Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects river water pumping projects in Kyaukse, Pakokku

YANGON, 9 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Ywathaya river water pumping station in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, from Battho Taunggyi of Yaksaw Township, Shan State, at 9.30 am on 7 May. They were welcomed there by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and officials.

At the briefing hall, the commander reported on feasibility study of geographical conditions and water sources for greening of the regions in Meiktila District with the use of water for agricultural purpose, effects of dams and lakes built in Meiktila District and ways and means to supply water from Myitnge River by pumps.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin briefed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on three ways to use water of Myitnge River for greening tasks and agricultural purposes. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

In his discussions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said the Head of State had given guidance on conducting feasibility study on pumping water from Myitnge and Zawgyi Rivers at low cost and seeking ways and means for ensuring high work efficiency. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected functions of Ywathaya water pumping station. They went to Meiktila District by helicopter and inspected cultivation of crops, greening of the regions and water resources in Pendaw, Myitkina, Pwaybwe, Mahtaing and Thazi Townships.

On arrival at Shwetantit river water pumping station in Pakokku Township, they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials.

Kalena dhammasavanam, timely audition of the doctrines; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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
MEB new building opened in Haka

YANGON, 9 May — A new building of Myanmar Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue and the Chit Myan Myaung Insurance Office in Haka were opened on 5 May. On the occasion, the ministers presided over the meetings. On the occasions were Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Tin Hla, local authorities, departmental officials and guests.

The new building will be used for the office of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue and the Myanma Economic Bank.

The minister said that the new building will be a new milestone for the Ministry of Finance & Revenue and the Myanma Economic Bank.

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MWA Central Executive Committee meeting

YANGON, 9 May — A work coordination meeting of Central Executive Committee for the Myanmar Writ- ers and Journalists Association for successfully holding the third MWJA Central Body Conference was held at the meeting hall at Kyakksamsa Grounds this evening.

It was attended by Chairman of the MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tikkathio Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tin (Hla Tin Twantaw) and officials.

MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary U Hla Thein Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) acted as master of ceremonies.

First, the chairman made a speech on the occasion and the work committee and secretaries of re- spectable sub-committees presented reports on their sect-

ors.

On behalf of the Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council, U Bo Thein (Tawngwir Bo Thein) and CEC member Daw Khin Khin Sein (Ywadi Khin Sein Hlaing) donated K 50,000 each to the Third MWJA Central Body Conference.

Next, the chairman made concluding remarks.

MWA
Militiamen go on the offensive in two southern cities

Karbala, 9 May — After enduring half a week of American attacks in southern Iraq, insurgents backing a rebel Shi'ite cleric took the offensive on Saturday, trying to seize government buildings and striking at convoys in two southern cities controlled by British forces.

The move signalled the possible opening of another front in the military campaign against the cleric and his followers.

Militiamen led by the cleric, Moktada al-Sadr, traded gunfire with British soldiers as the insurgents took to the streets in Amara and Basra, the country’s largest city after Baghdad. Acid black smoke from burning tires drifted through the air in Basra. In several neighbourhoods, the streets remained empty, save for groups of British soldiers or guerrilla fighters operating roadblocks, witnesses said.

British forces, on foot and in armoured vehicles, killed at least two insurgents there.

Here in Karbala, a city revered by Shiites, American soldiers continued to attack the Mukhawaym neighbour-hood, where insurgents have barricaded themselves. For the first time, the Americans encountered antitank mines. Militiamen greeted the soldiers with the usual flurry of rocket-propelled grenades and fire from AK-47’s and it was unclear by Saturday evening how many insurgents had been killed.

Three American soldiers were wounded.

At least 19 militiamen were killed in a firefight on Friday night as soldiers in tanks and other armoured vehicles swept through the area.

Labour peer urges Blair to quit

London, 9 May — A Labour peer has said it is time for Tony Blair to quit as prime minister and let chancellor Gordon Brown step in to prevent further damage to Labour.

Lord Puttnam, a close friend of Mr Blair, voiced concern over the electoral prospects of Labour after months of negative headlines on Iraq.

He said the premier was now inevitably associated with the “bad news” coming from the war zone.

Lord Puttnam is the latest Labour figure to call on Mr Blair to quit.

The prime minister is synonymous with Iraq, and Iraq years’ time, people might well look back and say Mr Blair was right on Iraq because a sensible, democratic regime will have emerged.

“But that will be five years out—for too late to help the aspirations and indeed horrible fears of a lot of Labour backbenchers,” he warned.

Lord Puttnam, an Oscar-winning film producer, said Mr Blair was a “very moral man” and “a conviction politician”—which was both his strength and weakness.

“If I were him, I would go before the summer recess,” he told the ITV News Channel.

“And I think he can go with honour and... he might well be in a position in five years from now to say, not only did I do the right thing, but I paid a very high price for doing it.”

Meanwhile, former Labour chancellor Lord Healey has said Tony Blair should stand aside within a year and let Gordon Brown become prime minister.

He said that in five years’ time, people might say, not “Tony Blair’s legacy will be what happens in Iraq five years on from now. There will be no good news for the next 12, 15, 18 months.”

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China launches nationwide campaign to save resources

Beijing, 9 May — China has launched a three-year campaign to save and promote comprehensive utilization of major resources for the purpose of maintaining sustainable economic and social development.

A notice issued recently by the General Office of the State Council calls on all localities to join the efforts to save and make effective use of resources such as energy, raw materials, and land.

The notice says, China’s per capita arable land, freshwater, forest, petroleum, natural gas and coal is far lower than the world’s average, and reserves of iron, copper, aluminium and other major mineral resources are also very low.

An Iraqi man shows bloodstained clot at a house after fighting between US forces and Shiites militia, in the city of Kufa, on 7 May, 2004. Seven Iraqi civilians were killed and other four were wounded during the fight, local witnesses said. — Internet

female US soldier charged of abusing Iraqi prisoners

Washington, 9 May — A female US soldier who was shown holding a leash attached to an Iraqi prisoner’s neck on major newspapers will only deliver bad news,” he said. “Tony Blair’s legacy will be what happens in Iraq... on the implementation of the programme would help the government increase national income. — Internet

Zanzibar gets $6m to boost agriculture

Dar es-Salaam, 9 May — The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has allocated about six million US dollars to boost agriculture in the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar.

Zanzibar Director of Management and Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, Khalid Salim Msh claims of the Geneva Conventions. At the same time that the abuses began last fall, the mounting number of attacks on US soldiers was putting pressure on military intelligence to improve the results from interrogation of prisoners. In December, when some of the worst abuses started, control of Abu Ghraib prison was transferred from the MPs to Military Intelligence, fluctuating regulations, according to a report on the situation. — Internet

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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New Hampshire man still missing in Iraq

WEST CHESTERFIELD, N.H., May 9 — A New Hampshire contractor is one of two men still missing in Iraq following an attack on a group of tankers.

A New Hampshire man is among two men still missing in Iraq, according to federal officials. Bill Bradley, a fuel truck driver with Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root, left New Hampshire on February 11 and arrived in Kuwait with a team of other Halliburton contractors on 14 March.

On April 9, guerrillas attacked his fuel convoy outside Baghdad. Bradley’s convoy was behind a truck bearing fuel. Bradley’s truck reportedly escaped grenade and rifle fire.

Still, Bradley has been missing for a month one of a few Halliburton employees still unaccounted for, the company said. In a photo Bradley sent back to his girlfriend, Wilma Procter of West Chesterfield, he is standing near a man who resembles Thomas Hamill, a Halliburton co-worker who has made headlines since he escaped from his Iraqi captors Sunday.

Hamill, 44, spoke only to friends and relatives after returning home to Mississippi on a flight from Germany early Saturday. The truck driver, who works for Halliburton Corp subsidiaries, also sent out a Saturday, saying that he is praying for “my two missing colleagues, the safety of my friends and co-workers in Iraq as well as the families of those who have lost a loved one.”

The photo shows Bradley in a helmet and bullet-proof vest at Camp Anaconda, a US base near Balad. Behind him is the blurred image of another man, who looks like Hamill. Bradley grew up in Wichita, Kansas and still has family there. Bradley, a former Marine, lived in Galveston, Texas, and then moved to New Hampshire. And at age 50, he accepted a new adventure in Iraq. Procter and Bradley met four years ago. They were both working as truckers and would frequently bump into each other at truck stops.

“Everybody seems to forget that there are still two missing,” said Procter on Friday. “He needs to come home.”

Timothy Bell, of Mobile, Ala. is also still missing. Halliburton reportedly lost more than 30 employees since the war in Iraq began one year ago. The company was headed by Vice President Dick Cheney in the 1990s.

Russia wants common UN approach on Iraq

MOSCOW, May 9 — Russia opposes any new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq that is not worked out jointly by all Council members, Interfax news agency quoted a top Russian diplomat as saying on Friday.


“We stick to the assumption that a joint effort is needed to work out a common approach (to Iraq’s future),” Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov told Interfax.

“If, once again, we see elements of a new resolution prepared separately, our attitude would be the appropriate one,” he added.

Russia, a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, opposed the US-led military operation in Iraq last year without a clear UN mandate. But it has failed to subdue resistance and faces mounting losses in Iraq, has stepped up calls for a stronger UN role in running the country.

Russian leaders have said they want a conference, similar to one run for post-Taliban Afghanistan in 2002, to decide the scale of international involvement and the shape of Iraq’s transitional administration.

“Iraq’s provisional government, formed on the basis of such consensus, would become legitimate and viable in the eyes of Iraqis and the international community,” Interfax news agency quoted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying.

Fedotov said Russia wanted such a conference to take place before the June 30 deadline set by the United States for the transfer of sovereignty.

“Newsweek” says American reported to Iraq

Seattle, 9 May — Newsweek magazine said on Thursday that FBI agents had been questioning a lawyer from Portland, Oregon, in connection with the Madrind train bombings that killed 191 people but the FBI would not confirm the report.

An FBI spokesman would only say that two search warrants had been issued in connection with an unspecified investigation.

Newsweek said the lawyer was a Muslim convert with links to one of six Oregon Muslims convicted last year of trying to travel to Afghanistan to help al-Qaeda, which was blamed for the Madrid bombings in March and the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

The magazine said that the lawyer was being questioned in Portland.

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Religious leaders call for release of hostages in Iraq

ATHENS, May 9 — Religious leaders from all over the world, who are holding an international meeting in Athens, issued on Friday an appeal for the release of all US and other hostages being held in Iraq and immediate investigation of abuses by the US soldiers.

In a joint statement read out by Reverend Jesse Jackson, founder of the Rainbow/PUSH organization, leaders attending the 5th International Meeting of Religions also called for the release of all prisoners held in Iraqi prisons without charges having been brought against them and guarantee of due process to those prisoners who are being charged with crimes.

The religious leaders further called on the United Nations to “fully investigate the horrific treatment of Iraqi prisoners to determine the extent of the abuses”, it said.

This past month “has opened the wounds of a tragedy and travesty in Iraq”.

“It is all too clear now that the Bush Administration used false pretext and lies to justify its invasion and occupation of Iraq”, it said, adding that US Secretary of State Colin Powell admitted there was flawed intelligence information.

Two Polish soldiers die in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 May — Two Polish soldiers have been killed in separate incidents in Iraq.

A spokesman for the Polish forces, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Streczowska, said one of the soldiers died of injuries sustained when a roadside bomb exploded during a patrol near the central Iraqi town of Al-Imam.

In the other incident, a Polish serviceman was killed in the southern Iraqi town of Karbala, when the military vehicle he was driving hit a truck and rolled down an embankment.

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Iraqi abuse ‘known in February’

LONDON, 9 May — The government has confirmed it received a Red Cross report on alleged abuses by UK troops on Iraqi prisoners in February.

A spokesman said action had been taken in response but declined to give details of the allegations or how they had been dealt with. He said this was because the report re-
mained confidential.

He spoke after the Conservatives called on the government to reveal when it had learned of the claims.

On Saturday Shadow defence secretary Nicholas Soames urged Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon to give a statement to the Com-
mons on Monday on the issue.

He demanded to know when the govern-
ment learned of the abuse and to give details of investigations by the Royal Military Po-
lice into allegations of abuse by UK troops made in the Daily Mirror. He said it would be “a matter of the gravest concern” if it emerged the Red Cross had raised the issue of prisoners’ abuses in Iraq with the UK government “quite some time ago”.

Number 10, the secretary of state for defence and the Foreign Office must say whether or not these questions were indeed raised, with which actions were subsequently taken,” he said.

The controversy intensified after the Red Cross declared on Friday that it had previ-
ously warned the UK of abuses.

The International Red Cross Commit-
tee’s director of operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said then that “concerns and recommendations” had been made to Brit-
ish authorities, but declined to be specific about when or what issues were addressed.

An Ministry of Defence spokesman said the claims by the ICRC were contained in an interim report that dated back to before the British opened their own detention centre south of Basra.

The Red Cross’ claim that it had warned the UK about abuses came after it said it had repeatedly asked the US to take action over abuses of prisoners by US soldiers at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison.

On Saturday, new questions over the con-
duct of British troops in Iraq were raised when the Daily Mirror published fresh claims by another trooper, dubbed “soldier D”. The latest serviceman to talk to the paper claimed an Iraqi suspect had been dragged into a vehicle where he was beaten.

The paper ran a front page picture taken by the soldier, who is still serving in the Queen’s Lancashire Regiment, apparently depicting the violent episode.

The picture shows what appears to be a British soldier taking a photo of the Iraqi captive looking battered and bruised.

Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy said the allegations had done “enormous damage”.

Iraq, other US goals affected by scandal

WASHINGTON, 9 May — With US moral credibility eroded and Arab hostility rising over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, President George W. Bush will have a harder time achieving his foreign policy goals and may have to consider exiting Iraq sooner, experts said on Friday.

After delaying publica-
tion of devastating photos showing American military abuse of Iraqi prisoners and then playing down the issue, top administration officials, under growing public pres-
sure, finally confronted the issue.

Bush and Defence Secre-
tary Donald Rumsfeld apolo-
gized for the humiliating mis-
treatment of Iraqis, while Rumsfeld — facing resis-
tion — took responsibil-
ity for the scandal and said plans are under way to com-
pensate prisoner victims.

But their apologies were unlikely to mitigate soon a profound damage to Ameri-
ca’s standing that will com-

21 Angolans die of sleeping sickness in 3 months

LUANUA, 9 May—Angola’s Institute of Fight and Control of Trypanosomiasis (IFCT) recorded 21 deaths from the disease commonly known as sleeping sickness in the first three months this year. According to an announcement by IPTC Director Josendo, Teofilo, they have examined 14,927 people in the six most affected provinces in the country, namely de Uije, Malanje, Bengo, Zaire, Kwanza-Sul and Kwanza-Norte.

The disease is transmitted by the tsetse fly, eventually affecting the central nervous system of sufferers and it causes death if the patient is left untreated. Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan are among the most affected Afri-
can countries.

IRAQ

ICRC sees “widespread abuse” in Iraq

GENEVA, 9 May — Iraqi detainees were subjected to “serious violations”, with abuse so widespread it may have been condoned by US-led coalition forces, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Friday.

Breaking with its usual vow of silence, the Geneva-based humanitarian organiza-
tion said visits to coalition detention cen-
tres in Iraq, carried out between March and November 2003, had shown infringements of international treaties on the treatment of prisoners of war.

In some cases, the ill-treatment was “tantamount to torture”, particularly when interrogators were seeking information or confessions, the ICRC said in a report, parts of which were published in US financial daily the Wall Street Journal.

Pierre Kraehenbuehl, director of ICRC operations, confirmed the contents of the report at a news conference but said the Red Cross, whose reports are confidential, would not issue the rest of the document.

He said the report referred mainly to the actions of US forces at Baghdad’s notorious Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere, although the ICRC had also expressed concerns over the past year to British commanders. He gave no further details.

“Our findings do not allow us to con-
clude that what we were dealing with at Abu Ghraib were isolated acts of individual members of coalition forces. What we have described is a pattern and a broad system,” he said.

Pictures of grim US soldiers abusing naked Iraqis at Abu Ghraib — the largest prison in the country and notorious for tor-
ture under Iraqi President Saddam Hussein — have sparked an interna-
tional outcry.

An Iraqi woman walks past Mehdi Army militiamen in the Iraqi holy city of Kufa, on 7 May. 2004. —INTERNET

Iraq Sunnis host Sadr followers in show of support

BAGHDAD, 9 May—Thousands of supporters of rebel Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr prayed in Sunami mosques in Iraq on Friday, in what local lead-
ners called a show of religions unity in the face of Iraq’s occupiers.

The gesture was the lat-
est display of solidarity among Iraq’s Muslims since US forces besieged the Sunni town of Fallujah west of Baghdad and faced off with Sadr’s militia in the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala to the south.

Sadr’s popularity among Shiites, who make up about 60 per cent of Iraq’s 25 million people, seems to have soared since his uprising began a month ago, particularly among the young and the poor.

Busloads of Sadr’s fol-
lowers carrying portraits of the young cleric and wearing the insignia of his Mehdi Army militia trooped to the staunchly Sunni Baghdad neighbourhood of Ahdamiya to pray in the Abu Hanifa Mosque, named for a pre-eminent scholar and thinker of Sunni Islam.

“Yes, yes to Moqtada!” chanted Sadr’s followers who jammed the mosque, outside of which others set up checkpoints to direct traffic and frisked worship-
ners as they entered from streets where poster bear-
ing Sadr’s face dotted many buildings.

Ahmad Hassan Taha, a Sunni cleric who prayed at the mosque, said the presence of Sadr’s fol-
lowers was a message to US forces who are massed around the Shiite holy city of Najaf in a bid to crush his insurgency.
Sceptical Arabs watch Iraq abuse hearings

DEBRECEN, 9 May — Arabic news channels showed live coverage of a US congressional hearing on the handling of the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal on Friday, but few watchers thought Washington was determined to stop abuses.

Sceptical Arabs watch Iraq abuse hearings

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Secretary Donald Rumsfeld took responsibility on Friday for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops and offered his “deepest apology” for them, but said he would not resign just to satisfy his political enemies.

Rumsfeld offers “deepest apology” for Iraq prison abuse

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Christian Dior opens new flagship boutique in HK

HONG KONG, 9 May — Christian Dior (CD) Friday opened its largest flagship boutique in The Landmark, a high-grade shopping centre in Hong Kong’s Central District.

Putin takes oath on nationalistic note

MOSCOW, 9 May — Russian leader Vladimir Putin took the oath of office for four more years as president on Friday, telling his people in a nationalist speech that it was up to them to modernize their country.

Putin takes oath on nationalistic note

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Protesters heckled US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday, shouting “Fire Rumsfeld for war crimes” at a congressional hearing to probe the Pentagon’s handling of the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal.

Protesters heckle Rumsfeld at Iraq abuse hearing

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Protesters heckle Rumsfeld at Iraq abuse hearing
Industrial ecological management of Myanmar

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

Environment is seen not as a place removed from the world of human activity. Thus, We must consider to protect our environment. In the environment, pollution causes many separate problems based on categories of place, products and poisons. But polluted air, water and land were the unwanted-by-product of economic activity. Industry refers to all types of human activity. Industrial ecology studies the connection of people and nature. The use of ecology focuses attention on how the natural world works. It highlights the opportunity to look to the natural world for models of efficient use of resources, energy and wastes. Thus industrial ecology emphasizes a systematic view. It examines local, regional and global materials and energy flows in products, processes, industrial and economic sector.

Industrial ecology is a science to characterize how the world works. Robert White (National Academy of Engineering) stated that:

Industrial ecology is the study of the flows of materials and energy in industrial and consumer activities of the effect of these flows on the environment and of the influences of economic, political and social factors on the flow, use and transformation of resources.

Environmental information is key point for industrial ecology. We conducted any case according to the information. And then, I assumed scientists must learn more about management and care more about it.

The manager must learn more about science and particularly about scientists and be able to include science in their management agenda.

The power of industrial ecology is that it offers a connection to the whole system, not just a fragment in the dialectic created between human and natural systems. Industrial ecology allows us to think the culture of fragmentation to the specific ends of policy making. In Myanmar, the State Peace and Development Council conducted projects through industrial ecology in the dry zone. One important vehicle for achieving greater integration is a broad, system-based approach that looks at the overall structure and behaviour of a given area, such as watershed or estuary and attempt to give direction to decision makers about which components are crucial for the healthy ecology functioning of this area.

Watersheds are an area of land over which water moves under the force of gravity from topographic highs to topographic lows. Watersheds are dynamic landscape units that emphasize water movement. I have seen management of SPDC in the dry zone (Bagan, NyangU and Popa) on return from my field trip.

I discussed with villagers from the dry zone. The core of all ecosystem management projects is research and information. For example watershed level planning made possible through the use of GIS that enables developers to pinpoint where to build the structures without endangering water gravity or where they should not because of the long-term economic risk of occupying an unstable or flood-prone area. One of these is geographic information system (GIS) which allows designers demographic and economic—into layered maps that reveal patterns and processes in whole geographic regions that cannot be perceived on the ground. The major scientific advances that underlie the promise of ecosystem management are derived from ecology. The science of ecology is a potentially strong foundation for ecosystem management. Thus, political economist “Charles Lindblom” has written that knowledge is partial and policy progress must therefore be incremental. Industrial ecology is not a panacea for environmental policy. Industrial ecology offers an analytic framework for the accumulation of such practices which stitched together. There are also some projects such as telecommunications, food wholesaling, or outpatient care centres.

What is the relationship between the environmental footprint of a service business and the constraints and opportunities in business decision making? We may wish to ask these questions each other.

Watershed management in Mount Popa environs.

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 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

The right strategy for the next generation will serve as the bridge for the future.

Environmental protection has become everybody’s business. Thinking ecologically offers a set of ideas on which a Myanmar environmental conservation research might be built for new generation. Knowledge from ecological studies of how we are changing our environment is forcing us to look critically at how we use the earth resources.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...  

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected pumping of water from the Ayeyawady River and cultivation of paddy in the environs of the water pumping station. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on water pumping projects implemented in Bago District including Shwetantit water pumping station, supply of water to the lands and water pumping projects to be undertaken.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint reported on availability of water and crop cultivation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on extension of irrigation networks and irrigated areas and conducting survey on extended cultivation acreage in Pakokku District through Shwesuyaw hydelpower project to be implemented on Chindwin River.

Water Resources Utilization Department built Kokekkhoa and Shwetantit water pumping projects in Pakokku Township, Chitthu, Thinnathe, Thanthantapot and Minnya water pumping projects in Yesagyo Township and Yaspya water pumping project in Pauk Township.

Arrangements are being made for continued implementation of Nonpot, Kyeemya, Waya and Thazi water pumping projects in Pakokku District.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party visited Shwetantit Tharakkhan Buddha image in Shwetantit Village and signed in the visitors’ book. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented cash for the Buddha Image to the board of trustees. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived in Bagan-NyantPin in the evening. They were welcomed by the ministers, senior military officers and departmental officials.— MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects fish ponds of national entrepreneurs at Meethwaychaung Village-tract, Maubin Township.— MNA

YANGON, 9 May— Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd), COM member Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and departmental officials, left here by car this morning and arrived in Hsamaalauk Village, Nyaungdon Township, at 7 am.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials.

Accompanied by the commander and officials, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party went to Meethwaychaung Village-tract in Maubin Township and inspected breeding of fish in the ponds of private entrepreneurs near Maubin-Hsamaalauk Road.

Afterwards, they saw over dredging of fish ponds and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander submitted reports on cultivation and harvesting of summer paddy in Ayeyawady Division for 2003-2004, breeding of fish, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of national entrepreneurs and assistance for them. Head of MWVO Headquarters Lt-Col Win Maung (Retd) briefed on digging of fish ponds at Thazin Yegyaw Fish Breeding Camp in Nyaungdon Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended to their needs and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage, systematic breeding of fish and cultivation of vegetables in vacant lands.

MWVO is breeding over 345,000 fish at 180 acres out of 606 fish ponds against the target of 1,000 acres of land at Kyeemyi Fish Breeding Camp in Maubin Township.

Out of 1,320,805 acres of summer paddy, 1,145,856 acres of paddy have so far been harvested in Ayeyawady Division. The division produced a total of 98,559,385 baskets of paddy. Altogether 28 companies of national entrepreneurs have reclaimed 143,860 acres of land out of 195,446 acres and are carrying out agriculture tasks on 75,104 acres and fish breeding tasks on 31,820 acres. The plan is under way to reclaim 80,000 acres of land of fish ponds in the entire division. A total of 80,324 acres of fish ponds have been dug up to 5 May 2004 and it exceeded the target. Now, more fish ponds are being dug.

Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected completion of digging fish ponds and gave necessary instructions. They arrived back in the afternoon.— MNA

Commander attends opening of Home for the Aged in Okkan

YANGON, 9 May— The opening ceremony of Home for the Aged of U Maung Yon-Daw Yin was held in Okkan, Taikkyi Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

Also present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Htein Win of Taikkyi Station, Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of Phugyi Station, departmental officials, local authorities, officials, social organizations and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wellwisher Daw Yan Ti of Sun Far Travels and Tours Co Ltd formally opened the home for the aged. Afterwards, the commander spoke words of thanks for the donation of the home for the aged and the minister explained about measures being taken for looking after the needy older persons and progress of the homes for the aged.

Later, wellwisher Daw Yan Ti and U Than Oo and wife donated K 2.1 million. Wellwisher Daw Yan Ti and wife, K 2 million; wellwisher U Kyi Thein, K 500,000 certificate of honour; U Aung Myo Zaw and Dr Daw Thanda Tun, K 2 million; wellwisher U Kyi Thein, K 500,000 and wellwisher U Than Oo and wife, K 2.1 million.

Next, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department U Bo Than presented K 100,000 toward the funds of the home where 22 older persons are being accommodated.

The area of the home is 3.53 acres.— MNA

Trees planted at Bago station

YANGON, 9 May— Under the arrangements of Yangon Command, the tree planting ceremony was held at the local battalion in Indagaw, Bago Station, at 10.30 am today. It was attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy, responsible personnel and others.

Bago Station Commander Col Thant Swe reported on measures taken for the tree plantation by local regiments and units. Next, the commander and party inspected booths of Forest Department and Myanma Agriculture Service there. They also inspected the newly planted saplings.

Bago Station is nurturing various kinds of 43,250 saplings in this tree-planting season.— MNA
PM hoists Htidaw atop Naungdawgyi Pagoda of Myatsaw Nyinaung Pagodas in Toungoo

YANGON, 9 May — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by the Chief of Staff (Navy), officials of the State Peace and Development Council, the chairman of the Sangha, ministers, and officials, welcomed there by Commander, the ministers and wellwishers of the Sangha recited the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited the Nine Precepts. The Prime Minister offered Seinbudaw and Hngemyatnadaw for Naungdawgyi Pagoda and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa. Similarly, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers offered provisions to the Sayadaws. Next, the Prime Minister accepted K 52,480,657 for renovation of Myatsaw Nyinaung Pagodas donated by the people through the commander; K 30 million by Vice-Chairman of Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye-Daw Wut Yi Aye; and K 10 million by Wellwishers. Wellwishers donated K 9,548,657 for all-round renovation of Myatsaw Nyinaung Pagodas. A total amount of K 63,717,110 have been spent on the tasks and K 28,763,547 in hand. The pagoda is under all-round renovation. Myasigion Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandavamsa delivered a sermon, and the Prime Minister and party shared merits gained.

Next, the General and party conveyed Seinbudaw, Hngemyatnadaw and tiers of Htidaw and Htidaws for encircling pagodas to the pandal of decorated carriage. Before the hoisting ceremony, the Prime Minister and party sprinkled scented water on Seinbudaw, Hngemyatnadaw and tiers of Htidaw. Next, they conveyed them atop the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, the General fixed Seinbudaw and Hngemyatnadaw atop Naungdawgyi Pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them. At the same time, The disciples hoisted Htidaw atop encircling pagodas. After the ceremony, they paid homage to Buddha images at Kandawthoo Pagoda and Yahanda Ordination Hall.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends opening of monastic school building in Kyaiktbo

YANGON, 9 May — Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening ceremony of the new school building of Monastic Educational School at Mingala Kandaw Monastery in Kawhtin Village, Kyaiktbo Township, on 5 May morning. Also present were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, departmental officials and local people.

The commander and Mon State Education Officer U Aung Myo formally opened the school building. Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard of the building. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife donated 200 dozens of exercise books and 60 dozens of pencils for the school to Kyaiktbo Township Education Officer U Soe Myint.

They inspected the new school building. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted local people.

The building, 120 feet long and 30 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 1.8 million by the State. K 7 million by local people. There are 11 teachers teaching 18 novices and 611 students at primary and middle levels. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo paid homage to Mingala Kandaw Monastery Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Devinda and donated provisions to the Sayadaw. Later, they proceeded to Hpa-an, Kayin State.— MNA
Efforts under way to make Bago...

(from page 16)

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that Bago Division must be the second granary of the State after Ayeyawady Division. In accord with his guidance, the government is making arrangements for development of agriculture in Bago Division.

Although the division has wide and cultivable lands, there are a few opportunities to undertake cultivation due to the lack of water and wetlands. Therefore, the government built dams and reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping projects in the east and the west of the division spending a large sum of money, he said.

In the division there are now 28 dams, 1 regulating dam, four diversion weirs, four sluice gates and river water pumping projects. Moreover, four dams and one sluice gate are under construction. Arrangements have been made for construction of eight dams and implementation of 42 water pumping projects, he added.

He said dams have emerged in the division and they are closely situated one another. The government is fulfilling the requirements for realization of the objective to become the second granary of the State.

He spoke of the need for departmental officials in the region to work hard for realization of the State’s objectives.

He also spoke of the need for Myanma Agriculture Service, Settlement and Land Records Department and Irrigation Department to extend sown acreage, to boost production of crops, to realize national economic plans and to collect correct data on land and agriculture.

Crops grown down from Bago Yoma have been silted ones. During the monsoon there are floods on Yangon-Mandalay Road. Preventive measures are to be undertaken, he said.

There occurs soil erosion on Bago Yoma due to slash-and-burn cultivation and forest fire and silt flows into the creeks. The government is laying emphasis on highland cultivation instead of slash-and-burn farming, he added.

The Myanma Agricultural Service and the Forest Department are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for proper emergence of the highland farming prevention of forest depletion by establishing teak plantations and forest plantations and growing of teak among the bananas to avoid the natural environment along Bago Yoma from falling into ruin. Systematic measures are also to be taken for construction of town-to-town roads, town-to-village roads and village-to-village roads including Yangon-Mandalay highway for ensuring better transport in the region.

Development of townships is a key factor for development of the Union. That is why, township level departmental officials are to make concerted and coordinated efforts for development of their own townships. Enlisting the strength of social organizations prevented in their townships, the departmental officials are to strive together with the people for regional development. At the same time, the departmental officials are to provide necessary assistance for development of the social organizations.

Furthermore, the departmental officials are to make field trips right down to grassroots level for development of rural regions and boosting the living standard of local people. For all round development of economic and transport infrastructures of rural regions and enhancement of the living standard of local people the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented.

The government has also laid down a host of projects for development of each sector such as education and health sectors in addition to the five rural development tasks.

Moreover, there are still a series of tasks to be carried out region-wise in accord with the practical requirements of rural people. Therefore, the township level departmental officials are to make concerted efforts together with local people and members of social organizations with goodwill for development of their own regions and improvement of the living standard of national races residing in the region by successful realization of the projects laid down by the State.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Toungoo Airport. Next, they left the airport and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Bomb kills three Iraqis north of Baghdad

BAGUBA (Iraq), 9 May — A bomb exploded outside the house of a police officer north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing three and wounding four members of the same family, police said.

They said the officer, Muayyad Aiyad, escaped the attack in the town of Habab, 55 miles north of Baghdad. But a family passing by was caught in blast, police said.

In a separate incident, three gunmen opened fire at the house of a local official in the village of Wijaiyah, wounding one policeman, police said. — MNA/Reuters

US ex-general says Iraq mission undercut by abuse

WASHINGTON, 9 May — The abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops has led to a loss of credibility that undermines an already troubled US military mission, retired General Wesley Clark said in the Democratic weekly radio address on Saturday.

"Apologies are not enough," the former Democratic presidential candidate said. "These criminal acts of abuse must be investigated fully and those responsible held accountable under law."

Clark, a former NATO commander who directed the 1999 bombing campaign over Kosovo, was an early critic of the war in Iraq.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who has faced calls for his resignation from some Democrats, offered an apology on Friday for the suffering that Iraqi prisoners faced at the hands of the American military at the Abu Ghraib Prison west of Baghdad. President George W. Bush apologized on Thursday.

Clark’s remarks came in response to a radio address Bush delivered earlier on Saturday. The US envoy charged with helping form an interim Iraqi government on Saturday rebuffed criticism from members of the US-appointed Governing Council who accused him of not consulting them on his plans.

A government made up of what Brahim has called competent and honest people could omit some Council members, whose role in the future-elects are far from encouraging.

Ahmad Chalabi, a returnee exile whose Pentagon ties once suggested he might play a leading role in a future government, has figured prominently in criticism of Brahim and the UN role in the process of picking the transitional government.

A spokesman for Brahim said he had addressed the concerns of Iraqis who have opposed his and the UN’s role in the process.

"I think that much of this criticism is unfounded, that they are saying that Mr. Brahim is coming with a pre-cooked package in his briefcase, a list of names that will take over Iraq when the time comes," Ahmad Fawzi told Reuters.

"I believe he addressed many of their concerns, legitimate concerns some of them, due to misinterpretation or misunderstanding." — MNA/Reuters

UN Iraqi envoy rebuffs IGC criticism

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Chinese, Italian premiers hold talks to boost bilateral ties

Rom, 9 May — Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with his Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi on Friday to discuss ways to deepen the bilateral ties and international issues of common concern.

Berlusconi held a welcoming ceremony in Wen’s honour. The two governments are expected to issue a joint declaration following the talks. Berlusconi will also host a banquet in Wen’s honour in the evening.

The Chinese Premier also met with Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and speakers of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate on Friday.

The friendship and cooperation between China and Italy in every respect have witnessed smooth development since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1970. In recent years, exchange of visits between the leaders of the two sides has increased, which promoted the understanding between the two countries and strengthened the bilateral relationship further.

Italy is China’s fifth trading partner in the European Union. The Sino-Italian economic and technological cooperation has increased, which promoted the understanding between the two countries.

Before the talks, Berlusconi held a welcoming ceremony for Wen.

Russia sees no reason to stop nuclear cooperation with Iran

MOSCOW, 9 May — Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency reaffirmed on Friday Russia’s commitment to continue nuclear cooperation with Iran.

“We see no reason why we should end our nuclear energy cooperation with Iran,” ITAR-TASS quoted the agency’s spokesman Nikolai Shingarev as saying.

He was commenting on a call made by the US House of Representatives for the world community, including Russia and the US, “to put an end to any cooperation with Teheran”, which is allegedly making secret preparations for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Russia is helping Iran build an 800-million-US-dollar nuclear power plant in the coastal city of Bushehr.

“By constructing the first power-generating unit in the Iranian nuclear power plant in the country’s southern city of Bushehr, Russia is fulfilling its international commitment under a Russian-Iranian intergovernmental agreement and will do so in full,” Shingarev said.

Kindergartens roped into fight against smoking

BANGKOK, 9 May — Kindergarten children are not often asked to participate in nationwide campaigns to change adult behaviour, but Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) of Thailand is hoping that pre-schoolers will successfully be able to persuade their parents to kick their cigarette habits.

Launching ASH’s latest anti-smoking drive, ASH secretary-general Professor Prakti Watheesatohakij was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Saturday that to mark World Anti-Smoking Day on May 31, the foundation would enlist the support of kindergartners to make adults aware of the dangers that smoking posed towards child health.

Professor Prakti noted that by quitting smoking, parents would not only help protect the health of their offspring, but would also have extra money to spend on things that would benefit their children.

Research by the World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that children can play a vital role in persuading adults to give up smoking.

ASH hopes that kindergartens and schools will take part in its anti-smoking drive, and is inviting schools across the country to display posters, stickers and piggy banks with anti-smoking messages.

The New Light of Myanmar Monday, 10 May, 2004

Greece plans to promote renewable energy resources

ATHENS, 9 May — Greek Deputy Development Minister George Salagoudis announced on Friday that the government is determined to adopt aggressive policies for the promotion of environmentally-friendly renewable energy sources.

In his opening speech to the annual conference of the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA), he said the government planned to provide incentives for the wider distribution of new technological applications like solar-powered photovoltaic systems.

Speakers at the conference stressed the need to reduce Europe’s dependency on polluting, imported fuels like oil and replace them with domestic and inexhaustible energy sources, such as solar power.

For Greece in particular, they stressed the need for strong incentives for the production of electricity using photovoltaic, especially in private homes, through subsidies for installing photovoltaic systems and higher prices for photovoltaic electricity sold to the national grid.

Drive safely
China en enlarges enrollment of milly recruits in civilian universities

BEIJING, 9 May — Chinese civilian universities will enrol a record number of 8,000 students from 31 provinces this year, who should promise to serve the Army after graduation, according to sources with the General Political Department of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

While accelerating the modernization drive, the PLA has found it difficult to satisfy its increasing demand for professionals, especially those majoring in electronic and mechanical engineering, if only depending on military universities. So the PLA tried to enrol civilian universities to cultivate professional military officers from 1998.

On 30 May of 2000, China published a regulation entrusting civilian universities to train military students for the PLA, who are required to sign contracts to serve the Army after graduation.

By now, there are about 15,000 students of this kind working at 90 universities, most of them majoring in engineering and information technology, which are believed crucial to the military modernization, said an officer of the department.

High school graduates can sign up to be this kind of military student at university if they pass the necessary physical, political and cultural examination, and junior university students also can apply, he said.

During their studies, all 8,000 students will be entitled to a scholarship of 5,000 yuan (602 US dollars) a year with adjustment for cost-of-living differences.

Different from students of military schools, these students are enrolled under the same requirements as other civilian students and will be treated as such except for some basic military training.

They can enjoy the freedom of common students and still be expected to graduate after making agreements with the military units.

“I wished to be a military officer when I was a child, but I was afraid of tough physical training which I had to face in common training procedures. This kind of enrollment satisfied me with its more soft physical training and more colorful campus life,” said Chu Xiong, a junior student of Beijing University of Science and Engineering who signed a contract promising to serve the Army.

“Although most students choose to be military officers because of interest in the Army, the financial aid and absence of employment are reasons why so many students make the choice,” said Liu Handong, official in charge of managing those students at the Beijing University of Science and Engineering.

Brazil storm makes hundreds homeless

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 9 May—Four fishermen were missing as a strong storm hit southern Brazil on Thursday, and at least 420 people abandoned their destroyed homes, civil defence officials said.

“We have 420 people sheltered in gymnasiums and schools. Some of the houses had roofs blown away, others were flooded,” said Emmanuel Giovanni Matsuji of Santa Catarina state civil defence.

A boat sank off the coast of Sao Paulo state on Wednesday night before the storm hit land and four fishermen were still missing, the official said. One fisherman was found alive on Thursday.

Meteorologists said the cyclone could bring more damage during the night and on Friday, but not on the scale of a hurricane-like disaster that struck the same area in March.

One killed, 30 injured in bus crash in Czech city

PRAGUE, 9 May — A regularly scheduled bus crashed early Thursday morning near the village of Sokolnice outside the Czech city of Brno, killing one person and injuring more than 30 others, local media reported.

Reports quoted the spokesman of the local fire brigade as saying that the driver of the bus smashed the vehicle into the pillar of an overpass of a rail line, causing the mishap.

The accident claimed the life of a 74-year-old woman. A total of 32 passengers were transported to hospitals and two others were admitted to the Brno state hospital with serious injuries.

The impact was so strong that all of the seats in the bus broke loose, and the victims had to be removed from the wreckage using hydraulic instruments, reports said.

India to fund Srilankan hospital upgrading

COLOMBO, 9 May — The Indian Government has decided to provide 500 million rupees (about 11.4 million US dollars) for the construction of a 200-bed building at the Dickoya Rural Hospital in central hilly area of Sri Lanka, the official Daily News reported on Friday.

A spokesman of the Health Ministry said that the hospital will cater to a population of around 200,000 living in the upcountry area where the maternal and child health care facilities are in poor condition and most of the patients are treated at estate dispensaries.

The new complex will be constructed on a 1.5-acre block of land in the present Dickoya Rural Hospital, which was built during the Dutch colonial period.

“The archaeological value of the hospital will be preserved during the construction and upgrading of the new complex and old buildings will not be demo- lished,” the spokesman added.

City taps business value of public toilets

BEIJING, 9 May — Since Beijing stopped collecting fees at public toilets a few years ago, building and maintaining the operation of public toilets have become a headache for district governments.

To solve this problem, the government of Beijing’s Fengtai District has decided to raise funds for construction of public toilets by allowing investors to use parts of the toilet buildings for commercial purposes.

Two companies had won the bid to build and manage 50 first-class public toilets in the Fengtai District. Cost at least 40,000 yuan to build a new toilet, which would involve matters as water and electricity supply, heating, drainage, transport and daily maintenance, cost at least 40,000 yuan (about 4,819 dollars) a year.

“This has made of one ounce of silver and is valued at 10 yuan,” said the owner.

Sixty thousand coins will be used, a bank official said Friday.

The Red Cross Society of China has set up branches throughout the whole country. — MNA/Reuters
Chinese Premier vows to crack down on trademark piracy

JOHANNESBURG, 9 May—A medical centre providing anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS opened Friday in Maseru, capital of Lesotho.

The Senkatana Centre is one of the five community-based HIV/AIDS treatment support centres in the southern African nation, a region hit hardest by the disease in the world. It was supported by a 100-million-US dollar project of pharmaceutical giant Bristol-Myers Squibb, the South African Press Associated reported.

The project, Secure the Future, gave a three-year grant of 27.5 million rand (4 million dollars) to the centre to conduct a national ARV programme.

“This centre is an important step toward our national ARV programme. Its operational research focus will help us to refine how to improve the quality of life, business community contributions and reduce premature loss of life,” Motlhola Phooko, Lesotho’s Minister of Health and Social Welfare, was quoted as saying.

In the past 18 months, Secure the Future has worked with ministries and departments of health, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Botswana to develop a programme to support the provision of ARV therapy in hard-to-reach areas.

Landlocked and situated entirely within the borders of South Africa, Lesotho has 330,000 HIV-positive individuals out of a adult population of under one million.

New AIDS centre opens in Lesotho

Ugandan govt allocates $3.4m to treat AIDS patients

KAMPALA, 9 May—The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) has received 6.8 billion shillings (3.4 million US dollars) from Uganda’s Presidential Emergency Fund for AIDS to provide free antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for AIDS patients, the New Vision newspaper reported Friday.

TASO said it has started offering free antiretroviral (ARV) therapy to 3,000 patients.

TASO Executive Director Alex Coutinho said, “we expect that in 2005, we shall increase the number to about 7,000.”

She said that they will operate on “first come, first serve” basis.

“Selection of clients to benefit will be guided by the national selection criteria as stipulated in the national antiretroviral therapy policy documents. A process of selection according to the type of registration with TASO will also be considered to address the clients who registered first,” said Christine Nabiryo, head of the antiretroviral (ARV) therapy unit.

India tries to tighten emigration control to Gulf states

NEW DELHI, 9 May—Strung by reports of maltreatment of Indian nationals working under the US-led coalition in Iraq, the government has decided to take a number of steps to tighten emigration control to Gulf states.

The government also asked its missions in Baghdad, Amman and Kuwait to give assistance to Indians in war-ravaged country wanting to return home, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told a news conference.

He said no Indian police officer has been sent to Iraq to train Iraqi police nor was there any concrete proposal under its consideration for sending there such officers or anywhere else for this purpose.

The government’s immediate priority was to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals including war veterans who have been taken to Iraq by recruiting agencies and find themselves vulnerable in contravention of the emigration requirements, the spokesman added.

Strong quake jolts southwestern Pakistan

QUETTA (Pakistan), 9 May—An earthquake jolted the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Sunday morning, injuring at least seven people and waking up residents from their sleep.

A medical official of the seismological office in Quetta said an earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale shook Quetta at 11:01 GMT on Sunday causing widespread panic.

“ar was woken up from sleep, there was a deep rumbling sound and the whole bed was shaking,” one resident said.

Another resident said people heard a growing sound followed by a shaking of the ground. A hospital official said they had received seven people with minor injuries caused by the tremor.

Greece, Turkey vow to continue fence-mending efforts

ATHENS, 9 May—Greece and Turkey pledged Friday to seek a “strategic partnership” as Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan began his landmark visit to Athens aimed at fostering the search for a solution to long-standing disputes between the two sides over boundaries in the Aegean Sea and the divided Cyprus.

The visit, the first by a Turkish Premier since 1988, kicked off a month after the failure of a UN bid to reunite Turkey’s Greek and Turkish communities and further cemented noticeably warmer relations started when a thaw set in between the two in 1999.

Erdogan said he supported the idea of “strategic partnership” put forward by Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis. Karamanlis told a joint news conference that bilateral relations between the two countries have entered a “new orbit” and he was satisfied with the progress.

“Both Mr. Erdogan and I reaffirmed our political will to further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in all sectors and to take the maximum possible advantage of the existing positive momentum,” he said. Karamanlis further reaffirmed the Greek government’s support for Turkey’s EU membership prospects and for the country’s reform efforts.

With regards to the Aegean continental shelf dispute, Karamanlis said exploratory talks on the issue will continue and that the political will exists to find a solution.

On the long-standing problem of Cyprus, Karamanlis said the goal of reunification remains intact in order that both Greek and Turkish Cypriots can eventually enjoy the benefits of the reunification.

Cyprus joined the European Union on May 1 but remained divided after Greek Cypriot voters last month overwhelmingly rejected a UN plan to reunify the island.

Karamanlis also expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Republic of Cyprus to take steps to assist Turkish Cypriots, mainly economically, reiterating that Athens’ goal was the reunification of the island.

Erdogan, heading a large delegation of government officials and media, said in turn that progress in bilateral ties continues unabated. Some 25 agreements have been signed over the past five years between the two sides and bilateral relations are working for continuing improvement in relations, he said.

—with MNA/Reuters

India tries to tighten emigration control to Gulf states

SHANGHAI, 9 May—China’s Shanghai Auto Group and Germany’s Volkswagen, two parent companies of the Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation, have decided to increase investment of 1.5 billion yuan in the joint venture.

Shanghai Volkswagen gets investment increase of 1.5b yuan

Another Indian company has decided to increase investment of 1.5 billion yuan in the joint venture.

The increased investment will be used to build the No. 5 Plant of Shanghai Volkswagen in the Pudong area of Shanghai, expanding its production capacity to 150,000 sedans a year.

Shanghai Volkswagen is the largest sedan producer in China. With the investment increase, the registered capital of Shanghai Volkswagen has risen to 7.8 billion yuan and its total assets reached nearly 30 billion yuan.

So far, Shanghai Volkswagen has three car plants in Shanghai, one in southwest China’s Chongqing and a car development and research centre. In 2003, it produced 396,000 sedans, taking the market share of 3.2 percent. The figure is expected to reach 462,000 sedans this year.

—with MNA/Reuters
FIFA President Sepp Blatter urges Asians to improve domestic leagues

Ranieri wants to finish good job at Chelsea

Houllier believes Owen will sign new deal at Anfield

Soo-Yun Kang of South Korea, reacts to a birdie putt on the ninth hole during second round of the Michelob Ultra Open at the Kingsmill Golf Club in Williamsburg, Va., on 7 May, 2004. — MNA/Reuters

Rivaldo dead “in the water”, says Allardyce

Van Nistelrooy back for Chelsea match

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Amelie Mauresmo from France returns to Svetlana Kuznetsova from Russia during their third quarterfinal match of the 25th Ladies German Open in Berlin, on 7 May, 2004. Mauresmo won by 6-7, 6-3 and 6-1. — Internet

Carlos Moya of Spain returns a backhand to Romania’s Andrei Pavel during their quarter-final match at the Rome Masters on 7 May, 2004. The winner of the match will play a semi-final against Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina on Saturday. — Internet

Houllier believes
Owen will sign new deal at Anfield

LIVERPOOL (England), 9 May—Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is confident England striker Michael Owen will sign a new deal at Anfield.

Owen, 24, is out of contract at the end of next season and preliminary talks about a new deal have begun.

"I firmly believe that Michael will still be here with us next season," Houllier told reporters on Friday.

"Michael loves this club having come through the system and we are all hopeful a new deal can be agreed." Owen made his debut for Liverpool in 1997 and has scored 156 goals in 295 appearances for the club.

MNA/Reuters

Fulham’s Coleman reluctant to sign new contract

LONDON, 9 May—Fulham manager Chris Coleman will not sign a fresh contract with the West London side unless deputy Steve Kean is also given a satisfactory new deal.

Coleman said on the Premier League’s website on Friday that he was close to signing a new contract but wanted to make sure his assistant manager also got a good deal.

"It’s either both of us or neither of us," said the 33-year-old.

"I’m 99 per cent sure and can’t envisage any problems with my contract but it’s important that Steve is happy with what’s on the table for him."

"Keano has had a good season himself," Coleman added. "He is an outstanding coach and the lads have taken to him and we are very much a partnership."

After a car crash cut short his playing career in 2001, Coleman became the Premier League’s youngest manager in 2003, steering Fulham away from relegation, and as high as fourth place this season. — MNA/Reuters

Rivaldo dead “in the water”, says Allardyce

LONDON, 9 May—Bolton Wanderers manager Sam Allardyce says his attempt to sign Brazil’s World Cup winner Rivaldo is now “dead in the water”.

Allardyce has not given up all hope of still pulling off a deal but has grown increasingly frustrated waiting for a decision from the 32-year-old player over a contract offer.

The former AC Milan and Barcelona forward, a free agent, returned home to Brazil after talks with the Premier League club last month.

“We’ve had no word from him and I think it’s dead in the water at the moment," Allardyce told the Premier League club’s website on Friday.

“It’s not 100 per cent finished but looks very, very doubtful from our point of view."

Rivaldo quit Cruzeiro at the end of February after less than two months at the Brazilian club when coach Vanderley Luxemburgo, who signed him, was sacked.

He can sign for Bolton immediately if terms are agreed.

Scottish champions Celtic have also expressed an interest in signing a player whose star has been on the wane since he left Barcelona in June, 2002.

“Like anything else we’d prefer to keep these things quiet — we’ve been linked with so many players,” O’Neill told the BBC.

“But the truth is when somebody like Rivaldo becomes available you have got to be interested.”

MNA/Reuters

Ranieri wants to finish good job at Chelsea

HARLINGTON (England), 9 May—Claudio Ranieri believes he has done a good job at Chelsea and should be allowed to finish it.

The Italian coach, whose team were beaten in the Champions League semi-finals by Monaco on Wednesday, expects to be replaced at the end of the season, with British newspapers tipping Porto boss Jose Mourinho as his successor.

“I think I’ve done a very good job here. The plan is good, I’ve been ambitious and been good to the players."

“I’ve been a successful coach and I think I’ve done a good job at Chelsea but I think I should be allowed to finish it.

“We’re going to have to see what we’re made of now. We’ve got to go and see what we went wrong and then at Old Trafford on Saturday make sure that we’re back on our game,” Cole said.

With runaway Arsenal already champions, United are four points ahead of Chelsea with two matches to go.

Second place means automatic qualification for next season’s Champions League. Ranieri said few had expected Chelsea to advance so far either in Europe or domestically despite the in-jection of owner Roman Abramovich’s billions.

Earlier this week the ambitious Italian indicated he knew who his planned replacement was and that he did not expect Abramovich and chief executive Peter Kenyon to change their minds and keep him on.

MNA/Reuters

Van Nistelrooy back for Chelsea match

MANCHESTER (England), 9 May—Leading scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy has been included in the squad for Manchester United’s Premier League match against Chelsea on Saturday.

The Dutch international has scored 29 goals this season but has played just once since the end of March because of knee and thigh injuries.

Chelsea are four points clear of United in second place with two games to go, and Ferguson believes the second automatic qualification place for the Champions League is out of reach.

“I think the second spot is probably beyond us, but winning your last (home) game is always important, as is getting some form before the (FA Cup) final,” Ferguson told reporters on Friday.

Manchester United play Aston Villa away in their final league match before facing First Division Millwall in the FA Cup final at the Millennium Stadium on May 22.

“With Chelsea having Leeds United, and there will be lot of despondency over at Elland Road at the moment after they have been relegated, you would expect Chelsea to win their last game. But we want to win our last home game and that’s why tomorrow’s an important game,” Ferguson said.

United prepare to face the losing Champions League semi-finalists having lost three of their last four games. They are 13 points behind newly-crowned champions Arsenal.

“The players, for the first time, haven’t been contesting the league and they have found it difficult after beating Arsenal in the (FA Cup) semifinal,” Ferguson said.

Ferguson also dismissed the latest round of media reports linking van Nistelrooy with a move to Real Madrid, saying the striker would be staying at Old Trafford.

MNA/Reuters

Blatter urges Asians to improve domestic leagues

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 May—FIFA President Sepp Blatter suggested on Friday that Asian soccer would improve and more top quality European and South American players would play there if Asian league soccer was better organized.

He urged Asian football chiefs to work towards correcting the current imbalance of player exchanges between Asia and the rest of the world.

Blatter said the number of top Asian stars playing in European leagues was ample proof that Asia possesses world-class players. However, he said Asian countries should try to develop their domestic leagues so that more quality European and South American players would also look to Asia as a viable arena.

“Asian football has to look at ensuring they have good professional domestic leagues. This is the way to attract top Europeans and players from other parts of the world,” Blatter told journalists on Friday at the launch of Asian Football Confederation’s (AFC) official 50th Anniversary book Power Of Dreams.

Currently, Japan’s J-League is the most lucrative and best-organized Asian league. While many European and South American players ply their trade in Japan, Korea, China and other parts of Asia, these players either failed in their own countries or are in the twilight of their careers.

In contrast, the hand-fufled Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Iranian footballers playing abroad are the cream of Asian talent.

Blatter identified AFC’s Vision Asia programme as the vehicle to raise the profile of Asian football, which celebrates its 50th anniversary on Saturday. Vision Asia is the creation of AFC President Mohammad bin Hammam and is aimed at raising standards among Asia’s 45 countries at all levels, including administration, club structure and marketing.

—— MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

PIQUE DOTTALLIAUVAUSESTIPENDNICKSTENCODECROAKSERGATTAIRRSAINMICZGBUYTATTERSPURHPIWILSLOWSUSSERTOEHOTEL
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Monday, 10 May, 2004

WEATHER

Sunday, May 9, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Magway and upper Sagaing Divisions, rain or thundershowers have isolated in Chin, Mon, Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhae, Mon, Shan States, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Chin State, (3°C) below normal in Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was (43°C) in Chaung U.

Maximum temperature on 8-5-2004 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 9-5-2004 was 21.5°C (77°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 h MST on 9-5-2004 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 8-5-2004 was 7.9 hours. Precipitation on 9-5-2004 was 1mm (0.04 inch) at Yangon Airport, 19mm (0.76 inch) at Kaba Aye and 55mm (2.16 inches) at Kaba Aye-2. Since 1-1-2004 was 50 mm (1.97 inches) at Yangon Airport and 120.68 mm (4.76 inches) at Kaba Aye-2 and 60 mm (2.36 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was 15 mph from Southeast at (12:00) hours MST on 8-5-2004.

Inference: Weather is cloudy in South Bay, Andaman Sea and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-5-2004. Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Mon, northern Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon divisions and weather will be cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-5-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw atop Ananda Pagoda in Bagan

YANGON, 9 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attended the ceremony to fix new Seinbudaw atop Ananda Pagoda in Bagan, Bagan-NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division, on 9 May yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya NyangpunShwe Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jagara, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, the chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, wellwishers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and local people.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara. Members of the Sangha recited Pali prayers.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered Seinbudaw for the pagoda and presented donations to the Secretary Sayadaw.

Similarly, the Secretary-1 and members and wellwishers donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by a laying on of merits gained.

At that time, Shwepaukkan Mingala Drum Troupe and Sein Motor Orchestra Troupe played the religious songs. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San sprinkled the Seinbudaw with scented water and conveyed it atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage of Myalayin Budaw Hoisting Team of Defence Services (Air). At the auspicious time, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Lt-Gen Myat Hein and the ministers hoisted Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on it. The ceremony ended with three time recitations of *Buddha Sasana*

Efforts under way to make Bago Div to become second granary of State after Ayeyawady

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with local authorities, departmental heads

YANGON, 9 May — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko to this afternoon went to Toungoo University in Bago Division, where they were welcomed by Pro-Rector U Kyaw Myint Oo and faculty members.

At the briefing hall, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard reports on background history of the university, courses being conducted, major subjects being taught, student population, application of 106 computers at IT rooms, strength of service personnel, construction tasks including administration affairs presented by Deputy Minister for Education and construction of lecture halls, the briefing hall, the recreation centre and the canteen, measures taken for car parking, construction of bridges and roads, electricity and water supply and preparations for building of two lecture halls each with a capacity of 300 students presented by Public Works in-charge engineer U Oo Saw Thein. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave necessary instructions to officials concerned and they proceeded to Toungoo General Hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Daw Myint Myint Than and specialists.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the delivery room, operation theatre, intensive care unit and surgical ward and medical wards and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of Toungoo District and Township PDCs, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the meeting hall of Southern Command.

First, Bago Division PDC Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported on location and area population of Bago Division, land utilization, cultivated acreage, annual rainfalls, cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2003-2004 fiscal, summer paddy cultivation acreage, cultivation of beans and pulses and oil crops, regional self-sufficiency in food and edible oil, education, health and divisional GDP values and extension of Toungoo municipal area. Next, Yedashe Township PDC Chairman U Kyaw Than, Toungoo Township PDC Chairman U Thant Zin, Htahtaub Township PDC Chairman U Tint Naing Oo, Oktwin Township PDC Chairman U Ngwe San, Pyu Township PDC Chairman U Maung Khin, Kyaukkkyi Township PDC Chairman U Tin San and Thandaung Township PDC Chairman U Myat Tun Oo reported on facts about their townships. The Prime Minister heard reports on education, health, agriculture, forest conservation, road and bridge construction and development affairs and attended to the needs.

He said he fulfilled almost all requirements regarding development of education, health, social welfare and transport sectors in the regions in Toungoo District, Bago Division. He said the government provides necessary assistance to the development of all the regions without ignoring any parts of the Union. High-ranking officials of the State are fulfilling the requirements after making field trips to the respective regions by themselves.

(See page 10)