**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 inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

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

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**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Bago Division**

**Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives Indian delegation**

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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Thailand Exhibition 2005 opens

YANGON, 4 May — The Thailand Exhibition 2005 under the arrangement of enhancing economic cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand was opened at Yangon Trade Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thaing, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Royal Thai Embassy Mr Opas Chantrakas, Commercial Attaché Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul, officials and guests.

Charge d’Affaires a.i. of the Royal Thai Embassy Mr Opas Chantrakas delivered a speech. Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun formally opened the Thailand Exhibition. The deputy ministers and guests visited the booths.

Chemicals, construction materials, electrical appliances, cosmetics, food and beverages, packaging devices, furniture, textile, clothing, household items and utensils, leatherware, medicines, stationery, machinery and spare parts are on display at 141 booths.

The exhibition opens from 10 am to 6 pm till 7 May. Participants are welcomed to Thai food eating contest, managed by TTF (Yangon) Co Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun views booths of Thailand Exhibition 2005. — MNA

Just take it this way

* Previously, with doubt
* Him on me, me on him
* While waiting and observing innate mind
* Clear and good, seen reciprocally
* Me upon him, him upon me
* Getting rid of, the original doubt
* Equal loving-kindness, goodwill
* Distinctly shown, find solidarity
* In the families, whenever seen
* Human society, with satisfaction
* Surely enjoy.
* Unity of a family
* If not taken, as positive act
* And taken as a fault
* And there’s uneasy talk
* And if such talkers exist
* Take it as just showing his state of mind.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

Book for Sarpy Beikman

YANGON, 4 May — Sarpy Beikman Book Fans Club will publish its 18th book titled Myanma Monsoon written by Naing Shwe Moe who won not only first prize in General Knowledge Genre (Science and Applied Science) of Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award for 2002 but also National Literary Award (Science and Applied Science Genre) for 2003, to the club fans in Yangon and districts. The fans in Yangon are to take out the book at Sarpy Beikman Book Fans Club at 539/3, 531, on Merchant Street, here, and the books have been sent in advance to the district club members.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint signs book of condolences for former Singapore President Dr Wee Kim Wee. — MNA

Dy FM signs book of condolences

YANGON, 4 May — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore at 3 pm today, in memory of late Dr Wee Kim Wee, former President of the Republic of Singapore.

Health & Beauty Talk for Women

YANGON, 4 May — Doctors from Thailand gave talks on health and beauty for women at Mindon Hall of Sedona Hotel this afternoon.

Dr Shakti R Paul gave talks on Myths and Realities of Obesity and Finding the Right Foreign Hospital, Dr Wasit Muninthorn on Latest Medical Technologies in Enhancing Modern Ladies Beauty and Dr Kasem Jayanetra on General Knowledge about Plastic Surgery. Next, the woman fans raised quizzes at the ceremony. — MNA

Health & Beauty Talks for Women in progress at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Strive for the successful realization of national education promotion plan

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for all-round development of the Union by implementing the political, economic and social objectives through the united strength and cooperation of the entire national people.

Embodied in the four social objectives is “uplift of education standard of the entire nation” and special emphasis is being placed on improvement of the education sector. Education is the driving force in every stage of the development process. In his address at the General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held in November, 2004, Patron of the Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that peace and stability, strong economy and higher education standard were the basic requirement if a democratic nation was to be firmly established and that practical measures had to be taken for development of democratic practices.

Successful implementation of national education promotion plans and the process for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation are related and education plays a pivotal role in every stage of the development process. Therefore, employees of the education sector and students are to put their energies into the task of enhancing the education standard with national spirit.

This year is the last in the five-year short-term plan of the 30-year-long term education promotion plan. Therefore, all-out efforts will have to be made to meet the targets of the plan through practical and effective ways and means.

At a time when the entire national people are making concerted efforts for all-round development of the nation, the government is striving for enhancing the education sector by encouraging the development of science and technologies and turning out skilled technicians.

It is necessary to master science and technologies to be able to carry out nation-building tasks and national defence and contribute to national development and perpetuation of the State.

We would like to call on all those responsible and employees in the educational field to strive with national outlook and awareness for the successful realization of national education promotion plan.
Philippine, Japanese defence chiefs meet in Manila

MANILA, 3 May — Philippine defence chief Avileno Cruz on Monday met with visiting Japanese Self-Defence Agency chief Yoschiroi Ohno in what signalled the start of increased security cooperation between the two countries.

Emerging after a two-hour closed door meeting with his counterpart, Cruz said they agreed to increase cooperation in the areas of maritime security, disaster management, counter-terrorism and training.

“This is a historic visit,” Cruz said of Ohno’s visit, the first made by a Japanese Defence Minister to the Philippines since World War II.

“The first step is to develop a mechanism for an annual continuity of the political security dialogue,” Cruz said in a news briefing.

Since Japan’s Constitution restricts the sharing of their military hardware, training will focus mainly on education and training, Armed Forces deputy chief Lieutenant-General Edilberto Adan said.

“There are restrictions in the Japanese Constitution for the provision of military hardware so what that department of National Defence and the AFP are exploring are the non-traditional areas, for example in education and training,” Adan added.

He said the Philippines and Japan would make an effort to hold talks between senior and middle-level officials once a year.

Ohno did not join Cruz at the Press briefing as he had to rush to make a courtesy call to Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

By sharing information, the two countries’ maritime officials could intercept pirates, drug traffickers, and even terrorists, Cruz said.

Both being prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and storms, the Philippines and Japan could share information on disaster response, he said.

New rules on city protection take effect in Beijing

BEIJING, 3 May — A set of rules and regulations on protection of sites of historical and cultural values, and old urban districts, streets and structures in the Chinese capital took effect as of Sunday.

The rules and regulations, worked out to strengthen protection when large-scale reconstruction has posed threat on the cultural features of the ancient city.

Under the new rules, the municipal government encourages residents to move out of the areas under protection in order to reduce the population density in the old city areas and improve their living conditions.

Government employees responsible for protecting and maintaining the ancient city areas would be punished in case they misuse their rights, according to the rules.

S Korean Parlt to probe into rice import deals

SEOUL, 3 May — South Korea’s rival parties agreed on Monday to launch a parliamentary probe into controversial rice import deals, parts of which, critics claim, the government left undisclosed to hide import amounts, the official Yonhap news agency reported.

Floor leaders of the ruling and opposition camps said they will put the proposal to the National Assembly plenary session on Tuesday or Wednesday for approval. They said the inspection is expected to begin this month.

The focus of the inquiry will be on the full process of negotiations with nine rice-exporting countries, details of bilateral negotiations and how the government made its decisions on rice imports.

The import agreements have yet to be ratified by the Parliament.

But party officials said they will abide by the customary practice of not disclosing sensitive contents of multilateral trade talks and also consider national interest.

The Office of the Minister for Trade, which represented South Korea in the negotiations, was skeptical of what the inquiry would be able to achieve.

“Trade negotiations are negotiations between governments. The National Assembly can decide whether to ratify it or not, but it cannot change the terms of the agreement,” an official from the office said on condition of anonymity.

The Agriculture Ministry said it hopes the investigation will resolve the controversy and expedite the ratification process.

“We expect the National Assembly to turn positive about ratifying the agreements once the suspicions are cleared,” a ministry official said, declining to be named.

Nearly half of the legislators, mostly from the opposition party, signed a motion last month demanding a full inquiry into the rice deals, accusing the government of deceiving the public. They suspected that the government withheld parts of the deals on exactly how much rice and what other agricultural products the country agreed to import.

1,586 of US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 3 May — As of Tuesday, 3 May, at least 1,586 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 1,211 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 11 am EDT on Tuesday.

The British military has reported 87 deaths: Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,448 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,102 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 12,243 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released on Tuesday.

China’s major SOEs see steady growth in income, export, profits

BEIJING, 3 May — China’s 469 major state-owned enterprises (SOEs) reported over 20 per cent growth in their total income from principal operations, export volume and profits in the first quarter of 2005 over the same period last year.

According to sources with the Commission for Supervision and Management of State-owned Properties, the enterprises’ principal operations turned a 1.9 trillion yuan (226.9 billion US dollars) in revenue, up by 20.9 per cent, 4.6 per cent down from the same period last year.

As the major driving forces for the rapid growth of the total revenue, the nonferrous metal, coal, chemical, petroleum and petrochemical, transport and metallurgy industries each experienced a growth of over 25 per cent in the first quarter.

With the macro-economic control policies by the central government beginning to take effect in some major industries, the rising trend of products in stock started to slow down in the first quarter.

The ratio of sales to output of major state-owned enterprises is 97.4 per cent, 0.6 per cent higher over the same period last year.

By the end of March, products in stock of major state-owned enterprises were valued at 282.14 billion yuan (34.1 billion US dollars), 19 per cent higher over the same period last year.

The growth rate was 7.7 per cent lower than the fourth quarter of 2004.

Major state-owned enterprises of metallurgy, electronics and chemical industries saw their growth rate of products in stock drop by a larger per cent.

Thai elephants graze in the town of Khao Lak, Phang Nga Province in southern Thailand, on 3 May, 2005. — INTERNET
Annan calls for action to strengthen nuclear NPT

UNITED NATIONS, 3 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday challenged the parties to the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to recognize that disarmament, halting the spread of nuclear weapons and the right to peaceful use are all vital.

“I challenge you to agree that they are all too important to be held hostage to the politics of the past,” Annan said in an opening address to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. “I challenge you to recognize that they all impose responsibilities on all states.”

An important step would be for former Cold War rivals to commit themselves irreversibly to further cuts in their arsenals, so that warheads number in the hundreds, not in the thousands, he stressed.

“We can only hope to achieve such major reductions if every state has a clear and reliable picture of the fissile material holdings of every other state, and if every state is confident that this material in other states is secure,” he added.

The conference, which kicked off on Monday at the UN headquarters in New York and will run through 27 May, brings together top officials every five years to review the status of the NPT. The treaty is the world’s most widely adhered-to multilateral disarmament accord, with 188 states parties, including the five declared nuclear-weapon states.

Recalling the horrific explosions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which had ushered in the nuclear age, Annan painted a dire picture of “chaos and confusion” in the immediate aftermath if such a nuclear catastrophe were to occur in a major city today.

“Tens of thousands of people would die in an instant, and many more would die from exposure to radiation,” he said, adding that carefully nurtured collective security mechanisms could also be discredited.

In the 35 years since entering into force, the landmark NPT has “confounded the dire predictions of its critics,” Annan said, noting that nuclear weapons have not spread to dozens of states and that indeed, more states have given up their ambitions for such weapons than have acquired them.

A watchful eye has also been kept on the supply of materials to make nuclear weapons, and recent steps had been taken to dismantle weapons and reduce stockpiles, he noted.

“The global non-proliferation norm has been firmly established,” he said, but added: “We cannot afford to be complacent. The plain fact is that the regime has not kept pace with the march of technology and globalization, and developments of many kinds in recent years have placed it under great stress.”

He urged state parties to ensure that measures for compliance are made more effective, to maintain confidence that states are living up to their obligations. They must also act to reduce the threat of proliferation not only to states, but to non-state actors.

“As the dangers of such proliferation have become clear, so has the universal obligation for all states to establish effective national controls and enforcement measures,” he said.

S Korean Minister visit Dokdo

SEOUL, 3 May — South Korea’s Information and Communication Minister Chin Dae-je made an unscripted visit to the easternmost islets of Dokdo on Monday to check communication services there, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency quoted a ministry official as saying.

“Minister Chin flew to the Dokdo islets by helicopter in the morning to inspect information and telecommunications services in the region like mobile phone and high-speed Internet,” the official who declined to be named said.

The official said that the minister had made mobile phone calls and used the Internet, confirming those services are in normal operation there.

South Korea insists the islets, called “Dokdo” in Korean language, have been listed as its territory in history literature since the fifth century. While Japan also claims the islets, called “Takeshima” in Japanese, has been its territory since 17th Century, as written in 19th century literature. Dokdo now is under effectual control of South Korea who has deployed a garrison of coast police on the islets since 1954.—MNA/Xinhua

ARATS President meets KMT Chairman

SINGAPORE, 3 May — Wang Daohan, president of the Mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), met with visiting Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) Party Chairman Lien Chan and his delegation in Shanghai on Monday.

Wang thanked Lien for paying him a visit during the KMT delegation’s stay in Shanghai, and congratulated Lien on the achievements made by the KMT delegation during its Mainland tour.

Wang thanked Lien for paying him a visit during the KMT delegation’s stay in Shanghai, and congratulated Lien on the achievements made by the KMT delegation during its Mainland tour.

“Wang said that the two sides could cooperate in cross-Straits relations,” Wang said. “In doing so, we have always harboured the good will of improving and pushing forward cross-Straits relations.”

Despite the political differences between the two sides across the Straits, “we’re all Chinese linked by the same blood and cultural background”, said Wang.

“Therefore we should work together to promote peace, development and cooperation in cross-Straits relations, strive for the Taiwan Straits, in an effort to live up to the aspirations and expectations of Chinese compatriots on both sides”, Wang said. “In doing so, we have always harboured the good will of improving and pushing forward cross-Straits relations.”

Former President of Singapore

Wee Kim Wee dies

SINGAPORE, 3 May — Former President of Singapore Wee Kim Wee passed away at about 5.10 am on Monday at own residence.

Wee died of prostate cancer complications at the age of 89.

Born in 1915, Wee had been Singapore’s President for eight years since 1985.

He visited China as the state visitor in 1991. Before his tenure as President, Wee served as High Commissioner to Malaysia for seven years as well as Ambassador to Japan and South Korea. —MNA/Xinhua

Annan condemns bombings, attacks in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 3 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the wave of bombings and other attacks in Iraq that have reportedly killed more than 100 Iraqis and wounded twice that many since Friday, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Monday.

In a statement issued by the spokesman, Annan said he was appalled by the attacks and strongly condemned “this cruel and heartless practice, for which there can be no justification.”

According to the spokesman, Annan called the attacks an apparent effort to undermine the newly established government.

Annan was “particularly disturbed by reports that the perpetrators of these latest crimes have also prevented ambulances from reaching the victims,” the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

An Airbus A320 in Air Asia livery seen on 3 May, 2005. Malaysia’s AirAsia Bhd— the region’s biggest budget carrier — signed a purchase order for 60 Airbus A320 aircraft and took options to buy 40 more.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

During the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, STS-114 crewmember Soichi Noguchi of Japan is fitted in his launch suit in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 3 May, 2005.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Protesters stage anti-nuke, anti-war rally in New York

NEW YORK, 3 May — Thousands of protesters marched through midtown Manhattan and staged a massive anti-war and anti-nuke rally in the Central Park on Sunday.

Holding signs that read “No War, No Nukes,” “End the occupation,” they passed the United Nations headquarters, where a conference to reassess the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has been scheduled for this week.

Among the protesters was Paul Braibつord, a 90-year-old World War II veteran from Ipswich, Massachusetts. He said he was worried about the government’s policy on nuclear weapons and the war in Iraq, and would do his share to make people’s voice heard by join- ing other veterans.

Justin Gonzales, 9, a fourth grader from New Jersey, marched alongside his mother. He has lost his

voice from shooting too loud half way through the march. His mother said this is the second time for her son to join an anti-nuke and anti-war rally. “It is necessary for kids to come to know the evil of wars, and nuclear wars in particular,” she said.

Protesters marched through midtown Man- hattan to reach Central Park, where they formed a human peace symbol for photographers in heli- copters overhead.

They were joined by 1,000 activists from Japan, some of whom are survi- vors of the atomic attacks on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki nearly 60 years ago.

Tadatoshi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima, was among the speakers at the rally. He said survivors of the atomic bombs of the two cities were “the only people who have had the experience of nuclear war”.

“The human family needs peace, a peace without nuclear weapons. We want a world without vio- lence, particularly nuclear violence. The struggle against nuclear weapon is a fight we can win and must win,” he said.

One of the Hiroshima survivors, Sumao Tsuboi, was a 20-year-old college student when his city was blasted by an atomic bomb. He told the audience of his great physical and mental sufferings since the catastrophe.

Chinese firms receive investment licences in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 3 May — About 70 Chinese enterprises have so far received licences to invest in Ethiopia thanks to the country’s efforts to attract Chinese investments, Ethiopia’s Investment Commission said on Monday.

The commission said in a Press release that 18 of the enterprises, en- gaged in pharmaceuti- cals, infrastructure, iron, restaurant and other manufacturing sectors, had already entered into production phase. Some 17 licensed enterprises involved in service pro- vision, electricity, textile, mines and other relevant sectors, were in the con- struction phase, it said.

According to the com- mission, the remaining entrepreneurs were un- dertaking research that

would enable them to engage in various invest- ment sectors.

The Chinese Govern- ment was providing vari- ous incentives to Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in African countries, it said.

An agreement had been signed between Ethiopia and China in 1998 to foster investment relations between the two countries.

The commission said Ethiopia would benefit a lot from Chinese invest- ment when Ethiopian entrepreneurs work in partnership with their Chinese counterparts.

Such partnership would be highly important as Chinese technology is suit- able to Ethiopia and gen- erates employment for thousands of people, it said—MNA/Xinhua.

IAEA head calls for better mechanism to prevent N-Proliferation

UNITED NATIONS, 3 May — Mohamed ElBaradei, Director-Gen- eral of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said on Monday that the way to prevent nuclear weapons develop- ment is to effectively adjust the mechanism for achieving the goals of security and development.

ElBaradei made the remarks at the opening session of the 2005 Re- view Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). “Without question, improving control of fa- cilities capable of produc- ing weapons-usable mate- rial will go a long way towards establishing a better margin of security,” he said.

ElBaradei also stressed that the mecha- nisms for achieving the goals of security and de- velopment must evolve.

“We should be clear: there is no incompatibil- ity between tightening controls over the nuclear fuel cycle and expanding the use of peaceful nuclear technology,”

ElBaradei noted, stressing the importance of balanc- ing both development and security interests.

“In fact, by reducing the risks of proliferation, we could pave the way for more widespread use of peaceful nuclear applications,” he added. The month-long Re- view Conference brings deleg- ations together every five years to consider the work- ings of the landmark agree- ment, which seeks to pre- vent the spread of nuclear weapons technology, foster the peaceful use of nuclear energy and further the goal of general and complete disarmament.

India’s Honda Siel sales jump 28% in April

NEW DELHI, 3 May — Honda Siel Cars India, a joint venture between Japan’s Honda Motor Com- pany and Siel India, Monday said its sales witnessed a growth of 28 per cent over the same period in the previous year, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

Honda Siel sold 3,575 cars in April this year, compared to 2,793 units last April, said a company statement.

Cumulative sales for the period between January and April registered an increase of 25 per cent. Sales during the four-month period rose from 11,456 units last year to 14,286, said the statement.

Honda Siel, which forayed into the country in 1997, sells the Honda City, Honda Accord and Honda

CRV luxury cars in India. — MNA/Xinhua

Holidaymakers view thousands of carp streamers, a symbol of good health and strength for children, hanging on the bank of the Sagami River in Sagamihara, southwest of Tokyo on 3 May, 2005. About 1200 carp streamers are put up to celebrate the Japanese national Children’s Day holiday on 5 May. —INTERNET

Italy blames agents slaying on US soldiers’ lack of rules

Rome, 3 May — The killing of an Italian intelligence agent in Baghdad by US soldiers was not deliberate, but as a result of stress, inexperience, fatigue and a lack of rules among the US troops, said the Italian Foreign

Ministry on Monday night.

A probe found no evi- dence that the March 4 killing of Italian intelli- gence agent Niccola Calipari was deliberate, said the ministry in a re- port.

“The soldiers in the American patrol opened fire out of inexperience and because of the ten- sion,” it said.

The report said the US temporary roadblock near the airport, where the kill- ing took place, was ille- gal because it had not been properly signaled and lacked unified com- mand.

Calipari was shot dead at the roadblock when he was escorting a freed Italian hostage to the air- port.

The report differed from the US account is- sued Saturday, which exonerated the US sol- diers who shot Calipari. The US investigators said the American sol- diers gave adequate warning before opening fire on Calipari’s car which was running on high speed.

But the Italian report blamed US military au- thorities for failing to provide warning that there was a roadblock ahead. It also rejected the US account of the speed of the vehicle, say- ing the car driven by Calipari was not going fast.

The probe was jointly conducted by Italy and the US military. The two Italians on the probe prepared the sepa- rate report. The Italians did not challenge many of the US conclusions in their report, but refused to sign on to the US report. —MNA/Xinhua

Miss IMF (‘I am fat’) Thanchanok Mekkaew, 25, raises her arms and smiles as she weighs in at the Miss IMF (‘I am fat’) contest at an elephant ground at the zoo in Nakhon Pathom Province, about 35 miles south of Bangkok, on 1 May, 2005. —INTERNET
Indonesia’s export, import jump in 1st quarter

JAKARTA, 3 May — Indonesia’s export in the first quarter jumped by 31.20 per cent, which reached 19.76 billion US dollars, compared to the same period last year, the Central Statistic of Bureau (BPS) announced on Monday.

The rise was attributed to the increase of oil and gas products by 22.29 per cent and non-oil and gas products by 34.20 per cent, which reached respectively by 4.33 billion US dollars and 14.53 billion US dollars, the head of the BPS Chorul Maksun said.

The increase of export of the oil and gas products was caused by the increase of exports of crude oil by 30.96 per cent, oil production by 19.73 per cent and natural gas by 15.38 per cent, he added.

He said that the export figure in March reached 7.25 billion US dollars or 13.63 per cent higher than in February.

Indonesia’s export to the European Union (25 countries) reached 886.3 million US dollars, he added.

Meanwhile Indonesia’s import in the first quarter this year reached 13.09 billion US dollars or significantly increased by 28.26 per cent compared to the same period last year, Maksun said.

The rise was driven by the significant growing of oil and gas import by 50.75 per cent which stood at 3.69 billion US dollars, and non-oil and gas import by 21.17 per cent or 9.40 billion US dollars, he said.

Indonesia’s import in March reached 4.98 billion US dollars or significantly increased by 22.02 per cent from the previous month, he added.

Japan, China and the United States are the main contributive countries supplying their products to Indonesia in the first quarter, Maksun said.

African people want more language broadcasts

LAGOS, 3 May — African people appear to prefer to speak in their own languages, and they want more African language broadcasts and consider them to have a number of positive impacts, according to a study funded by UNESCO on Monday.

The findings by the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) are based on a survey through questionnaires and interviews in three West African countries: Mali, Ghana and Senegal, says the report published on UNESCO’s web site.

Although the sample at under 400 people is too small, it was “possible to obtain impressions about the relative strength of opinions between countries and within the samples in each country”, CASAS Director Kweisi Kwa Prah said.

The study shows that most people questioned want more African language programmes and have suggestions on how this could be encouraged.

“An award for stations that use African languages should be introduced,” it quotes one respondent in Ghana as saying, while a Senegalese respondent advises that there should be “more airtime for African languages at peak time”.

They call for more African-language programming concerned national radios as well as private and community stations, it says.

Besides, three-quar ters of respondents believe that African language FM broadcasting has a positive social impact, particularly on community radio and local FM which invite listener participation.

A girl, perched on the shoulder of her father, plays in a park in Shanghai on 2 May, 2005. UP to 5.8 million tourists are expected to visit Shanghai during the week-long May Day Holiday. [INTERNET]

OPEC says its output exceeds official ceiling by 2.2 million bpd

KUWAIT CITY, 3 May — The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced here Monday that the cartel exceeds officially-declared production ceiling of 27.5 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2.2 million bpd.

OPEC president Sheikh Ahmed Al-Falal, who is also Kuwait’s Minister of Oil, told reporters that OPEC actual production now stood at 29.7 million bpd according to the latest information.

“We think the market is well supplied... I think by numbers we already have more than the 500,000 bpd of real production,” he said, referring to a proposed 500,000 bpd increase by mid-May.

NZ offers grant to help Cambodia solving labour disputes

PUNO PENK, 3 May — New Zealand will offer 500,000 US dollars grant to help Cambodia and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to accelerate joint effort to strengthen the country’s capacity to resolve labour disputes.

Labour conflicts have increased dramati cally amid Cambodia’s recent industrialization and economic growth, according to a Press release of ILO.

These disputes have contributed to lowering Cambodia’s labour productivity, which, according to the World Bank estimate, is roughly 65 per cent behind India. 62 per cent behind China, and 10 per cent behind Bangladesh, it said. The money will be used to train employers, union representatives, shop stewards, police, other civil servants and the judiciary on their rights and responsibilities in strikes and labour disputes.

“This wide range of activities is expected to build a firm basis for resolving current and future disputes,” said Hugo Van Noord, chief technical adviser to the ILO Labour Dispute Resolution Project in Cambodia.

During the past year, Cambodia’s economy has grown 5 to 6 per cent a year, and garment sector workforce expanded from virtually nothing into an industry that now employs more than 270,000 workers. By 2004, the hotel and tourism sector employed more than 200,000 workers.

India to continue to monitor developments in border areas

NEW DELHI, 3 May — While maintaining that relations with Pakistan and China were moving in a “positive direction”, the Indian Defence Ministry said Monday that India would continue to monitor development of military infrastructure by Beijing in the border areas and Islamabad’s failure to dismantle terrorist infrastructure on the Line of Control.

Noting that there was some decline in the level of infiltration across the Line of Control, the annual report of the Defence Ministry said this was more on account of measures on the part of the Indian Armed Forces than any discernable change of heart or action by Pakistani authorities.

“There was no evidence of any significant Pakistani efforts to dismantle infrastructure of terrorism such as communications, launching pads and training camps on its eastern borders with India,” the report said.

Highlighting that the challenges posed by terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remained central to the international security agenda and at the bottom of India’s primary security concerns, the report observed that China’s close defence relations and military assistance to Pakistan continued.

About India’s relations with China, the report said that the two countries had stepped up efforts to address differences on the boundary question through discussions and continued to maintain peace and tranquillity on their long-shared borders.

The report said that New Delhi will continue to monitor development of military infrastructure by China in the border areas and its military modernization, including its expansion of the Navy.

On the threat posed by terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the report said India’s response to these challenges had always been “restrained, major and moderate”.

It said while diplomacy remained the chosen means of dealing with these challenges, “effective diplomacy has to be backed by credible military power”.

On the threat posed by terrorism, the report said that despite operations against al-Qaeda and Taliban elements on the Pakistan-Afghan border, the principal threat to the region remained.

Miss Thailand 1992 and supermodel Metinee Kingpoyome wears a creation designed by her compatriot Nagara during the KL Fashion Week Gala Night at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3 May, 2005. [INTERNET]
Kawthoung, a border town of Myanmar, is located on the cape of Bayintnaung at the southern tip of the Taninthayi coastline. A monument still stands in the town till today. On the cape stands, the majestic work of a colossal stone statue of King Bayintnaung.

Standing at the foot of the statue of King Bayintnaung, the founder of the Second Myanmar Empire, I watched the Myanmar waters of the Andaman Sea, and I could not help but experience the spirit of patriotism and nationalistic fervour high in my mind. Patchan river marking the border between Myanmar and Thailand empties into the sea in the east of Kawthoung. A few miles from the river on the other bank lies Ranong, a small town in Thailand.

Thais call Kawthoung “Kawsoom” in their language. And in Malay, it is called “Puluduar”. Both languages carry the same meaning, which is, “twin islands”.

For me, Kawthoung, lying beautifully on a plain at the end of Taninthayi mountain range stretching nearly 500 miles to the south, is a memorable village. I visited the Pyidawaye Pagoda at the entrance to the new airport, and at the sea port, I boarded the Thawthwin cruise ship to proceed to Dawei via Myeik.

I fell asleep in my cozy room while riding the ship, and when I woke up the ship had just arrived at Myeik port. With its thriving international fish market, Myeik was a busy town, surrounded by a number of units of cold storage, fish and prawn processing factories, rubber, oil palm, durian, mangosteen and betel nut farms, all of which are contributing to its economic progress.

I visited the islands in the south of Myeik on board a motor schooner. The Mergui District Gazetteer compiled by Mr GP Andrew says that the Myeik archipelago has 804 islands and the area of the largest island is 170 square miles.

Myeik archipelago is rich in marine resources. Birdness can be found on the steep hills lying on the islands and islets, and it is one of the products of the archipelago. Some of the islands are inhabited, but most are not. And there are islands full of rock with no trees.

The beaches are surrounded by white sandy beaches, some are covered with dense forests, housing hills whose elevations reach over 1,000 feet. Whirlpools occurred in the channels between islands because of the quick tides. And in the small bays and channels live the giant sea turtles. The coral reefs under the sea are ideal places for sea leeches to thrive. Colourful shells of sea creatures create a pleasant view of the islands under the bright sun. The pearls found in the sea at Myeik is famous in the global jewellery markets.

The 13,736-square-mile Taninthayi Division is formed with 10 townships and 317 wards and villages. Dawei is the capital of the division with a population of over 1,537,000 comprising various nationalities including Bamar, Kayin and Dawei hill races. The division is touching Mon State in the north, bordering Thailand in the east and south and facing Andaman Sea in the west. Maungmagan in Dawei Township is famous for its wide sandy beach and blustery waves.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on regional development undertakings at a meeting held in Kawthoung on 25 February 2004. He said, “I arrived Kawthoung for the first time in roundabout 1962, during which, Kawthoung had only 300 or 400 houses. The Government has launched the border areas development drive with the aim of developing the undeveloped areas. Thanks to the drive, Kawthoung has become a district town, which needs further development of its economy covering fish and prawn farming and perennial cropping including palm oil and rubber, with human endeavours and innovative efforts as the base.”

“Oil palm should be cultivated according to the annual target to reach the goal of 500,000 acres. Only then will the Taninthayi Division become an oil bowl of the nation. All will have to make energetic and collective efforts with the aim of meeting the domestic cooking oil demand in 2007-2008.”

Although its population is only over 1.5 million, the division has plenty of land and water resources. The completion of the construction of the seven major bridges — Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Pathaung, Taninthayi, Kywegu-Kyaukphya, and Lenya-Mandaing bridges that started in 1995.

I have visited Myanmar University campus housing the Marine Biology Department and the Government Computer College, and the islands in the archipelago.

Half of the 12 wards of Myeik are densely populated. As its basic industries covering rubber, oil palm and fish and meat sectors are developing, its population is also on the rise. Thus, plans are under way to expand Myeik.

As the Government has permitted the national entrepreneurs to run large-scale oil palm, rubber and fish and meat industries, the local people are enjoying the fruits of progress. The division is now contributing more and more annually to the national economy, and its own economic development has helped raise the living standard of the locals.

The 2005 National Education Promotion Symposium (Basic Education Sector) (Yangon) commences

Yangon, 4 May — The Ministry of Education organized the 2005 National Education Promotion Symposium (Basic Education Sector) (Yangon) at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township this morning.

Minister for Education U Than Aung delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the symposium, which continues up to 7 May and representatives of Lower Myanmar will submit reports and papers.

After the opening ceremony, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min gave instructions on matters related to basic education plans.

Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department discussed implementation of the fourth year of the education plan for 2004-2005. Officials took part in the discussions. Director-General U Bo Win explained review on accomplishment of the fourth year plan and tasks to be carried out in the fifth year plan. Later, three groups of the participants at the symposium held discussions.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo, directors-general of the departments, the chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations, rectors, deputy directors-general, education college principals, state and division and district education officers and school heads. — MNA
MMCWA annual meeting lays down six resolutions, ten future tasks

YANGON, 4 May — The 15th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association laid down six resolutions and 10 future tasks on the final day today.

The six resolutions
1. To ensure pregnancy health care for all expectant mothers and proper delivery services for them with the help of medical experts, especially, in suburban wards and rural areas.
2. State/Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees are to play a leading role in reviewing the work of township MCCWAs.
3. State/Division MCWSCs are to draw the curriculum for health instructor courses and to conduct the courses under their own programme.
4. In line with the guideline of the MMCWA, the subordinate associations at all levels are striving utmost in launching the job generation and income acceleration programmes for families to create other income sources for them and to improve their living standard. However, some mothers lost jobs and faced sufferings because of the closure of a number of factories resulting from the economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar by the EU and certain western nations. The MMCWA, hereby, condemns the sanctions, while pledging to continue its work of further increasing the family income.
5. As the task of building roads and bridges is the basic factor for the development of public health, education, economy and social undertakings, all the Myanmar NGOs including the MMCWA and the people are contributing voluntary services in carrying out the meritorious deeds of own volition. However, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), without understanding and having knowledge about Myanmar traditions and culture and customs, are making false accusation against the nation, branding the undertakings of building roads and repairing bridges with collective efforts as forced labour.

MMCWA will continue to...
(form page 16)

As a social organization, MMCWA denounces the accusation to harm the nation and tarnish its image, and its members are to continue to take part in public welfare endeavours.

The ten future tasks
1. To take part in the task of successfully implementing the seven-point Road Map.
2. To accept and follow the facts contained in the addresses of the National Health Committee and the Minister for Health as work guidelines.
3. To accelerate the momentum of the on-going anti-TB campaigns, anti-malaria and anti-AIDS campaigns, nutritious programmes, reproductive health and education programmes and income generation programmes.
4. To make collective efforts to ensure health care for all expectant mothers and proper delivery services for them with the help of medical experts, especially, in suburban wards and rural areas.
5. To create a healthy environment for children, to set up garbage-free schools, to prevent dengue haemorrhage fervour, to establish AIDS-free schools and to designate schools as tobacco-free zones.
6. To help handicapped children and disabled children complete their primary education.
7. To continue to conduct surgical operation on children with cleft lips and palate and other inborn physical problems.
8. To organize housewives to grow essential herbal plants and to extend the traditional medicine courses for all housewives to carry out family health care services with indigenous medicine.
9. To find illiterate women and help them read and write, and to improve their reading power.
10. To help housewives increase their income.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC said that adhering to the instructions of the MMCWA, the associations at state and division levels are creating job opportunities and raising income of the family members so as to improve their living standard. However, the closure of factories and workshops due to the economic sanctions imposed by EU and some western countries made many national women jobless and it harmed the economic, health, education and social sectors of the families.

The unjust economic sanctions led to the closure of more than 160 garment factories and the reduction of workforces at 40 other factories. So, over 80,000 female workers became jobless and it had adverse effects on more than 400,000 family members.

She said that the MMCWA condemns the economic sanctions imposed by the EU and some western countries, and stressed the need for the association to expand the scope of doing businesses and creating job opportunities for ensuring higher income of the families.

(MCN)
MMCWA will continue to...

(From page 8) MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win dealt with the future programmes of the association. Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint made further clarification of the future programmes. Those present held a general round of discussions about the programmes and approved them.

President Daw Khin Khin Win delivered concluding remarks, saying that it is heartening to see that state/division MCWAs submitted the activities and papers on work they had performed in a year. It reflects the volume of the tasks carried out by the MMCWA across the nation. At the meeting, instructions have been given to continue to shoulder the tasks after the central level has laid down the future programmes based on proposals and suggestions of state/division MCWAs.

Only when mothers are healthy, so will the infants, and will the social life rise. She highlighted the need of the members to pay serious attention to health care of the mothers, newly-born babies, and children.

She also spoke of the need to continue to place emphasis on community health care concerns, and education, economic and social welfare tasks. In the process, efforts are to be exerted to be able to enhance the abilities and capabilities of the members year after year. Accordingly, it is required to augment the membership, which makes up eight per cent of the nation’s population. She called on the members to organize the people in respective states and divisions to increase the membership.

She said that she would like to put on record the brilliant performances of the entire members. She called on them to try to their best to be always equipped with goodwill and good morale, whether assistance is provided or not. It is needed to constantly perform the public welfare services with loving-kindness and goodwill to enable the association to stand for ever as a dependable force of the nation.

It is known to all that the government is taking measures in all corners to put the nation on the path towards a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At a time when the State’s seven-point Road Map is in progress to meet the goal, renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts are resorting to evil means to break up the Union and to undermine the national solidarity, and to disrupt the drive for transition to democracy.

Instead of taking lessons from these historic evidences, descendants of some Shan sawbwas again commit the acts intentionally, relying on the external elements, to break up the Union. She said the MMCWA strongly protests against the acts and aims of the lackeys and fugitives as their destructive acts pose grave dangers to the Union and the people. She also pledged that the MMCWA will continue to stand as a national force and serve the interests of the nation and the people for ever.

The annual meeting ended in the evening. — MNA

It is needed to constantly perform the public welfare services with loving-kindness and goodwill to enable the association to stand for ever as a dependable force of the nation.

Dr Aung Win of Shan State (North).— MNA

Dr Khin Aung Cho of Rakhine State.— MNA

Dr Khin Maung Tun of Mandalay Division.— MNA

Dr Maung Maung Myint of Kachin State.— MNA

Dr Khin Maung Win of Kayah State.— MNA

Dr Kyaw Shein of Sagaing Division.— MNA

Dr Myint Aung of Yangon Division.— MNA

Dr Hla Myint of Yangon State. — MNA

Map is in progress to Mon State. — MNA

Dr Sai Hkam Hlaing of Sagaing Division. (News on page 16)— MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo presents second prize to Mon State. (News on page 16)— MNA

President Daw Khin Khin Win presents third prize to Sagaing Division. (News on page 16)— MNA
Get-together of Outstanding Red Cross Members commences

YANGON, 4 May—The opening of the Get-together of Outstanding Red Cross Members (2005) took place at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, central council members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, departmental heads, representatives of UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, guests, and outstanding Red Cross members from the states and divisions.

The minister in his address said that deservedly receiving the encouragement of the State, the MRCS is carrying out not only humanitarian tasks but also national development tasks. The get-together is a plan that helps constantly produce outstanding Red Cross members.

In conclusion, he urged the members to safeguard and defend the national interests, while shouldering the Red Cross duties to the best of their ability for ensuring perpetual existence of the nation and mental and physical development of the people.

Next, the minister cordially greets the guests and outstanding Red Cross members.

At the second session, President of the MRCS Dr Hla Myint and executives presented badges and certificates of honour to the outstanding members, those who won medal for outstanding performance in social field, and those who brilliantly performed the relief services at risk to their lives.

In the afternoon, talks on social welfare and relief tasks of the ICRC and the IFRC took place at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha, where the get-together is being held. The get-together continues till 10 May. — MNA

Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship held in Monywa Golf Club

YANGON, 4 May — Under the supervision of the Myanmar Golf Federation, the Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship for 2004-2005 co-organized by Monywa Golf Club and International Beverages Trading Co Ltd took place at Monywa Golf Club from 30 April to 1 May.

After the golf events, the prize presentation ceremony continued and Director (Quality Control) of IBT Co Ltd U Tint Oo presented nearest to the pin prize to Tin Lin, longest drive prize to Maj Myo Han Chin and the prizes of most par and most birdies to Aung Lwin Moe and Hsan Nyunt.

Afterwards, Executive of Myanmar PGA and MGFU Ko Ko Lay, Chairman of Monywa Golf Club Col Hla Ngwe and Deputy Commander of the North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn awarded consolation prizes.

Next, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented prizes to Khin Zaw Win who stood first, Win Hhke second and Than Naung Oo third.

Director of IBT Co Ltd U Tint Oo donated a lawn-mower for the golf club.

The championship was mainly sponsored by IBT Co Ltd and co-sponsored by Air Mandalay, Popa Aqua Drinking Water, Cruiser Club and Traders Hotel.

The championship was successfully organized by Han Event Management. — MNA

Economic cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines discussed

YANGON, 4 May—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung received Philippine Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T. Defensor. — FORESTRY

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung receives Philippine Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T. Defensor. — MNA

3 innocent persons wounded in KNU attack

YANGON, 4 May — Three innocent persons were wounded in KNU terrorist armed insurgent attack on two villages in Bago Division on 30 April.

Some terrorists of battalion 8, brigade 3, of the KNU launched small arm and heavy fire weapon fire on Mwaddaw and Kyangyya villages in Kyaukkyi Township, at 12.30 am, in which, two members of the Sangha were wounded in the former and a woman in the later.

The random attack had also burnt down and destroyed 35 houses. As soon as they received information about the attack, local Tatmadaw columns and officials rushed to the villages, and made arrangements to help the wounded and homeless victims. The Tatmadaw columns are in hot pursuit of the fleeing terrorist insurgents. — MNA

Jade and gems special sale

YANGON, 4 May — Under the aegis of the Ministry of Mines, the special sale of jade and gems of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office) Yangon, jade extract camp (Lonekhin), gems extract camp (Mogok) and the extract camps based on Mandalay, Myitkyina, Hkamti, Monghsu.

For detailed information, contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office) Yangon, jade extract camp (Lonekhin), gems extract camp (Mogok) and the extract camps based on Mandalay, Myitkyina, Hkamti, Monghsu. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint speaking at Get-together of Outstanding Red Cross Members (2005). — MNA

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung hosts dinner at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this evening. — MNA

10 May. — The visiting minister and party met with officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Sedona hotel here this afternoon.

The Philippines delegation visited Teak Farm Timber Industry in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone at noon. Officials explained the salient point of their industry to them.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung hosted a dinner to the visiting minister at IBC in the evening. This morning, the Philippine delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA
State and division USDA members on excursion to Mandalay Division

YANGON, 4 May — Under the programme of exchange of visits by the USDA members, the excursion group of youth members of State and Division USDaS led by In-Charge of Youth Affairs of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Win, Executives of Mandalay Division USDA U Aung Kyaw Tun and U Tint Lwin Oo visited the site of Yeywa hydel power projects yesterday morning. At the briefing hall, Project Deputy Director U Myint Zaw explained the salient points of the project to them. Afterwards, they viewed round the work site.

At Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Sutaunggyi Buddha Image in PyinUoLwin Township, they paid homage to the Buddha Image and made cash donation to the fund through the pagoda board of trustees.

After that, they visited Pwaykauk falls and National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinUoLwin.

They arrived back in Mandalay in the evening.

MNA

Brazil to build natural gas pipelines linking S-E with N-E

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 May — Brazil’s state-run petroleum firm PETROBRAS announced Monday it will start the construction of 3,200-kilo- metres of natural gas pipelines in southeast and northeast of the country in the second half of the year.

Ildo Sauer, PETROBRAS director for gas and energy, said the move is to increase the consumption of natural gas, the cheapest fuel in the country with a cost of 3.0 US dollars per BTU (British Thermal Unit), as compared to 10 and 12 dollars per BTU of diesel and gasoline. The main part of the programme will be the 1,365 kilometre-long extension of the Gasene gas pipeline, which will link the network of the southeast, the country’s largest gas producing region, to the northeast. — MNA/Xinhua

State and division USDA members on excursion tour of downtown

YANGON, 4 May — The youth excursion group from states and divisions carried out sanitation work at Shwedagon Pagoda. Afterwards, the excursion group held a discussion with Township USDA secretaries, and executives at Yangon Division USDA Office.

In the afternoon, the excursion group visited Bogoke Aung Sun Market. Next, they proceeded to Yuzana Plaza. They were conducted by the officials around the plaza. In the evening, a dinner was hosted by Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint to members of the USDA youth excursion group at the office of Yangon Division USDA. — MNA

USDA youth on tour of Bago

YANGON, 4 May — Under the programme of exchange of visits by the USDA members, the excursion group of youth members of States and Division USDaS led by In-Charge of Youth Affairs of Myanmar in Bago Division USDA.Washedalyaung Image and Mahaceti, Tam-palawha Mahathwon Bronze Image and made cash donation. In the afternoon, the youth visited Kanbawzathadi palace. — MNA

USDA youth tour Myitkyina

YANGON, 4 May — Under the programme of exchange of visits by the USDA members, the excursion group of youth members of State and Division USDaS led by officials of Kachin State USDA visited State Cultural Museum in Myitkyina on 2 May. Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council/Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received the youth and spoke on the occasion. Next, an official of Kachin State PDC explained facts about Kachin State. The youth next visited the confluence, Kareinaw resort, Bala Min Hitin Bridge and Washuhaung Dam. — MNA

14 persons exchange arms for peace in Southern Command area

YANGON, 4 May — Armed groups deeply regretted that their acts caused various miseries to the State and the people and that armed insur- vency among national races were wrong. Therefore, they have been exchanging arms for peace with the concept that they would like to join hands with the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people to participate in regional development tasks. On 30 April, Pado Saw William, L/Cpl Saw Soe Moe, Pvt Saw Ba Le, Khun Aung Win, Saw Hsar Mu, Saw Abbeek and Saw El El of No 19 Battalion of No 7 Brigade bringing together with one AR-15, one magazine, 18 rounds of ammunition, one barrel shotgun and three rounds of ammunition, Cpl Saw El Mu, L/Cpl Saw El Kaw Say, Pvt Saw El Kyaw Htoo, Saw Htoo Kay, Saw Hsyaung, Saw Aung Tu and Soe Lwin of No 3 Company of No 5 Battalion of No 2 Brigade with two carbines, 29 rounds of ammunition, one barrel shotgun, two rounds of ammunition and two grenades, exchanged arms for peace in Southern Command area.

Local people and officials warmly welcomed 14 armed group members who exchanged arms for peace and provided necessary assistance to them.

More armed group members still remained to exchange arms for peace. — MNA

USDA excursion group members present cash donation to the funds of Seinthalayaung Pagoda in Bago to Pagoda Board of Trustees. — MNA

USDA excursion group members visit Kachin State Cultural Museum in Myitkyina. — MNA

USDA excursion group members pose for documentary photo at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinUoLwin. — MNA

USDA youth excursion group from states and divisions carry out sanitation work at Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

USDA excursion group members visit Kachin State Cultural Museum in Myitkyina. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 5 May, 2005 11
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (082)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (082) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.05 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 up to 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.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. “MAWLAMYINE” VOY: NO ML 121/N

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. “MAWLAMYINE” Voy No ML 121/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 5-5-2005 and will be berthing on about 6-5-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma 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 up to 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.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

India to open up retail sector for foreign investment

WASHINGTON, 3 May — India plans to partially open to foreigners its 190-billion-dollar retail industry, which has been growing as much as 5 per cent a year, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath has said. It would be done way that encourages investment while protecting the jobs of millions of small shopkeepers who dominate the trade, Kamal Nath said in an interview to The Wall Street Journal.

Initially, the access would be for grocery companies, with priority for facilitating the entrance of refrigerated distribution networks to ensure fruit and vegetables are well preserved in transit to shops, he said.

Nath said that as much as three quarters of the initial opening for foreign investment could be in food and related establishments.

Jordanian Govt urged to secure its remaining prisoners in Israel

AMMAN, 4 May — Seven ex-detainees who were freed by Israel in April and returned home recently have urged the government to do more in rescuing the remaining detainees in Israel, the Jordan Times newspaper reported on Tuesday.

“We hoped that government efforts to ensure the release of the prisoners would amount to the level of public support by people and civil society, but the gap is very wide,” Wael Amir, one of the freed prisoners was quoted as saying. It was reported that Israel holds about 50 Jordanians in the prisons.

On 17 April, the Israeli Cabinet unanimously voted to release nine Jordanian prisoners. Five days later, the nine were released, and seven of them returned home while the other two remained in the Palestinian territories with their families.
France striker Trezeguet banned for two matches

PARIS, 4 May—France striker David Trezeguet has been banned for two matches by FIFA for headbutting an opponent during last month’s 1-1 draw against Israel in a World Cup qualifier.

“That is the minimum for a player hitting another player,” said a spokesman for the French football federation.

Trezeguet will miss France’s Group 4 qualifiers against the Faroe Islands on September 3 and in Ireland on 7 September.

The Juventus striker will be back for France’s last two qualifiers in Switzerland on 8 October and against Cyprus on 12 October.

FIFA fines Belgium for crowd problems

BRUSSELS, 4 May—Belgium have been fined 12,000 Swiss francs (10,000 US dollars) by FIFA after crowd problems during last month’s 1-1 draw against Israel in a World Cup qualifier.

“Fireworks were thrown on to the pitch during the Brussels match on March 26, which Belgium won 4-1,” a spokesman for the Belgian football Association said on Tuesday it was disappointed with the decision.

“However, as with all games under our jurisdiction, we will continue to endeavour to stop fireworks getting in to the stadium and to make all our games as safe as possible for the fans,” the spokesman said.

Liverpool dash Chelsea dream to reach Champions League final

LIVERPOOL, 4 May—Thanks to a controversial goal from midfielder Luis Garcia, Liverpool beat Chelsea 1-0 to reach the Champions League final on Tuesday.

The goal came in the third minute when Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard superbly deflected forward a square pass from John Arne Riise on the left and striker Milan Baros lobbed it over Chelsea’s advancing goalkeeper Petr Cech who brought down his Czech countryman inside the area.

Garcia followed up to knock the ball goalwards and it took a slight deflection before going in from under the bar.

The goal was given out from under the bar.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez said: “We have qualified for the final which means we have done a good job. When you have your supporters behind you, you run a little bit more.”

The London side battled to the end, though, and Liverpool had to soak up almost continual Chelsea pressure throughout a second half onslaught that produced few clear chances because of the brilliance of Liverpool’s defending.

The nearest Chelsea came was with almost the last kick of the game when Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen fired wide from a tight angle.

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard (R) and John Arne Riise (L) celebrate beating Chelsea in their Champions League semi-final soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, on 3 May, 2005. —INTERNET

Russia’s soccer chief to investigate Spartak doping claim

MOSCOW, 4 May—Russia’s newly elected soccer chief Vitaly Mutko has vowed to investigate allegations of widespread doping by Spartak Moscow in Euro 2004.

UEFA handed down a one-year ban to Soviet captain Yegor Titov in January 2004 after he tested positive for the banned stimulant bromantan after the first leg of Russia’s Euro 2004 playoff against Wales in November 2003. He was an unused substitute at the game.

“Doping allegations are always a serious matter and we must do a complete and thorough investigation,” a spokesman for the Russian Football Union quoted Mutko as saying on Tuesday.

Mutko was voted RFU president last month, replacing former chief Vyacheslav Kolosov.

Despite allegations that doping has been rife in Russian soccer for years, the Titov case shocked many within the game.

Wales lodged appeals with UEFA and the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to try to overturn Russia’s victory and take their place in Euro 2004.

The appeals were rejected by both UEFA and the CAS.

Russian media has now accused Spartak of systematic doping in 2003 and that the country’s soccer authorities knew about it and tried to cover it up.

“They were simply used as guinea pigs,” former Spartak defender Maxim Demenko was quoted as saying by Sport-Express newspaper last Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

Macri sees Maradona as future Boca Juniors coach

BUENOS AIRES, 4 May—The President of Argentine soccer club Boca Juniors Mauricio Macri considered on Tuesday that, in time, it will be natural for Diego Maradona to become coach of the team.

“Without a doubt, as the one-time world’s best player, he could be the coach of any team he chooses, as long as he is in peace and healthy,” said the Boca official in reference to Maradona.

Macri added that Maradona has to lose some weight “to leave the heart-attack-risk zone.”

Boca’s board offered Maradona to take on the General Direction of the club’s amateur soccer but, according to Madri, “nothing has been said in this sense. He took the plane to Cuba and then will go to Europe, as he announced.”

Macri said that the Boca proposal “is in line with what he (Maradona) had said, that he did not want to be behind a desk, that he wanted to be closer to the pitch.”

The Boca official said that, as director of the club’s amateur soccer, Maradona would be near the coaches all the time and would be supervising a large group of people.” Nevertheless, the director said “hiring Maradona would be such a gambling.”

Young Chinese acrobats practice balancing a jar on their heads in the training room of an acrobatic troupe in Changzhi, in north China’s Shanxi Province, on 19 April, 2005. The troupe has 40 members, mostly from rural areas, aged between six and 15. —INTERNET

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard (R) and John Arne Riise (L) celebrate beating Chelsea in their Champions League semi-final soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, on 3 May, 2005. —INTERNET

Russia’s soccer chief to investigate Spartak doping claim

MOSCOW, 4 May—Russia’s newly elected soccer chief Vitaly Mutko has vowed to investigate allegations of widespread doping by Spartak Moscow in Euro 2004.

UEFA handed down a one-year ban to Soviet captain Yegor Titov in January 2004 after he tested positive for the banned stimulant bromantan after the first leg of Russia’s Euro 2004 playoff against Wales in November 2003. He was an unused substitute at the game.

“Doping allegations are always a serious matter and we must do a complete and thorough investigation,” a spokesman for the Russian Football Union quoted Mutko as saying on Tuesday.

Mutko was voted RFU president last month, replacing former chief Vyacheslav Kolosov.

Despite allegations that doping has been rife in Russian soccer for years, the Titov case shocked many within the game.

Wales lodged appeals with UEFA and the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to try to overturn Russia’s victory and take their place in Euro 2004.

The appeals were rejected by both UEFA and the CAS.

Russian media has now accused Spartak of systematic doping in 2003 and that the country’s soccer authorities knew about it and tried to cover it up.

“They were simply used as guinea pigs,” former Spartak defender Maxim Demenko was quoted as saying by Sport-Express newspaper last Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

Macri sees Maradona as future Boca Juniors coach

BUENOS AIRES, 4 May—The President of Argentine soccer club Boca Juniors Mauricio Macri considered on Tuesday that, in time, it will be natural for Diego Maradona to become coach of the team.

“Without a doubt, as the one-time world’s best player, he could be the coach of any team he chooses, as long as he is in peace and healthy,” said the Boca official in reference to Maradona.

Macri added that Maradona has to lose some weight “to leave the heart-attack-risk zone.”

Boca’s board offered Maradona to take on the General Direction of the club’s amateur soccer but, according to Madri, “nothing has been said in this sense. He took the plane to Cuba and then will go to Europe, as he announced.”

Macri said that the Boca proposal “is in line with what he (Maradona) had said, that he did not want to be behind a desk, that he wanted to be closer to the pitch.”

The Boca official said that, as director of the club’s amateur soccer, Maradona would be near the coaches all the time and would be supervising a large group of people.” Nevertheless, the director said “hiring Maradona would be such a gambling.”

Young Chinese acrobats practice balancing a jar on their heads in the training room of an acrobatic troupe in Changzhi, in north China’s Shanxi Province, on 19 April, 2005. The troupe has 40 members, mostly from rural areas, aged between six and 15. —INTERNET

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard (R) and John Arne Riise (L) celebrate beating Chelsea in their Champions League semi-final soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, on 3 May, 2005. —INTERNET

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Iran pledges continued cooperation with IAEA

TEHERAN, 4 May — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi has pledged his country’s continued cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, terming the cooperation as “positive and constructive,” the official news agency IRNA reported on Tuesday.

On the sidelines of the UN conference to review the nuclear Non-Proliferation-Treaty (NPT), Kharazi made the pledge at a meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohammad ElBaradei in New York on Monday.

Kharazi was quoted as saying Iran is resolved to cooperate with IAEA to remove existing ambiguities. He briefed ElBaradei on Tehran’s negotiations with the EU trio France, Germany and Britain on its nuclear program and said “we hope the conference will take serious and unbiased steps to safeguard the legitimate rights of all the member countries of the NPT”.

ElBaradei, on his part, expressed the hope that Iran will be able to iron out the remaining snags so that he can include them in his report to the IAEA governing board.

Kharazi also expressed concerns over slow and fruitless trend of nuclear talks between Iran and the European trio during his separate meetings with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, his Australian counterpart Alexander Downer and Luxembourg Deputy Foreign Minister Nicolas Schmit on the sidelines of the NPT Review Conference.

He said Iran must witness a considerable progress in that regard, adding Iran’s cooperation with IAEA “has been proved that Iran has not made use of nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes and took serious steps to build confidence transparently.” — MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows shift workers have higher risk for prostate cancer

TOYKO, 3 May — Men working on rotating shifts at factories, hotels, railways and other workplaces with 24-hour operations have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer than those who work in the daytime, according to a study by a Japanese Government-supported research group on epidemiology.

These men are 3.5 times more likely to develop prostate cancer than those who work regular hours and are also 2.8 times more likely to die of cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, according to the research group sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Little research has been conducted in Japan to examine the health effects of irregular working schedules. This latest research on relations between rotating shifts and prostate cancer risk was the first of its kind in the world, the group said in a preliminary report on the study.

The disoriented body clock due to irregular working schedules seems to be the culprit. A rise in blood pressure and accumulated stress are also seen to cause cardiovascular diseases, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 4 May, 2005

Summary of observations ended at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been widespread in Shan State, scattered in Sagain and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Magway and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were 4.14 inches in Mon State, 1.8 inches in Magway and 0.8 inches in Bago...

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MMCWA will continue to stand as a national force, serve interests of the nation and the people for ever 15th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association winds up

Yangon, 4 May — The 15th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association continued for the second day at the 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 Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, members of the Central Council, chairpersons of state and division MMCWA Supervisory Committees and secretaries and joint secretaries. President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary-2 Dr Daw Thein Thi Myint acted as master of ceremonies.

International Labour Organization (ILO) one-sidedly accused Myanmar of forcing the people to participate in construction of roads and bridges without realizing the custom and culture of Myanmar.

MMCWA, a social organization, condemns one-sided accusations of ILO.

Over 80,000 female workers became jobless and it had adverse effects on more than 400,000 family members.

MMCWA condemns the economic sanctions imposed by the EU and some western countries.

Instead of taking lessons from historic evidences, descendants of some Shan sawbwas again commit the acts intentionally, relying on the external elements, to break up the Union.

MMCWA strongly protests against the acts and aims of the lackeys and fugitives as their destructive acts pose grave dangers to the Union and the people.

MMCWA’s 15th annual meeting dinner hosted

Yangon, 4 May — A dinner marking the 15th Annual Meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) was held at the multi-purpose building of the MMCWA here today.

MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win extended greetings and presented gift to Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

At the dinner, Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo presented prizes for outstanding activities to state and division Maternal and Child Welfare Associations. Afterwards, MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win presented prizes for the best papers to Yangon, Taninthayi, Sagaing Divisions and Mon State and consolation prizes to Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division.

MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presented gifts to performers who participated in educative video produced by MMCWA.

Honorary patrons of MMCWA, Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet and Daw Than Than Nwe, also attended the dinner. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presents second prize to Ayeyawady Division through an official. — MNA

Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents gifts to a performer who participated in educative video produced by MMCWA. — MNA