Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect Shwe Gabar housing estate on Mindhamma Road in Yangon. — MNA

YANGON, 31 May — The soft opening of the Shwe Gabar housing project part 1, jointly constructed by YCDC and Shwe Gabar Maung Maung Construction, was held at the front of the housing project on Mindhamma road in Mayangon Township here yesterday morning and Chairman of City Housing Project Supervising Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended it.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, members of City Housing Project Supervising Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, national construction entrepreneurs, officials from Shwe Gabar Maung Maung Construction and guests. Chairman of City Housing Project Supervising Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opened the brass inscription of the housing project and sprinkled it with scented water. (See page 9)

YANGON, 31 May — ‘World No-Tobacco Day 2004’ was observed at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, attended by National Health Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, members of the NHC, members of National Tobacco Control Committee, deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental heads, foreign ambassadors of embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, rectors of medical universities, medical superintendents, specialists, nurses, officials of social organizations and departments, and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said that Myanmar has been celebrating World No-Tobacco Days since 1989. Today’s celebration will be the first of its kind for the Ministry of Health of Myanmar because the World Health Organization has recognized our efforts towards tobacco control and has awarded the World No-Tobacco Day Award to the Ministry for Health.

Myanmar had been implementing tobacco control measures for many years, mostly through providing health education to the public through all forms of media and health talks. Under the guidance of the National Health Committee, Myanmar officially launched the National Tobacco Control Programme in the year 2000. Strong political commitment became more evident, when the State Peace and Development Council, officially formed the National Tobacco Control Committee in March 2002, which is headed by the Minister for Health and includes heads of departments and local NGOs as members. This Committee set guidelines for the tobacco control measures to be implemented in the country. At this juncture, may I take the opportunity of presenting some significant milestones in our anti-tobacco campaign. (See page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the “World No-Tobacco Day” ceremony and Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers a speech. — MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.

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

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy initiating 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 Khin Nyunt attends the “World No-Tobacco Day” ceremony.
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 1 June, 2004

Strive with goodwill for further development of townships

The Government is striving for the harmonious development of the entire Union by implementing development plans and building social and economic infrastructures of various regions across the Union.

State-level officials constantly make field trips to states and divisions to fulfill the requirements for regional development and for the education and health sectors.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 29 May visited Hsinmyeehswe in Thegon Township in Bago Division and inspected the basic education high school, the township people’s hospital, the station hospital and the Thegon-Padigon-Wetpok road section.

The Prime Minister provided a generator, a television set, a video set and a computer for the Hsinmyeehswe Basic Education High School and a television set and a computer each for Thegon, Padigon, Inna and Wetpok Basic Education High Schools. Moreover, the Prime Minister provided the oxygen machine for the Hsinmyeehswe Station Hospital.

In his meeting with members of Thegon Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, social organizations and town elders, the Prime Minister said that, as smooth and easy transport was the key to the development of a region or a township, the Government spent large sums of money on the construction of roads and bridges and that departmental personnel should strive with goodwill for the long-term development of their respective townships.

Although Hsinmyeehswe is a small town in Thegon Township, it has turned out outstanding figures in literature and culture and in the history of our country’s independence struggle. The opening of multimedia classrooms at the Hsinmyeehswe Basic Education High School is an effort of the Government at producing intellectual and intelligentia. Development of a township is related with that of the villages in that township. In other words, development of townships is possible only with rural development. This being so, rural development tasks are being carried out the length and breadth of the nation. We would like to urge regional organizations and township-level responsible personnel to make a first-hand study of the life of rural people and fulfill their needs with an eye to the development of their respective townships.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects tea plantations in Matupi

YANGON, 31 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Tin Hla, Vice-Chairman Col San Aung and departmental officials, on 29 May inspected tea plantations in Matupi, Chin State. At No 1 plantation zone, an official of the Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on cultivation of tea in Matupi Township in 2002-2003. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party inspected tea plantations of the departments in the township. Similarly, they also saw over the plantations of township Union Solidarity and Development Association. Afterwards, Li-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed the cultivation of 68,970 tea saplings on 19 acres of land on Tunwhee Hill near Matupi-Yezwa-Haka Road. Later, they proceeded to tea plantations of the local battalion near Matupi-Kampalet Road and inspected it.

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Geneva

YANGON, 31 May — Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Professor Dr Daw May May Yi yesterday arrived back here after attending the 40th Meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Myint Zaw, Kyaw Myint, President of MWA, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Win, officials of the ministry and MWA, Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long and family members.

Members of the delegation Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing, Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Tin Nyo, General Secretary of MWA Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Police Col Sit Aye of Myanmar Police Force, Director of Health Department Dr San Shwe Win, Director of Attorney-General’s Office Daw Khin Myo Myint, Deputy Director of Labour Department U Khin Maung Lay also arrived back on the same flight.

Heroin seized in Lashio

YANGON, 31 May — Two drug pushers were caught red-handed together with 1,232 kilos of heroin concealed in 88 soap cases on 23 May. Acting on information about the illegal sale of narcotic drugs in Ingyin lane, Block 6, Ward 9, Lashio, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and the Special Anti-drug Squad, while lying in wait, managed to arrest Maung Win (a) Li Lao Sei and Lan Lau Ka (a) Lao Si, son of U Lau Win Kui, who arrived there on drug trafficking. Action is being taken against them by the police station concerned according to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Maritime courses conclude

YANGON, 31 May — Jointly conducted by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Basic Maritime Course No1/2004 and Advanced Maritime Course No 1/2004 concluded at U Ottama Hall in Sittway on 28 May morning.

Present on the occasion were Capt Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, Capt Aung Thaw of Danyawadya Naval Regional Command, senior military officers, departmental officials at state and division levels and others. After giving speeches on the occasion, Capt Than Tun Aung and Capt Aung Thaw presented awards to outstanding trainees and completion certificates.
Two Westerners and four US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May — Explosions and gunfire rocked the Iraqi city of Najaf on Sunday breaking a fragile truce between militia and US troops on Wednesday and gunmen attacked three civilian vehicles carrying foreigners in northwest Baghdad on Sunday, killing two Westerners and seizing three others, witnesses and police at the scene said.

The US military also reported in another statement that a soldier had been killed and nine wounded in a mortar attack on 25 May on a military base south of Baghdad.

Elsewhere, a mother and daughter were killed when two mortars struck their home during an attack on a US military base near Mosul early Sunday, police and witnesses said.

The group said they’ll rally every Saturday from 1-2 pm in the city’s East Liberty section until the military leaves Iraq.

About two dozen people, both black and white, attended the first rally organized by Black Voices for Peace.

The protesters picked Saturday, because China and Malaysia are good neighbours, and the friendship and political trust between them have developed over the past three decades, Hu said, adding that bilateral cooperation has made remarkable achievements in all fields.

The annual trade between the two countries has reached 13,000.

According to Hu, both China and Malaysia adhere to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and have always understood and supported each other when they face difficulties and challenges.

The development of Sino-Malaysia relations not only benefits the people of the two countries but is also conducive to world and regional peace and development, he noted.

The consensus reached between China and Malaysia during Badawi’s current visit on pushing forward the strategic cooperation in an all-round way has set new guidelines for the development of bilateral relations.

China is ready to work with Malaysia for a better tomorrow, Hu said.

Badawi said the relations between Malaysia and China have turned mature day by day since they forged diplomatic relations in 1974.

Malaysia takes China as an important partner, and hopes to expand cooperation in agriculture, information technology, and educational fields.

India not to succumb to global pressure on farm issues

NEW DELHI, 31 May— Indian Food and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said Saturday that India would not succumb to international pressure on opening up its farm sector.

“India does not need a new policy in the light of World Trade Organization regime, but needs to review its existing policy,” the India News Service quoted Pawar as saying.

Addressing the media on his first visit to his home state Maharashtra in western India after taking over as food and agriculture minister, Pawar said, “The United Progressive Alliance government is planning to unveil a new agriculture credit policy soon.”

The government had decided to unveil a new initiative to double agriculture credit in the next three years, he added.

Pawar said that the interest of domestic producers would be looked after in the new agriculture policy.

“Indian farmers will have to become global players,” he said.

“Outsiders are deep in debt. We shall come out with a policy that will reduce interest rates from the present 16 per cent to around 9 per cent. We are talking to the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India,” Pawar added.

On the need to reform the agriculture sector, he said, “We have accepted liberalisation but why do we still have an inter-state ban on movement of food grains. I think all such restrictions should be removed.”

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Turkish police confiscates 81.5 kilos of heroin

ANKARA, 31 May — Turkish police confiscated 81.5 kilos of heroin in eastern province of Van on Saturday.

Anatolia news agency reported that the heroin which was hidden in the secret parts of a truck was confiscated at a police checkpoint in town of Gurbulak.

One suspect was detained and an investigation was underway, said the report.

On Friday, a statement issued by Turkey’s narcotic directorate stated that police found in a cargo at Istanbul’s Ataturk Airport on Friday.

Turkey plays a central role in the heroin trade designed for Europe.

Its central geographical position, on the crossroads of Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea, gives the country the potential to play an important role in the trade.

American losses in Iraq in April, May exceed 200

WASHINGTON, 31 May— American troops in Iraq died in May at a rate of more than two per day, according to Pentagon figures. That pushes the combined death count for April and May beyond 200.

And the figures indicate that the National Guard and Reserve are bearing an increasing combat load. At least 22 of those who died this month were members of the Guard and Reserve. That’s nearly 1/3 of all US losses in May—about double the percentage in most previous months of the war.

The most persistent killer is the homemade roadside bomb. This month, improvised explosive devices have killed at least 19 soldiers, seven of them National Guardsmen.

In total, the Iraq conflict has taken the lives of more than 800 American troops so far.— Internet

Black anti-war group rallies against Iraq occupation

PITTSBURGH, 31May— A black-led anti-war group rallied in the city Saturday, and promised to do so weekly until the United States ends its occupation of Iraq.

A reception was held here Saturday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sino-Malaysian ties.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju and visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi attended the reception.

China and Malaysia are good neighbours, and the friendship and political trust between them have developed over the past three decades. Hu said, adding that bilateral cooperation has made remarkable achievements in all fields.

The annual trade between the two countries has reached 13,000. All these indicated that Sino-Malaysia relations have entered a new era of all-round and rapid development, he said.

The protest was held on the day that US soldiers from 1-2 pm in the city’s East Liberty section until the military leaves Iraq.

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India, Iran stress need to restore peace in Iraq

TEHRAN, 31 May— India’s new Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has emphasized the need to restore peace and security in Iraq.

Singh told Iranian President Mohammad Khatami that the country was on the threshold of recovery and needed to put a stop to violence. Khatami reiterated his government’s commitment to the process of reconstruction and stability in Iraq.

“India holds the same stance with Iran on the necessity of restoring peace and security in the conflict-ridden country,” Singh said. He also stressed the need to have the international community participate in efforts to resolve the country’s problems and the suffering of its people.

Khatami called for enhanced cooperation between Iran and India to combat terrorism and drug trafficking. The Iranian leader expressed satisfaction with the joint efforts of the two countries to help reconstitute war-devastated Afghanistan. — Internet

Chinese, foreign children celebrate Children’s Day in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 May—Children from China and other countries got together here Saturday to celebrate the International Children’s Day, which will fall on 1 June.

Some seven hundred children from China and more than 50 countries’ embassies in China gathered in Zhongshan Park and gave their national performances in the amusement park.

Chinese children played orchestra music with traditional Chinese instruments. Russian children performed Russian folk dance. Indonesian children sang famous Indonesian folk songs. And children from Kazakhstan Embassy and some African countries’ embassies also presented the audience with dances and songs of their own feature.

The event, titled “Global Babies”, was cosponsored by the organization committee of China International Friendship and Cultural Festival and China National Committee on Aging. This event aims at enhancing friendship and cultural exchanges between Chinese and foreign children, and creating a sound growing environment for the Chinese children, a personnel with the organization committee said.—MNA/Xinhua

South Korea feels strongest earthquake in 26 years

SEOUL, 31 May—South Korea was hit by an earthquake on Saturday, but no damage was reported, the country’s meteorological agency said.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said the quake, which struck South Korea’s east coast, was the strongest to hit the country in 26 years. An earthquake measured 5.2 by the Richter Scale has taken place at 7:14 pm (1014 GMT), an official at the administration said.

“The tremor was felt nationwide but there has been no report of damage,” she said. Unlike its neighbour Japan, South Korea has had few quakes strong enough to be noticed without the aid of scientific instruments. — MNA/Reuters

Official says further studies needed for new HK railway

HONG KONG, 31 May—Further studies are needed before the final decision on the construction of the proposed South Island Line railway in Hong Kong, said Sarah Liao, secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works on Saturday. Responding to inquiries on the economic viability of the proposed railway, Liao said the Hong Kong Government has always been careful in evaluating what is feasible and cost-effective for the community at large. She said the government has questions regarding the information provided by the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corp on the patronage and economic viability of the proposed railway. — MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in Baghdad ambush

BAGHDAD, 31 May—At least two Iraqis have been killed and five wounded when unknown assailants fired at a convoy of four-wheel-drive vehicles (4WD) carrying Westerners in Baghdad.

Sunday’s attack occurred on the busy road in northwestern Baghdad, which leads to the capital’s airport where US forces are based.

Police captain Saadun Aziz told AFP one of the dead men was an Iraqi travelling in one of the 4WDs.

A doctor at al-Sadr hospital, Mazhar Abd Allah, told Aljazeera a family of three had also been caught in the crossfire. An Iraqi man was killed while his six-months pregnant wife and two children were wounded, he said.

Two witnesses told Aljazeera that the five or six survivors of the attack—some armed—seized another car at gunpoint to escape.

The dead convoy passenger, whose face was covered in blood, was wearing a combat vest and a pistol was resting on the floor of the vehicle, witnesses said.

It was not immediately clear if the man was an employee of the US-led occupation authority or a private contractor, but 4WDs are the vehicles of choice for occupation authority employees.

Witnesses said the assailants had opened fire with assault rifles from an overpass directly above the road. Two of the vehicles appeared to have crashed. — Internet

Militants ambush Baghdad convoy

BAGHDAD, 31 May—Gunmen killed at least two people in an ambush of a convoy carrying Westerners in the outskirts of Baghdad yesterday.

Some witnesses said they saw bloody Westerners being dragged from three SUVs, the four-wheel-drive vehicles favoured by security contractors and Western administrators in Iraq. It was unclear whether any hostages had been taken.

The attack in Baghdad’s Shaula district occurred at dusk as the convoy headed south toward the city centre. Armed men in another vehicle are reported to have opened fire on the SUVs as they approached a bridge.

There was confusion about what had then happened. Some witnesses said two attackers emerged from their cars, dragged five or six “Western-looking” people from the vehicles and hauled them away.

Two other witnesses, Khalid Zaalal, 22, and Qays Hussein, 15, said there was a shootout, and armed Westerners jumped from the wrecked SUVs, commandeered a passing car at gunpoint and escaped.

Crowds of local people were seen dancing and cheering as a bloodied body, wearing a flak jacket, was pulled from the driver’s seat of one wrecked vehicle. Others looted tyres and set two vehicles on fire. — Internet

Bulgarian woman dies climbing Mt Everest

SORTA, 31 May—A Bulgarian woman has died while trying to ascend Mount Everest, a spokesman for a Bulgarian expedition said on Saturday.

On Monday, a Russian climber climbed the peak without oxygen, died in a storm while descending from the peak in 1984. Maslarova was Prodanov’s niece and had paid $4,000 US dollars to take part in the expedition as she wanted to follow her uncle’s footsteps, her husband told BTV television. — MNA/Reuters

Activities of a local women’s organization in the central Indian city of Bhopal shout anti-US and anti-Britain slogans during a protest on 29 May, 2004. Dozens of demonstrators on Saturday took to the streets denouncing US-led forces that they said were responsible for the damage on the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, the holiest shrine in Iraq. — Internet
“NY Times” ombudsman criticizes paper over Iraq

NEW YORK, 31 May — Institutional failures at The New York Times led to it being used in a “cunning campaign” by those who wanted the world to believe Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, the paper’s ombudsman said on Sunday.

Daniel Okrent, who has the title “public editor,” wrote in a scathing review of the paper’s coverage of the weapons issue ahead of the Iraq invasion last year that The Times had been guilty of flawed journalism. “Some of The Times’ coverage in the months leading up to the invasion of Iraq was credulous; much of it was inappropriately italicized by lavish front-page display and heavy-breath- ing headlines,” said Okrent.

The newspaper’s editors on Wednesday acknowledged they had failed to challenge adequately information from Iraqi exiles who were determined to show Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and over-threw him. The editors said they “should have been challenging reporters and pressing for more skepticism.” Among other things, they said the paper had relied on “misinformation” from Iraq exile Ahmad Chalabi, once considered Washington’s top Iraq ally. No chemical, biological or nuclear weapons were found in Iraq after the invasion.

Okrent wrote that a series of articles on the search for weapons of mass destruc- tion by a Times reporter who was embedded with US troops in Iraq “constituted an ongoing minuet of startling assertion followed by understated correction.”

But he said it would be unfair to pin the blame on specific reporters. “The failure was not individual, but institu- tional,” he said.

Okrent blamed “the hunger for scoops,” saying Times readers “encoun- tered some rather breathless stories built on unsubstantiated ‘revelations’ that, in many instances, were the anxious- mity-cloaked assertions of people with vested interests.”

The editor of the Times at the time of the Iraq invasion was Howell Raines, who resigned amid recriminations over the discovery that Blair had invented some stories and plagiarized others over a lengthy period. — MNA/Reuters

New UN Iraq resolution must speed up handover of sovereignty

MOSCOW, 31 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that a new United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq should accelerate the handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

“The resolution will only be effective if it enables the Iraqi people to take their fate into their own hands and establishes mechanisms for rectoring Iraq’s real sovereignty,” Putin told reporters after holding talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak here.

He said Russia’s delega- tion at the United Nations would work for “such type of text” that should discuss the issue in a tele- phone call later Friday with US President George W Bush.

Putin said Bush “has re- cently been making ener- getic steps to find a way out of the situation in Iraq,” the Interfax news agency re- ported.

He said the longer the violence in Iraq continued, the harder it would be to solve the problem which “concerns everyone, includ- ing Russia.”

The remarks were the first Putin made after the United States and Britain delivered on Monday a draft resolution on Iraq to the UN Security Council.

Reports here in Moscow and in Rus- sia believes that the docu- ment could be passed only after a legitimate interim Iraqi government is formed.

— MNA/Xinhua

Central European countries back stabilization process in Iraq

CONSTANTA (Romania), 31 May — Leaders of the Central European countries on Friday reiterated their commitment to supporting the stabilization and democ- ratic transition process in Iraq, Romanian national news agency Rompres reported.

Coalition members have the duty to contribute to the stabilization and democratiza- tion process in Iraq, which could only be achieved through a UN resolution on the creation of a legitimate Iraqi government, Bulgarian President Georgi Parva- now told the Press at the end of the 11th summit of the Central European countries.

Parvanov believed that the war in Iraq has turned the country into a true world ter- rorism centre. Also at the news confer- ence, Romanian President Ion Iliescu called for interna- tional solidarity and a strong trans-Atlantic cooperation in solving the Iraqi issue. Heads of state of 16 Central Euro- pean countries attended the two-day summit held in Constanta, a port city in southeastern Romania, dur- ing which they urged further enlargement of the European Union. — MNA/Xinhua

$3.9b approved for development in Bangladesh

DILRAS, 31 May — Bangladesh National Economic Council Saturday okayed the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 2004-05 fiscal with a outlay of 3.9 billion US dollars, focusing on poverty reduction and investment in rural areas.

The development budget was approved at a meeting with Prime Minis- ter Khaleda Zia in the chair, reported The United News of Bangladesh.

The ADP outlay for the coming financial year is 655 million dollars higher than the revised budget of 3.27 billion dollars for the outgoing fiscal 2003-04. The origi- nal allocation has been earmarked for poverty-reduc- tion programmes. Of the total allocation, 53 per cent would be met from domestic resources while the rest 47 per cent would come in foreign aid from donor agencies and countries.

In the new ADP, educa- tion and power-sector development got the high- est priority, each with 14- per-cent allocation of the total development funds. — MNA/Xinhua

Tanzanian president visits Shandon Province

JINAN, 31 May — Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa visited a high-tech development zone and a water control project here Saturday in east China’s Shandong Province.

Mkapa visited the Yellow River water control project in Jinan, capital of Shandong, and was briefed on the irrigation works along the river, including how to distribute water between people’s daily use and irrigation.

Mkapa said the Yellow River, as the mother river of the Chinese nation, was well known in the world. Tanzanian students would always think of Chairman Mao Zedong and the Yellow River when they talked about China, he said.

In the high-tech devel- opment zone, Mkapa visited a computer corporation and witnessed how servers and personal computers were produced. He also asked about the operation, invest- ment and management of the zone.

The Tanzanian side held a briefing for local govern- mental officials and business- men from over 20 enter- prises in Shandong, to intro- duce Tanzania’s preferential policy on attracting foreign investment. The two sides exchanged views on trade and economic cooperation.

Mkapa and his party ar- rived here Friday morning on a goodwill visit to Shandong. They intended to promote friendly coopera- tion between the two sides, to learn Shandong’s experi- ence in irrigation techno- logy, and to get Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzania. — MNA/Xinhua

Maiden flight of India’s first civilian aircraft successful

NEW DELHI, 31 May — First prototype of India’s indigenous civilian aircraft, Sarus, made a successful maiden flight in Bangalore on Saturday.

The aircraft took off from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited airport and flew for about 20 minutes. Flanked by two Kiran trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force, Sarus, designed and developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), flew for about 35 kilo- metres over Bangalore be- fore making a perfect land- ing, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

“It was a good flight and it went off very well,” the PTI quoted NAL Director B R Pai as saying.

The prototype, powered by two Canadian Pratt and Whitney engines weighs 5,118 kilogrammes, about 900 kilogrammes heavier than its desired empty weight of 4,125 kilogrammes and was equipped with five seats.

It reached a speed of 150 nautical miles and flew at an altitude of about 2,285 metres. The landing was good and the aircraft was handling beautifully,” an Airplanes and Systems Test- ing Establishment (ASTE) official said.

The Sarus project named after the Indian crane, began in 1991 but stalled to denial of critical components, following US sanctions im- posed in the wake of India’s Pokhran Nuclear tests in 1998, but was revived in 2001 with a cost escalation of 20 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

In this picture taken from television Iraqi children watch as two civilian vehicles, of the type used by foreign contract workers of the US-led administration and some media in Iraq, burn after being set ablaze by locals on 30 May, 2004 in northwest Baghdad. — Internet

Iraqi Shi’ite militiamen armed with rocket-propelled grenades patrol a street in the holy city of Najaf on 29 May, 2004. Five Iraqis were killed and 14 wounded in clashes on Friday between US troops and Shi’ite militiamen loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr around Najaf. Two US soldiers were also wounded. — Internet

In this picture taken from television Indian children watch as two civilian vehicles, of the type used by foreign contract workers of the US-led administration and some media in Iraq, burn after being set ablaze by locals on 30 May, 2004 in northwest Baghdad. — Internet

In this picture taken from television Indian children watch as two civilian vehicles, of the type used by foreign contract workers of the US-led administration and some media in Iraq, burn after being set ablaze by locals on 30 May, 2004 in northwest Baghdad. — Internet

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In this picture taken from television Indian children watch as two civilian vehicles, of the type used by foreign contract workers of the US-led administration and some media in Iraq, burn after being set ablaze by locals on 30 May, 2004 in northwest Baghdad. — Internet
Army report cites scant evidence in long detention of Iraqis

WASHINGTON, 31 May—A report of evidence that they posed a security threat to American forces, the paper quoted the Army report, which was completed last fall by Major General Donald Hayden, as saying. The November 5 report said the process for deciding which arrested Iraqis posed security risks justifying imprisonment, and for deciding when to release them, violated the Pentagon’s own policies, and the conditions in which they were held sometimes violated the Geneva Conventions. The report to Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, the top American commander in Iraq, was based on a review of prisons in Iraq last summer and fall and made no mention of abuses at Abu Ghraib, but warned that the continuing influx of prisoners being arrested as the American-led occupation forces fought a persistent insurgency would strain the system set up to review each case every six months, the newspaper reported.

Since the scope of abuses at Abu Ghraib first began to come to light late last month, the US military has begun to discharge prisoners from the facility at a rapidly accelerated rate. On Friday alone, 624 Iraqi prisoners were freed from the prison, in the fourth such release in May. The military, however, has offered little public explanation of the process of deciding who should be released and who should remain in prison, the paper said.

AL head does not rule out Arab troops in Iraq

ROMA, 31 May—Arab League head Amr Moussa can see a possible future role for Arab forces in Iraq — but only once foreign occupiers leave, an Italian newspaper reported on Saturday.

"In current circumstances it is impossible. In the future and under certain circumstances, above all a request from a legitimate government, we'll see," Moussa told La Stampa when asked whether Arab countries might send troops to Iraq.

Moussa said Arab countries might contribute to a future multinational force with a United Nations mandate that would replace the US-led coalition.

A draft Anglo-American UN resolution proposes handing sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on June 30 but does not envisage the immediate withdrawal of coalition forces. Iraqi officials have said they want Arab troops to replace US and British forces.

"Of course, Arab troops could not unite with troops that are occupying another Arab country," the Egyptian Arab League secretary-general said in an interview.

A future UN resolution would have to state clearly what the role of non-Iraqi forces in the country, he added.

"There would have to be a precise task — what tasks Arab troops be going there to do? Perhaps to help foreign troops? That would not be acceptable.

To help the Iraqi people then? In that case it would have to be the Iraqi people who ask for it." Chavez told the Press.

Venezuela attributes oil price hike to Iraqi war

GUADALAJARA (Mexico), 31 May—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said here Friday that the war in Iraq is "the fundamental reason" behind the recent oil price hike, and it was not the fault of the Organization of Petroleum-Producing Countries (OPEC).

"It is not our fault. The one who sees the problem in such a way is completely wrong," Chavez told the Press on his arrival for the third summit of the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean countries, held Friday in the west Mexican city of Guadalajara. The Venezuelan leader underlined that "the ones who are requesting Venezuela or Mexico to contribute to lowering the prices must adjust the complete scenario," he said. "Why don't they ask US President George W Bush to abandon Iraq?"

The United States thought "they were going to take Iraq like a glass of wa-ter" and in five or six months they would recover the oil production. However, they have been unable to control the country, Chavez said. He said that Bush had to be blamed for the situation in the oil market, for he took an "arbitrary, imperialistic and unilateral" decision, disregarding international laws.

It was necessary to maintain the oil price at a fair level because "one of the risks of low prices was that once com- summation soared, the destruct- ion of the environment and the ozone layer would be wors- ened", Chavez argued.

Leaders from the 58 coun- tries attended the one-day sum- mit during which they agreed to criticize the United States for the abuse and torture of Iraqi prisoners.

China's building materials export sees big rise

BEIJING, 31 May—In the first quarter of 2004, the volume of China’s building materials export reached 1.368 billion US dollars, up 32.94 per cent over the same period in 2002, according to statistics from China’s building materials industry association.

In recent years, glazed tile, toilet ceramics and porcelain wares, and glass products have become the main kinds of exported building materials, replacing non-metal mineral products, the statistics show.

But the rise of building material export this year is growing simultaneously with the booming of the demands on China’s domestic market, and the export has become one of the major driving forces to boost the building materials industry.

More efforts urged to promote vocational education in China

BEIJING, 31 May—While enjoying a rapidly-growing economy for consecutive years, China has begun to witness an increasing shortage of skilled professionals, demand for people of higher education have caused a 'waste of educated people'.

Xia Jiechang, one of the authors of the blue book, said vocational education and polytechnic education should be treated the same as general education.

"The government should increase financial input to vocational education and support low income earners to receive vocational educ-ation," said Xia, adding that vocational education should be employment-oriented, which echoed the Ministry of Education.
More butterflies we have, more forest we get

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

Myanmar has protected forests for plants and animals such as rain forest, monsoon forest and so on. The existence of great diversity of butterflies is due to different geographical region with various of ecological conditions. Thus Taxonomic studies on the butterfly species have been carried out in Universities. Forest area in Myanmar is over fifty percent of the whole country. Geographical conditions and environments are in a proper position. Thus further studies and surveys still need to carry out on some areas which previous researchers have not yet studied. Because human activities related to human activities overuse, loss of habitat and environmental destruction continues, resulting in the loss of valuable species which could have been exploited by humans for various uses. Habitat degradation, loss or modification is considered to be the most comprehensive indicator of loss of butterflies. Ecological disaster such as floods, forest fires, are quite common throughout the world. In this way diverse species such as plants, wild animals, birds and butterflies were threatened. Extinction can occur when the biotic potential becomes negative and population cannot recover. Once a population has declined significantly, it may be difficult or impossible for it to rebound. Major causes of extinction generally are related to human activities for butterflies. Developing a new ecological or green economy is an important contemporary challenge. Among the beautiful papilionidae include large and magnificently coloured butterflies. We can collect many species from anywhere. Two methods were used to collect. The first method is rapid side

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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 every day by each household amount to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation US $1 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

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All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Meetings of National Convention delegate groups continue

**Prime Minister attends...**

(from page 16) to the members of the Sangha. A trainee member of the Sangha Bhaddanta Putamasami of Ye Township spoke words of thanks.

Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilokabhiravamsa presented certificates of honour to those who donated alms. Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja who donated alms.

Shwebo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Altogether 800 trainees—750 members of the Sangha, 45 nuns and five laymen attended the course. Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construction of two-storey building for No 10 Basic Education Middle School on Bayintnaung Road in Ywama Ward in Insein Township and gave instructions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents afforitories to a Sayadaw at conclusion ceremony of special summer course on Yamaik, Pahan on 30 May. — MNA

**The group meeting of other invited persons in progress. — MNA**

**Construction of MEB's branch inspected**

YANGON, 31 May — Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, accompanied by Managing Director of Myanmar Economic Bank Col Hlaun Tun, arrived at the construction site of Myanmar Economic Bank (Pazungdaung branch) this morning. They were welcomed there by General Manager of MEB U Aung Myint and officials.

Later, the deputy minister inspected the construction site and heard reports on progress of construction works. He also gave instructions on timeliness completion of the project. Afterward, the deputy minister looked into the branches 1 and 2 of the MEB and left instructions.

**Earthquake report**

YANGON, 31 May — A earthquake of moderate intensity (5.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (379) miles with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (379) miles from Yamaik, Pahan on 30 May. — MNA.
Soft opening of …

(from page 1)

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Shwe Gabar Maung Maung Construction Managing Director U Maung Maung opened the Shwe Gabar housing project part 1 by cutting a ribbon. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party then inspected the housing project.

Next, the ceremony to open the SCT electrical equipment sale centre was also held at the ground floor of the Shwe Gabar housing project part 1. Yangon Division electrical engineer of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Hla Paing and SCT holding Electrical Pte Ltd Managing Director Mr Chon Wen Quan opened the sale centre by cutting a ribbon before Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe opened the signboard of it. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party then viewed around the centre.

At the Mingala Mandat, Shwe Gabar Maung Maung Construction Managing Director U Maung Maung reported on the Shwe Gabar construction project part 1, 2 and 3. Chairman of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave necessary instructions.

The Shwe Gabar housing project part 1 consists of 12 two-storey houses, 8 six-storey buildings and 10 two-storey houses in the Shwe Gabar housing project part 2 and a twelve-storey twin tower building and 4 five-storey buildings in the project part 3. The total area of all 3 projects is 7.4 acres. — MNA

Joint collaborative efforts …

(from page 1)

The South-East Asia Anti-tobacco Flame arrived at Yangon in December 2000. It was welcomed ceremoniously, and during its stay for 2 weeks in different towns, various activities were carried out in these towns and throughout the country, greatly increasing the community awareness on dangers of tobacco. While the Anti-tobacco Flame was in our country, advocacy workshops and health education campaigns were carried out with increased momentum.

Following the guidelines set by the National Health Committee and the National Tobacco Control Committee, tobacco advertising billboards were banned since 2002. Advertisement of tobacco on television, radio and all electronic media are all prohibited. Tobacco advertising billboards were banned since 2002. The facts on dangers of tobacco are disseminated in these townships, and during its stay for 2 weeks in different townships, various activities were carried out in these townships and throughout the country, greatly increasing the community awareness on dangers of tobacco. While the Anti-tobacco Flame was in our country, advocacy workshops and health education campaigns were carried out with increased momentum.

Delegates from the Ministry of Health and office of the Attorney General had participated in the inter-governmental negotiating bodies and had strongly supported the convention. Myanmar proudly hosted the 4th Inter-country Consultation Meeting on Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in August 2002, where the countries of South-East Asia Region issued the “Yangon Declaration”. Myanmar became a proud signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on the 23rd of October 2003 and became the 11th country to ratify the Convention on the 20th of April 2004.

In line with the objectives of the World Health Organization, Myanmar had celebrated World No-tobacco Days every year at all levels throughout the country, in collaboration with other Ministries and NGOs. The theme of this year is “Tobacco Control and Poverty.”

In commemoration of this year’s World No Tobacco Day, the Ministry of Health conducted a study on tobacco control and poverty and had disseminated the findings at a workshop early this month.

Although the contribution of tobacco to premature death and disease is well documented, little attention has been paid to the link between tobacco and poverty. Studies have shown that tobacco tends to be consumed more by the lowest income groups. For the poor, money spent on tobacco is money not spent on basic necessities, such as food, shelter, education and health care.

At the national level, countries suffer huge economic losses as a result of high-health care costs, lost productivity due to tobacco-related illnesses and premature deaths. Tobacco derived contributions to the economy through employment and government tax revenues are outweighed by its costs to households, to public health, to the environment and to national economics. This year’s slogan highlighted the economic effects of tobacco use at household level as well as national level.

It is evident that tobacco is posing a major challenge to the low income group in Myanmar. Following the ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, measures will be sought to reduce the economic burden of tobacco on the poor households. Enhancing community awareness campaigns to reach the poor and the uneducated is vital.

Following the guidelines of the National Health Committee, we have achieved significant developments due to our collaborative efforts. Future joint collaborative efforts will be continued in order to obtain the goal of a country free form the health, economic and social burdens of tobacco. Next, Acting Resident Representative of the WHO Dr Stephan Jost read out the message of ‘World No-Tobacco Day 2004’ sent by Dr Sanheet Plianbangchang, Director of the WHO for South-east Asian Region.

Later, Dr Stephan Jost presented the ‘World No-Tobacco Day 2004’ Award offered by the Geneva-based WHO (HQ) to Dr Kyaw Myint, who expressed his thanks.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party cordially greeted the diplomats and guests and viewed round the health education booth exhibited in commemoration of ‘World No-Tobacco Day 2004’ at the reception hall of IBC. — MNA

Storm news

YANGON, 31 May — According to the observations at 12:30 hr MST today the low pressure area over South Bay has intensified into a depression and centered at about (330) miles Southwest of Pathein. It is likely to intensify further and move northeast direction.

Under the influences of this depression, squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off an along Gulf of Mottama, Deltaic and Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. — MNA
Yangon, 31 May — While in Matupi, Chin State, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, Vice-Chairman Col Hsarn Aung, departmental heads, officials at state level, inspected development tasks in town on 27 May.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Women Vocational Training School in Matupi and then Matupi Township Hospital where they were conducted round by Medical Officer of State Health Department Dr Than Tun Oo and officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected tea plantation grown by staff of hospital.

On arrival at No 2 Basic Education High School, Matupi, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected measures being taken for earth work with the use of heavy machinery. They then went to domesticated wild ox farm in Phaming model village and inspected raising of domesticated wild ox.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with departmental heads, members of social organizations and local people in Matupi Township Peace and Development Council’s Office.

During the meeting, Chairman of Matupi Township Peace and Development Council U Nyunt Soe presented reports on cultivation of different kinds of crops, raising of domesticated wild ox, education, health and social matters of the township, construction of village-to-village roads using charts and officials at state and district levels gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made a speech, saying that transportation, cultivation and livestock breeding tasks are being implemented with added momentum for speedy development of Chin State under the guidance of the Head of State. Emphasis should be placed on the success of the cultivation of tea peculiar to Chin State. Arrangements will be made to build a tea plant when the tea cultivation thrives. In conclusion, he called upon local officials to disseminate agricultural and livestock breeding techniques to national growers through close contact with them.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated a set of computer to the No 2 BEHS of Matupi through the township education officer. He also donated sports for the township through a local authority.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the Border Areas and Nationalities Youths Development Training School. He met with school officials and asked health, education, food and shelter needs. Next, he gave instructions on cultivation of seasonal crops on a broad scale and that of perennial trees in the school compound. He also donated clothes and cash to trainees of the school.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the monastic education school in Mindat, where they paid homage to Sayadaw Sada-ham-ma-jo-thik adhaja Bhaddanma Rajinda and offered provisions. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also donated K 100,000 to be used for the students of the school through the Sayadaw and clothes through a local authority.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arried back to the office of the Matupi Township Peace and Development Council, where he met with departmental officials at state level and engineers and gave instructions on tasks to be carried out in the future. He also fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint went to Matupi Station, where he met with officers and other ranks and their families and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Maritime new generation youths Basic and Advanced course (1/2004) (Mandalay Camp) held

Yangon, 31 May — A closing ceremony of Basic and Advanced Maritime Course for new generation youths (1/2004)(Mandalay Camp) sponsored by Union Solidarity and Development Association (central) and of- fice of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) was held at the hall of Mandalay division Union Solidarity and Develop- ment Association in 28 May morning attended by Chairman of Mandalay Di- vision Peace and Development Council Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, secretary of Man- dalay division Lt-Col Kyi Than and members, senior military officers, command- dents of battalions and units, Naval Training Command Headquarters Commander Col Maung Oo Lwin and course instructors, joint sec- retary of Mandalay division Union Solidarity and Develop- ment Association U Sein Pyn and secretaries of dis- tricts and townships USDA.

First, the commander and Col Maung Oo Lwin made a speech respectively. Later, the commander presented prizes to those who stood in the best trainee prize in basic and advanced course. Afterwards, Command Headquarters Commander Col Maung Oo Lwin pre- sented a trainee who gets the outstanding prize in show- ing and the certificates to of- ficials and the ceremony came to an end. A total of 50 trainees in basic course and 25 trainees in advanced course attended it and it took 5 weeks. — MNA

Members of NCC Work Committee and Panel of Chairmen meet

Yangon, 31 May — The coordination meeting between members of National Con- vention Convening Work Committee and Panel of Chairmen of each Delegates Group took place at the meeting hall of Nyaunghnapi Camp, Hmawby Township, at 2 pm today.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of NCCC Chair Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members. delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates.

First, NCCWC Chairman Chair Justice U Aung Toe made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, members of panel of chair- men reported on work being carried out group- wise. This was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by NCCWC Chairman Chair Justice U Aung Toe. — MNA
**YMENON, 31 May —** A ceremony was held to open workshops on Strategy for Leprosy Control beyond 2005, which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health, WHO and International Organization of Leprosy Elimination, to open workshops on international non-governmental organizations and guests. First, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion.

Next, WHO acting resident representative Dr Stephan Jost and Adviser to Asian Prevention for Disabilities Dr Hugh Alistair Cross made speeches and thanked the workshop to come to a close.

Directors-general, professors, specialists and advisers took part in the discussions and the workshop continues tomorrow for the last day.

**Two new school buildings opened in Taungtha Township**

**Yangon, 31 May —** Minister for Industry U Aung Thaung yesterday attended a ceremony to hand over a two-storey school building in Taline Ward, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division.

The minister and Director-General of the No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Htein formally opened the school building and sprinkled the scented water on the stone inscription.

In the afternoon, Minister U Aung Thaung and Lt-Col Win Htein also formally opened the new two-storey building in the compound of Taungtha Township Basic Education High School.

**Chinese cultural festival opens in Bulgaria**

**Sofia, 31 May —** Top Chinese legislator Wu Banggou opened the second Chinese culture festival in Bulgaria with a speech stressing the significance of cultural exchanges in international communication and in promoting harmonized co-existence of different nations.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress, said activities in the culture festival will help the Bulgarian people learn more about Chinese culture and the country as a whole.

He also said exchanges between different cultures will further the development and prosperity of the cultures involved and promote harmonized co-existence and progress of the whole human society through dialogue and communication.

**Minister arrives back from China**

**Yangon, 31 May —** Myanmar delegation headed by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Huy Ho which attended the fifth International Trade Exhibition in West China held in Chandu city in Zichuang province from 25 May to 28 arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Thar, Chinese officiating Counsellor to Myanmar Mr Yu Boren, Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr Tang Hai and departmental heads under the Ministry and their families.

**HK expects double-digit GDP growth in 2nd quarter**

**Hong Kong, 31 May —** Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa said no possible that Hong Kong’s GDP growth will reach double-digit in the second quarter of this year.

“The growth in the second quarter will be 3 to 4 percent,” he said in a televised address to the Legislative Council, which had been suspending for two weeks to allow for a special session.

Tung said that the GDP growth of Hong Kong reached 4.4 percent in the first quarter.

He said that the second quarter would be a continuation of the growth in the first quarter, with the economy expected to grow at a rate of 3.5 to 4 percent.

Tung also said that the government was considering a number of measures to boost the economy, including a tax relief package and a consultation on the introduction of a capital gains tax.

“The government is committed to maintaining a stable and open economy, and we will continue to take a holistic approach to macroeconomic policy,” Tung said.

**HK expects double-digit GDP growth in 2nd quarter**

**Hong Kong, 31 May —** Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa said Saturday that it is very possible that Hong Kong’s GDP growth will reach double-digit in the second quarter of this year.

“Although there are uncertainties further down the road, I am optimistic about our economy as we forge ahead,” Tung said when addressing at the opening ceremony of the 26th Asia Pacific Dental Congress.

The GDP growth of Hong Kong reached 6.8 per cent in the first quarter.

Tung said the future of Hong Kong economic development depends on ensuring access to the Chinese Mainland market for businesses and professionals, and on building the capability of service needed.

While greater access to the Mainland market, Tung said the Hong Kong Government needs to work with colleagues in Guangdong Province to ensure that Hong Kong will be a major player in the growth of the Pearl River Delta and beyond.

To support Hong Kong’s position as Asia’s leading financial centre, Tung emphasized that Hong Kong must, in the long run, be an offshore remuneration centre.
Chirac calls for multilateralism, ratifying Int’l Criminal Court

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), 31 May — French President Jacques Chirac Friday called for strengthening multi-latera- 
ilism and the ratification of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. The United States is not 
among the 90 countries that have ratified their adherence to the court. Addressing the 
third summit of the European Union, Latin American and 
Caribbean countries opening here, Chirac warned that the 

WTO chief pledges more 
support for Rwanda

KIGALI, 31 May — The World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi bailed 
Rwanda over the achievements it has obtained during the past years, saying WTO 
will continue its support for 
the Central African country. 
Supachai said after meet-
ing with Rwandan President Paul Kagame that Rwanda is 
one of the countries in the 
world that have achieved some 
of its main goals and he also 
praised the unity and recon- 
ciliation of Rwandans after 
the 1994 genocide.

Mercosur, EU to improve 
offers for trade accord

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), 31 May — The Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the European Union 
agreed Friday to exchange improved offers, 
thereby preparing the ground for the signing in October of 
a bilateral trade agreement. 
"As long as any country is 
united, then development ac-
s can, they will have to sustain 
themselves," Supachai said. 

"Without a fairer inter-
national trade, there wouldn’t be development in Africa," he 
said.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BOUGAINVILLA
VOY NO (059)

Concerns of cargo carried on MV BOUGAINVILLA 
Voy No (059) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 
1-6-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 
M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses, 
and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of 
Yangon.

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

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

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “MANDALAY”
VOY NO 127/N

Concerns of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” 
Voy No 127/N are hereby notified that this vessel will arrive at 
Yangon port on 2-6-2004 and will be berthing on about 
3-6-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of 
Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s 
risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of 
Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 
am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the 
third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the 
Claims Day.
**Recovering Haiti villages seen vulnerable to mudslides**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 31 May**—The villages near the centre of Haiti's flooding disaster are at risk for more mudslides of the type that contributed to deaths of 2,000 people last week, foreign aid workers said on Sunday.

As US Army helicopters flew food and water over mountains to the southeastern town of Mapou, Red Cross groups said surveys of the surrounding area showed Bawa and other villages appeared vulnerable to more mudslides.

“At Bawa, 150 households are in danger; at least 55 have been buried and 32 are still missing,” a Red Cross official said. “The villages are threatened by accumulations of mud and rocks on mountains that could come down on the villages.”

Mapou, an isolated town some 25 miles from Port-au-Prince, was hard hit last week by torrential rains that have left an estimated 2,000 people dead in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the more prosperous of the two countries which share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

As many as 1,000 of the dead were in Mapou, which was engulfed by floods, officials said. Roads to Mapou were damaged by torrents of mud and water that swept down hillsides and submerged the town.

The US helicopters, on Sunday delivered tons of food and water, according to US Marine Sergeant-Colonel Dave Lapan.

Emergency supplies transported by helicopter in recent days have included medicines, tarps, plastic sheeting and a small boat meant to help workers searching for possible survivors and corpses.

Lapan said: “Last week’s flooding ravaged the crops and livestock of poor farmers who scratch out a living and piled misery onto already desperate conditions in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas. Average per capita annual income for Haiti’s 8 million people is about 300 US dollars. A small earthquake rattled the southern border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Saturday, but there were no reports of further deaths or destruction.”

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**Cholera kills 7 more Ugandans**

**KAMPALA, 31 May**—Cholera killed seven people recently in Kayunga District, about 100 kilometres from Kampala, bringing to 24 the total number of people died of the disease since it broke out in Uganda in February, the New Vision newspaper reported Sunday.

It quoted Kayunga Hospital medical superintendent Ahmed Matovu as saying that three died last week in the hospital and four others died in their homes.

Matovu said the Ugandan Health Ministry has sent health workers to the area to control the situation and the district has set up a camp to accommodate cholera suspects.

In the country’s northwestern district of Nebbi, 12 people have died out of the 258 cases since February and the disease has also killed five in Kampala since the epidemic broke out.

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**Chinese experts to help build water silos in Nigeria**

**LANTHOU, 31 May**—Eight Chinese specialists will be sent from northwest China’s Gansu Province to Nigeria on Saturday to teach locals expertise on rainwater utilization.

Liang Fengbo, president of the Gansu Provincial Academy of Water Resources, said the eight specialists, who are from the Water Resources Institute attached to the Gansu Provincial Department of Water Resources and the Dingxi County Bureau of Water Resources in the province, would stay in Ijawa State for three to six months.

During their stay, they will help build silos and train local residents in rainfall water collection, said Liang, who is also secretary-general of the Professional Committee of Rainwater Utilization with the China Water Resources Society.

“Those are just a few of the missions they are supposed to accomplish under a one-year cooperation program on rainwater utilization launched in accordance with an agreement signed between China’s Gansu Province of China and April, said Liang.”

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**Enjoy says Libya’s African policy remain unchanged**

**HARARE, 31 May**—The Libyan envoy Ali Treiki said Friday when meeting with the Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, that Libya’s African policy remains unchanged after its shift to reconcile with some Western countries.

“I do not think that agreement with the Western countries has something to do with Africa. We will never forget what Africa did for us and there will be no change in the African policy,” he said.

Ali Treiki, the special representative of Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Kadafi on African affairs, led the Libyan delegation here as part of its tour of Africa to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Treiki told reporters after the meeting “We have discussed how to strengthen bilateral relations between our two countries and how to strengthen the African Union and the need for an African Army to defend the continent.”

“On the economic side, we discussed about wheat and maize production and as such, we should have a policy on trade because we cannot stand competition from the bigger countries,” he added.

Treiki also paid tribute to Zimbabwe and Namibia for playing a leading role in bringing peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
Portugal stroll to 3-0 win over Luxembourg

AGUESA (Portugal), 31 May — First-half goals gave Portugal a 3-0 win over Luxembourg on Saturday in their penultimate run-out before Euro 2004. Midfielder Luis Figo opened the scoring from a 20-metre free kick in the 11th minute. The striker then doubled the lead later in the 27th minute. Three minutes later, forward Nuno Gomes raced into the box to score his fourth goal of the night in the 75th minute for a dangerous Portugal.

Palermo, Cagliari, Livorno promoted to Serie A

MIAN, 31 May — Palermo, Cagliari and Livorno earned promotion to Serie A with wins on Saturday. The three teams were promoted for the league and Cup titles in 2003-04.

Nigeria beat Ireland 3-0 in friendly

LONDON, 31 May — A late goal from Nigeria defending back Olufela Olowu secured a 3-0 victory over Ireland in London. Nigeria dominated the second half and scored three goals to win the game.

Switzerland lose 3-0 to Portugal

SICILIA (Portugal), 31 May — Portugal beat Switzerland 3-0 on Saturday in their opening game of Euro 2004. Forward Nuno Gomes scored twice to secure the win for Portugal.

Poland beat Greece 1-0 in lacklustre friendly

SICILIA (Poland), 31 May — Poland beat Greece 1-0 in their opening game of Euro 2004. Forward Bartosz Kilkarnik scored the winning goal in the 80th minute.

Croatia beat feeble Slovaks in Euro 2004 warm-up

RZEV (Croatia), 31 May — Croatia beat feeble Slovaks 1-0 on Saturday in a Euro 2004 warm-up. Forward Dado Prso scored the only goal of the game in the 79th minute.

Italy bounce back at Euro under-21 championship

BERLIN, 31 May — European under-21 championship specialists Italy bounced back with a 2-1 victory over Serbia & Montenegro in their second Group A game on Saturday. Forward Antonio Cassano scored both goals for Italy.

Spain’s national team players Raul Gonzalez, left, and David Albelda, right go for the ball with an unidentified player during training on the outskirts of Madrid, on 29 May, 2004, in preparation for the Euro 2004 soccer championships in Portugal. — MNA/Reuters
WEATHER

Monday, 31 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST during the past 24 hours. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division and rainy or thundery showers have been isolated in Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated with heavyfally in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patan (1.15 inches), Pathein (2.01 inches) and central Yangon (0.97 inches).

Maximum temperature on 30-5-2004 was 35°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 31-5-2004 was 20°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 h MST on 31-5-2004 was 88%. Total sunhours on 30-5-2004 was 23.2 hours, approximately. Rainfall on 31-5-2004 was 25mm (0.99 inches) at Yangon Airport, 34mm (1.3 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 50mm (1.97 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-4-2004 was 433mm (17.05 inches) at Yangon Airport and 423 (16.65 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 52mm (2.03 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum temperature reached 38°C (100°F) at Kaba-Aye and 37°C (99°F) at Pathein.

Bay influence: The low pressure area over South Bay persists. Monsoon is generally weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-6-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kayin State, scattered to widespread in Shan State, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas and isolated with heavyfally in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patan (1.15 inches), Pathein (2.01 inches) and central Yangon (0.97 inches).

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Prime Minister honours Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Title recipient Saydaw

YANGON, 31 May — A ceremony to honour the Presiding Saydaw of Sunhlaung Monastery in Thingangyun Township Saydaw Ashin Sundhara, a title recipient of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida, was held yesterday afternoon at the monastery and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented offertories to the Saydaw.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agg Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Saydaw Bhaddanta Kesara and member Sayadaws, Chairman of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination Board Abbhaddha Maha Rathana Guru Saydaw Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa of Webyan Monastery in Mawlamyine, members of the Sangha and nun, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials and wellwishers.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Saydaw Bhaddanta Kesara. Next, an official read out the brief biography of the Saydaw Ashin Sundhara. Next, Saydaw Ashin Sundhara delivered a sermon.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented robes and offertories to Thayet Saydaw Bhaddanta Kesara and Saydaw Ashin Sundhara. Similarly, the commander, ministers, deputy ministers and officials presented robes and offertories to the Members of the Sangha. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents robes to title recipient Saydaw Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Ashin Sundhara. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.