YANGON, 3 May—The National Education Promotion (Higher Education Sector) Symposium for 2005 was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here at 2 pm today with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, rectors, deputy directors-general, pro-rectors, principals, deputy principals, professors and guests.

In his address, the Chairman of MEC said that although there can be changes in policies in the process of building a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation, the government has laid down the national objective which calls for uplift of education standards of the entire nation to keep abreast of the world community.

In this regard, it has laid down and is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives to preserve and promote the national characteristics and the essence of the Union bestowed on the nation since the past successive eras.

To keep pace with changes and developments of the world, systematic steps are being taken for laying down short-term and long-term projects including economic, education and health development projects based on prevailing situation of the nation, historical trends of the past and national objectives of the future.

Although there can be changes in policies in the projects covering up to a time span of 30 years, the most effective means and work programmes are to be applied in accord with the times since they are to be implemented systematically according to changes and developments of science and technology.

Therefore, discussion and reviewing of scholars and officials of the education sector at the conference is not only a need but also a fruitful and meaningful task.

Nowadays, education is the main force in the process of national development. Hence, the government has laid down the national objective which calls for uplift of education standards of the entire nation that includes in the four social objectives for development of the education sector.

In his guidance at the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held in November 2004, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the nation, strong national economy and higher education standards of the entire nation are indispensable in building a democratic nation.

The successful implementation of the national education promotion programmes is imperative in the process of building a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation. With this concept, scholars and officials of the education sector with the national outlook are to make strenuous efforts in this regard.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 May, 2005

Make a constant study of domestic affairs in their right perspective

Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the opening ceremony of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 7 held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Training School in Hmawby Township on 2 May.

In his address on the occasion, Patron of the Association Senior General Than Shwe called upon the trainees to make a thorough study of absolute truth about domestic affairs, to expose the true motive and background history of those who were always apt to meddle in international and domestic affairs and to try to see through the narrow-minded approaches and interferences and remove them once and for all.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association, one of the national forces, is taking a practical part in all national development endeavours, especially fulfilling requirements of the nation, creating future development of the nation and defending it against the sabotage and disturbances of destructive elements.

Situations and developments of the world today are so closely related with one another that it is necessary to make a thorough study of international affairs as well as domestic affairs of the past and the present. Only then shall we be able to see domestic and international developments in their right perspective, realize the absolute truth about them and decide to take a firm and upright stand on them.

Nowadays, the government, upholding “Our Three Main National Causes” and enlisting the united strength of the people, is building the Union into a peaceful, modern and developed nation. For parallel development of all regions across the Union, infrastructures are being built region-wise as well as sector-wise.

Full of desire for peace and stability, national unity and national development, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are putting their energies into nation-building endeavours. As a result, various sectors including health, education and transport have borne fruits.

Some lackeys of colonialists and narrow-minded sectarians are still plotting the disintegration of the Union and trying to harm the interests of the nation and the people. We must keep constant vigilance against such elements. Therefore, we would like to call on USDA members and other people to make a constant study of domestic affairs in their right perspective and try to remove all the disturbances of narrow-minded sectarians once and for all.

Workshop on procedures to be followed in sale of medicines opened

YANGON, 18 April—Batch No-3 of Workshop on procedures to be followed in sale of medicines opened by Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association today at the association’s headquarters in L Hegu Township.

The workshop is aimed at increasing the knowledge of the trainees about the procedures to be followed in sale of medicines and to expose the true motive and background history of the those who are always apt to meddle in international and domestic affairs.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association, one of the national forces, is taking a practical part in all national development endeavours, especially fulfilling requirements of the nation, creating future development of the nation and defending it against the sabotage and disturbances of destructive elements.

Road construction task carried out in Hmawby township

YANGON, 3 May—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt accompanied by Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspected construction district-to-district roads under the supervision of Hmawby DAD today.

At the briefing hall of Nyaungmyin, an official briefed the minister on progress in construction of a road linking Kyainn (West) village and No-3 Highway through Ingan-Wanetchaung.

Next, the minister went to the road construction site and inspected the tasks being carried out with the use of heavy machinery.

On completion of the road, there will be easy access to western part of Hmawby township from Hlegu township. —MNA

15th Annual meeting of MMCWA held

YANGON, 3 May—The 15th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was opened today at the hall of MMCWA in South Okkalapa Township with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, members of Central Council of MMCWA, officials of UN agencies in Yangon, those of social organizations, Chairperson of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-Chairperson Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, states and divisions MCWA, and guests.

First, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech saying that MMCWA entered its 15th year and throughout its history it has provided necessary assistance to all-round development of mothers and children and it has stood with dignity under the leadership of the State. The number of its members has reached 4,38 million with 324 associations and 15,172 branches, he said. It is heartening to see that the MMCWA is rendering assistance to national development through social development, he noted.

He urged the association members to strive for development of education, health and social standard of the public.

In conclusion, the minister urged the association members to make efforts for development of social standard of families including mothers and children. After the opening ceremony, the minister and guests viewed documentary photos of MMCWA (Central), records on activities of state and division MCWAs and periodicals published by MMCWA displayed at the ceremony. —MNA

I love my country very much

One old man, went to all towns to all villages

Been to every home

And without exception, using magnifying power.

With noble eyes

Scrutinized them all the way

Every person

Welcomes him with a smile

Undenying

As if kith and kin

In elderly fashion, very much.

After seeing thus, old man

For all that he’d seen

Called out “Well done, well done”.

What he looks for

Is what everyone has in his bosom

It’s the heart, he says

What’s in there, for him to see.

“We love our country very much”

Very much, ’tis said

In straight terms, on paper

In the hearts, legibly etched

In everyone.

That’s why he calls out “Well done”.

Into my heart, please look

And when politely, I showed

“My, in your heart, there’s none of those

No such words there”, he said.

“’Cause I want them, Grandpa”

While I said

“In your heart, foul matter is inserted

I’ll pull it out”

“Well, here it is, see”

With that he pulled out a small radio.

Only when the radio was removed

Was my head clear as with others

The words did appear.

That trance, that radio

Disgusted, I smashed it on the floor

Even then it was noisily repeating “BBC”

But it crumbled to smithereens there.

U Saya Tun (Tsu)
25-4-2005

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and party visit a booth at the annual meeting. —MNA
Pakistan, Japan vow to work for renewed enhanced ties

Islamabad, 2 May — Pakistan and Japan on Saturday vowed to work for renewed, enhanced and robust bilateral relations, according to a joint declaration issued here after visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi held talks with the Pakistani leaders.

The Japanese Government announced the resumption of yen loan to Islamabad which was suspended in 1998 when Pakistan conducted nuclear tests and said it would continue to provide support for future projects for the enhancement of the welfare of the Pakistani people, said the declaration. Japan welcomed the composite dialogue process between Pakistan and India including confidence building measures aiming at peacefully resolving their differences and hoped for its success.

Both countries recognized that the stability and development of Afghanistan was vital for regional stability and would continue this support for that country, said the document.

Both countries, it added, had common interest in the future of Asia with special focus on counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, economic cooperation, rule of law and market economy.

Pakistan and Japan also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen international disarmament and non-proliferation framework. The two sides shared the serious concern regarding international black market networks for the proliferation of technologies and equipment related to weapons of mass destruction and underscored the need for all countries to identify and dismantle such networks through cooperative efforts, said the declaration.

They also underlined the need for comprehensive reform of the United Nations to enable it to effectively respond to the challenges of this century and both sides spell out their position respectively.

Pakistan was of the view that reform of the UN Security Council could be achieved through an appropriate expansion in the non-permanent category, the declaration stressed.

Koizumi arrived in Islamabad from New Delhi on Saturday morning on a two-day formal visit. He held formal talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and exchanged views on bilateral ties, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and the UN reforms.

Koizumi visited India and kicked off his four-nation tour Friday. He will also visit Luxembourg and Netherlands.

N-E Asian Development Forum opens in Beijing

Beijing, 2 May — About 120 experts and scholars from China, South Korea’s and Japan discussed economic and trade cooperation in northeast Asia at the Northeast Asian Development Forum, held from 23 to 29 April in Beijing.

Addressing the forum, former South Korea’s Prime Minister Lee Hong-dong said the current economy of China, Japan and South Korea accounts for 20 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP). The economic and trade cooperation in northeast Asia is in the common interest of northeast Asian countries.

Regional economic cooperation has become a driving force of international economic integration, said Professor Jiang Zhengmo, secretary-general of the Northeast Asian Development Forum.

With supplementary economic conditions and vast market, northeast Asian countries have great potential to boost their economic and trade cooperation, Jiang said.

“In current circumstances, it is urgent to speed up the economic cooperation in northeast Asia,” said.

Northeast Asian countries should enhance their cooperation in environmental protection, energy, finance and agriculture and China, South Korea and Japan should increasing investment in each other’s economies, said Makoto Taniguchi, former Japan’s ambassador to the United Nations.

Although it is not easy to establish an economic community in this area, the discussion on the cooperation mode for further economic integration is of great significance, said Chun Jung Bae, a South Korean congressman. Northeast Asian countries should further their cooperation in both political and economic fields on the basis of mutual trust, said Chung Won Chone, former president of South Korea’s Kyung Hee University.

S Korea’s trade surplus up in April

Seoul, 2 May — South Korea’s trade surplus rose in April compared to the previous month as global demand for locally-made products remained strong despite the won’s appreciation against the dollar, the government said Sunday.

April’s trade surplus came to 1.96 billion US dollars, compared to 1.45 billion dollars in the previous month, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy said in a preliminary report. The figure, however, represents a 690-million-dollar drop from the 2.65-billion-US-dollar surplus tallied for April 2004.

“Exports and imports grew on an annual basis last month, but compared to the record-high numbers posted in March, both have gone down,” said a ministry official.

She added that the rise in the country’s surplus was caused by the fact that exports fell 880 million dollars, while those for imports dropped 1.39 billion dollars compared to the month before.

British soldier killed in Iraq roadside bomb attack

London, 2 May — A British soldier was killed by a roadside bomb that exploded during a routine patrol in southern Iraq, the Defence Ministry announced in London.

The death of 24-year-old Anthony John Wakefield brings to 88 the number of British military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-British-led invasion in March 2003.

Wakefield and another soldier were driving on a road south of Al-Amarah, near Basra in the south of Iraq patrolled by British troops, when the bomb went off.

“He was acting as the top cover sentry in the second of a two-vehicle patrol when what appears to have been an improvised explosive device detonated, disabling the vehicle and injuring another soldier,” said Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Williams, the commanding officer of 1 Stafford, another division serving alongside the Coldstream Guards.

“Despite receiving first aid at the scene and in the helicopter that evacuated him, he died of wounds shortly after being attended by the doctor at the battle group's base just outside the town,” Williams said. The second soldier was not seriously injured, the defence ministry said.

 Internet
India, China discuss climate change related issues

BEIJING, 2 May — India and China, the fastest developing nations with spiralling energy needs, have recognized the importance of sustainable development and innovative technologies in addressing the issue of climate change, a key topic for discussion at the upcoming G-8 plus Five Summit in Britain.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, S K Joshi, and Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Gao Feng, held in-depth consultations on climate change here on Friday, official sources said.

The aim of the bilateral consultations was to discuss ways in which India and China could coordinate their stands at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles, Britain, in July where climate change has been identified as a major topic for discussion, the sources said.

The two sides also exchanged views on their respective activities relating to climate change since the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP10 to UNFCCC) held in Argentina.

They recognized the importance of sustainable development and innovative technologies in addressing the issue of climate change and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas related to climate change, the sources said.

The two sides also focused on issues like technology transfers, clean development mechanisms and post-Kyoto issues, the sources said.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, only industrialized countries are required to meet specific, binding targets for curbing output of carbon gases.

However, fast-growing countries like China — now the second biggest single polluter after the United States — and India are excluded from any binding commitment.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, host of this year’s G-8 Summit, has invited the leaders of both India and China to attend the meeting from 6-8 July.

Climate change is a priority during the Britain’s G-8 Presidency this year, the website of G-8 Gleneagles Summit says, adding that the G-8 hopes to engage countries which have growing energy needs, such as China and India, both on how these needs can be met sustainably and how they can adapt to the impacts which are unavoidable.

The G-8 comprises the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Germany, the United States, Japan, Italy and Canada.

PM says S’pore to maintain tripartite labour relations

SINGAPORE, 2 May — Singapore will maintain its unique tripartite labour relations among workers, employers and the government, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at the May Day Rally on Sunday.

Lee said the three parties should share the fruits of economic growth and prosperity as well as go through difficulties together to forge a stronger and closer win-win-win relationship.

Calling such relationship constructive and harmonious, Lee said that the government is committed to working to improve the lives of Singaporeans, keeping workers’ interest one of its top priorities.

He recognized trade unions as a key partner of his government, saying they will help the government understand and address workers’ concerns, make major decisions affecting workers, as well as propel the country’s economy and create more jobs.

Lee also outlined strategies to tackle the three long-term challenges Singapore is facing, which include regional competition, an aging population and a restructuring economy.

Singapore has to restructure, upgrade and adapt itself instead of standing still to protect existing jobs, Lee said, so as to stay ahead in a new Asia where China, India and Southeast Asian nations are growing fast and posing competition for the island state.

He urged the government and employers to pay special attention to three groups including older workers, lower-skilled workers, as well as professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs), who have the biggest problem adjusting in the restructuring process.

China welcomes foreign financial groups

BEIJING, 2 May — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju met US-based Bank of America Corp Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Kenneth D Lewis here on Saturday, saying welcome international financial groups to do business in China.

Huang briefed China’s economic reform, especially in financial sector and the reform on the state-owned commercial banks.

Beijing to set up animal epidemic disease prevention centre

BEIJING, 2 May — Beijing will establish an animal epidemic disease prevention and control centre together with an animal disease information management and early-warning system, sources with the municipal agriculture bureau said on Sunday.

The move is to strengthen the supervision over animal epidemics and improve emergency handling abilities for any exotic animal epidemic diseases, said an official of the bureau.

According to the official, Beijing will enhance the management for animal epidemics prevention, improve the animal epidemic prevention and supervision system and integrate the veterinary technical resources.

The city also plans to establish an animal quarantine farm and two isolation and disposal stations for sick animals or contaminated animal products, while promoting the experiments of chain distribution for pesticides, improving the archive management for the use of pesticides and animal remedies in plantations and fish breeding and poultry raising bases.

In Beijing today, several animal epidemic disease checking stations have been established in the Beijing Zoo, Badaling Wild Animal World and other zoos.

Nepal-China straight bus sets off from Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 2 May — The first straight passenger bus plying from Nepal’s capital Kathmandu to Lhasa city of China’s Tibet Autonomous Region set off here Sunday morning, setting up a new milestone for Nepal-China friendship.

A total of 39 passengers, including nine Nepali Government officials, two reporters from Xinhua, three Nepali tourists and 26 others, are enjoying the first operation of the straight bus service.

The shuttle bus started its 955 kilometres long journey from the headquarters of Sajha Yatayat, Nepal’s state-run transport company.

The bus will meet with another straight bus plying from the opposite direction with 23 passengers from Lhasa at the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge between Tatobani and Zhangmu ports on the border, where the two sides will hold a brief celebration.

“The straight bus service is a historic event and is opening a new avenue between the two neighbouring countries,” Ram Narayan Singh, Minister for Labour and Transport Management, told Xinhua.

Beijing Zoo welcomes foreign visitors

US soldiers and Iraqi officials inspect a car bomb scene where a US Army humvee was destroyed in Baghdad, on 1 May, 2005. —INTERNET

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Sri Lanka, India to launch foreign office consultations

COLOMBO, 2 May — India and Sri Lanka will hold on Monday foreign office level consultations, the first in three years, when visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran leads a delegation to discuss a range of regional, security and commercial issues as also post-tsunami rehabilitation, officials here said.

The last foreign office consultations were held in 2002, when the Sri Lankan delegation headed by the then Foreign Secretary Nihal Rodrigo visited New Delhi.

Saran, who began his four-day visit Sunday, will head the Indian delegation for the Foreign Office Consultations with Sri Lanka, the Indian High Commission said here in a statement.

“A cross-section of bilateral issues, including commercial and political issues, post-tsunami rehabilitation, Indian financial assistance and Credit Lines, are scheduled to be discussed,” the statement said.

“The views will also be exchanged on SAARC and on current developments in regional and international affairs.”

The foreign secretary Saturday visited the north-eastern port district of Trincomalee where he handed over a Toyota van, a public address system, lecture hall chairs, computers and other accessories to a Technical College there.

Saran emphasised that India was committed to assisting in the development of Sri Lanka’s northeast through economic and technical assistance, the High Commission said.

MNA/PTI

US military misses recruiting goals amid Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 2 May — With the Iraq war straining the all-volunteer US military, the Army has missed its recruiting goals in April and expects to do so again in May, while the Marines also fell short, officials said on Monday.

The Army and Marines provide the ground forces fighting rebels in the two-year-old Iraq war that has killed nearly 1,600 US troops. At least 51 American soldiers have also been killed this year that ends 30 September, has now missed its recruiting targets for three straight months.

The active-duty Army missed its April recruiting goal and was 10 percent behind its year-to-date target, officials said. An internal forecast indicated the active-duty Army and part-time Army Reserve and Army National Guard also will miss their May goals.

The active-duty Army, striving to attract 80,000 recruits in the 2005 fiscal year that ends 30 September, has now missed its recruiting targets for three straight months.

The Marines also missed their goal for signing up new recruits in April for the fourth straight month, said Marine Corps Recruiting Command spokesman Maj David Griesmet. — Internet

US military loses contact with two jets over Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 May — The US military said it had lost contact with two F/A-18 fighter jets over Iraq.

"Contact was lost with two US Marine F/A-18 Hornet jets flying over Iraq," said Nick Minecci, a staff sergeant at the US military’s press center in Baghdad. There was "no initial indication of hostile fire" involved in the incident, he said. The military lost contact with the aircraft Monday at 10:10 pm local time (1810 GMT), Minecci said.

In a separate statement, the US military said a search effort was under way to locate the aircraft, which were from the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

NBC News, citing US Navy officials, reported that the jets had been involved in a midair collision. The F/A-18 Hornet jet has different versions, one of which is lecture hall chairs, computers and other accessories to a Technical College there.

"There is no initial indication of hostile fire involved in the incident," he said. The military lost contact with the aircraft Monday at 10:10 pm local time (1810 GMT), Minecci said.

Internet

China wants to enhance dialogue, communication with Germany

BEIJING, 2 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao told German Parliament members on Saturday that China wants to enhance dialogue and communication with Germany to increase understanding and trust between the two countries.

In a meeting with Wolfgang Thierse, president of Germany’s Federal Assembly, Hu said China is ready to expand cooperation with Germany in all fields and upgrade the bilateral strategic partnership.

Hu said despite different domestic situations and historical backgrounds, China and Germany are both countries with important influence in the world.

He said under the new situation of economic globalization and multipolarization, China and Germany should view bilateral ties from a global and strategic perspective. This view is in the basic interests of the two peoples and also helps promote world peace, stability and development.

Thierse said the frequent high-level visits between the two countries helped promote political trust and cooperation between the two countries.

He congratulated China on its great achievements in economic and social development during the past years and wished China great success in the future.

Thierse is the first German Federal Assembly president visiting China. He and his delegation arrived in Beijing Wednesday evening after visiting Shanghai and the Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China.

On Wednesday, Thierse met with China’s top legislator Wu Bangguo. They signed a joint statement formally establishing an exchange mechanism between the two parliaments.

Thierse is scheduled to conclude his nine-day visit to China on Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey calls on Iraqi neighbours to jointly fight terrorism

ANKARA, 2 May — Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul called for more cooperation among Iraq’s neighbour countries to crack down on terrorist groups including the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday.

Gul made the appeal at a Press conference after the eighth meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Iraqi neighbour countries which ended on Saturday in Istanbul. Gul put specific emphasis on the need for stronger cooperation to reinforce border security control and intelligence sharing to fight against terrorism.

“It is apparent that the issue of security has become a matter of concern for Iraq neighbours. More and more terrorist activities are being carried out by a few terrorist groups,” he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has likened Iraq to a “training ground for terrorist groups”.

A final communiqué issued after the meeting said Iraqi neighbours were determined “to increase cooperation in the overall border security with Iraq with the priority to stem terrorist and other illegal infiltrations to and from Iraq”.

Gul also voiced Turkey’s anxiety over the activities of some PKK members hiding in northern Iraq. Ankara fears these PKK members might infiltrate back into Turkey and incite violence.

Turkey has asked Iraq and the United States to help crack down on the activities of the PKK in northern Iraq. The organization, sworn to establish a Kurdish state covering southeastern Turkey, northern Iraq and parts of Iran and Syria, is outlawed by Turkey as a terrorist group. Representatives from Iraq’s six immediate neighbours — Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria — as well as from Egypt and Bahrain took part in the meeting which was held after Iraq formed a new government.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet
India’s foreign currency reserves up by $1b

MUMBAI, 2 May — After witnessing only a marginal rise in inflows for three weeks in a row, India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by one billion US dollars to 142.54 billion US dollars for the week ended 22 April, 2005.

The country’s foreign exchange reserves now stand at 1,42,546 million US dollars, an increase of 1,001 million US dollars over last week’s reserves of 1,41,545 million, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s (India’s central bank) of weekly statistical supplement released here on Saturday.

For the week up to 15 April, foreign kitty accretion was of the order of less than 300 million US dollars every week as against high level of inflows seen in March. The marginal rise was mainly due to revaluation of international currencies and some inflows including remittances, analysts said.

The foreign currency assets were up by 985 million US dollars to reach 1,36,596 million US dollars for the reporting week. — MNA

CNOOC announces 19% output growth offshore oil

BEIJING, 2 May — The China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) Ltd announced Saturday that its income from oil and natural gas in the first quarter of 2005 reached 11.42 billion yuan (1.38 billion US dollars), 48.1 per cent higher than the same period last year.

In the first quarter, the CNOOC Ltd saw a daily net output of 41.1,424 barrels oil, 13.4 per cent more than the same period of last year.

According to the quarterly report of the CNOOC Ltd, its daily oil and natural gas net output in the first quarter of 2005 in China’s sea area reached 373,984 barrels oil equivalent, growing by 19 per cent over the same period last year.

The daily output of natural gas in China’s sea area reached 266 million cubic feet, 7.7 per cent higher than the same period last year. In the first quarter, the CNOOC Ltd saw the price of crude oil grow by 40.1 per cent to 41.73 US dollars per barrel.

As a result of the growth of net output and oil prices, the CNOOC Ltd saw its total income in the first quarter of 2005 reach 11.48 billion yuan (1.39 billion US dollars), 47.6 per cent higher than the same period of last year.

In the first quarter, the CNOOC Ltd made more efforts in oil and natural gas exploration with the investment ris- ing by 65.8 per cent to 2.99 billion yuan (361 million US dollars) and the expenditure in explora- tion reaching 340 million yuan (41.1 million US dollars), nearly the same as the corres- ponding period last year. — MNA/Xinhua

India contemplating amending Foreign Contribution Act

NEW DELHI, 2 May — In a bid to keep a strict watch on the overseas funding of anti-national organizations, Indian Government is contemplating amend- ing the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 to ensure that the funds are used for the right purpose.

The proposal to this effect is likely to be placed before the Union Cabinet soon after which it would be tabled in Parliament, official sources said.

They said the measures would be taken amid reports of massive diversion of foreign funds by non-governmental orga- nizations (NGOs).

Among the likely changes would be reviewing of licence of such NGOs, which receive funds from foreign agen- cies, they said.

The government plans at least half-a-dozen FCRA offices, which would directly monitor the organizations receiving funds and would also au- dit their accounts to estab- lish the end use of the money.

Under the new law, it would be mandatory for the banks to report huge transactions failing which they will be liable for prosecution.

The Home Ministry has proposed that banks will report all transactions related to foreign funds received in India in a specified manner to the FCRA regional office directly, the sources said. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka to raise oil prices

COLOMBO, 2 May — Sri Lanka will raise its domestic oil prices this week, the Finance Minis- ter Sarath Amunugama has said.

Addressing a public gathering at his rural con- stituency of Galagedara in central Sri Lanka Satur- day, Amunugama said while the diesel and petrol prices would be raised, the price of kerosene oil widely used in poor rural areas would be kept un- changed.

Amunugama’s comments came after a state- ment earlier in the week by his Secretary to the Treas- ury, P B Jayasundera.

Jayasundera said the current high international oil prices was a major con- cern as they are proving to be a burden on the coun- try’s balance of payments. The secretary said the government has been compelled to pay less than debt relief agreed by Sri Lanka’s international do- nors aftermath of the Asian Tsunamis. — MNA/Xinhua

PM says India’s security environment improves

RAIPUR, 2 May — Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said India’s security environment has “improved” following the UPA Government’s initiatives.

“The security environment of India has improved because of the steps taken by the UPA Government with the United States, Russia, China, Pakistan and the neighbouring countries,” he told a meeting of Congress Party workers here. Asserting that ties with Pakistan have “improved”, Singh said India’s relations with other nations too have “strengthened”. — MNA/PTI

Arroyo orders more rolling stores to sell cheap food to poor

MANILA, 2 May— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to increase government’s fleet on rolling stores so many people can have access to cheaper basic commodities like rice.

“I’m calling on Da Secretary Arthur Yap to double the number of these stores,” the Chief Executive said in her 2005 Labour Day address to Filipino workers nationwide. Arroyo issued this directive as the coun- try’s working class continued clamouring for govern- ment intervention to help them cope with soaring prices of fuel and other necessities.

In a report early this year, the National Food Authority (NFA) said some 2.7 million customers mostly from the marginalized sector were able to buy cheap commodities from its 1,254 rolling stores oper- ating nationwide. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai current account deficit first in quarter

BANGKOK, 2 May — Thailand’s current ac- count recorded a deficit of 1.5 billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, due to growing trade deficit, said the Bank of Thailand.

The 1.5-billion-dollar deficit was the first quar- terly one since the 1997 financial crisis, reported newspaper Nation on Saturday.

Even as the service account recorded a surplus of 1.7 billion dollars, it was not enough to offset the trade deficit of 3.2 billion dollars accumulated in the first three months of this year.

The Central Bank’s data showed that imports had grown 28.5 per cent to 27.9 billion dollars in the first quarter, while exports expanded only 12.4 per cent to 24.7 billion dollars.

Climbing oil prices are quoted as the main reason for increased imports.

Imports of oil pro- ducts, bulk of all imports, jumped 63.9 per cent on year to 4.41 billion dollars, according to the Central Bank.

While the price of oil imports rose 37.4 per cent, the volume also surged 19.3 per cent. In March alone, oil imports soared 82.4 per cent in value. — MNA/Xinhua

Workers at the Ningbo Silk Trend garment factory go about their chores, in the eastern Chinese port city of Ningbo on 2 May, 2005. — INTERNET

A dog feeds two tiger cubs in a zoo in Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province in this picture taken on 2 May, 2005. The tiger mother, who gave birth to the two cubs on 1 May is unable to produce enough milk and the zoo keepers found a dog to act as the wet nurse. — INTERNET

India's foreign currency reserves up by $1b
Mottoes highlighting maternal and child health

The World Health Organization from 1950 to 2005 has adopted mottoes on every World Health Day which falls on 7 April for a health care programme to be adopted and implemented by all nations of the world.

Of a number of mottoes adopted by the WHO, I would like to state the ones directly concerned with maternal and child health. First and foremost, I would like to cite the mottoes on health care for children, who are jewels of society.

The motto that directly highlights the child health is “Health For Your Child And The World’s Children” which was adopted in 1951. According to the motto, every nation of the world is to take care of the health of every child the way every parent or every family is taking care of their child health.

The second motto on child health is “Immunize And Protect Your Child”. It was adopted in 1977. The aim of the motto is to systematically immunize children or give children oral vaccines against infectious diseases which could plague the lives and health of children.

The third motto stressing child health is “A Healthy Child, A Sure Future”. It was adopted in 1979. The motto means and highlights the need for everyone who wants to live with peace of mind in future to give a special priority to child health.

“Children’s Health, Tomorrow Wealth” is the fourth motto depicting child health. It was adopted in 1984. It highlights and emphasizes the need for those who want to live in peace and prosperity in future to pay serious attention to the health of children of today.

“Immunization A Chance for Every Child” is the fifth motto on child health. It was adopted in 1987. According to the motto, everyone is to be well aware of and strictly follow the basic rights for every child, stipulating their access to immunization.

The sixth motto is “Shape The Future of Life, Healthy Environments For Child” which was adopted in 2003. According to the motto, those who want to shape the future of life for children are to try their utmost to be able to create the healthy environments for children.

The motto in favour of maternal health is “Pregnancy Is Special: Let’s Make It Safe”. It was adopted in 1998. In accordance with the motto, special attention is to be paid to pregnant women to ensure that they are healthy and safe in their maternity life.

There arose six mottoes underlining maternal health and one motto underscoring child health totalling seven. The motto “Make Every Mother and Child Count” adopted this year is more remarkable and outstanding than the previous ones. It emphasizes and highlights not only maternal health but also child health. It means that only if both mother and child are healthy, will the society be beautiful and pleasant, and all are to lend themselves in this regard.

The mottoes of the WHO are constantly accepted and are being practised in Myanmar. The government adopted and constituted measures on maternal and child health in the health policy of the State, and the Ministry of Health is implementing them in all seriousness. Myanmar launched maternal and child health care services in 1911. To more effectively carry out the health care services for mothers and children by the Ministry of Health, the government promulgated a law in 1990. The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is a social organization which has been taking care of mothers and children since 1991.

Besides this, the association is also implementing tasks for development of health, education, social, and economic sectors of mothers and children.

Therefore, the entire national people are to strive together with the MMCWA for taking care of the health of mothers and children in accordance with the health policy of the State through the motto “Make Every Mother and Child Count”.

(Translation: TS)

Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 2.5.2005

Total gets approval for Nigeria’s deep offshore field

LAGOS, 3 May — Oil giant Total said Monday that it has received authorization from state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corp (NNPC) to begin developing the offshore Akpo field.

In a statement, Paris-based Total said it holds a 24.74 per cent interest in the project alongside NNPC and two other oil firms. Akpo will come on stream in late 2008 and is expected to quickly reach peak production of 225,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, it added.

“This latest major development project confirms Total’s commitment to pursuing our growth strategy in Nigeria and developing the country’s oil and gas industry,” said Christophe de Margerie, Total’s president of exploration and production. Discovered in 2000, the Akpo field is located around 200 kilometres off the southern Nigerian oil city of Port Harcourt in water depths ranging from 1,100 to 1,700 metres.

Africa is Total’s leading growth region, accounting for production of 813,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2004, of which 271,000 in Nigeria, a key contributor to the firm’s strategy to strengthen its presence in the deep offshore Gulf of Guinea.

MNA/Xinhua
Nowadays, integrated and well-coordinated efforts are being made in a practical and effective way for successful implementation of the first five-year plan of the 30-year national education promotion programme.

In this connection, the higher education sector is striving in accord with its objectives while development programmes capable of creating community development are being launched in different regions of universities and colleges.

More universities and colleges, which are a prerequisite for human resource development, were opened and upgraded in all parts of the nation. Hence, the number of those higher institutions has increased from 32 in 1988 to 156 up to date.

In the higher education sector, more subjects are being introduced through the cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary means in addition to its conventional subjects.

Therefore, the number of teaching programmes has increased from 79—45 for pre-graduates and 34 for post-graduates in 1988 to 192—84 for pre-graduates and 108 for post-graduates so far.

Human resources development centres were opened in different regions of universities and colleges for development of human resources and community development. At present, altogether 173 teaching programmes on master degree, bachelor degree and diploma are being introduced at those centres.

In relation to the higher education sector, including 173 teaching programmes of the Centre for Development of Human Resources, the number of teaching programmes has mounted to 365, up from 79 in 1988.

The Ministry of Education conducts the doctorate course for professors, associate professors and experienced scholars in addition to the doctorate course (regular). Now, 2,728 students are attending and 298 students have completed the regular doctorate course, and 421 students are attending and 13 persons have completed the doctorate course for experienced scholars.

The ministry launched the e-Education system in 2001, and now it has opened 622 e-Education learning centres across the nation.

With respect to the progress of the education sector, the ministry has been capable of systematically implementing the objectives for the nation’s education standard to be on a par with international level, and speedy production of qualified human resources.

Now is a time when the entire national people are making combined efforts for all-round development of the nation, and the government has recognized that only when the national education promotion plan is implemented, all-out efforts with national determination for promotion of the nation’s education sector.

Only if the national people are trained and nurtured starting from today to be well versed in modern science and technology, will they be capable of discharging nation-building tasks and national defence duties in future. The government’s drive for better education sector will contribute towards national development and perpetual existence of the nation.

For the time being, the government is translating the State’s seven-point Road Map into reality for ensuring smooth transition to a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, and perpetual existence of the nation as a consolidated Union.

According to the political programme, there still remain tasks for successful completion of the National Convention, approving of the State Constitution through a referendum, and holding of free and fair elections in accord with the State Constitution.

As the people will have to take part in the voting, high intellectual power and vast knowledge of the people and Union Spirit is the fundamental factor for proper emergence of a new nation that conforms with prevailing situations and historic evidences.

The Secretary-1 called on the scholars and teachers to do their utmost with national awareness and national outlook so as to accomplish the national education promotion plan, adhering to the concept that only when the national education promotion drive, a national objective adopted by the State, has been put into reality, will it guarantee the brighter future and perpetual existence of the motherland.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged responsible persons in the education field to carry out tasks with a sense of duty by doing their bit for successful implementation of the programmes of the 30-year national education promotion plan; to play an active role in the tasks for enabling the nation to catch up with the international community and to further produce qualified human resources, and to ensure successful completion of the State’s seven-point Road Map.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the attendees.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the research papers of Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, and Taunggyi Universities displayed at the seminar.

Stakes driven for construction of overpass

COMMAND

YANGON, 3 May — A stake-driving ceremony for construction of an overpass that will link BEHS No1, Dagon Township, took place in front of the school this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin drove the stakes. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, No 3 Basic Education Department Director-General U Aye Kyu, Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Gen Kyaw Tin, Headmaster of the school U Kyaw Kyaw, teachers and students and wellwishers. First, wellwishers including old students of the school donated K 14.7 million for the construction of the overpass. Then the commander and the mayor formally drove the stakes for the overpass construction. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views research papers at the seminar. — MNA

COMMAND

This page provides a detailed account of the higher education sector, highlighting the growth in the number of teaching programmes and the introduction of new courses. It emphasizes the importance of integrated and well-coordinated efforts for the nation’s development. The text also speaks about the role of higher education in preparing the nation for future challenges and responsibilities. The Secretary-1’s call for national determination and unity is underscored, along with the need for qualified human resources to meet national goals.
YANGON, 3 May — The 15th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at multi-purpose building of MMCWA at the corner of Parami and Thanthuma Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present were President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, members of central council, chairmen of state and division MMCWA Supervisory Committees and secretaries and joint secretaries.

First, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win delivered an address.


Chairpersons and joint secretaries of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin States Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees reported on yearly reports.

The President of MMCWA took part in the discussions.

In the afternoon session, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presided over the meeting.

Joint secretaries of Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), (North) and (East) Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees submitted yearly reports.

The meeting continues on tomorrow.

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.**

**Second best time is now.**
Waterways at Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon) for vessels

YANGON, 3 May—The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems today announced that the waterway between pillars Nos 11 and 12 of the Ayeyawady River spanning Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon) was designated for vessels plying upstream, and the waterways between pillars Nos 13 and 14, and between 12 and 13, the vessels plying downstream.

Now, it is safe for down-vessels to use one way alone. So, the down-vessels are to use the way between pillar Nos 12 and 13, and the up-vessels, the way between pillar Nos 11 and 12.

Vessels are to ply through the entrance, where a green triangle mark is displayed, and not to use the entrance, where a red triangle mark is displayed. Twofold vessels attached to each other are not allowed to pass through the ways.

National Education Promotion (Higher Education Sector) Symposium-2005

YANGON, 3 May—The National Education Promotion (Higher Education Sector) Symposium-2005 of the Ministry of Education took place from 30 April to today at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township. Ten papers divided into six groups were discussed at the symposium. Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the second session of the symposium on 1 May, studied the papers and gave necessary instructions to those present. He met with the participants of the symposium yesterday, and addressed the conclusion of the symposium this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general, the Myanmar Examinations Board chairman, rectors, pro-rectors, deputy directors-general, principals, heads of department and professors.

At the symposium Minister U Than Aung discussed matters relating to the submitted ten papers, implementation of the work programmes included in the papers, production of human resources for building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, establishment of community development centres, translation of books on academic subjects of various branches and undertaking of sport activities.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
**Officials seek means to develop Monywa Industrial Zone**

**Yangon, 3 May** — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met with departmental officials, members of Mandalay Division Chamber of Commerce and Industry, officials of companies reclaiming land for growing new types of crops in Mandalay on 30 April.

The minister explained ministry’s plans to render assistance for reclaiming land for new types of crops and to boost agricultural exports. He also made arrangements to fulfill the requirements presented by the company officials.

The following day, he observed the thriving fruit plantations in Sagaing Township. At Monywa Industrial Zone, he attended a meeting on development of the zone. The minister’s inaugural address was followed by a general round of discussions during which local authorities explained the salient points of the zone, and President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Industrialists Association U Myat Thin Aung and others gave suggestions for the zone’s progress.

After a question-and-answer session, the minister made arrangements for the zone’s development. Accompanied by officials, the minister visited the zone. — MNA

**USDA members on study tour of Yangon**

**Yangon, 3 May** — Under the programme for exchange of visits by the USDA members, the excursion group of USDA youth members of States and Divisions led by Yangon Division USDA Executive U Hla Htun Oo visited the Kandawgyi Gardens this morning. They were welcomed there by Joint-Secretary of Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDA U Zaw Myint and youth members. Next, the excursion group visited the Kandawgyi Palace, Recreation Zone, Relaxation Zone, Education Zone and Central Forest Zone in the gardens. Officials explained the salient points of the bouths to them. Afterwards, they proceeded to the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township. They were welcomed there by Thakayta Township USDA Executives U Naing Aung, U Kyaw Swa Win and youth members. Next, they viewed round the village.

After that, they visited Thanyin Bridge, Water Treatment Plant of Yangon City Development Committee at Thanlyetsoon in Botataung Township and Thakayta View Point Park in the afternoon. — MNA

**USDA youths start...**

(from page 16)

In Mandalay, a 34-member youth team visited Yadanabon University, Industrial Zone 2 and factories in Sagaing Township. In Kayin State, a USDA youth team visited places of historical significance, Hpa-an Government Computer College and Government Technological College, cultural pavilion and Zweghin Hill.

In Myeik, Taninthayi Division Chairman of Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with members of USDA youth team. The youths then visited pagodas, Kyaukphyu Bridge, prawn farms and cold storage. — MNA

**State and Division USDA members on excursion to Mon State**

**Yangon, 3 May** — The excursion group comprising 32 USDA members from states and divisions left here by car on 1 May morning for Mon State on excursion. The excursion group arrived at Sittoung Model Bridge in the afternoon. They were welcomed there by the Chairman of Kyaiikhto Township PDC, the Secretary of Thaton District USDA and members. Afterwards, they visited the new Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) construction project. At the briefing hall, officials explained facts about the construction of the new bridge.

The excursion group then proceeded to Hmeshindaw Kaikpawlaw Pagoda in Kyaiikhto. Next, they paid homage to the pagoda and made cash donations through the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

In the evening, they proceeded to Sandawshin Kyaiikhtyio Pagoda and paid homage to it. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees explained the history of the pagoda to them.

On 2 May, the excursion group visited No-1 Tyre and Rubber Factory in Thaton, Padonmar Soap Factory in Paung and Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) construction project.

Next, they arrived at the office of Mon State PDC in the evening.

They were welcomed there by Secretary of Mon State PDC Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung and officials. — MNA

**USDA members from states and divisions make cash donations for Kyaukphyaw Pagoda in Kyaiikhto.** — MNA

**USDA members from states and divisions pose for a photo in front of Sulamani Kaungmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing.** — MNA

**USDA members from states and divisions pose for a photo at Kywegu-Kyaukphyaw Bridge in Myeik.** — MNA

**USDA members from states and divisions plant trees before the Computer College (Hpa-an).** — MNA
TRADE MARK CAUTION

Kiwi European Holdings B.V., a company incorporated in The Netherlands, of Vleutensevaart 100, 3532 AD Utrecht, The Netherlands, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

WILLIAMS

Reg. No. 4974/2004

In respect of “Air freshening preparations, air deodorizing preparations, deodorants not for personal use; preparations to neutralise bad odours”.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

for Kiwi European Holdings B.V.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon

DATED: 4 May, 2005

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRATERNITY WISDOM VOY NO (7)

Consignes of cargo carried on MV FRATERNITY WISDOM VOY NO (7) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2005 and cargo 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 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge or cargo on board vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For: TOKO KAUN KAISHA LTD, JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914

Togolese refugees stream into Ghana

NAIROBI, 2 May — A number of Togolese have started crossing the border to seek refuge in Ghana after political violence in their country, Ghana News Agency reported on Saturday.

About 100 of them with or without belongings have located at Dzodzi-Feniyi in the Ketu District of the Volta Region.

MNA/Xinhua
China’s Lenovo, IBM acquisition deal completed
BEIJING, 2 May — China’s computer giant Lenovo and the US behemoth IBM announced here Sunday that Lenovo has completed the acquisition of the PC unit of IBM, making the Beijing-based company the third largest PC enterprise in the world. “It’s a historic event for Lenovo, which marks the birth of a new era of the global PC industry,” said Yang Yuanqing, chairman of the Lenovo Group.

According to Stephen Ward, chief executive officer (CEO) of Lenovo, new products will be launched in the name of the new Lenovo in weeks. The new Lenovo, boasting the world-famous laptop brand “Thinkpad” and the well-known brand “Lenovo” in China, will cover about one third of China’s PC market and hold a leading position in the world PC market.

“According to the acquisition agreement signed between Lenovo Group and IBM on December 8 last year, Lenovo has paid 1.75 billion US dollars in cash and Lenovo’s shares valued at 600 million US dollars.,” MNA/Xinhua

Satellite-based mobile TV service begins in S Korea
SEOUL, 2 May — Satellite-based mobile TV service went into commercial operation in South Korea Sunday for the first time in the world, said its operator, TU Media Corp. The satellite digital multimedia broadcasting (DMB) transmitted the first mobile TV services to cell phones at 10:00 in the morning, the unit of SK Telecom said. SK Telecom is the country’s largest mobile phone operator.

The DMB service is expected to allow customers to view real-time digital television programmes on handheld devices such as mobile phones.

As of Saturday, there were about 28,000 mobile phones and palm-size monitors in cars nationwide which could receive the service. TU Media plans to provide seven video and 20 audio channels for the time being, and later expand the total number of channels to more than 40 when it can relay terrestrial TV programmes.

The new service requires consumers to buy handsets equipped with the antenna and chips needed to receive the satellite signals.— MNA/Xinhua

UN admits sexual abuse of women by peacekeepers in Liberia
UNITED NATIONS, 2 May — The United Nations has admitted that its peacekeepers sexually exploited and abused women and girls in Liberia.

“The allegations range from the exchange of goods, money or services for sex to the sexual exploitation of minors. The peacekeeping department at the headquarters as well as the mission on the ground are taking appropriate follow-up action,” an embarrassed UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

“Preliminary fact-finding by the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) indicates that some charges are substantiated and some are not,” he added.

“The United Nations treats this issue with the utmost seriousness,” Dujarric said. “As we continue to clamp down on misconduct throughout all peacekeeping missions, it is likely that the number of allegations will increase.”

Some of them had come to light because of a hotline set up by the United Nations, he said, while others came up as the UN followed up on media reports.

Though Secretary-General Kofi Annan has often said that UN has “zero tolerance” policy to sexual abuse cases, the world body cannot do much except to send the offenders back home with request to their governments to prosecute them. But in most cases, governments do not take any action.—MNA/PTI

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 4 May, 2005

Drive safely

UN admits sexual abuse of women by peacekeepers in Liberia
Sunday: The English Premier League after soccer matches on

German Bundesliga top scorers

Berlin, 2 May—Following are the top scorers of the German Bundesliga League after soccer matches on Sunday:

Detroit star Ben Wallace wins Defensive Player award

Detroit, 3 May—American Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons was named the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year for the third time in four seasons.

Wallace, the only player to finish the season among the league's top five in both blocks and steals, became just the second player to win the award three times when ballots were revealed on Monday.

After averaging 12.2 rebounds, 1.43 steals and 2.38 blocks, Wallace received 339 points, 92 more than swingman Bruce Bowen of the San Antonio Spurs.

He claimed 45 of 125 first-place votes from a panel of sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada.

"I don't really set out to win the award," Wallace said. "I set out to be the best player I can be."

The 30-year-old Wallace also won in 2002 and 2003. Forward Ron Artest of the Indiana Pacers ended his run last year.

Wallace and Artest engaged in a shoving match that precipitated a fight November 19 at The Palace of Auburn Hills that spilled into the stands and led to Artest’s suspension for the rest of the season.

Wallace and Dennis Rodman, who won in 1990 and 1991, are the only Pistons to claim the award since its inception in 1983. —Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Beckham warns off Gunners

London, 3 May—David Beckham has warned suitors Arsenal he will not leave Real Madrid until he has won the Primera Liga title and Champions League with them.

Gunners chief Arsene Wenger admitted over the weekend that he would be interested in bringing Beckham back to England, saying: "We will have some money to spend in the summer and if there was a chance to sign David Beckham, we would look at it. If the situation arises that's possible, why not?"

But the Frenchman may have to go back to the drawing board as Beckham feels he has unfinished business with Real so far. The England skipper said: "When I leave here, I want to say that I have had one very good season for Real Madrid, winning the league, the cup and the Champions League.—Internet

MNA/Xinhua

English Premier League standings

London, 2 May—Following are the standings from the English Premier League after soccer matches on Sunday (tabulated under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against and points):

1. Chelsea 35 27 7 1 67 13 88
2. Arsenal 34 22 8 4 74 33 74
3. Manchester United 35 21 10 4 54 21 73
4. Everton 35 17 7 11 41 36 58
5. Liverpool 36 16 7 13 49 37 55
6. Tottenham Hotspur 36 14 9 17 47 41 54
7. Middlesbrough 36 13 12 11 51 45 51
8. Manchester City 36 12 12 12 44 37 48
9. Aston Villa 36 12 11 13 43 48 47
10. Charlton Athletic 36 12 9 15 40 55 45
11. Birmingham City 36 10 12 14 38 44 42
12. Blackburn Rovers 36 9 14 13 31 40 41
13. Newcastle United 35 9 13 13 43 53 40
14. Portsmouth 36 10 8 18 42 56 38
15. Fulham 35 10 8 17 42 56 38
16. Southampton 36 6 13 17 42 62 31
17. Crystal Palace 36 7 10 19 37 58 31
18. West Bromwich Albion 35 5 15 15 33 58 30
19. Norwich City 36 6 12 18 41 71 30

P W D L GF GA PTs

14 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 4 May, 2005

Fergie plays down Ferdinand saga

London, 2 May—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson insisted on Sunday he did not want to railroad Rio Ferdinand into signing a new contract, but was keen for the England defender to make a quick decision on his future.

"We don't want to make a monster out of this thing (Ferdinand's deal)," Ferguson said.

"You can maybe push players into these things and you can make it worse."

"He knows we want him to sign and that's important and he knows the fans want him to sign, so we don't want to be having the lad into something he is not sure about."

"If he's not sure then he should take time—but the most important thing is we want him to do it quickly."

MNA/Xinhua

English Premier League top scorers

London, 2 May—Following are the top scorers of the English Premier League after soccer matches on Sunday (listed in order of goals scored):

Sunday: German Bundesliga top scorers

Shanghai, 2 May—South Chinese city Guangzhou has won the right to host the world table tennis championships in 2008, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) announced here on Sunday.

"We have allocated the world championships to China, and Guangzhou has shown strong interest in hosting the event," said ITTF president Adham Sharara.

Denmark had initially planned to host the 2008 world championships but withdrew its bid at the last moment, putting the sport's showcase event in doubt. China then offered to stage the tournament.

"We welcome the world championships back to China three years earlier than expected," said ITTF president Adham Sharara.

Guangzhou has shown strong interest in hosting the event," said ITTF president Adham Sharara.

Guangzhou to host 2008 world table tennis c'ships

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Detroit Pistons Ben Wallace holds the award he received for being named NBA Defensive Player. —Internet

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Data from the English Premier League website.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
African leaders to discuss agricultural plan

JOHANNESBURG, 3 May—African leaders and experts from around the world will meet in Ghana this week to discuss the final elements of an agricultural plan that aims to provide food security for 200 million people. A statement from the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) said that the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a plan by the NEPAD to revive agriculture on the continent by among other things improving irrigation, infrastructure, agricultural research and technology.

“More than 220 delegates from across the world are convening in Accra for the round-up meeting of NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme’s implementation roll-out plan,” according to the statement. Agricultural advisor Richard Mukandawire said that CAADP’s four main thrusts were to expand areas under sustainable land and water management, improve market access and infrastructure, increase food supply, reduce hunger and improve responses to food emergencies and improve agricultural research and technology. “If CAADP succeeds, Africa’s agricultural productivity could improve to an average annual growth rate of six percent,” he said.

MIN KYAW MIN’S
SPoken English Class

Donor of ordination hall, monk
Sayagyi U Soe Tint
M.A. Sculpture Germany
Lecturehip in Art-Anatomy
Principal(SNFA) Retd. Sec.Lecturer(Retd)
Education Senate Member (University of Culture)
61 years

Only son of (U Sein Ban-Daw Kyi) of Wakema, Ayeyawady Division, son-in-law of (Bing-Gen Aung Thin (Rekib). Daw Tin Nyant), brother of (Daw Thawda Thin), Daw Mu Thin-U Myint Ohn, beloved husband of Daw Lynn Min Thin of Room-6, Building-8, Zigaw2-2 Condo minimum, 15 Ward, Thanthumar Road, South Okhakapa Township, beloved father of U Aung Soe Thin (NSO-MRTV), Daw Hlaing Hla (Oo) (MRTV), Ma May Thet Soe Thin (TDC-Pyay Road) and grandfather of one passed away at Thingangyuan General Hospital at 3.45 pm on 3-5-2005. The remains will be carried from morgue of the hospital to Yayway cemetery for cremation on 3-5-2005. (Cars will leave the hospital at 12.30 pm)

Bereaved family

8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Let’s Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. サンフランシスコ
6:15 pm
6. サンフランシスコ
6:30 pm
7. サンフランシスコ
11:30 pm
8. サンフランシスコ
12:00 pm
9. 番組

WEATHER
Tuesday, 3 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State, scattered in Kachin and Kayin States, Mandalay Division, isolated in Chin State, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Pym Oo Lwin and Hpaa-an (1.30) inches each. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, Magway, Yangon and Ayeayawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Magway (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 2-5-2005 was 104°F. Minimum temperature on 3-5-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-5-2005 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 2-5-2005 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 3-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kabay-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 1.46 inches at Yangon Airport, 1.93 inches at Kabay-Aye and 0.32 inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabay-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at 17:40 hours MST on 2-5-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the West Central and South West Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-5-2005: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin and northern Shan States, Sagaing Division, isolated in Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-5-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree if certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree if certainty is (60%).
Industry-2 Ministry opens foundry, aluminium cable factory

Yangon, 3 May — The Ministry of Industry-2 opened the Research Department, a foundry and an aluminium cable factory in Indagaw region in Bago Township this morning.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the stone plaque of the department and signboards of the factories.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, senior military officers, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials attended the ceremony.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on factories of the Indagaw Industrial Zone, progress in implementing the industrial projects, staff strength, investment, and factories under construction presented by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited the Research Department. The foundry can produce 1,500 tons of iron and 500 tons of steel a year. The aluminium factory can produce 1,600 tons of cables for 6.6 kv, 11 kv, 33 kv, 66 kv, 132 kv and 230 kv lines and stay wires.

The ministry has built industries manufacturing disc wheels, radiators, metal bearings, inlet and exhaust valves, diesel engines, steel, ball bearings and aluminium cables in the industrial zone. Electric motors factory and electrical apparatus factory are under construction.

USDA youths start study tour

Yangon, 3 May — A ceremony was held in Sagaing on 1 May to launch the Union Solidarity and Development Association youth study tour.

Patron of Sagaing Division USDA Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and USDA CEC Member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave speeches.

The study team including youths from states and divisions, visited Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project, Soon Oo Ponnya Shin Pagoda and Kaunghmudaw Pagoda. According to the itinerary, the youths will make home-stay visit at towns they visit.

(See page 11)

INSIDE

The entire national people are to strive together with the MMCMHA in taking care of the health of mothers and children in accordance with the health policy of the State through the motto “Make Every Mother and Child Count”.

(Page 7) Dr Than Oo