saddam's fall — Internet.

Assad says US has failed in Iraq

DAMASCUS, 2 May—The US occupying force in Iraq has not liberated the country and has failed to bring the promised peace and democracy, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview aired by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television channel.

The United States “has not liberated Iraq, nor installed democracy, nor improved the standard of living in the country. It is certainly one (an occupation). Even they say that. They have failed in Iraq that's for sure,” said Assad in a wide-ranging interview lasting around 90 minutes, extracts of which had been aired on Wednesday.

The United States may slap sanctions on Syria “very soon” under a law meant to punish Damascus for allegedly supporting terrorism and seeking unconventional weapons, the White House warned Friday.

In comments unlikely to deter Washington from such action, Assad said that attacks targeting US-led occupation forces in Iraq amount to “resistance”.

“Some of the actions kill civilians, and the Iraqis too don’t approve of those,” he said, adding that Damascus was doing too little to prevent forces looking to attack the US-led coalition from crossing into Iraq.

“They are powerful, but they can’t take on the occupation—in various ways, not necessarily military resistance only. The US-led occupation authority disbanded Saddam’s army, the Al-Mahdi Army, which the US-led occupation authority disbanded last year.”

US officials attribute ongoing violence in Iraq to foreign fighters linked to the Al-Qaeda network who they say enter the country via various borders, including Syria’s. They accuse Damascus of doing too little to prevent forces looking to attack the US-led coalition from crossing into Iraq.

Assad said he is “not possible that all of those hundreds of thousands, the millions, resisting the occupation—in various ways, not necessarily military resistance only—are affiliated to Al-Qaeda or are all supporters of the (deposed) regime of Saddam Hussein?”

Assad asked. He said that dialogue with Washington was continuing “but that doesn’t mean that relations are good... There are elements at the behest of the American administration who refuse dialogue while others judge it important”.

Last November, the US Congress approved economic and diplomatic sanctions against Syria, accusing it of meddling in Iraq and supporting Palestinian and Lebanese movements considered to be terrorists by Washington and Israel.

And he said the inquiry by the Royal Military Police’s Special Investigations Branch would “not leave any stone unturned”. Those who are opposed to the coalition’s occupation of Iraq would employ “full exploitation of these incidents”, Mr Ingram said.

The Mirror says the pictures were handed over by British soldiers from the Queen’s Lancashire Regiment who claimed a rogue element in the British army was responsible for abusing prisoners and civilians.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the soldiers told the paper no charges were brought against the unnamed captive. They allege that during his eight-hour ordeal he was made up largely of former soldiers from Saddam Hussein’s army, which the US-led occupation authority disbanded last year.

British soldiers.

The reason for making the photos public was, they said, to show why the US-UK coalition was encountering such fierce resistance in Iraq.

One of the pictures of British torture in Iraq published by the Daily Mirror — Internet.

China promises more efforts to promote decent employment

BEIJING, 2 May—The Chinese Government will exert more efforts to promote full and decent employment along with the International Labour Organization, says the consensus reached at the China Employment Forum that closed here Friday.

During the three-day forum, participants from over 20 countries held heated discussions over issues concerning employment, gender, rural labour force and the building of fair labour force market.

“China will give more priority to employment in policy making,” said Zheng Silin, China’s Labour Minister at the closing ceremony of the forum.

Experts at the forum said that China’s over-heated pursuit of economic growth in the past decade has caused imbalanced development, including the high unemployment rate against the fast economic growth.

The government will adjust its strategy of development to realize coordinated development of economy and employment, said the minister.

“We must make good use of the advantages of rich labour force and give a stronger drive to labour-intensive industry as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, said Zheng.

As system barriers in labour market has blocked the promotion of employment in China, the participants suggested the building of a unified and fair labour market.

More efforts should go to improve policy on labour market and build a unified labour market, says the consensus.
British troops clash with Shiite militants in southern Iraq

Baghdad, 2 May—A British foot patrol came under attack in the southern city of Amarah on Saturday, sparking a seven-and-a-half-hour gunbattle with guerrillas in the city center that left five Iraqis dead and six British soldiers injured, witnesses and a British forces spokesman said.

Witnesses said the five Iraqis killed were members of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s al-Mahdi Army. The bodies of the dead were brought to al-Sadr’s office in the town, they said.

The twin incidents were ongoing Saturday night, said British Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Jonathan Arnold, a military spokesman. He confirmed the six British wounded but had no information on Iraqi deaths.

“Iraq is a zone of ongoing unrest in the city right now. There are ongoing follow-up operations going on now,” Arnold said.

Witnesses said guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at a British base Saturday night, and British soldiers lobbed flares into the night sky to illuminate and fire upon attackers’ positions.

The clashes started just after midnight, when a British army foot patrol responding to gunfire came under attack and one of its soldiers was wounded, Arnold said.

Five more troops among a force trying to recover the wounded soldier were also wounded, Arnold said by telephone from Baghdad.

Witnesses said two British trucks were burned in the fighting.

Abuse by UK soldiers in Iraq ‘common’

Baghdad, 2 May—It was pitch dark when Walid Fayaz Mazhan drove home southern Iraq late on 24 August last year.

But whether the Indian mangoes were members of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s followers and al-Sadr’s followers and thieves, he said.

“Coalition forces ostensibly attempting to deal with a demonstration outside the city’s Civic House came under attack and one of its soldiers was wounded. Five more troops sent out to try to help the injured soldier were also wounded, and two British trucks were burned in the fighting.

The demonstration was sparked by an operation in Amarah on Friday in which several Iraqis were arrested on suspicion of attacking coalition forces.

“The spokesman said he had no information on any Iraqis injured or killed. “It is very difficult for us to get any firm estimate of the enemy casualties,” he said. “The enemy body count is purely conjectural.”

Last month, 15 Iraqis were killed and eight wounded in Amarah in fighting between al-Qaeda followers and British troops.

Indian mangoes to hit Chinese markets

New Delhi, 1 May — The Chinese people could enjoy Indian mango as early as May, as India’s chief agricultural product export official said on Friday.

After paying a visit to a number of mango orchards in India early April, a Chinese delegation showed strong desire to import Indian mango, and expressed satisfaction over the heat water treatment facility in India for dealing with infestations. The Indo-Asian Service quoted K.S. Money, Chairman Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority of India as saying that the Chinese delegation was quite happy with the arrange-ments for heat water treatment for tackling the fruit fly and other pest infestations.

But whether the Indian mango can be shipped to China in May depends largely on how fast the approval comes from Chinese authorities, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Japanese airline pilot caught doing in flight

Tokyo, 2 May—A pilot for Japan’s All Nippon Airways fell asleep at the controls for several minutes while on a domestic flight and had to be awakened by a ground crew member who was traveling in the cockpit.

A spokesman for the airline said on Friday that the 50-year-old pilot, whose name was not released, dozed off while flying on 23 March from Tokyo’s Haneda Airport to the western prefecture of Yamaguchi, a trip that takes about an hour.

US Army soldiers set up a new checkpoint as they reposition to outside the town of Fallujah, Iraq, on 1 May, 2004.

AP/Photo
General “sickened” by Iraq prison abuse photos

New York, 2 May — The Army Reserve general whose soldiers were photographed prisoners said she was “sickened” by the pictures and suspected those involved acted with the encouragement of intelligence units that ran the cellphone, The New York Times reported in Sunday editions. Brigadier-General Janis Karpinski of the 800th Military Police Brigade told the newspaper in a phone interview from her home in South Carolina on Saturday that the high-security cellblock where the offenses occurred had been under the tight control of a separate group of military intelligence officers who had so far avoided any public blame.

The treatment of the prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad has drawn widespread condemnation, including from President George W. Bush, since photographs documenting it were broadcast on Wednesday by CBS News. Karpinski said that while the reservists involved were acting “bad people” who should be punished, she suspected they were encouraged, if not directed by, military intelligence units that ran the special cellblock used for interrogation.

She said military commanders in Iraq were trying to shift the blame exclusively to her and the reservists who she said the military considered “disposable”.

“Why would they want the active-duty people to take the blame? They want to put this on the MPs (military police) and hope that this thing goes away. Well, it’s not going to go away,” the Times quoted her as saying.

The general said repeated peevings were not defending the actions of the reservists who took part in the brutality, who were part of her command, and that when she first saw the photos in January, they “sickened” her, the paper reported.

“I put my head down because I really thought I was going to throw up,” she said. “It was awful. My immediate reaction was: These are bad people, because their faces revealed how much pleasure they felt at this.”

But she also said the context of the brutality had been lost, noting that the MPs involved represented only a small fraction of the nearly 3,400 reservists who reported to her from 16 Iraqi prisons and similar locations.

Bush says US troops face serious challenges in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 May — A year after declaring major combat over in Iraq, President George W. Bush said on Saturday that US forces still faced serious challenges there but that daily life was improving for Iraqis. But speaking for the Democrats, an Iraq war veteran accused the President of leaving soldiers in the lurch there.

Bush, in his weekly radio address, said the US forces had turned the best face possible on a difficult situation in Iraq, where the United States and its allies went to war over weapons of mass destruction that have never been found and are now caught in a bloody guerrilla war.

A year ago, Bush put on a flight suit, landed on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and declared major combat operations over in Iraq in front of a “mission accomplished” banner. In the Democrats’ weekly radio address, Iraq war veteran Ist. Lieutenant Paul Rieckhoff said Bush should take responsibility for an ill-prepared mission that was on the wrong course.

“Mr. President, our mission is not accomplished,” said Rieckhoff, 29, of New York. “In the past year parts of Iraq have descended into chaos. Since Bush said major combat was at and ended 428 US service personnel have been killed in action in Iraq, 127 of them in April alone. Fewer than 100 died in the three weeks it took to topple Saddam Hussein.

“My question for President Bush — who led the planning of this war so long ago — is this: When will you take responsibility for the decisions you’ve made in Iraq and realize that something is wrong with the way things are going?” Rieckhoff said.

Bush said more violence as likely as the transfer of sovereignty from the US-led coalition to an interim Iraqi government approached a June 30 deadline.

US soldiers withdrawn from Fallujah

BAQUBA, Iraq, 1 May — US Marines started withdrawing from their positions in several parts of Fallujah early on Friday as Iraqi police deployed in some parts of the besieged Iraqi city, witnesses said.

The US troops had moved back from southern, western and southeastern parts of Fallujah, including the industrial zone in the south where they abandoned their frontline bases in some factories and garages.

A fragile ceasefire was announced earlier this month but the Marines and people in the city traded accusations of breaching the truce, which ended the fighting that erupted on April 5 between the US troops and guerilla following the killing and mutilation of four US civil security in the city.

US military officials have said their talks with leaders of Fallujah would lead to the deployment of Iraqi police and the newly established security forces named as Fallujah Protective Army (FPA).

US troops bombarded the besieged city late Thursday, “The way for the FPA to deploy around the city and to enter it. “The city last Thursday was bad people, because their faces revealed how much pleasure they felt at this.”

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Bursts of gunfire have ripped Fallujah as guerrillas and US Marines skirmished intermittently on 1 May 2004 despite a deal to hand security responsibilities back to Iraqis. Here an Iraqi in front of destroyed houses in Fallujah.

Iraqi youths look at the damage to a house caused by a helicopter gunship strike on the restive town of Fallujah on 6 April, 2004.

Iraqis return to Fallujah to find their homes damaged on 30 April 2004.

Iraqi men search through the rubble of their house which was shelled by a mortar during a fight between Iraqi guerrillas and US troops in Fallujah, Iraq on 30 April 2004.

An Iraqi man carries electrical wire past his destroyed house in an attempt to restore electricity, after returning to Fallujah, on 1 May, 2004.

An Iraqi boy leaves the town of Fallujah, on 30 April, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Opening ceremony of Myingyan Government Technical Institute in progress on 11-2-2004. — MNA

200-bed Kengtung General Hospital in Kengtung, Shan State (East). — MNA

Paunglin Dam in Hlegu Township, Yangon, Division. — MNA
Five factors of striving

Win Pe

Rason Fullmoon Day is Buddha Day. It is a
thrice glorious day. On this day Buddha was born,
atainment and passed into the final
liberation of Parinibbana.

On this day, the Lord of the Three Worlds made
the supreme effort and gave to us that light which helps
us to see the true nature of becoming and birth with
their three characteristics of impermanence, incapacity
to satisfy and non-disposability. Such a day of
culmination of Buddha’s effort should be an auspicious
day for us to consider the nature of the attitude and
behaviour required to realise the characteristics of
compounded natures, not as a matter of intellectual
opinion held either tenuously or with firm belief but as
a matter of knowledge acquired and developed in our
hearts.

Buddha’s doctrine requires of us seriousness of
purpose. It is not for the easy-going man of glit tongue
and facile disposition. It calls for diligence and
application which the slothful man, oppressed by torpor,
is unwilling to offer. It demands scrupulousness which
is lacking in the careless man of slipshod ways and
distracted mind.

In the suitta precepts Buddha kept stressing
the need for zeal and effort. “I declare to you, I protest
to you: Let there be no falling back in your aim while
there is something further to be done. And what is
there further to be done? First, to become conscientious
and scrupulous; to become pure in deed, speech, thought
and mode of living; to become guarded as to the senses;
to become intent on diligence, to become mindful and
circumspect; to become possessed of the six-fold
knowledge. Each of these is something further to be
done, and while there is something to be done let there
be no falling back in your aim”.

In another passage in the Majjhima Nikaya
Buddha preaches that there are five factors of striving:

“What are they? He is full of faith in the
Awakening of the Enlightened One. He is without
disease, endowed with a good digestion that is neither
too cool nor too warm, but medium, incurring to
striving. He is not dishonest nor deceitful but manifests
himself as he is to his teacher. He fares along putting
forth energy, he is staunch, strong in effort. He comes
to be wise. Endowed with these five factors for striving,
taking the Enlightened One as his guide, having realised
here and now that supreme goal of the good-faring for
the sake of which young men of good family rightly
go forth from home into the homeless, may fare along
towards it.”

It is a laudable practice of Myanmar young
men to go forth from home to the homelessness of
the monastery either as novices or monks for a week
or more during the transition days from the old
Myanmar year to the new. It is desirable that on
Buddha Day we should remember that if the life of
good-faring is to be lived, if what is to be done is to be
done, there is no avoiding the striving. A man
must make an intense desire, an effort, endeavour,
exertion, struggle, mindfulness and attentiveness to give
up every evil and wrong state of mind and manner. He
cannot do things in a half-hearted way, a way of ease
and comfort. He will need to do them rigorously.

Buddha exhorted in the Anguttara Nikaya: “Be
not of those who turn back afterwards.”

Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electric
  tricity only if there is not enough natural
- Use the least possible amount of electric
  tricity 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 everyday by each
household amounts to saving power that is
equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power
station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per
  month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar
can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a
  major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

 washington

World’s nations including US... (from page 1)
The combined team of the two countries have toured Mongun, Hsieng, Lethka and Mongkha townships in Shan State (South), Mongyin, Kengtung and Mongkha in Shan State (East). Wa regions of Khwinmar, Mongmaw, Namti, Lounhan, Panlon and Hepan and Kokom in Mongmaw and Shweik in Phayao in Thailand and Kaungsha in Shan State (North). It can be seen that during the tour, they have made survey on poppy fields, health and raw opium. When poppy growers in the regions and interviewed, they studied the destroyed poppy fields and viewed agriculture and livestock breeding tasks being carried out as poppy substitute planting.

According to Myanmar-US opium yield survey, there were 47,130 hectares of poppy fields that produced 484 tones of opium in 2003 and it was the 39 per cent less than that of the previous year. And according to the same survey, cultivation of poppy decreased compared with that of the previous year and opium yield would also be on a decline. It can be said that the decrease in poppy cultivation year by year means that the results of the New-Destiny Project under which poppy fields have been destroyed and assistance provided to farmers whose poppy fields were destroyed.

Especially, the New-Destiny Project has been successfully implemented in northern, southern and eastern Shan State. The poppy growers, of their own volition, have abandoned poppy cultivation and handed over poppy seeds and thus ceremonies to destroy poppy seeds have been held one after another.

At the same time, illegally grown poppy fields have been destroyed; 80 hectares of Pedisein in the region and agricultural facility school and one 16-bed hospital in the region. Yaungkha Model Village development project was implemented in border areas of Myanmar, and Yaungkha Village in Phaunghsai region and 600 bags of rice and 30 bags of胡椒 were distributed and land reclamation was carried out.

A total of 549 persons were rehabilitated at Shwepyitha and as a result, 1,557 acres of poppy field were destroyed in 2002-2003 poppy cultivation season. In 2003-2004 poppy cultivation season, 7,519 acres of poppy fields were destroyed up to 21 April 2004.

As regarding provisions to assist farmers who have no longer engaged in poppy growing, it is learnt that 5,000 bags of rice and 100 bags of salt were provided free of charge by farmers of Shan region in Shan State (North), 400 bags of rice and 20 bags of salt to farmers of Phaunghshai region and 600 bags of rice and 30 bags of salt to farmers of Manpan region in June, 2003.

Accordingly, it was made to provide 5,000 bags of rice and 150 bags of salt to villages in Wa region. Pinlaung and Pekhon in Shan State (South) and Mongpun township where poppy fields were destroyed most. International organizations also have lent themselves to the tasks under the New-Destiny Project. The WFP with the cooperation of NGOs will have to provide 760 tons of rice for the Wa region, 30,000 wall magazines, pamphlets and photo shows, de-mobilization Offices and TV retransmission stations, presenting the target in opening of Information and Public Relations and 205 cases of Ephedrine, 921,360 kilos of hybrid maize and paddy and 31,131 viss of potato, onion and kitchen crops and cultivation of crops on 492 acres of test-plot and 9,186 model of plots. In addition, fertilizers and pesticide were distributed and land reclamation was carried out.

Macadamea plantations were grown although it was not included in the master plan. Before the project, 12,894 acres of land were used for macadamea plantations in Kaungthla and Tamuyee region. 3,948 acres were used for macadamea plantations in Shan State (East), Wa regions of Khwinmar, and 600 bags of rice and 7,738 tonnes of rice have been provided. Progress has been made in the fight against drugs together with neighbouring countries.

Under Myanmar-China drug control programme, the two nations are making efforts to exchange information of drug eradication; as a result, progress has been made in the fight against drug trafficking and Myanmar has been able to arrest and hand over Chinese culprits wanted in China to Chinese authorities.

Under MoU on Myanmar-Thai drug control, Thailand has already arrested 10 million for contraband drugs in border areas of Myanmar, and Yangyikha Village in Mongnat Township was established into Yangyikha Model Village after designating the village as a project region. Yangyikha Development project was launched in February 2001. Under the project, there have emerged poppy-substitute plantations and one 500-capacity school and one 16-bed hospital in the region.

The necessary soy bean and Pedis by soy-substitute crops in Mongka project region, altogether 50 model plots were established for cultivation of 80 hectares of Pedesin region and agricultural council, and to as many as 200 local farmers. Pedis is now being cultivated in the region.

A time when significant progress has been made in the fight against drug and there has been a dramatic drop in poppy growing and production stringent measures are to be taken for preventing the recurrence of trafficking of stimulants.

Nowadays, steps for control of stimulants are to be taken with added momentum as there have been seizures of the drugs in some regions. Precursor chemicals for making stimulants entered the country from neighbouring countries. Therefore, only when there is cooperation with the neighbouring countries in the fight against stimulants will the nation be able to make progress.

Regarding narcotic drug elimination, Wa national race leaders have pledged to totally eliminate drug in Wa region in 2005 and 2015. National race leaders have pledged to totally eliminate drug in their region in 2005.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the departmental officials to contribute their shares in successful realization of the project. To be successful, implementation of the 15-year drug elimination project and the New Destiny Project are meeting with success and there has been a significant decrease in poppy growing and production. Similarly, tough measures should be taken for preventing the recurrence of stimulant trafficking.

Likewise, cooperation with international community and neighbouring countries in the fight against drug is meeting with success. At such a time, systematic measures are to be taken for Myanmar to be able to fully implement the resolutions of the international meetings on control of drug, meetings between ASEAN nations and meetings on cooperation between the two nations. It is needed for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs to be responsible in the success of the realization of the project are to make relentless efforts with the participation of the related ministries.

Collective and concerted efforts are to be made for development of local communities, social infrastructures of local people while making efforts for ensuring achievement in poppy substitute agriculture and livestock breeding and providing assistance to local farmers who quit the habit of poppy growing for their food, clothing and shelter needs.

Next, CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing submitted the reports. He said that the New Destiny Project to add the narcotic drug elimination 15-year plan for opium elimination is being implemented beginning 2002-2003 financial year. Thus, poppy seeds and dry addict are now receiving medical treatment.

In addition, poppy growing farmers are now receiving medical treatment. At such a time, systematic measures are to be taken for 80 hectares of pedisein in the region and agricultural facility school and one 16-bed hospital in the region. Yaungkha Model Village development project was implemented in border areas of Myanmar, and Yaungkha Village in Phaunghsai region and 600 bags of rice and 30 bags of salt to farmers of Manpan region in June, 2003.

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World's nations including US as well as UN agencies...

(from page 9)

Moreover, tasks were carried out in the Shan State (North) Drug Abuse Reduction Project implemented in cooperation with UNODC, Wa Region Drug Control and Development Project, Yangonkha Village Development Project in Mongha Township, Shan State (East) leaders implemented in cooperation with Thailand and Kokang Special Region-1 Poppy-Substitute Crop Cultivation Project being undertaken in cooperation with the People’s Republic of China. From 2000 to date, 5565 cases were handled in narcotic drug cases by China were handed over.

In addition, CCDAC conducted opium yield survey in cooperation with UNODC to assess in carrying out elimination of production and use, poppy cultivation and production of Myanmar continues to decline.

Meanwhile, various countries pay attention to the case study on poppy substitute buckwheat cultivation project and suggestions by JICA. The team led by Managing Director Mr. Mikiharu Sato of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Head Office went on a field trip to compile data for implementing the Kokang Special Region-1 Elimination of Poppy Cultivation and Economic Programs from 6 to 14 February 2004.

He reviewed accomplishment of the narcotic drug elimination 15-year plan and reduction of poppy cultivation and production in the first five-year period. In so doing, aims of the first five-year project of the narcotic drug elimination 15-year plan realized thanks to implementation, supervision and fulfillment of the Governments in cooperation with local authorities, national race leaders and local people, the border areas development project, the 24 development regions project, five rural development regions projects of the CCDAC, cooperation with UNDP, FAO and non-governmental organizations in data.

Likewise, members of the CCDAC Minister for Labour U Tin Win and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented reports on achieving success in combating narcotic drugs, decrease in slanderous accusation of narcotic drugs, measures taken for prevention of cultivation and manufacturing and trafficking stimulant tablets in northern and eastern regions of Myanmar and carrying out the tasks to gain success for New Destiny Project.

Later, Secretary of the CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Ye presented reports on implementation of minutes of the special meeting of the CCDAC.

He said the 15-year drug elimination master plan has been successful and more achievements have also been made with the assistance of New Destiny Project. The Union of Myanmar is implementing the tasks for elimination of narcotic drugs by 2014. It is certain that the objectives of the drug campaign.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the CCDAC Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt presented reports on condition of direct assistance rendered from the funds of work committee for development of border areas and undertaking of national races projects of the CCDAC, cooperation with UNODC, FAO and non-governmental organizations in data.

He also spoke of the need to speed up the success already achieved in poppy substitute crops, depopulation of local people so that they realized the true situations and invitations of diplomats and representatives of UN agencies including China, Thailand and Laos. Formation of treatment groups for drug addicts is very excellent and measures are to be taken with greater momentum, he added.

Activities of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) are gaining momentum. He spoke of the need for ministries concerned to provide assistance for keeping the activities dynamic. Support tasks of the New Destiny Project being implemented by four deputy ministers are useful to local people and non-poppy growers and continued efforts are to be made for achieving more progress, he said.

He said cooperation with international organizations including UNODC is to be promoted. Extended cultivation of macadamia which can earn a lot of money is to be undertaken in connection with opium substitute crops cultivation.

Spiritual development activities and training of vocational education at Shwepyitha and Shweppyiaye rehabilitation camps for drug addicts in Bago Division and southern Shan State are effective and useful, he said.

He said the youths trained at the camps were formed as Youth Force under the leadership of MANA. Anti-narcotic drug campaigns and educative activities among the youths are effective and successful. Based on the achievements, arrangements are being made for rehabilitation of drug addicts after opening of Shweppyiay camp in northern Shan State, he said.

He said it is certain that the objectives of the drug elimination project launched by the State will be successful with the implementation of prevention tasks against opium cultivation and production, trafficking of stimulant tablets and rehabilitation of drug addicts in harmony.

He said the government departments are to provide assistance for drug elimination tasks in 2005 being carried out by national race leaders of Wa and Kokang regions. There were some accusations of money laundering in connection with drug trafficking. Myanmar is undertaking necessary measures including prescribing law and it can refute accusations on drug cases. In connection with the drug elimination efforts, activities are being made to promote the socio-economic lives of the national races at border areas. In conclusion, he urged all to make energetic efforts collectively for realizing the aims of the State.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt went to Drug Elimination Museum and viewed the booths displaying the introduction of opioid to Myanmar, drug control activities during the reign of Myanmar kings, booths displaying the introduction of opium to Myanmar, and the Naga Cave Aungchantha Pagoda. — MNA
Iraqi prisoners face “sadistic” abuses

WASHINGTON, 2 May — Iraqi prisoners faced numerous “sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses” by US soldiers, including sodomy and beatings, according to a US Army report quoted by the New Yorker magazine.

The New Yorker said it had obtained a 53-page, internal US military report into alleged abuses at the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad. It is not clear when the report was compiled and the New Yorker did not say whether they had seen any abuses.

The New Yorker said the report had been authorized by Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, the top US officer in Iraq, and was completed in February. It was broadcast on television on Monday. The New Yorker said the report had been ordered after pictures showing abuse by US troops of Iraqi prisoners were published and broadcast around the globe. The photos showed US troops smiling, posing or giving the thumbs-up sign as naked, male Iraqi prisoners were stacked in a pyramid or position to simulate sex acts with one another.

A senior Pentagon official said he had seen no evidence of rape or other uses of chemicals against prisoners in Iraq, but that abuse of prisoners was “despicable and inexcusable.”

News of the military report comes days after photographs showing abuse by US troops of Iraqi prisoners were published and broadcast around the globe. The photos showed US troops smiling, posing or giving the thumbs-up sign as naked, male Iraqi prisoners were stacked in a pyramid or position to simulate sex acts with one another.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman declined to comment on the abuses in Iraq, but said abuse of prisoners was a “disgusting and inexcusable”.

He said that when incidents of abuse first came to light earlier this year, the Army immediately ordered an investigation, and Sanchez ordered a separate probe to make sure that such incidents were not widespread throughout the military detention system in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Russia promises decision on far East oil pipeline by year-end

MOSCOW, 2 May — The Russian Government will make a decision on the feasibility of the oil pipeline from Angarsk in Siberia to Nakhodka facing Japan by the end of the year, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zhukov said Friday.

"By the end of the year a decision will be made on the route of the pipeline and on the preparation of a feasibility study for this project," Zhukov said after meeting here with Japanese Economics, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, Foreign Ministry officials and agency reported. Zhukov said during discussion about the pipeline, "According to Japanese side expressed its interest in the project, which will require major investment and ecological studies. Ecological issues of the project are currently being carefully examined. "We believe in the prospects of the project. "Stressing that the payback issue of the 4,000-kilometre pipeline should be thoroughly calculated.

"China and Russia have signed a framework agreement to build a pipeline linking Russia’s Angarsk to China’s Daqing. However, the Kremlin became ambivalent over the project after Japan offered a rival pipeline that would bypass China and stretch to Russia’s Far East port of Nakhodka. The third possible route that will also transport crude from Russia’s vast Siberian reserves to the Asia Pacific Region is a pipeline to Nakhodka with a branch line to China.

MNA/Xinhua

Serbia ponders case of missing monkeys

BELGRADE, 2 May — Serbia is trying to account for around 600 monkeys thought to be missing from a consignment imported from Africa, the daily Balkan reported on Friday.

According to the Serbian Statistics Bureau, the monkeys were imported from Tanzania two years ago and paid for by the kilo. The shipment weighed two tons, which works out at about 1,000 monkeys weighing two kilos each, the paper said.

The national vaccine producer Torlak Institute bought 400 for polio vaccine testing, but the fate of the others is unclear.

Belgrade Zoo director Vuk Boyovic said he had not bought a single monkey in 20 years.

The Serbian Chamber of Commerce said only Torlak would buy monkeys for laboratory use, and while some people took them as pets, it was unlikely 600 were sold to individuals.

The Chamber of Commerce said Customs had to have all data on live imports. But Customs could not immediately supply figures.

MNA/Reuters

British police use sweet tactics to curb drunken brawls

London, 2 May — Drunken brawlers beware— the weapon of choice for police in the southern England seaside town of Bournemouth is chocolate rather than truncheons and handcuffs.

In an effort to reduce alcohol-related violence, police in the southern county of Dorset are handing out chocolate bars to late-night revellers as they leave the town’s bars and clubs during the three-day weekend holiday.

The government has launched a crackdown on heavy drinking in UK cities across the country, aimed particularly at the young.

“The reason for most alcohol-related violence in Bournemouth is that people get frustrated, then aggressive, waiting for either food or a taxi home,” said police constable Ian Curtis.

By giving them something to eat as they leave bars and clubs, we hope to distract people from the temptation to punch one of their main needs— food—from giving them something else to do.

MNA/Reuters

Record US gasoline drives oil higher again

London, 2 May — International oil prices hit fresh 3-1/2 year peaks on Friday led by an all time high price for US gasoline, a market haunted by fears of a shortage in the period of peak summer demand.

London’s Brent crude stood at 34.85 US dollars, up 47 cents, hitting a season high at 35.00 US dollars, its highest since October 2001. US light crude gained 47 cents to 37.78 US dollars a barrel. US gasoline hit a fresh all-time peak of 1.2510 US dollars a gallon on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

Germany confirms death of security official in Iraq

BERLIN, 2 May — Germany’s Foreign Ministry said Saturday one of two German security officials who went missing in Iraq last month had been found dead.

The man, who belonged to Germany’s elite anti-terror special forces, went missing with a colleague last month after his convoy came under attack on the way from Jordan to Baghdad.

The Foreign Ministry said it would not disclose details on how the man was found or the circumstances surrounding his death.

The Foreign Ministry also said the deaths of the two German security officials has been confirmed and identified by German experts, the ministry said in a statement.

The Foreign Ministry had said the two men went missing near the Sunni town of Tal Afar on the scene of heavy fighting between US forces and Iraqi guerrillas in recentweeks.

MNA/Reuters
Afghan Foreign Minister to visit Moscow

Moscow, 2 May— Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah is expected to pay a working visit to Russia on 6-7 May to discuss primarily economic issues, Afghan official said here on Friday.

During his two-day stay in Moscow, Abdullah will talk with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov primarily on Russia’s assistance to the reconstruction of the Afghan economy, the payment of Afghan debts to Russia,” Press secretary of the Afghan Embassy in Moscow, Salih Garafati was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

A source at the Russian Ministry confirmed that the debt issue, bilateral relations, fighting terrorism and drug trafficking would be discussed during Abdullah’s visit.

Afghan-TASS cited another Russian official as saying that Afghanistan had “several billion dollars” in outstanding debts inherited from the Soviet time. Now that the debts “present a certain difficulty in our economic relations,” the official said Russia was prepared to write off much of the debt.

In an interview with Vremya Novosti daily published on Friday, Abdullah said that the purpose of the talks is “to look for new ideas to expand cooperation”.

“It is important for us to decide how Russian companies can participate in the economic revival of Afghanistan. We believe Russia should be more actively engaged in every area related to Afghanistan,” he said.

The minister reported progress on the issue of Afghanistan’s debts to Russia. “An acceptable solution to the debt problem will be found shortly. Afghanistan is actively working on this,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

South Africans named biggest fans of SMS service

JOHANNESBURG, 2 May— The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has named South African cellphone subscribers as the world’s biggest fans of short message service (SMS), who use the service 17 times a month on average.

The global average was only four, the ITU was quoted as saying Friday by local newspaper This Day. In its report, Africa: The World’s Fastest Growing Mobile Market, the union interpreted the huge popularity of SMS in South Africa as a sign that wireless Internet access will take off faster in Africa than elsewhere.

“With the region’s limited fixed-line penetration effectively curtailing Internet access via more traditional access methods, mobile technology now has the power to drive the uptake of Internet,” said the report.

As the economic powerhouse of the African continent, South Africa was seen as the door into Africa on information and communications technology.

South Africa, now having mobile communications operators, is the fourth fastest growing market in the world, according to the country’s official statistics.

By October 2003, there were 15 million cellular users— the figure is expected to reach 21 million by 2006, accounting for 46.6 per cent of the total population. Starting from nearly zero in 1995, cellphone overtook fixed-lines in 2000. By the end of last year, 6.2 per cent of South Africans had cellphones and 3 per cent had a landline, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

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TIN OHNMAR TUN
B:AlLaw/LL.B. L.L (MUK)
P.O. Box 109, Ph:248108/720043 (For. Dommerg Songiap & Bosuma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 3 May, 2004

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for ALCOA INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Zimbabwean official says cancer linked to HIV/AIDS

HARARE, 2 May— Zimbabwe Cancer Association said on Friday HIV/AIDS has a big influence on which cancer people get in Zimbabwe, connecting the two biggest threats to human health in the country.

The association education officer Shingayi Dakwa said Kaposis Sarcoma is the leading cancer affecting Zimbabweans at the male age. “Kaposi’s Sarcoma ranks high, because it is associated with HIV/AIDS,” said Dakwa. She said that Kaposis Sarcoma affects children when they become sexually active. — MNA/Xinhua

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China on holiday SARS alert at airports, stations

BEIJING, 2 May—Airports and rail stations across China are checking temperatures of passengers from Beijing and eastern Anhui Province for SARS as the week-long May Day holiday approaches, state media said on Friday.

The Health Ministry has reported four diagnosed and five suspected cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome in Beijing and Anhui in recent weeks, including one suspected SARS patient who died on April 19 in Anhui.

One of the confirmed cases was in critical condition, the ministry said.

"Railway stations and airports have been ordered to check the temperatures of all passengers from Beijing and Anhui," the China Daily said on Friday.

Several countries, fearful of a repeat of last year’s devastating SARS outbreak, have started screening visitors from China. China said it had notified foreign visitors that a Beijing disease control laboratory could be the source of the new outbreak.

The World Health Organization, which has a team of about 16 people in Beijing and Anhui investigating the latest outbreak, said on Friday there was an apparent "chain of transmission" in the cases so far.

"What we are saying at the moment is that there is no significant public health threat from SARS in China," spokesman Bob Dietz said.

Hundreds of people have been isolated for observation but life in the Chinese capital is going on at its usual hectic pace, with some getting an early start to the holiday in which scores of millions of people will travel.

"The China Daily, quoting a senior official with the National Tourism Administration, said tourist-related industries were expected to reap 2.4 billion US dollars from countrywide travel next weekend."

HK acts on illegal movement of hazardous e-waste

HONG KONG, 2 May—Hong Kong is committed to curbing illegal movement of hazardous electronic waste (e-waste), said a spokesman for Hong Kong Environment Protection Department (EPD) recently.

The EPD and the Customs and Excise Department (CED) have been working closely to control and monitor hazardous e-waste shipments imported into or transshipped through Hong Kong, and the joint enforcement action has been stepped up since early 2004, said the spokesman.

Ever since the CED and operation "Trigger" on 1 March to combat illegal import and transshipment of hazardous e-waste, it has examined 133 suspicious consignments. Of them, 15 consignments were suspected of containing hazardous e-waste, which was imported without a waste e-waste permit. The EPD is now investigating these cases, said the spokesman.

A summons was issued to the importer of one of these shipments for importing 617 waste television sets containing cathode ray tubes to Hong Kong without a permit. The other cases are still under investigation.

"More summonses are expected to be served one this year upon the completion of investigations," the spokesman noted.

For those suspected illegal consignments, nine have been returned to the countries of origin through the Basel Convention liaison office. The authorities under the convention for these countries have been notified, he said, to facilitate their investigation.

The spokesman pointed out that the import and export of hazardous e-waste, such as cathode ray tubes in waste computer monitors and TV sets, are subject to peril control under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

Under the WDO, any person who imports or exports hazardous e-waste without a permit issued by the EPD is liable to a maximum penalty of $200,000 Hong Kong dollars ($25,641 US dollars) and six-month imprisonment for the first offence, and 500,000 Hong Kong dollars ($64,102 US dollars) and two-year imprisonment for subsequent offence.

Siberian tiger gives birth to quadruplets in China

BEIJING, 12 May—A 12-year-old Siberian tiger gave birth to quadruplets Wednesday in an animal breeding centre in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

"Dou Hua" gave birth to the four tiger cubs on Wednesday and it was the seventh time she gave birth, her breeder said in an expert with the Hongdehaozhi Feline Animal Breeding Centre.

"Dou Hua" has given birth to 25 baby tigers and once set a record by giving birth to quadruplets.

It is the common task for police sources said the raid was carried out in Muntro locality, in the suburbs of the capital Buenos Aires.

They arrested two English citizens, two Yugoslavians and an Argentine, whose identities were not informed, and handed over to the justice authorities. Authorities said the five alleged drug-dealers pretended to have a wine bottler, but an international drug-dealing and money laundering ring was actually operating.

Buenos Aires, 2 May—Argentine Federal Police seized the first hours of Friday more than 10,000 bottles of wine with drugs hidden inside some 10,000 bottles of red wine that were ready to ship abroad.

Raglewski, who led the Vinas Blancas raid, said the gang had "branches in London, Spain and other countries," where they are working with the local authorities and thus new arrests are not ruled out.

"What we are saying at the moment is there is no significant public health threat from SARS in China," spokesman Bob Dietz said.

Egypt and the Allied Powers, Reproductions of some Renaissance masterpieces by artists from around the 18th Century will also be on display at the exhibition. Most of the pieces feature heroes and legendary figures of the Roman Empire and carry religious and humanistic themes.

Beijing, 2 May—The General Office of the State Council recently issued an urgent circular, ordering local governments to step up efforts to ensure safety in industrial production, social stability, and prevention of epidemic diseases.

The circular was issued due to the rising number of dangerous chemical leaks, explosions, traffic accidents, and the recent reoccurrence of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in Beijing, the national capital.

In the circular, the General Office of the State Council urged localities to step up efforts in the prevention of SARS and banned any attempts to conceal, delay or give false information about the SARS situation.

Factories involved in dangerous or explosive goods must strictly follow laws and regulations, while greater efforts should be to ensure safety in public places and facilities. Companies and enterprises engaged in the tourism sector should conduct thorough checks on safety measures as the week-long "May Day" holiday approaches, according to the circular.

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Siberian tiger gives birth to quadruplets in N-E China

HUNAN, 2 May—At least 12 people were killed and 85 others injured when a bus overturned at Mohanpur on West Bengal's Birbhum District on Thursday.

The accident occurred when one of the front tyres of the bus burst and came off. Many of the passengers sitting on the roof of the bus were thrown off as the vehicle spun out of control, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted local police as saying.

While eight people died on the spot, four more died on their way to the hospital.

The injured have been admitted to hospitals in the city while police said the conditions of 45 passengers were critical and the death toll was feared to rise.

E China city to host Italian Renaissance art show

NANCHANG, 2 May—An Italian Renaissance art show is due to open Sunday in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, featuring works by Renaissance masters including Michelangelo and Da Vinci.

Insiders say this will be the first exhibition of Italian Renaissance fine arts in China since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949.

The show will feature 70 to 80 sculptures and paintings from the 14th to 16th centuries, including Michelangelo's David and Pietra and Du Vinci's Horse. Reproductions of some Renaissance masterpieces by artists from around the 18th Century will also be on display at the exhibition. Most of the pieces feature heroes and legendary figures of the Roman Empire and carry religious and humanistic themes.

12 killed as bus overturns in East India

NEW DELHI, 2 May—At least 12 people were killed and 85 others injured when a bus overturned at Mohanpur in West Bengal's Birbhum District on Thursday.

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CPC officials highlight importance of ethics education

BEIJING, 2 May—Li Changhun, member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, has urged to ceaselessly promote ethics education for juveniles, saying that schools are the main classroom, front and channel for the education.

Li said this Thursday when he visited the Ministry of Education to study the issue. He praised the educational authorities in the country for their efforts in further stepping up and improving the ethics education for juveniles.

Ethics education is the fundamental job for schools, Li said. He called for implementing the policy of the Communist Party of China on education and including ethics education throughout all the periods of schooling.

It is the common task for the whole party and the whole society to step up and improve ethics education for juveniles, Li stressed.

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Rio de Janeiro teams flop again in Brazilian championship

Rio de Janeiro, 1 May — Flamengo and Vasco da Gama suffered embarrassing defeats to leave Rio de Janeiro’s four teams without a win in the Brazilian championship.

Flamengo started the campaign with two goalless draws but were beaten 2-1 at Parana, who themselves lost 6-1 to Victoria four days earlier, and have two points from three games.

Vasco went down 1-0 at home to Guarani in front of a paltry crowd of 1,087, also on Thursday, and have one point from nine.

Rio de Janeiro clubs once dominated Brazilian football but have suffered an alarming decline blamed on chaotic administration.

The city has also been shunned by the national team because crowds at the famous but crumbling Maracana Stadium jeer and insult the side within minutes of the kick-off if they do not score an early goal.

Brazil’s last match at the Maracana was a World Cup qualifier against Bolivia nearly four years ago.

Back home.

Beckham leads way in transfer talk

London, 1 May — With just over two weeks left until the transfer window opens, Manchester United and Beckham is at the top of the speculation league as Europe’s big clubs prepare for next season.

The likes of Arsenal, Chelsea and Bayern Munich have already agreed deals in advance for Robin van Persie, fellow Dutchman Arjen Robben and Iran striker Vahid Hashemian respectively, even though the moves can only be registered from May 17.

Brazil’s Rivaldo, a free agent, is touting for a club.

But bigger transfer deals could well be on the way and few are attracting the kind of intense speculation that generated in Britain by the possible Premier League return of Beckham.

The England captain’s high-profile move from Manchester United to Real for 40 million US dollars last year was heralded as a new lease of life.

The move looked good for Beckham, whose relationship with United manager Alex Ferguson had soured, and for Real, who acquired the most marketable commodity in a global soccer business.

But after a promising start, Beckham’s form has dipped sharply in the Primera Liga, where a demanding Press are already turning up.

For Beckham, who turns 29 on Sunday, could hardly return to United while Ferguson remains in charge and Beckham’s combined transfer fee and wage demands would be tough to swallow for the money men at champions Arsenal.

But Chelsea have the necessary cash and ambition to add yet another top player to a squad that has already been re-built once since last July.

Beckham, meanwhile, has insisted he is happy in Spain, enjoying his football and will be a Real player next season, in a house he is looking to buy in Madrid.

Spanish tennis player Tommy Robredo celebrates after his win over Chilean Fernando Gonzalez during the quarterfinals of the Barcelo Open in Spain, on 30 April.

Robredo defeated Gonzalez 4-6,6-7,3-6(2).

INTERNET

Hitzfeld to close door on Bayern years

BERLIN, 1 May — Bayern Munich coach Jupp Hitzfeld will leave the Bundesliga club at the end of next season, he said on Friday.

“It is better to end speculation and say that it will be over in 2005,” Hitzfeld told a news conference in Munich.

Hitzfeld is widely expected to remain in charge for the 2004-2005 season after which his contract expires.

The 55-year-old was appointed Bayern coach in 1998. Under his guidance, the club have won four Bundesliga titles, lifted the German Cup twice and won the Champions League in 2001.

Bayern are due to defend the Bundesliga, six points behind leaders Werder Bremen with four games left, and face a struggle to retain their title.

There had been speculation that Hitzfeld might leave after this season following a disappointing run with early exits from the German Cup and the Champions League.

However, chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who had himself suggested last month that the coach was safe, said this week the club were definitely planning with Hitzfeld for next season.

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

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Top-selling sports daily

Marca have dubbed Beckham the “Dutch stripper” amid the hapless movie character, while the wisdom of signing such an attack-minded midfielder has been questioned given Real’s defensive frailties.

Wide publicized allega- tions of an extra-marital affair, the fact that his wife Victoria and children have remained in England and a decision not to renew the lease on his Madrid mansion after May have all fuelled the speculation.

Chelsea, buoyed by the huge wealth of Russian bil- lionaire owner Roman Abramovich, are tipped as the most likely destination for the Londoner.

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INTERNET
7:00 Monday, May 3
View today:
7:00 a.m.
1. Industrial Achievement - Strip Paper Manufacturing Process
2. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
7:15 a.m.
1. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
2. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
7:30 a.m.
1. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
7:45 a.m.
1. Morning news
7:45 a.m.
1. National News
1. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
1. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic 'Sights' Come and See Myanmar
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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms has been iso-
ticated in Bago, Mawlamyine, Kayin States and Bago Division, scattered in Tanintharyi Division and weather has been partly
cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States,
Sagam, Yangon, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C)
above normal in Kalat District, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeawaddy
Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The signifi-
cant day temperatures were (4°C) in Magway, (4°C) in Minbu.
With a total rainfall of 10.10 inches in Taunggyi.

Max Temperature on 1-4-2004 was 40.8°C (105°F).
Minimum temperature was 23.8°C (79°F). Relative humidity at
9:30 hrs MST on 2-5-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on
1-4-2004 was (10.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-5-
04 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and Central Station.
Total rainfall was 1-4-2004 was 5.0 (mm) inch at Yangon, 5.2
(m)m at Kaba-Aye and 5.0 (mm) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at 12:30 hours MST on 1-4-2004.
Bay influence: According to the observation at 09:30 hours MST
today, yesterday, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay was
weakened. Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly
cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast: There will be no rain for the next 24 hours. Rain or
thunderstorms is likely to occur in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States, Ayeawaddy, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions.
Rain or thunderstorms will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar water.

Weather forecast for subsequent two days. Rain or thunder-
storms are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Kachin, Mon, Kayin States, Ayeawaddy, Bago, and Tanintharyi Divisions.
Rain or thunderstorms will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-5-2004:
Partly cloudy.

WEATHER

Sunday, 2 May, 2004
Prime Minister hoists Htidedaw atop Naga Cave Aungchantha Pagoda

YANGON, 2 May — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Naga Cave Aungchantha Pagoda of Kalawyaw Tawya Monastery was held at the monastery in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratthis Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammapajatoka Aungmyobonas Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa, Joint-Secretary Kalawyaw Tawya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dwi Patikadhura Dwipatika Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, 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 and departmental heads, local authorities, social organizations and wellwishers.

The Prime Minister and party received the Nine Precepts from the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw. Next, members of the Sangha recited Puritas.

The Prime Minister offered Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and provisions to the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw. The commander presented Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw after hoisting them atop the pagoda. Later, the Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Next, members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. Yesterday morning, the ceremony to hoist three tiers of Htidedaw atop the pagoda was held at the monastery attended by the Kalawyaw Sayadaw and three tiers of Shwehtidaw, well wishers of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Tha Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tha Aung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, departmental heads, nuns and wellwishers.

The Sayadaw, the deputy minister and well wisher U Maung Maung Kha Swe fixed three tiers of Htidedaw atop the pagoda. Yesterday morning, the ceremony to hoist three tiers of Htidedaw atop the pagoda was held at the monastery attended by the Kalawyaw Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Tha Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tha Aung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, departmental heads, nuns and wellwishers.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister offered scented water for cleansing tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw after hoisting them atop the pagoda. Later, the Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister hoisted Shwehtidaw atop Aungchantha Pagoda at the auspicious time. — mna

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enjoys demonstration of National Symphony Orchestra

YANGON, 2 May — The demonstration of the National Symphony Orchestra, organized by Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township on 2-5-2004. — mna

The demonstiration of the National Symphony Orchestra was performed at 7.15 pm today attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were Chair- man 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 National Symphony Orchestra Committee, musicians and guests. The National Symphony Orchestra led by Conductor Lt Thet Tin Aung (Navy) and U Tin Maung Maung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, departmental heads, nuns and wellwishers.

The demonstration included the Symphony No. 41 of WA Mozart, the song “only when the nation be strong” by Acad- emy Gitalulin U Ko Ko, melody of Minuet in G of Beethoven, the song entitled “Nagani” by Academy Gitalulin U Ko Ko, melody of Eine Kleine Nach Musik of WA Mozart and Ayawadi the Great River (1st, 2nd and 3rd movement) by Academy Gitalulin U Ko Ko.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially conversed with the members of the National Symphony Orchestra Committee and musicians and presented cash awards to the musicians of the orchestra.

YANGON Command honours military band, volleyball team

YANGON, 2 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Develop- ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy attended the ceremony to honour the military band and volleyball team which won the championship shield in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield Tumatadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition and Yangon Command men’s volleyball team which won the championship shield in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield Tumatadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition and Yangon Command men’s volleyball team which won the championship shield in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield Tumatadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition and Yangon Command men’s volleyball team which won the championship shield in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield Tumatadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition and Yangon Command Head- quarters yesterday evening.

Also present were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders and their wives, local authorities and winers.

First, the prize-winning teams presented their championship shield and trophy to the commander who gave away cash prizes to them. The commander presented new musical instru- ments to the leader of the military band.

Afterwards, the command- er gave a speech. Later, the commander and his wife hosted a dinner in hon- our of the winners. — mna